

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CI

NOVEMBER, 2023

NO. 11

"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.

I GIVE THEE HUMBLE THANKS

For all the gifts that Thou dost send,
For every kind and loyal friend,
For prompt supply of all my need,
For all that's good in word or deed;
For gift of health along life's way,
For strength to work from day to day,
I give Thee humble thanks!

For ready hands to help and cheer,
For listening ears Thy voice to hear,
For yielded tongue Thy love to talk,
For willing feet Thy paths to walk;
For open eyes Thy Word to read,
For loving heart Thy will to heed,
I give Thee humble thanks!

For Christ who came from heaven above,
For the cross and His redeeming love,
For His mighty power to seek and save,
For His glorious triumph o'er the grave;
For the lovely mansions in the sky,
For His blessed coming by and by,
I give Thee humble thanks!

Clifford Lewis

Selected by Shirley Frick
Greenville, OH

THANKSGIVING

(Tribute)

Editor's Note: This spot in the Bible Monitor is typically reserved for the Editorial. However, in lieu of the Editorial this month, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, I thought a tribute to the former editor might be appropriate. While our giving of thanks should primarily be directed to our Father in Heaven, it is also fitting to encourage and show appreciation to those around us.

As most of you know, Bro. Milton Cook was the editor of the Bible Monitor for many years. He was editor from 1975 until 2022; for 47 years!

In tribute to Bro. Milton for his many years of service, the following is his first Thanksgiving article, at his relatively young age of 32, from the November 15, 1975, issue of the Bible Monitor.

Despite the rampant immorality in our nation, we still have a day set aside by Presidential Proclamation for the offering of thanks to the God of Heaven. Most in this land will ignore the true purpose of the day. It will be a day of feasting,

drinking and sport for them. A few somber-minded people may this day be awakened to the abundant blessings God has poured out upon us, as individuals and as a nation. For Christians this day should be one more day to offer thanks to

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our Heavenly Father. Although thankfulness should be a habit in our lives, it is good for us to use this day to recount our many blessings.

To offer our thanks we must recognize from whom these blessings have come. It is not by luck or mere hard work or wise investment that all these things have come to us. The Eternal God of Heaven, though great and mighty, has an interest and concern for us, individually. All we have or ever hope to have comes from Him.

Our blessings may be divided into two classes: temporal and Spiritual. Temporal blessings are the benefits we enjoy while in this world only. They are limited to this lifetime. Although we place great importance upon these blessings, they are more for the body's comfort than for the soul's. These blessings include our natural life and our health. Also included are the blessings associated with our work: the talents, health and opportunity to work, as well as the material prosperity that accompanies our labor. Although we would often feel we have not received temporal blessings as abundantly as some others,

yet if we would but look around it would not take long to find someone who is in worse shape than ourselves, either financially or medically. In thinking of this life's blessings we would do well to remember Paul's words, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." I Tim. 6:7

The Spiritual blessings, on the other hand, are not only for our enjoyment in this life but also beyond this life. In fact, the Spiritual blessings enjoyed in this life are preparation for a future eternal life where our present blessings will be deepened. Our privileges of worship here, by faith, will be an even greater worship over there, in full knowledge.

We could not comprehend a greater love than our Heavenly Father's love for us. He sent His Son to be propitiation for our sins. Can we be so callous that we would not thank him? Our own goodness and works could never make us right with God. By our efforts or even by our own indifference, we are on a downward journey leading to an everlasting punishment. But God has interposed His Merciful Gift, Jesus Christ. We have

mansions in Heaven awaiting us if found faithful. For the difference in our direction and eternal destiny, we must thank God for He is the only One able to save our souls. Our thanks should be expressed, not only by the praise of our lips, but by living to please Him.

