

BIBLE MONITOR

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AUGUST, 2020

NO. 08

"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.
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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.

THY FOOTSTEPS LORD WITH JOY WE TRACE

Thy footsteps, Lord, with joy we trace,
And mark the conquests of thy grace;
Complete the work thou hast begun,
And let thy will on earth be done.

O, show thyself the Prince of Peace,
Command the din of war to cease;
O, bid contending nations rest,
And love pervade each human breast.

Then peace shall lift her balmy wing,
Glad plenty laugh, the valleys sing;
Reviving commerce lift her head,
And want, and woe, and hate be fled.

Then good, and wise, and righteous Lord,
All more subservient to thy word,
O, soon let ev'ry nation prove
The perfect joy of Christian love.

—Unknown

NORMAL

Many are mourning the passing of what was considered normal. The coronavirus has changed relationships, kept people home, and introduced controversy about simple human activities.

Demonstrations and riots have highlighted perceived discrimination and alleged undeserved privilege. There have been exertions made to remove reminders of the past, whether legendary or factual. In both situations the authority of the government at every level has been questioned and repulsed.

The various governmental regulations concerning the coronavirus have been questioned and disregarded. The regulations issued after study

by acknowledged experts have been disregarded and criticized by other experts. Often the disregard of regulations shows a desire to be free of governmental authority. There are conspiracy theories abounding. Politicians and other public figures have failed to act as statemen, being more interested in gaining political advantage.

The establishment of civil government by God is often misunderstood. Realizing the sinfulness and wickedness of human beings, God knew that men could not govern themselves. Civil authority was established to control the lawlessness of the unredeemed. To prevent governments from overstepping their authority, constitutions have been devised to provide

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guidelines for governing. As great the crime of breaking through these legal boundaries, it does not compare to breaking God's Word and His boundaries.

The demonstrations and riots may emphasize discrimination and misgovernment. The entire human race is subject to sin and imperfection. The powerful who rule are no better than those whom they try to rule. Governments that ignore the will of God will at some point be dealt with by God. It is not a pleasing sight when the judgment of God is laid upon people, including those who ignore or ridicule Him, or take lightly their use of power. Their lack of perception may endanger those they rule. Those who oppose governments, while disregarding the role of God in the creation and its subsequent history, also fail in their ideals. To perfect the imperfect can only be accomplished by God who originally created government to control evil in this world.

Many who have longed for the return of their normal will be disappointed. Time does not stand still. The future will be different than the past. Even with containment of the virus through human activities or a vaccine, there will be reminders

of it. There may be restrictions on certain activities or there may be a requirement to receive the vaccine.

The demonstrations and riots will be remembered. There may be governmental action instituting changes in public policy. There will be a period of rebuilding of the property destroyed. There may be changes in attitudes and relationships, but without a spiritual change it will only be a forced and resented change. Only when people realize that all people are created by God with the same blood flowing in their arteries and veins, can there be a change in these relationships. Deep, sincere relationships can never be produced by laws and regulations. The capacity for deep personal relationships can only be forged through a common understanding of God and His desire for His creation.

Heart-felt relationship can only be truly established through the change of heart and life wrought through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. This provides the only way to reestablish a relationship with God. The sins of His creation have broken the intended relationship that God desired. God desires a

people who please and honor Him. Humans have failed in that relationship. God has graciously extended to them the opportunity to reestablish His desired relationship.

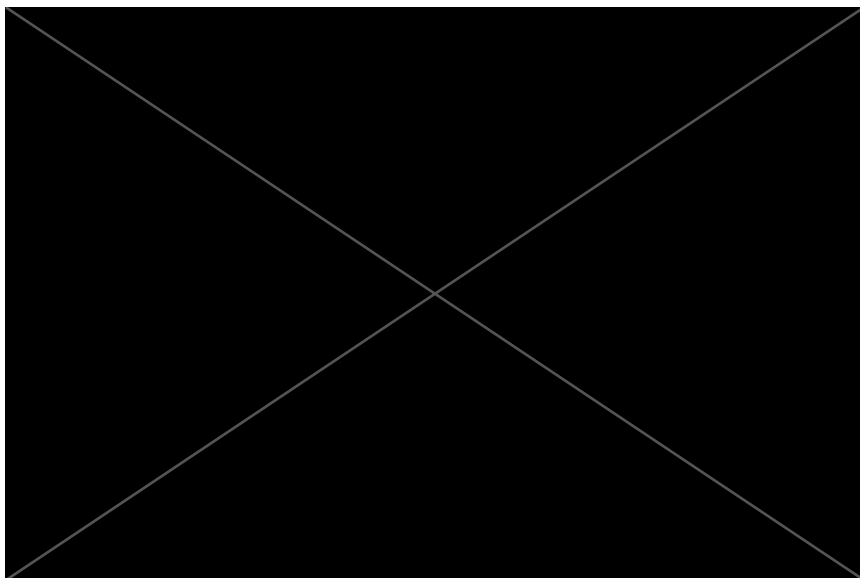
The laws and regulations adopted by governments attempt to control the people who disregard God's will and civil laws. His purpose is to enable His people to live peaceful and productive lives. It would be ideal if those who govern were mindful of God's will, but that is impossible without a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Civil government is to be obeyed and properly honored,

