

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CIII

DECEMBER, 2025

NO. 12

"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.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN – THE ALPHA AND OMEGA!

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Is. 9:6

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
saith the Lord, which is, and which was,
and which is to come,
the Almighty.*

Rev. 1:8

*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me,
to give every man according as his work shall be.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,
the first and the last.*

Rev. 22:12-13

Selected by Mildred Skiles
Rio Ranch, NM

SANTA FLAWS

As a young boy, I like many young children, believed in Santa Claus. Why? Because my mom and TV told me of him. There was also evidence of his existence. First, the fact that every Christmas Eve when I went to bed, there was a small number of presents under the tree in the living room but come Christmas morning, the number was greatly multiplied. Many of these presents were labeled as coming from Santa himself. There were also sleigh and hoof tracks in the front yard one Christmas when we had snow. I would later learn that this had been the handywork of my mom, using a rod and a bit of her creative abilities. Then there was the Polaroid picture of Santa in full garb, standing at our front door one

Christmas Eve night while I had been asleep. He (the next-door neighbor) had even left me an orange that I found in my bed upon waking in the morning. But by and large, the greatest evidence for his existence was that my mom told me he was real. I “knew” that Mom wouldn’t lie to me.

As I grew a little older, I began to have some questions. How did Santa come down our chimney as it was relatively small and had a chimney vent cap. If not down the chimney, how did he enter through locked doors? To these questions, Mom responded that he was magic. Oh...ok. Well, that pretty much answered any questions that I might have. I even wondered how he could visit every home

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on the planet in one night. But after all, there are 24 time zones on the globe, so he'd have an entire day to complete the task. Then again, if he's magic, what couldn't he accomplish?

Mom didn't take me to see Santa in the stores as she said those were just men dressed as Santa. In reality, she thought a close encounter with these imposters would likely diminish the awe of Santa in my eyes, and she was probably right. I remember a few times hearing other children close to my age discussing Santa and their doubts about him. I tried to avoid these conversations. While I understood that it might be difficult for some to believe, I knew better because my mom wouldn't lie to me.

However, the time eventually came when Mom told me the truth. I remember my heart being poked that day. It had been fun to believe in Santa, and it was a little sad to dismiss that belief. I also came to the knowledge that day that mom could and did keep me in the dark with deceit. I understood that she loved me and had good intentions. She didn't mean any harm and only wanted to foster excitement and

sense of wonder in me as so many parents do in this way with their children. However, I also realized that day that she might not always be truthful with me. Could I trust her?

Years later as we started our own family, questions came to my mind. "Are you going to teach your children about Santa? Wouldn't you enjoy watching the twinkle of excitement in their eyes? You don't want them to miss out on the fun and wonder that you experienced as a kid, do you? What will grandma say if you spoil it for them? Are you going to buck the culture and be a mean parent and rob your children of this joy?"

As the song says, Santa is coming to town and sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake and he knows if you've been bad or good. So you better be good because he's benevolent and has many presents (blessings) for you. In other words, he's omniscient, omnipresent and being magic, is omnipotent. Sound familiar?

For our children, I decided that if I wanted to lead them down a path of truth towards the Lord, any paths of deceit,

no matter how small, fun or seemingly harmless, should be avoided. Further, if I desired that they someday come to believe in an omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent Lord, it might not be wise to teach them to believe in a false figure (Santa) embodying those same characteristics.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.” Col. 3:9

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to

make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.” II Pet. 1:10-16

K. Brock

ENCOURAGING

“Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet,” Heb. 12-13a

We write this out of concern for our brethren, some near, and some far, hoping that some glimmer of truth found herein might just help someone.

This has been a hard couple of years for my wife and I, before her passing, filled with health concerns that kept us from attending worship most

Sundays, since we live so many miles away. We certainly didn't want to offend anyone, and there are many, besides ourselves, who suffer in one manner or another. A word of good cheer by visit or by phone can work wonders for a lonely soul.

So it was a real blessing to receive a phone call from a family member who told us of a friend of ours that told her, “Please never stop writing. Your articles always bless us.” Just a

few words, but such a difference they made. After not writing anything for several months, I began to hear from God again. All it took was a small message

that spoke volumes. You can still do it. To God be the glory.