All of these blessings that pertain to our soul's salvation would be unknown to us if we did not have the Bible. Because it is true – God's truth – we can believe the descriptions and conditions it contains in speaking of our salvation. Without the Bible we would have no authentic record of the life and work of Jesus. There would be either complete ignorance of Him or only a legendary, mythical portrayal of Him. Without the Bible we would have no sure way of knowing what would be pleasing to God. We could not style our lives to conform to His will. Without the Bible we would not have the examples, whether as warning or encouragement, of those whose lives are now recorded in her pages. For His Written Word we should be especially thankful.

As God's People we have received an heritage

that warrants our thanks. Our forefathers suffered various persecutions in Europe, endured the long and dangerous crossing of the Atlantic and established homes and Churches in the wilderness of America. They came because they wished to serve God according to the teaching of His Word. They and the succeeding generations came to be known as "The People of the Book." We are the recipients of their legacy; they paid a price to please God, to establish the Church and to keep it in order. We should be thankful for their efforts and their suffering. We should also be willing to sacrifice so future generations, if the Lord tarries, will receive the same heritage we have. We have so many Spiritual blessings to be thankful for at this season.

Perhaps as you have read these lines you have thought of many other blessings, temporal or Spiritual, you are thankful for. Good! Do not wait until Thanksgiving Day to give thanks but make it a daily habit. For what are you thankful, today?

Bro. Milton Cook
Selected by K. Brock

UPDATE ON THE WORK AND NEEDS AT TORREON MISSION

Greetings to all the Brothers and Sisters who have so faithfully supported the ministry of Torreon Navajo Mission! Another School year is well under way. They have 14 students ranging from 1st to 11th grade. We again want to thank Camille Bowman and Cherith Johnson for their year of service. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you as you move into other fields of service! Lois Chupp and Sierra Sensenig have returned for another year. Kaitlyn Royer and Ellie Weiler are the new staff this year, and we welcome them to Navajoland. All four girls are teaching in the school.

Wayne & Dee Young from Kansas again hosted their semi-annual garage sale on Saturday, September 2. They brought many items for the sale and it nearly sold out. There were local families who served some Navajo food as well. This event has been a huge success and brings in many people to enjoy the day of fellowship while purchasing things that they can use.

Devin & Alyssa Meyers completed a little over 3 years of service in September. They are moving to nearby Cuba where they have a coffee shop with the intent to minister to the community. Devin has taken a job overseeing several small clinics in the area. Devin & Alyssa Meyers have touched many lives in Torreon during their time of service. They will be greatly missed by all. Thank you very much for your faithfulness and commitment to this work. May God bless you richly!

The board is still looking for a couple to fill the role of Superintendent to oversee the Mission. There is a need for individuals or families to serve in other positions as well. Please contact one of the board members listed in the last few pages of the Bible Monitor if you have some interest or have questions. The fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few.

Until we have a Superintendent, we are looking for short term help to fill in. We would like to have a man present at the mission as much as possible. AJ & Janelle Trujillo, and Jonathan & Jill Skiles

are helping out in many ways. We greatly appreciate their sacrifice. The congregation there has been very supportive as well.

Here is the schedule of short-term help that has been lined up thus far.

Austin Priest's (September 9 – October 9)

Rick St. John's (October 7 – November 9)

Nelson Hawbaker's (November 7 – December 2)

Dan Chupp's (December 2 – December 10)

Nelson Hawbaker's (December 10 – January 2)

Caleb Heckman's (December 28 – February 1)

Samuel Yoder's and Galen Wingert (February 1 – March 1)

These schedules are tentative. March, April, and May of 2024 still need to be covered if we don't have a Superintendent. Also, it would not be a problem, if anyone would like to go while someone else is there.

We believe that God is at work in the hearts of many in Torreon. Please pray that the many that are bound in sin will be set free in our day!

Rick St. John
Secretary, Torreon Board of Directors

“THANK YOU, CAPTAIN”

“...As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...” John 1:12

Napoleon Bonapart was a general in the French Army during the newly formed French Republic. The Royalty were defeated, and the revolution was bloody, and Napoleon became Emperor of France. It was the early 1800's. Napoleon

was still in uniform and still the head of the army.