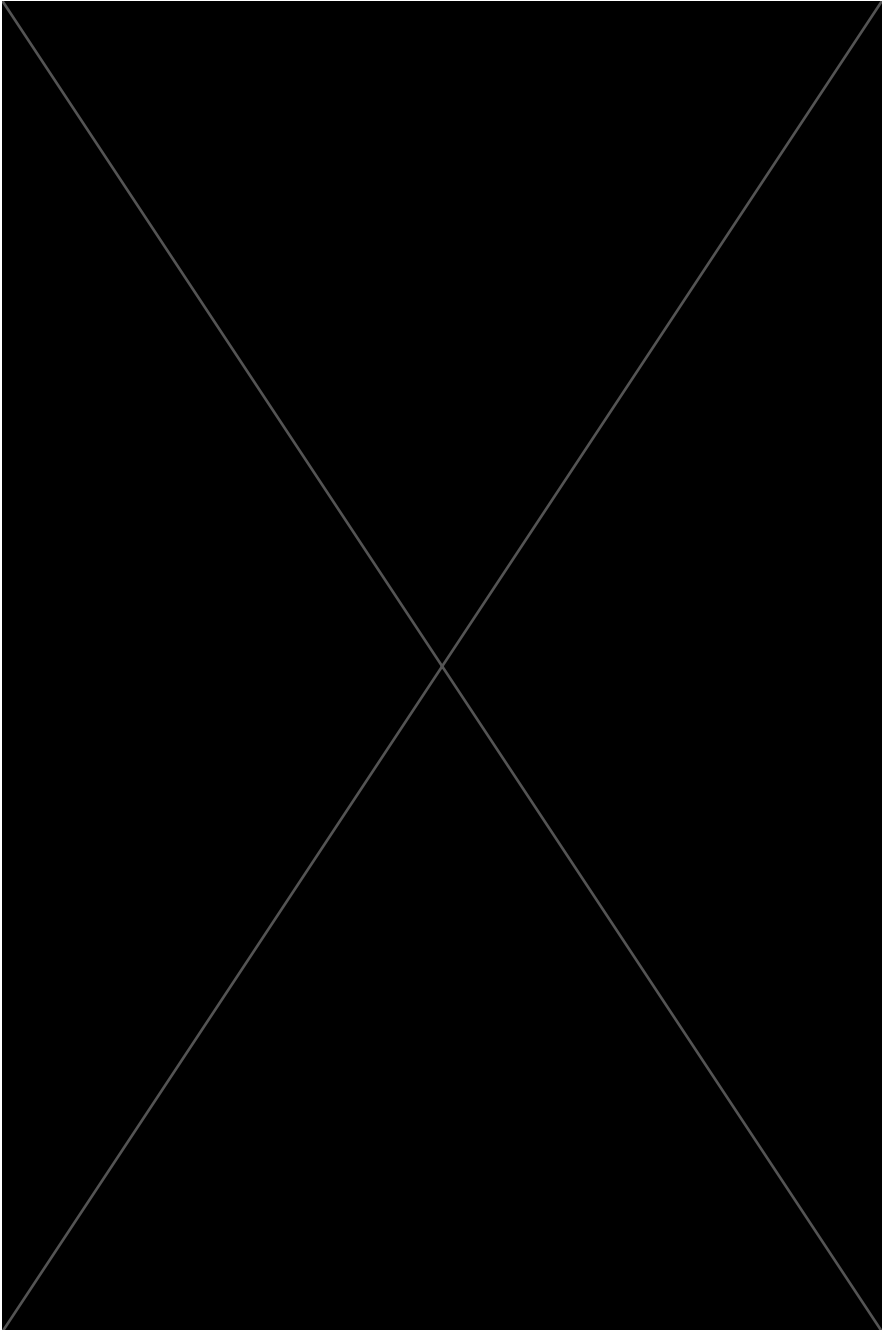
but never defied by believers.

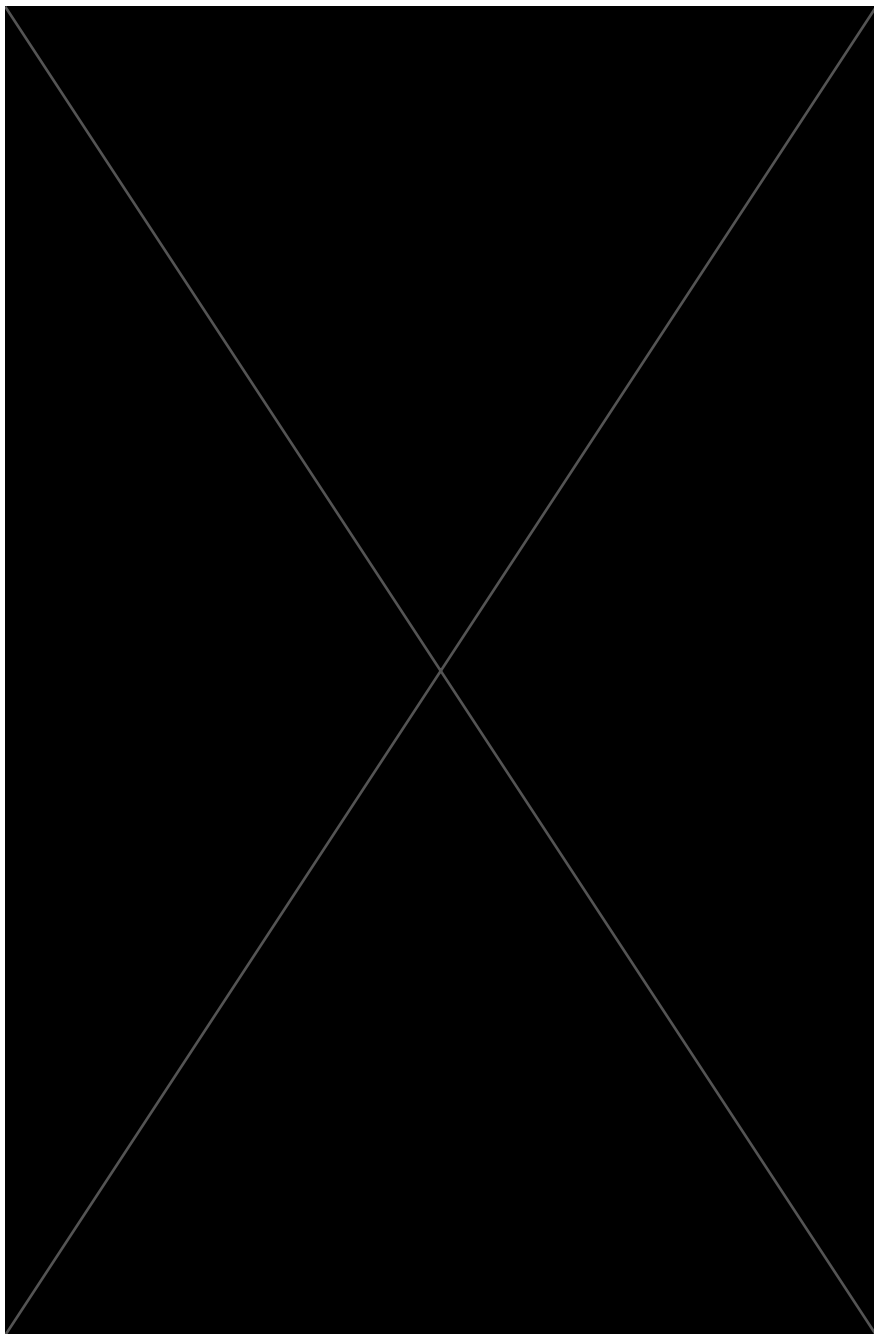
Our normal of the past may have been prosperous, comfortable, entertaining, and quite normal for the surrounding culture. That normal may disappear. We may need to be prepared to live under more regulation, under more unspiritual suspicions and we may have to risk more than in the past to continue to serve Him as He wishes.