Lynn Miller
Newmanstown, PA

THE OPEN DOOR TO FAITH

Thomas Edison when he was developing the electric light bulb failed almost 10,000 times. Instead of giving up, he simply said that he now knows 10,000 ways that don't work.

Not all negative is bad because sometimes I need to know what not to do in order to put my focus on what I really should be doing at the time.

For the most part, many Christians do not know what really works in their life. They spend a lot of time frustrated over things that are not working and end up quite discouraged and even depressed.

Many people do not quite understand that every open door was first a closed door. When we find a closed door, we need to understand that it is closed for a reason. A closed door does not mean it will not open eventually. When you come to a closed door, it is not an opportunity to quit. Some

people take it as an opportunity to quit and say, "Well, I guess God doesn't want me to do that."

How many closed doors in my life will I ever experience? I am quite sure I will encounter more closed doors than open doors. I am quite sure that in my walk with the Lord there will be a lot more opposition than there will be encouragement.

I do not need to fear the source of the opposition just as I do not need to miscalculate the source of my encouragement. God's encouragement always overcomes the opposition in my life. I need to give God an opportunity to deal with me at that closed-door moment.

As someone has said, a negative can only be a negative if there is a positive, you need both. Many people only want the positive in their life. Sometimes a closed door is simply a challenge to our faith. A closed door does not necessarily mean that it is

locked. It might mean that I need to take some initiative action to open that door. The door before me can be challenged as I step forward and open it.

I need to be careful that my faith is being nurtured every day so that when I experience a closed door, my life does not just shut down. My faith needs to rise at that occasion and challenge the closed door. My opposition must be challenged by my faith. And as always, faith wins every time.

Each day that I experience some opposition or a closed door, my faith is getting stronger and stronger. Everything that comes into my life can be a challenge to my faith in God and a reminder that it is not my strength that survives, but rather my faith in God.

I need to figure out the difference between my strength and my faith in God. Once I have that worked out, I begin to see things that I can do over here, but then things over on the other side that I can only do through faith. My faith will always be challenged, which serves to encourage and strengthen me as I face the opposition.

There is another aspect to

consider. Sometimes a closed door is God's way to redirect us. Nothing we do overcomes that closed door, but instead of giving up, I need to sit down and pray about what is in front of me. Maybe that closed door is God redirecting me in a direction that he wants me to go.

We need to understand that walking in faith is not an easy thing to do. There are some challenges, of course, as well as opposition along the way. But there is also that aspect of God redirecting us in a way that will bring honor and glory unto Him. If I come against a closed door, I need to realize what is happening at this point. What is going on here? Which direction do I need to go?

Another aspect of the closed door is, it may be Satan trying to defeat me. I need to realize in my life there is going to be that influence of Satan. If I am determined to go in God's direction, Satan is just as determined to keep me from going in that direction.

As I encounter a closed door, I need to ask myself several things. Is this of God? Is this Satan trying to redirect me? Have I made a mistake?

Or, is this a challenge to my faith to continue to go in the same direction despite the opposition?

Nothing is more important than walking in faith. Faith will bring me to a closed door, but in God's will, faith also will enable me to open that door. It may not be easy and it may be a struggle with all but overwhelming opposition. However, if I put my faith and

trust in God, that open door will be the beginning of victory one way or the other.

Nobody remembers Edison's 10,000 failures, but we all remember the light bulb.

The stronger the opposition the greater the grace.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

WATCH YOUR WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;

A cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instill;

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;

A joyous word may light the day.

A tender word may solace give!

A cheering word may help one live.

A timely word may lessen stress;

A loving word may heal and bless.

Grenville Kleiser

Selected by Mildred Skiles
Rio Rancho, NM

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.

At the conclusion of the study of II Samuel, King David is an aging monarch of a nation with plenty of problems and promise all because of the hand of the Lord. I can be quite a harsh critic of David when I read page after page of events that cause me to wonder how this can be a man after God's own heart.

The small sampling of the Psalms that are offered for study this month are a bit of a window into the heart of David. While not all of the Psalms are attributed to David's authorship, they are all similar in how they meditate on God and his glory to help make sense of man's reality here on earth. In the exquisite poetry of ideas, there is laid out the mortality of man before his immortal creator God.