One day Napoleon was riding in a parade and suddenly, his horse bolted. A common foot soldier, sensing danger and risking everything, grabbed the reins and with all his strength

he brought the unruly horse to a standstill.

"Thank you, Captain," the grateful Emperor exclaimed.

The newly promoted officer understood and after the parade, headed for the officer's mess hall. He sat down and greeted his fellows. "Who are you?" his fellow officers said, "We do not know you."

"I am a captain," he insisted. They mocked him and called for security. He was in officer's mess and had no officer's identification.

"I am a captain. I know I do not have a uniform but I know I am a captain because Napoleon called me one."

No child of God should think himself not a Christian if he has bad thoughts or improper behavior, or insufficient knowledge. These things will come in time if we trust in Him and follow Him in faith. Many would criticize him but if God calls him His child, then he is. Children are not born fully grown or with the ability to walk or talk.

He who has called you a son of God will lead you. All you need to do is believe that He is able to carry you through. He will.

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

THANKSGIVING SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT ON HOW WE FEEL

The origin of a celebrated day of Thanksgiving dates back to the original Pilgrims of the 1600s. It wasn't until 1863 when, then President, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it to be a national holiday, that the nation had a day set aside to be thankful. I seriously doubt that we wait until the last few weeks of November to be thankful but

let's look at what the Bible says about the subject.

1st Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalms 30:4 "Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalm 75:1 *“Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.”*

1st Corinthians 15:57 *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I know I picked only a few, and there are dozens more that speak of being thankful, but these verses remind us to give thanks because of who or what God is and what He has done for us. Giving thanks is not dependent on our situation or how we feel about it. Giving thanks is to be done because who God is. If God never changes and we know he doesn't, He will always be worthy of our thanks. Most anyone can be thankful when they get what they wanted or have benefited from by a certain welldoer. Most people struggle to be thankful when we don't have enough, or things have not gone our way. This is called situational thankfulness and I dare say Christians should not be guilty of such. It is easy to say the words, “God is good all the time, and all the time God is good”, when things are

good, or we have had a prayer request answered, or we have just seen victory in something. I pray that we can say those words and believe them when things are not good, when we have just received bad news, when our situation is spiraled out of control.

Thanksgiving should always be on our lips and in the front of our minds. I know we all know this, and I trust you are better at it than me, however it is easy to get discontent and forget how much God has done for us.

“The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest. When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.” - William Blake

We are such a blessed people that the rest of the world would give a great deal for what we have. We have all too often taken it for granted and forgotten the giver. We can never praise Him or thank Him enough. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, look around and count all the good things God has done for you. If you need to, make a list. Add to it daily and reflect on it much. God has been so good to us. If that isn't reason enough to be thankful, and it

is, give Him thanks for who He is!!! Revelation tells us that he is coming back and on His vesture is the name King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and

power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
Revelation 4:11

Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

AN OUTWARD SIGN OF AN INWARD COMMITMENT

A person gets into trouble when they do not have any confirmation of their commitment to Jesus Christ. Some will say very glibly that they are really trusting God for their daily life. The problem is their words are not followed up by consistent action on their part.

It is hard to commit to someone or something without thorough investigation. I want to know the pluses and minuses. I want to know the good and the bad. I want to know what I am really getting into. To say that I am a follower of Christ without looking into what it means to be a follower of Christ, will not get me very far.

Some people believe that the purpose of “faith” is to help them become successful out in the world. It would be difficult to find Scripture supporting that kind of thing. My commitment to

Jesus Christ is not a negotiation with God to get what I want out of life.

On the surface, a commitment to Jesus Christ is the most confusing thing in all the world. It contradicts everything in our world.

With Abraham in the Old Testament and the circumcision that God introduced, we have something very confusing. How can something outward like this, which from a human standpoint makes no sense, have anything to do with a spiritual commitment to God?