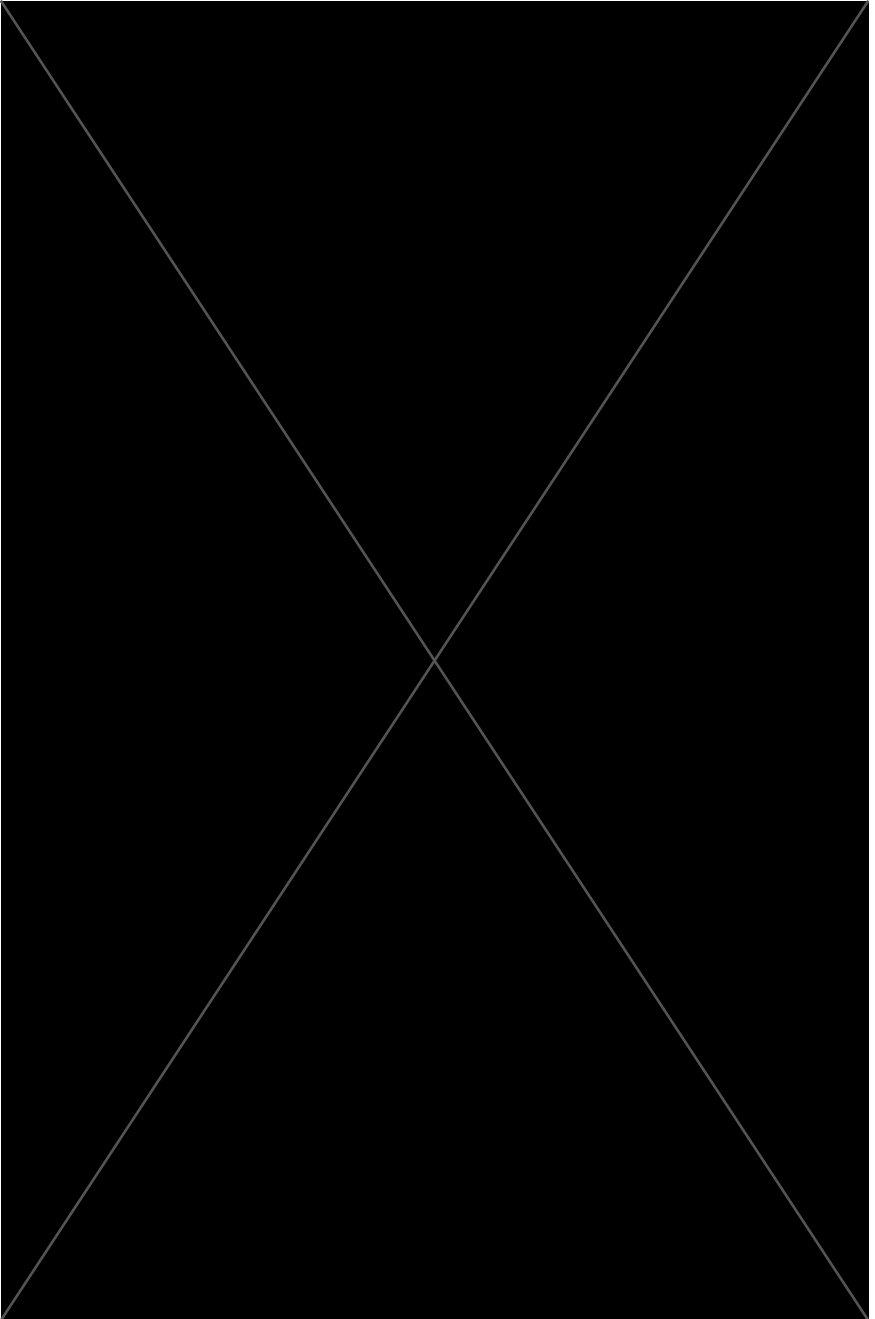
How have the coronavirus and the demonstrations touched your life? Are you better equipped to love, serve, and worship God through Jesus Christ?