My criticism of this man David begins to fade as I find many similar dilemmas in my own life, even though my events are different. I can find

consolation in the fact that God, whose name is excellent and whose glory is above the heavens, is mindful of the man David in his sinful flesh and still has more than enough power to redeem him back to Himself.

God continues to uphold his promise to establish David's house, kingdom, and throne forever in our Lord Jesus Christ. Because God is eternal, his building is not in vain. Also, God's all-knowing Holy Spirit is present in believers to search, know, and cleanse them from any wicked ways. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him the victory over sin and death.

As you study this selection of Psalms, be in a prayerful spirit that God will reveal himself to you through his word. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Bro. Kidron Crist

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NEWS ITEMS

New Leadership – Three Congregations

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

In May, Denton Benedict and Nate Gayman were elected and installed as Deacons.

Please pray for and encourage these men and their wives in their new responsibilities.

Bro. Denton & Sis. Kara Benedict – 1581 Mount Pleasant Rd., Fayetteville, PA 17222

Bro. Nate & Sis. Amanda Gayman – 10950 Tanyard Hill Rd., Orrstown, PA 17244

Lititz, Pennsylvania

In late June, Loren Zook was installed as an Elder.

Please pray for and encourage Bro. Loren & Sis. Sherry Zook in their new responsibilities. Their address is 225 Snitz Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

Garnett, Kansas

In early October, several men were elected and installed in the following leadership positions:

Bro. Jordan Hawbaker – Deacon

Bro. Andy Lichtenberger – Minister

Bro. Jeff Davison – Elder

Please pray for and encourage these men and their wives in their new responsibilities.

Bro. Jordan & Sis. Jena Hawbaker – 675 Hwy 65, Bronson, KS 66716

Bro. Andy & Sis. Charity Lichtenberger – 1556 Yarrow Rd., Piqua, KS 66761

Bro. Jeff & Sis. Melissa Davison – 23766 NW Iowa Rd., Welda, KS 66091

Updates from the Netherlands

Following a recent decision by the Church Growth Board and the General Mission Board, we hope to begin publishing a monthly update in the Bible Monitor regarding Bro. Tama and Sis. Carmen McGlinn and their family, living in Friesland, the Netherlands. The McGlinn's would be greatly encouraged by our prayer support.

Through these updates, we plan to focus on their current prayer needs, family activities, and outreach to others in the Netherlands. We hope this effort will help us all to be fervent and consistent in our prayer support for their family.

Thank you in advance for joining in this renewed call to pray for the McGlinn family. May God bless all of us in this effort to encourage our church family.

Ward Deaton
Zillah, WA

2026 Sunday School Lesson Plan

The adult Sunday School Lesson Plan for 2026 is available on the Dunkard Brethren Church website. It has also been distributed to the elders in each congregation. The 2026 study will be from the book of Acts. In an effort to allow ample time for a thorough study of the establishment and function of the early church, the study of the book of Acts has been divided out over the next two years. As a board, we want to encourage all of us to deeply and thoroughly study the early days of the Lord's Church and to find the instruction and examples that apply to our lives today.

May God bless each one in the study of His Word,
The Bible Study Board

Men's Retreat

Men, don't forget to mark your calendars and plan to attend the Men's Retreat on February 20-21, 2026. Join us at Michindoh Conference Center near Hillsdale, MI., for a time of spiritual encouragement, worship, and fellowship accompanied by great food!

The theme will be “Finding our Identity”. Jason Reed of Myerstown, PA, a minister at Family Harvest Mennonite Church, will speak on “Life Principles”. Randall Wenger, of Newmanstown, PA, has spent much of his 34 years investing in young lives, and will share on “Practical Application-Embracing Manhood”. Please pray for the retreat and the speakers as they prepare for this event.

Registration brochures will be emailed to congregations and individuals later this month. If you receive this email, please print paper copies for the brothers in your congregation and area. This event is open to all men ages 14 and up, so feel free to invite anyone who may enjoy the fellowship and encouragement of this gathering. To be added to the email list, send a request to Marvin Lorenz at dbmensretreat@fastmail.com

Subscription Renewal

As we approach the end of another year, it may be time to renew your subscription to the Bible Monitor, if you haven't already. For 2026, paper subscriptions remain \$10/year. Paper subscriptions also come with a free email subscription upon request. Email only subscriptions remain \$5/year.