I am sure Abraham did not fully understand the significance of this act of circumcision. Because Abraham was a man of faith and trusted God, he committed himself to this outward sign of a covenant with God.

Out in the business world, in the world of money, before someone signs a contract they read all of the “fine print.” If we are going to commit ourselves, we need to know what we are committing ourselves to. How many times has somebody been tricked into a contract they really didn’t understand because they did not read the “fine print”?

I do not believe God works that way. God is not trying to trick us into some kind of a commitment that we do not know what we are doing. God does not need to work that way.

I know that on the surface our commitment to God is very confusing. However, God never wants us to commit to him without understanding what we are committing to. He does not need that kind of pressure to get us to follow him.

The devil, on the other hand, works this way all the time. He gets people to commit to something they have no idea what they are really committing to and when they realize what they have committed themselves to, it is usually too late.

If I am really going to commit myself to God, the first step is to

get to know God. I believe the reason Abraham was able to commit to this circumcision ritual was that he knew God. And what he knew about God enabled him to take a step of faith.

As I get to know God, I come to one awesome conclusion, which is, God’s covenant has permanent and eternal ramifications. This is seen through the covenant of the circumcision ritual.

I need to understand that God is not here to help me get through this world. Certainly, I can trust him when I come against some of the terrible tribulations and trials I must face. But at the core of God’s dealing with me is eternity. What God is doing in my life right now is preparing me for eternity.

Men’s contracts have to do with this life. And there are certain times when we can make a contract to make this life a little better. But none of the world’s contracts can ever flow over into eternity.

My commitment opens up the door for God to work in my life in ways I do not understand but will prepare me for eternity.

Man’s contracts are

vulnerable to change, which is why we have so many lawyers doing so well in our culture today. God's covenant, however, changes not.

If I can wrap my heart around that concept, I will begin to understand how important it is to really commit myself to God.

The outward sign of this inward commitment to God is summed up in one word, obedience. I cannot obey somebody I do not trust. I cannot trust somebody I do not know. I cannot know somebody until I have spent quality time with that person.

I need to check my commitment to the Lord on a regular basis. One thing I

need to do is ask one very simple question: What has my obedience to God cost me this week?

If my obedience has no cost factor to it, is it really genuine obedience? To follow God will cost me quite a bit. The other side of the coin is just as true. Not to follow God, not to obey God will cost me more, a lot more.

The thing I need to really figure out is, what is the cost I am willing to bear? When I figure that out, then I will be willing to obey God regardless of the cost factor.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

CONNECTIONS

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

I work in an industry that is not exactly known for sunny optimism, namely, almond farming in California. Too much crop drives the almond prices down while alternatively, too little crop makes it unprofitable

to even have an orchard. Too little rain spikes the water bills, but too much rain makes it difficult to harvest.

While I would not describe myself as a paragon of gratitude, I certainly bring more

of it to the table than most of my customers, with most of my rose-colored hues quickly being doused with a heavy coat of flat black paint from a grim-eyed farmer. So, why should they be thankful? Why should any of us be thankful?

Being thankful is commanded many times in the Bible. As Christians, our first thanks should be to God for the infinitely valuable gift of salvation through His Son. If we have nothing else in life, we have that. You can work outward from that point of gratitude. Do we have a family? Friends? A Job? And so forth.

Interestingly, gratitude is also taught in secular circles. It is touted as improving one's physical and mental health, with benefits that range from lower blood pressure and inflammation to improved focus and relationships. It almost seems as if God knew what He was doing with this command!