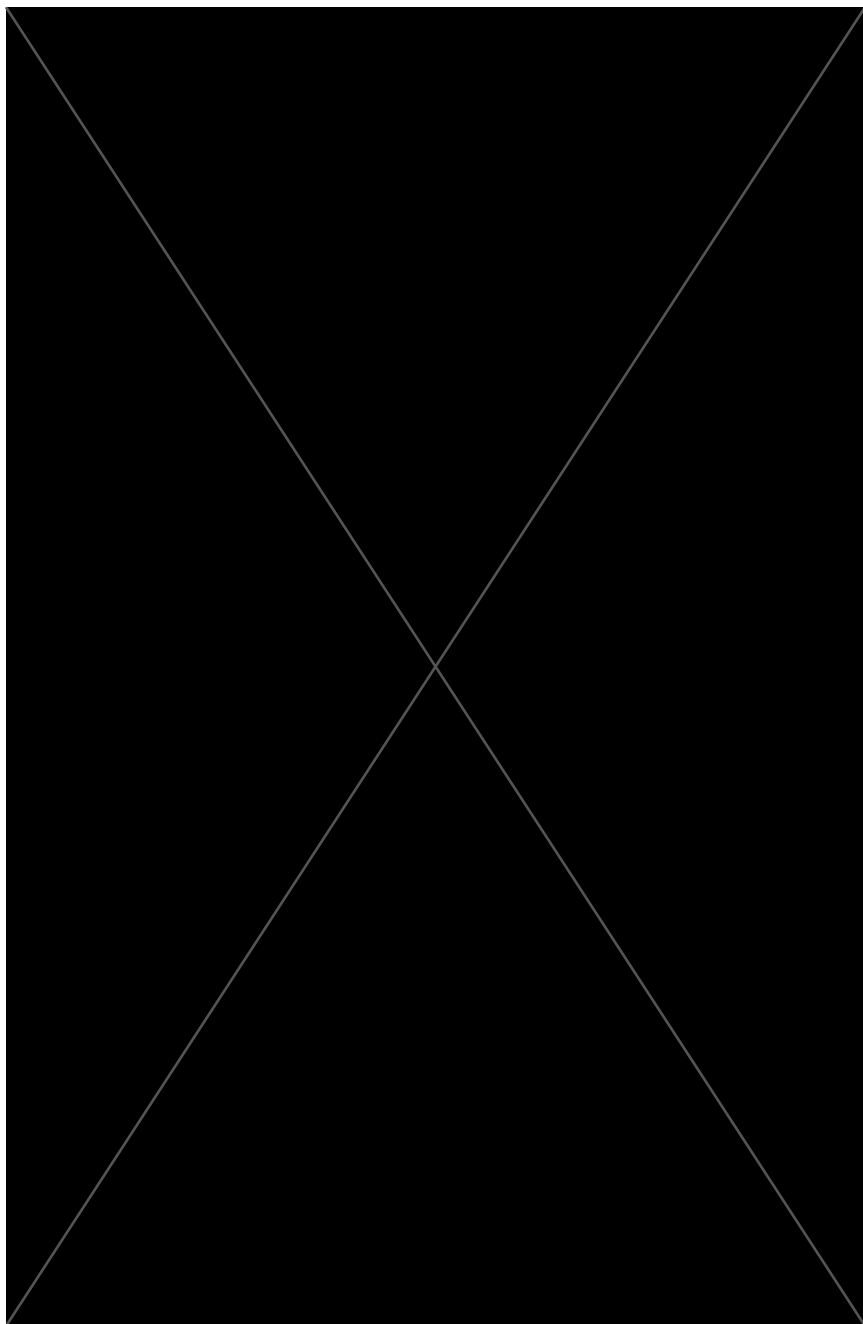
M. C. Cook











GOD'S LOVE IS ROOTED IN ETERNITY

Many try to define God's love from a human perspective. This definition falls far short of what the true aspect of God's love is all about.

The blood of Jesus was a literal sacrifice for sin but was rooted in eternity. God's plan of salvation was already in place before God created man. Nothing ever happened in God's creation that ever surprised God or compromised his plan for man.

Often, we look at salvation as a last-minute and desperate act of God to save mankind. The truth of the matter is it was planned out well before the creation of the world in which we live. I do not claim to understand that. Then, there is so much about God that I really do not understand.

I need to make it very clear, at least to myself, that I am not worshiping and honoring God because I understand him and all of his ramifications. But that is far from the truth. I love God because there is something inside me that responds and is attracted to something inside of God. I surely cannot explain it, but I can embrace it.

This is where the enemy comes in to try to confuse us. He wants us to believe that mankind,

humanity, is completely out of control and God is wringing his hands in utter desperation. Maybe the enemy is wringing his hands in utter desperation, but I can assure you God is not.

God has everything in place, and he is giving everything a place in his own heart.

Although our salvation was created before time began, it was then proclaimed on earth through the Lord Jesus Christ. That which Jesus did on the cross had its roots in eternity past. It also has its roots in eternity to come. Because, the cross of Jesus Christ is the point in time that eternity has established our redemption.

Now the enemy wants to distract us. He wants to get things going in our lives that divert us from the real issue of life. How many times are we so upset about little things that we overlook some of the big things that God wants to do in our life?

Most people are easily distracted, and the enemy takes advantage of that. And the truth being said, he does not care what it takes to distract us. It may be something good, or it may be something terribly evil. Regardless, his goal is to distract us from the gracious mercy of

God in providing salvation for us.

I think he also wants to deflate us. We sometimes become so excited about how God's grace has manifested itself in our life through redemption and we are so full of joy that it gets on the nerves of the enemy. He then wants to do whatever he can to deflate us and get us back where he can handle us.

The devil cannot handle a joyful Christian. It drives him absolutely insane to see someone so in love with the Lord Jesus Christ that their lives are filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory. To know that is to have a gracious advantage over the evil one.

One thing I need to understand is that the devil's hatred for me and for God, is bordered by time. There was a time when Satan did not exist, and there will be a time when his influence will be completely over. The only thing the devil has that works for him is time, and he is running out of that. The problem is, so many people give him the time and he always takes advantage of it.

The devil's hatred is rooted in time, but our salvation is rooted in eternity. There is nothing in time that can compromise that which has its roots in eternity. I need to understand how wonderful my salvation is.

Yes, Jesus died on the cross

and his blood was literally shed. The pain was real. The blood was real. The death was real. But on the third day, after time had had its way, eternity took over, and Jesus Christ rose victorious from the dead.

Because this is so, my Christian life is not rooted in time but rather in eternity. Time cannot compromise my relationship with God if I refuse to let it do so. As I walk with God day by day, I begin to experience the eternal element of my salvation.

Some people have the idea that the enemy is all-powerful. I would give him his due credit in that what he does possesses power. Again, that power is rooted in time. If we try to fight the enemy on his terms, we shall fail every time.

What the devil does not want is for us to fight him on God's terms. He can never win there. That is my daily discipline. I am living in time, but my heart is rooted in eternity in the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is my authority. That is my reason for living a life of victory over the enemy today.

The weapons of our warfare, rooted in eternity, are more than enough to defeat our enemy in every regard.

James L. Snyder
324 Bahia Circle
Ocala, FL 34472

THY WORD HAVE I HID...

Psalm 119:11

Where do you keep your Bible? Many people feel that they must hide their Bible away somewhere, in some cases, to preserve it in a cold place, like the refrigerator. Unfortunately, if something is dead to you, then it needs to be preserved. People put their leftovers in the refrigerator and forget about them. Dead things need to be kept cold, so they do not rot.

Other people hide their Bible away like a trophy and get it out to look at it now and then. The Christians of the Communist nations that Brother Andrew found hardest to reach when he smuggled Bibles were the Albanians. Their idea of preserving, or upholding the scriptures was to relegate them to a zoo-like atmosphere: captured and hidden away in a cage to be seen but not to be read or memorized. They believed the Bible to be too sacred for people to even touch. Some of us may even display our Bible in a prominent place in our home, but we never touch it. The risk would be too great. If we read it, we would then be accountable for what we have read. The sad fact is that many,

if not most Christians hide their Bible away and never use it.

But read the words of David, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes." Psalm 119:11-12. Some Christians keep the Word in their hearts and minds, so they always have it to share with others. They read it daily. Is this not what God wants us to do? I Peter 3:15 tells us to "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

This Blessed Word that we read and study and memorize generates a blessed hope that God wills us to share with others.