Please send all subscription payments to the Editor (see information at bottom of Page 2). Make checks payable to “Dunkard Brethren Church”. Please contact the Editor with any questions regarding your subscription.

Brethren Assembly Proceedings Book Released

A new book entitled “Brethren Faithfulness: Priorities In Perspective” has been released by Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc., and is now available to the public. The book contains transcripts of papers and addresses given at the Seventh Brethren World Assembly held in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, in July of 2023.

Every five years representatives of the nine largest Brethren bodies descended from the German Pietist Alexander Mack (1679-1735) gather to spend several days reflecting on their common

historical roots. They hear scholarly papers, worship together, and hear what each of the groups is currently focusing on for strategic direction and growth.

This 245-page trade paperback, which retails for \$25 per copy, was edited by Maryland pastor Dan Thornton, who served as chair for the 2023 gathering. The 2023 Assembly marked 300 years since the organization of the first Brethren congregation in America in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and 100 years of the Brethren presence in Nigeria. Therefore, speakers and scholars focused primarily on the Brethren presence in America during the 1700s.

The book opens with a chapter entitled “What Led the Brethren to America?” and succeeding chapters focus on the expansion of the Brethren movement, the challenge of the American Revolution and impact of Christopher Saur II, the legacy of Alexander Mack, Jr., Brethren attitudes toward slavery, and a summary of 100 years of the Church of the Brethren growth in Nigeria.

Brethren Encyclopedia publishes encyclopedias and monographs of Brethren interest. The group is comprised of representatives of the groups descended from Alexander Mack, which include Church of the Brethren, Covenant Brethren Church, Charis Fellowship, The Brethren Church, Dunkard Brethren Church, Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International, and three groups from the Old Order German Baptist Brethren heritage.

“Brethren Faithfulness” may be ordered from Brethren Encyclopedia’s website at www.brethrenencyclopedia.org or by contacting the organization at 5137 Waltersdorff Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362 or by calling (717) 817-6025.

Notice

In preparation for the February issue of the Bible Monitor, please send the Editor any corrections, additions or deletions regarding the Ministerial List, the Deacon List or contact information for the congregations. This information should be supplied by the Presid-

ing Elder or his designee by the end of the first week of January so that the February issue can be as accurate as possible.

Wedding and Birth Announcements

To have a wedding or birth announced in the Bible Monitor, please notify the Editor by phone, text, email or mail (see contact info at bottom of page 2).

In addition, please note that newlyweds can receive a free 1-year subscription to the Bible Monitor if their address or email address is provided.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR December 2025

Dec. 7 – Ps. 8:1-9 - The Awesomeness of Our God

1. How does God still the enemy and the avenger out of the mouths of babes?

2. What can be learned from the statement ordained strength (v. 2) that Jesus quotes as perfected praise (Matthew 21:16)?

3. Is there a difference in the work of thy fingers (v. 3) and the works of thy hands (v. 6)?

4. How excellent (v. 1 & 9) is it that Jesus laid aside his glory above the heavens and came to be a little lower than the angels (Heb. 2:6-8) so he could reclaim man's dominion (v. 6) over all the earth?

Dec. 14 – Ps. 127:1-128:6 - God's Blessing on Godly Homes

1. What does God give when his beloved is sleeping (127:2)?

2. Do you fear the Lord (128:1)?

3. Does eating the product of the labor of our hands (128:2) make us happy and well?

Dec. 21 – Ps. 98:1-9 - What is a Song to God

1. Who is God's right hand and holy arm? Who is his salvation & righteousness?

2. Is the LORD your King?

3. Does the righteous and equitable judgment of the LORD and King cause you to make a joyful noise?

Dec. 28 – Ps. 139:1-24 - The Amazing Presence of God

1. Is it comforting to know that God is always with you?

2. How can we know what the thoughts are that God has unto us (v.17)?

3. Does the result of God searching and knowing us (v.1) cause us to ask God to continue searching and knowing us (v. 23)?

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