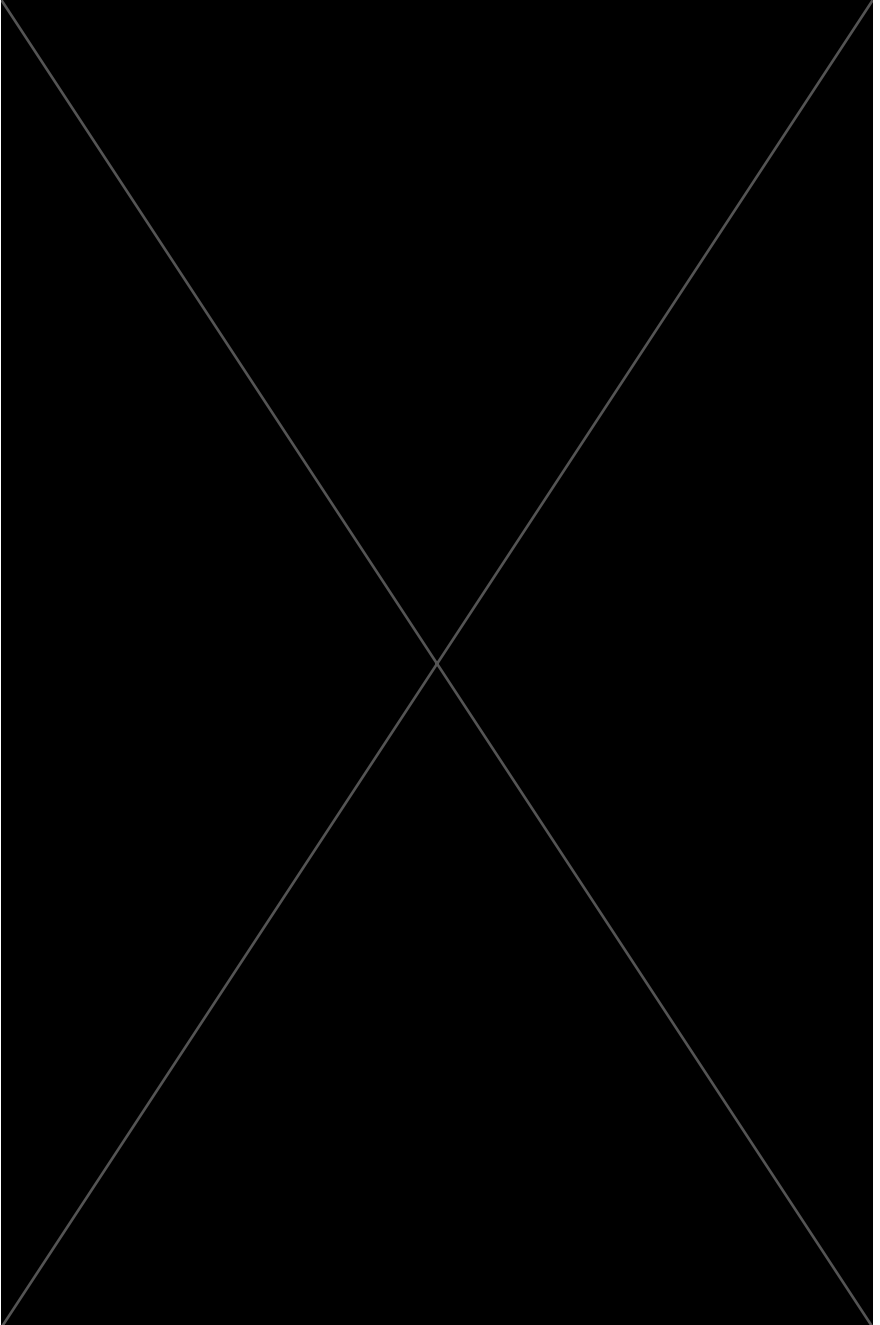
Seeing as how we are not simply physical, but also spiritual beings, what is the spiritual logic behind this command?