This is being written close to Christmas and we speak much this time of year of God's Great Gift to us, the Lord Jesus Christ. Think of the Bible as another gift that God has given us. It is not just God's revelation of His Son, but it is also a book of counsel, comfort, and guidance, "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (II Peter 1:21.)

Charles Dickens said that

the Bible “is the best book the world has ever known or ever will know.”

Woodrow Wilson called it “the revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the spiritual nature and needs of men. It is the only guide of life which leads the spirit (of man) in the way of peace and salvation.”

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the great poet, gave this very telling observation, “The Bible is the only book that always finds me.”

Woodrow Wilson continues, “The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves. Read not little snatches here and there but long passages that will be the road to the heart of it.”

The Precious Bible.

Filled with all riches and filled for me.

The Precious Bible.

Beautiful, wonderful, and so free.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler’s Congregation

THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES

Rudy Cover

In Israel, bread was often called “leaven.” Jesus had fed four thousand people from seven loaves and two small fishes. Many from all parts of the country came to see Jesus and to hear Him speak. He had healed so many that everywhere they were talking about Jesus. Many thought Jesus was the Messiah whom the prophets had prophesied would come to save the nation of Israel. He would be their King and all other nations would be subject to His rule.

The Pharisees were a sect of Jews who became the religious leaders of the people. Jesus criticized the Pharisees because they did not have compassion

and love for others. They lived extremely strict religious lives, making it hard for themselves and bitter for others. They taught the law of Moses to the people but changed many things to suit themselves. Jesus said that by their traditions they had made the law of none effect. They were like some of our lawyers today. They were not always honest and truthful but twisted the law to suit themselves. The Pharisees did not like Jesus. He was becoming too popular to suit them. They would tempt Jesus with hard questions and try to get Him to say or do something that they might accuse Him or arrest Him. Jesus always

told the truth and sometimes the truth hurts – especially when He told about some of the things, they had done wrong. One-time Jesus said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.” He also called them serpents, a generation of vipers. Jesus did not mince words, so they planned to kill Him. The Sadducees were another sect of the Jews. They did not believe that people who died would live again.

Jesus said to His disciples, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” The disciples thought that He said this because they had forgotten to bring bread along. Jesus said, “O ye of little faith, why do ye reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?” Jesus could give them bread to eat as He did the four thousand, but He was not talking about that kind of

bread. Jesus was teaching them something more important. He was warning the disciples about the doctrine or teaching of the Pharisees. He called it “leaven” or “bread”, but it was a kind of bread they should leave alone. It was something that would lead them in the wrong way and poison their minds.

Jesus wants us to know the truth. The truth is the Word of God. He wants us to be loving and kind and willing to help others. Today we have many doctrines and teachings in the world that are not the truth. They are not from God but are some man’s ideas. Many people fall for these false teachings. We must study God’s Word so that we know the truth and the truth will make us free. Then we will know what the leaven of the Pharisees is, and we can refuse the false teachings that others would force upon us.

Selected from the
July 1, 1980
issue of the Bible Monitor

BACK TO CHURCH

Tomorrow will be a time of importance, perhaps not momentous, but something we are likely to remember better than many normal Sunday

morning worship services of the past. None of us had any inkling that it would take nearly four months (March 15) before having the opportunity to meet

face to face again in worship of our Heavenly Father.

Besides this being the first opportunity to meet again, the setting will certainly be different. We will be sitting outside in the area typically used for volleyball. It offers plenty of shade from the summer morning sun but also the distraction of road noise created by traffic on Claus Road. So, it will be an imperfect setting.

But so is our usual setting inside the meeting house for one particularly important reason: we are imperfect creatures who are always bringing our imperfections into our worship of the Lord. So, the biggest struggle we will have to face is not road noise or feeling exposed to curious eyes as we gather outside. Rather it is the same one we face every day.

It is the struggle to surrender our hearts to the Lord who has already redeemed us from the eternal consequences of our sinful, imperfect selves. But just like every Sunday and everyday of the week the Lord offers us His strength with which to subdue the stubbornness and

waywardness of our hearts. As we enter, by His strength into this battle, we will experience worship of God, who mercifully overcomes our frailties of the heart and renews our spirit, even amid the imperfections of place and person.

Let me add one further caution as we prepare to meet. There are a variety of opinions concerning Covid-19 and the potential of any of us becoming a source of infection among us. Some believe there is too much hype and little possibility of any of us becoming infected. There is distrust of medical authorities and their claims. There is distrust of government authorities who have used these claims as the basis of their actions. All of us have felt our lives interrupted in various ways including our meeting together. Others amongst us have advocated greater caution, the wearing of masks, and other similar practices to minimize any risks for infection among us.

The coming months and perhaps longer may provide us with greater perspective as to the wisdom of any course of action we choose now or

later. In the meantime, we must avoid any temptation to point fingers of blame and attitudes of, "I told you so." This can only sow discord among us, mar our fellowship, and displease the Lord.

We are His flock. He is our Shepherd. He directs our paths. And He will show us

what we need to know to draw us closer to each other as He draws us closer to Himself. So, let us humble our opinions of our own minds and seek His mind among us. This is the heart of worship.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

SUNDAYS AT HOME – 2020

Staying home – because of Corona
How shall I cope?
Here I can praise and worship.
I can pray and intercede
Nobody will see me – But I put on my Sunday best
To honor Jesus and the Day of Rest
I miss the singing and
The fellowship with Brothers and Sisters in the Lord
So familiar – too familiar?

Now I wonder...
Do I appreciate the privilege...
The gift of freedom to worship together?
So, I pray, I trust, I resolve, that when we go back
To our church building
I will remember to appreciate
To be more fervent in thankfulness for
The great privilege of being together.
Worship our Savior freely, unhindered
Thank you, Lord, What a Precious Gift!!!

We are back
Where we belong on Sunday morning
Our familiar pew, our church family,
The hymns, the tears of joy
The sunshine streaming through the window.
Inspiration, Admonition, Bible study...
Thank you, Lord. We praise You anew
For the blessed privilege of worship together.
—Sister Edna Carlin

OPPORTUNITY

Howard J. Surbey

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money.” Matt. 25:14-18.

The Lord gave talents to each of His servants. Whoever

we are, at whatever place we are and whatever our state in life is: if we are one of our Lord’s servants, we have been trusted with some talents. This parable definitely tells us that we are given according to our several ability. The Lord definitely knows what our ability is, we may know in part what it is, but others know very little about it. With these facts in mind, how well do we use the talents which our Lord loaned to us? Is it not true that so often we spend more time, comparing our talents with others, regretting that we are not as well blessed as others and perhaps belittling what others do with their talents; rather than trading with and

developing our own talents?

Let us meditate a little: Do we not each have very great opportunities? If we have the right use of our mind, a reasonably healthy body, food, clothing, and shelter, do we not have a great opportunity to labor for our Lord? We are blessed with a knowledge of God's Word, a vast opportunity to learn more of it, religious liberty, the freedom to go and do practically as we please in His service? How would it be if we could not gather together to worship and build up one another in that most Holy faith, if we could not publicly or even privately talk and reason with others about our Saviour, if we could not worship how, when, and where we wish?

"And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with man stripes." Luke 12:47. Notice, first is to know his Lord's will, do you know it, or do you not have any opportunities to know it? Second is to prepare oneself. We must accept Christ's plan of salvation for our individual self, we must use the proper methods that we might be

cleansed of our sins, we must live differently than we did while in the clutches of sin, and we must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. Third we must do our Lord's will, every last line of it. If we willingly fail in one point, we will be punished for it.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:18-19. Faith is the first essential that we may serve our Lord and Saviour. How sad when human beings have so many opportunities and are too lazy, too stubborn, too much a lover of sin and too unappreciative to make use of the provisions of God for salvation and happiness. How ignorant a person is often considered, who will not use the various means of natural light that he or she may see, do, and progress in this natural life. Is not the person far more ignorant and

just plain foolish, who will not accept the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ. Yes, who will love darkness and serve the darkness of sin, rather than the eternal light of the Light of the World.

“For by thy words that shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Matt. 12:37. We also notice that our opportunities may be a curse to us as well as a blessing, if we do not make good use of them. Even in this life is not a man or woman judged, to a great extent, by their words. How will it be in that eternal kingdom, when the Judge knows, not just a few of our words, but He knows them all? “Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one; and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.” I Cor. 3:8. This is not true in this life, because none actually knows the intent or even the total results of our labour. Our Lord knows and He is also able to amply reward. “But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” Col. 3:25. Do these Scriptures urge us, warn us,

convince us, and literally compel us, to make the best use of our opportunities that we possibly can?

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.” Heb. 12:25. We could give pages of examples of those who did not escape the authority of those upon this earth. God in heaven has a complete record, how can anyone hope to escape from any of the Words, which He delivered unto us by His Son and His apostles? “Keep that which is committed to thy trust.” I Tim. 6:20. The Christian has a multitude of opportunities, each one has some talents, why not occupy until Christ comes? True, all our thorns may not be removed, even if we often sincerely ask that they may be removed. Do you for one-minute question “that God’s grace is sufficient for you”?

Selected from the
August 1, 1960
issue of the Bible Monitor

OUR DAILY LIFE

My friends, we're living day by day,
As weeks may come and go;
But do we seek while on our way
Our future realms to know?
Like birds that sing their joyful lays,
We too, must be sublime;
Our light outshines in six long days,
The seventh ev'ry time.

'Tis not the cloaks that we expose
On Sabbath days alone
That speak good deeds where'er we go,
And for His blood atone.
But what we think or do or say,
Much louder, nobler shines;
Our light outshines in six long days
The seventh ev'ry time.

Though Sabbath days be spent in prayer
And worship in His name,
Unless our deeds through weeks compare,
Our prayers shall be in vain.
For all we do along life's way
Must stand the test of time;
Our light outshines in six long days
The seventh ev'ry time.

When God shall call at eventide
To meet His chosen bride,
Shall we be found with burning lamps
And go with Him inside?
Then let our burning light today
From morn till even shine;
Our light outshines in six long days
The seventh ev'ry time.

Oh, may we live the Sabbath through
The very best we can,
And other six, the Golden Rule,
Which speaks the inward man
Think as you will of what I say,
I still proclaim my rhyme;
Our light outshines in six long days
The seventh ev'ry time.

—Frank Denlinger

THE TRUE CHURCH

Elwyn Speaker

“Which is the true church?”

This is a question that is being asked by multitudes of the human family today. If it can be truly answered it surely ought to be. There are a vast number of churches and on some truths their belief and teachings are directly opposite. Some of them must be wrong, or they may all be wrong. They cannot all be right.

The church of God, the original church, was true because it was “the pillar and ground of the truth.” The true church now must be a counterpart of that church. The church that was brought about by his divine son surely was true and in accordance with the Father’s will. The complete organization of the church being directed by the apostles of Christ as they were moved by God in the person of

his Holy Spirit, surely could not be otherwise than truly right.

Thus, the church was started in complete harmony with God. Why the conditions today? “An enemy hath done this.” On the day of Pentecost when the disciples were being filled with the Holy Ghost, very likely the devil was busy gathering his host together for a long battle and a strong battle through the ages to come.

We see the results of this never-ending warfare against the true church. His methods of persuading and deceiving and turning aside the followers of Christ are innumerable. Today we see the results of this unceasing spiritual conflict. Because of the many ways introduced it is difficult for man to find the true way. “Because straight is the gate and

narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Our Roman Catholic friends claim they were the original church and because of that they are the true church now. Whether they were the original church or not we will not discuss. It really does not make any difference. Not what a church was once but what it is now should be our chief concern. Here is a truth we must grasp – Because a church has once been true is not a proof or assurance that it is forever true. When a church fails to walk in the simple way that God has marked out in his word it is no longer the true church.

We regard the church that was restored through Alexander Mack as one that was true in God’s sight because it was obedient to his holy word. It was not through heated argument that they grasped this way, but through much prayerful study and meditation.

It is possible for a church which once lived close to the Divine word as this church did, to drift away. It may become a fine social and charitable organization with excellent government, but that does not continue it as the true church of God.

We sometimes hear it said that we should just do the best

we can and not worry about the church, because the church will come around all right by and by. We must remember however, that a backslidden church never returns. An individual who wanders away may sometimes return, but never in history of the world has a backslidden church returned.

Again, it is claimed that the church must change “because the world, in its methods and customs, is changing and progressing.” Because men can travel in the film of air that envelops the earth, or because the human voice can be reproduced across the continent over wires or through the air is no reason why God’s people should not love his word and in humble obedience worship him in spirit and in truth.