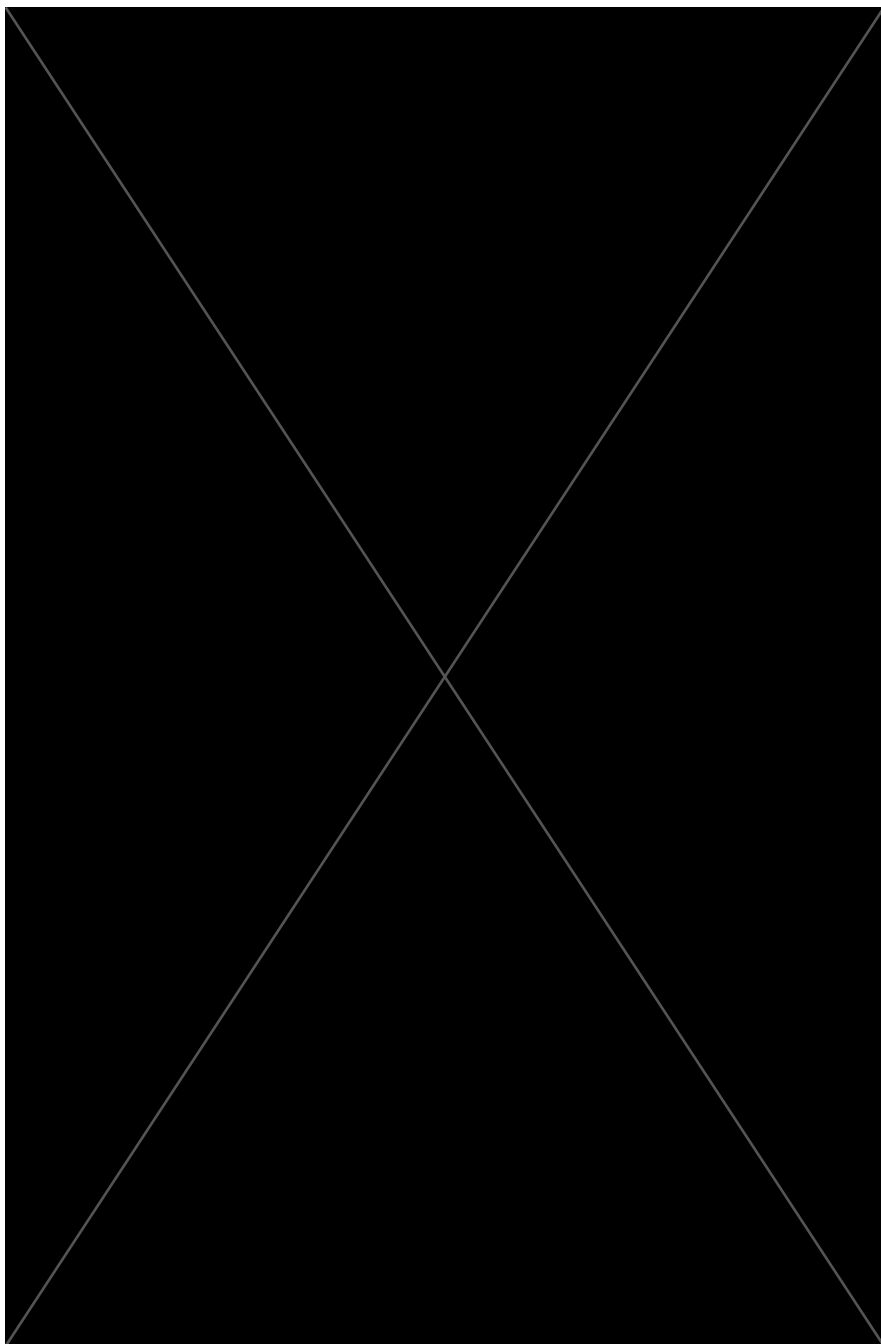
While it is an effective method of repelling Satan's temptation to envy or pride, it also serves an even greater role: changing the object of our focus.