If we claim that only the church that obeys God’s word literally, as given in the New Testament, is the true church we are termed as “narrow.” They may claim that if we accept the so called “fundamental truths” we are all right, no matter what church we belong to. They draw a line, however. Another draws a line at the rejection of water baptism. Someone else draws a line if the divinity of Christ is rejected, or if the “revelations” of Joseph Smith or Mary Baker Eddy are not accepted. Even the

infidel draws a line when he says, "That murderers will never get to heaven, if there is a heaven." Every person sooner or later, draws a limit line somewhere for man's salvation.

Instead of pondering over the

human opinions of men, should we not see where Jesus draws the line? "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21.)

CHRISTIAN UNITY

B. E. Kesler

Notwithstanding its hopelessness, there is probably not a band or group of professing Christians but would rejoice to see all such people united into one great body rather than to be divided up into the great number of groups as they now are. And efforts are being made to bring about this desirable condition among some of the larger bodies. It is usually the smaller groups that are most irreconcilable, because of the introduction and prevalence of conditions upon which they hold very decided convictions. And being in the minority, they are powerless to alter these conditions, and so a new group is formed in keeping with the conviction of the minority. In this way many of the groups have been founded, and, without considering the causes, the minority is, of course, charged with bringing about the division.

The most regrettable fact here

is, that no religious body has stood for any reasonable length of time without "losing its first love," so to speak, and encouraging and tolerating the introduction of practices foreign to the original order of things, which naturally causes schism and dissension in the body. And this, developed to its logical conclusion, results in division and final separation on the part of the loyal and faithful ones, and thus a new body is formed.

Another notable fact here is, that no body that ever thus drifted away from its original platform and practice ever reformed or returned to its original principles and practices, and in this drifting the course has invariably been worldward. Many churches that originally were plain and separate from the world have drifted with the tide until no semblance of separation from the world is discernible amongst them. In such

cases if a number however small, wish to maintain the original idea of things, the only recourse is protest and petition. When these fail the only alternative is separation, or suppression of convictions for the sake of unity.

And since mankind is inclined to substitute the more convenient for the more inconvenient, and to be less, rather than more, or even as much, as God demands, history shows that no church that ever started with affusion for baptism ever discarded this for immersion. And no church that started with single immersion for baptism ever discarded this for trine immersion, while in many instances affusion has been substituted for immersion, and single immersion for trine immersion. It is known to all church historians that trine immersion was the general practice among orthodox Christians until the close of the twelfth century, with here and there an isolated case of trine affusion, and for a time single immersion was practiced in Spain after the year A. D. 360, when it was introduced by one Eunomius, a seceder from the Arians who, as other Christians, practiced trine immersion.

In fact, neither affusion nor single immersion came into general use until after the Reformation. And

even at the present time when it comes to number, trine immersion has the lead about nine to one over single immersion, and the trine action, including trine affusion, leads about fifteen to one over the single action.

Now to be united in the practice of baptism we should have to return to the original trine immersion, which the early church fathers who wrote on the subject of baptism, tell us they practiced and that they got it, not from history, nor from each other but from Christ and the apostles, and from the great commission as recorded by Saint Matthew. (Matt. 28:19.)

The following which we quote from one of our exchanges, is to the point here:

"Make the Gospel of Christ the rallying ground upon which all controverted points and questions are settled.

"This course is the exact opposite of the one which most people follow when they try to get together. They would rather ignore doctrinal differences, thereby hoping to put an end to their quarrels, than to find what the Word and the will of the Lord is in the matter. But such evasiveness, while it may bring a semblance of unity, leads away from the Gospel of Christ and the salvation which

its message brings. The Bereans were more wise, 'more noble' than this, for they 'received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether these things were so' (Acts 17:11). We recognize that 'all scripture is given by inspiration of God' (II Tim. 3:16); that 'God... hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son' (Heb. 1:1,2); that the writings of the apostles, being given by inspiration of God, 'are the commandments of the Lord' (I Cor. 4:37); and that there is a fearful penalty for trifling with God's Word (Gal. 1:8,9; II Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 12:25; II John 10,11; Rev. 22:18, 19). Instead therefore of ignoring doctrinal differences, as many do, and making human likes and dislikes the basis of our fellowship, our unification of standards should be based strictly upon the Gospel of Christ. Such a course not only brings us together in unity of the faith and Spirit of Him who has bought us with His precious blood. 'If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another' (I John 1:7); and not only so, but under such circumstances we can say, 'Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ' (V. 4). 'What saith the Scripture?' is the only ground upon which a Heaven-approved

unity can be built." — Gospel Herald, July 24, P. 371.

How true the statement, "'What saith the Scripture?'" is only ground upon which a Heaven-approved unity can be built." Especially so since "all scripture is given by inspiration of God", and "God... hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son", and "the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16, 17); and "the writings of the apostles, being given by inspiration of God, 'are the commandments of the Lord.'" This proposition seems so reasonable, and so scriptural, a union on this basis ought to be easily effected by all sincere seekers of a union on gospel grounds.

Now, suppose we try a little and see how it will work out; see if there is a probability of effecting a union on the gospel basis. A union on any other basis would not be worth the time it would take to effect it.

First, then, let us take up the inspiration of the scriptures. We are told "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Now, how about it? Is it all inspired?

Fundamentalist: "Yes, sure."
Modernist: "No, sir, not all of it."
Well, who are these Modernists? Are they church men? Sure, college-bred, mostly. No use, then talking union, for if the scriptures be not inspired, then anyone may reject such parts of it as do not suit him. But who of us poor mortals would venture to draw a line between the human and the divine, but the inspired and the uninspired? We could find no basis of union on this line. We may as well reject all as a part of it.

Then, too, if all scripture is "profitable" for something, and Paul says it is, "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," how about non-essentials? Suppose we start out to unite on the essentials rejecting the non-essentials. Who will venture to draw a line here – a line between the essential and the non-essential? The Modernist denies the atonement, so that would do away with the "blood that cleansed from sin", which automatically does away with faith; and if we can unite on a platform that has no blood and no faith, then why repent? Why not unite on this platform and just call it a social club instead of a church?

But dropping the Modernist, how about the regular Fundamentalists?

Is there a possibility for them to unite? Hardly. For ask them what about baptism, feet washing and the Lord's Supper? And the great mass immediately cry out: "Non-essential!" And so on with much of the gospel. Then such parts of it as men say is non-essential may as well never have been written. But who of us has sufficient discernment as to be able to select the non-essentials in an inspired Book? Especially since inspiration says it is "profitable", good for something.

Now a union based on a part of the gospel is not the kind we want. As stated above, to be heaven-approved it must be founded on the gospel, not on a part of it. Then, too, we wonder how much better a union on non-essentials, denying the essentiality of a part of the Book, would be, then on Modernism, denying the inspiration of a part of it?

Yes, we'd rejoice to see the time when we could have Christian unity based on the Bible, not on a part of it. But as suggested in the opening statement, somehow it is hard to be optimistic that this will ever be.

Selected from the
August 15, 1930 issue of the
Bible Monitor

MARRIAGE

On May 23, 2020, Sister Joyce Stauffer of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, was united in marriage with Brother Ray Stuber of Felton, Pennsylvania. The marriage took place in the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. The couple resides at 5200 Swamp Road, Felton, PA 17322.

NEWS ITEMS

2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE

During a recent meeting by conference call, the members of Standing Committee regretfully decided to cancel General Conference for 2020. Both the management of the Roxbury Holiness Camp and the caterer expressed concern over the logistics of maintaining social distancing with our anticipated attendance. Suppliers are not willing to commit to providing items, and the cost for food is increasing. Franklin County, where the camp is located, is currently in Pennsylvania's yellow phase, which limits gatherings to 25 persons. Moving to the green phase will limit gatherings to 250 people. Out of respect for the management of the camp, the caterer, and those who rule over us, the Elders have reluctantly chosen to cancel this year's General Conference.

Previously, I hoped that by the end of August the COVID-19 virus would be long gone. But it is becoming increasingly clear that the Coronavirus pandemic is not going away anytime soon.

Plans are to continue the rotation of General Conference and have conference in the Third District in 2021. The exact dates will be announced later.

We certainly will miss all the encouragement, fellowship, hearing messages and lessons, visiting, working together, and most of all worshipping our Heavenly Father together. In our disappointment, let us be mindful to honor each other in our local congregations as we honor our friends from other districts. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." (Romans 12:10).

May God bless you and be with you.

In Christian Love,
Brother Bob Lehigh

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2021

Even as the Elders of the Brotherhood were wrestling with the decision about canceling the 2020 General Conference, the Lodging Committee from the Third District was busy nailing down the dates for the 2021 General Conference. Due to some other activities scheduled at Central College in Pella, Iowa, our Conference has been delayed for two weeks after our normal time. The date for the 2021 General Conference will be June 18–23, 2021, and the location will be Central College in Pella, Iowa. This was the first spot available in June.

We, the Officers of General Conference, regret any inconvenience this change of dates will cause.

In Christian Love,
Brother Bob Lehigh

Writing Clerk, General Conference

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

Please make the following changes to the February Ministerial List: Brother Jason Carpenter 9821 S 450 E, Amboy, Indiana 46911. Brother Devin Sweitzer, 2551 County Road 70, Quinter, Kansas 67752.

DEACON LIST CHANGES

Please make the following changes to the February Deacons List:

Add: Brother Gordon Garber, (CornerStone) 8385 Kniseley Road, Greenville, OH 45331, 937-467-1506. The new phone number for Brother Dale Eberly is (610) 223-5774.

CORNERSTONE, OHIO

Lord willing, the CornerStone Congregation is planning a revival meeting, Wednesday, August 19 to Sunday morning, August 23, 2020. Bro. Brant Jamison has consented to deliver the messages to us. Services will be at 7:00 P.M. in the evenings and Sunday morning Sunday school at 9:30 A.M., preaching at 10:30 A.M. and

a carry-in lunch to follow. Please pray that the messages will touch each of our hearts and that the Word will go out into the community. Pray for Bro. Brant as he prepares and as they travel.

Sister Karen Blocher, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation has scheduled revival meetings for the last week of August. Bro. Paul Noecker has agreed to be our evangelist. Services will begin on Sunday morning, August 23, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. and will be held each evening at 7:30 P.M. until Saturday, August 29, 2020. Saturday services will start at 4:00 P.M. for the examination service followed by Lovefeast services at 6:30 P.M. Services again on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Carry-in lunch is planned in the basement both Sundays. Please remember Bro. Paul and Sis. Sheila in your prayers as they prepare for these services. Your prayers and presence are always welcome here at Swallow Falls.

Sister Marie Sines

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

The Torreon Navajo Mission is undergoing a staff change this year. Several families and young folks have answered the call to serve God in this community. New staff members include:

Devin and Alyssa Meyers and daughter Alana from the Dallas Center congregation, Devin will be serving as the Superintendent.

Morgan and Stephanie Eberly and children Kensley and Cayden from the Chambersburg congregation.

Nate and Amanda Gayman and sons Kallan and Waylon from the Chambersburg congregation.

Tiffany Carpenter from the Berean congregation.

Kendra Castle from the Juniper Hills congregation.

Morgan Alspaugh from the Bethel congregation.

Austin Wagner from the Hart congregation will continue to serve on staff.

Please pray daily for the staff. Contact them and share your words of encouragement.

Mission address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013-9701.

Mission phone number: 505-731-2292

Also, please remember Jason and Shenna and David Carpenter and thank them for their many years of dedicated service.

Torreón Navajo Mission
Board of Directors

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept. 6 – Two Mites and Signs of His Coming Again – Luke 21:1-19

1. What drew Jesus' attention to the poor widow and how might her actions differ from others who were also giving to the treasury?

2. How does our perspective impact what we see and reveal what we value?

3. Are we prepared for the end times or merely curious?

Sept. 13 – Watching for His Coming Again – Luke 21:20-38

1. When does Jesus' prophecy concerning Jerusalem take place?

2. What is the purpose of total destruction in relationship to the Second Coming of Christ?

3. What distractions keep us from watching expectantly?

Sept. 20 – A Betrayer at the Supper Table – Luke 22:1-23

1. Reread Luke 21:37-38. Why does Luke include this tidbit of detail?

2. How will the disciples know which man carrying a pitcher of water to follow?

3. What fulfillment is Jesus referencing in verse 16?

Sept. 27 – Sleepy Disciples-Praying Lord – Luke 22:24-46

1. As the disciples squabble among themselves where is their vision focused?

2. In what ways does Jesus redirect their vision?

3. How is Jesus demonstrating mercy to Peter as He reveals to him how low he will fall?

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