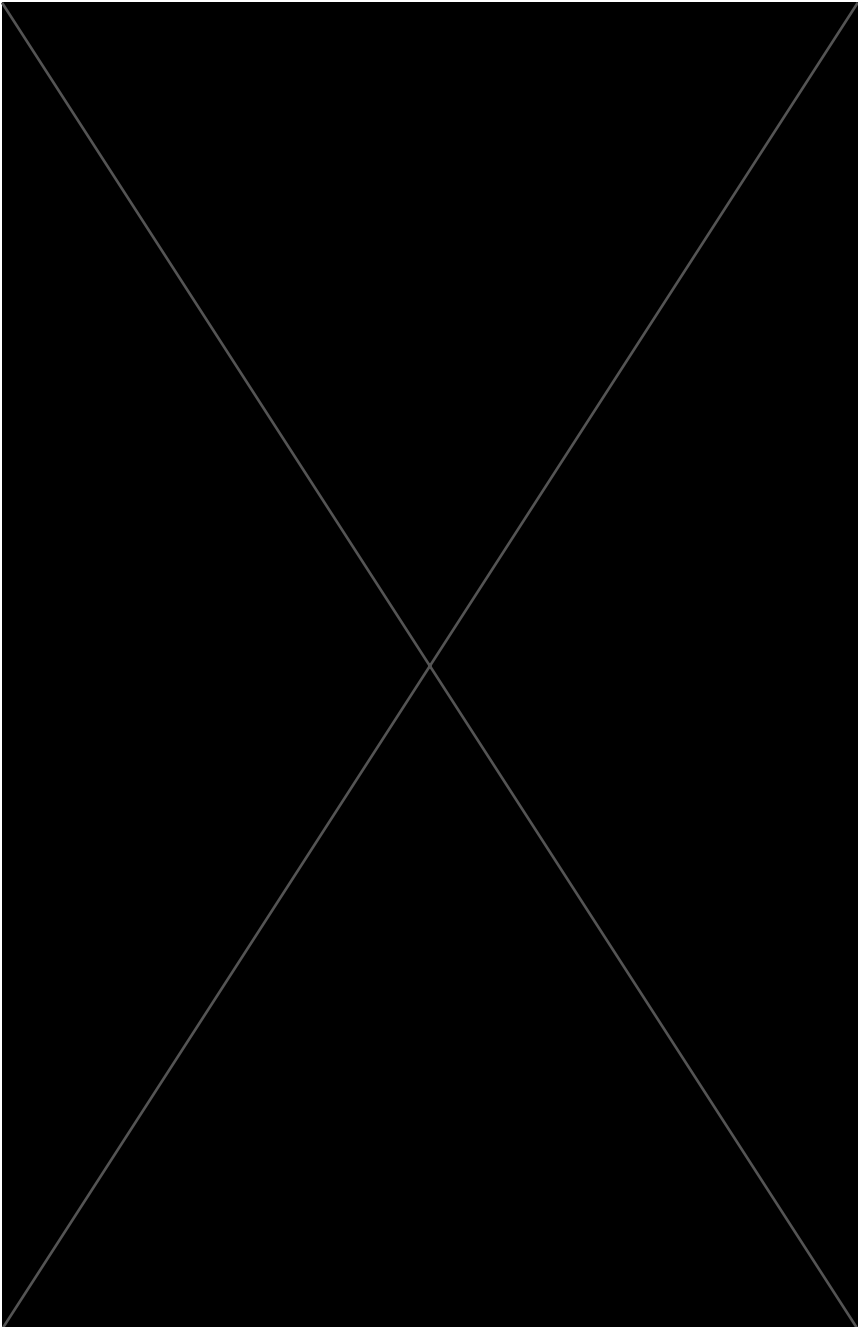
When we are focused on the fallenness of the world, the inadequacies of those around us, or simply on ourselves, it clouds our sight of God. It also robs us of the joy that we are supposed to live in as His children. The reason that God sent His Son is that we could be restored to Him and have a relationship with Him. How are we to do this when we are so busy focusing on the mundane and complaining about it?

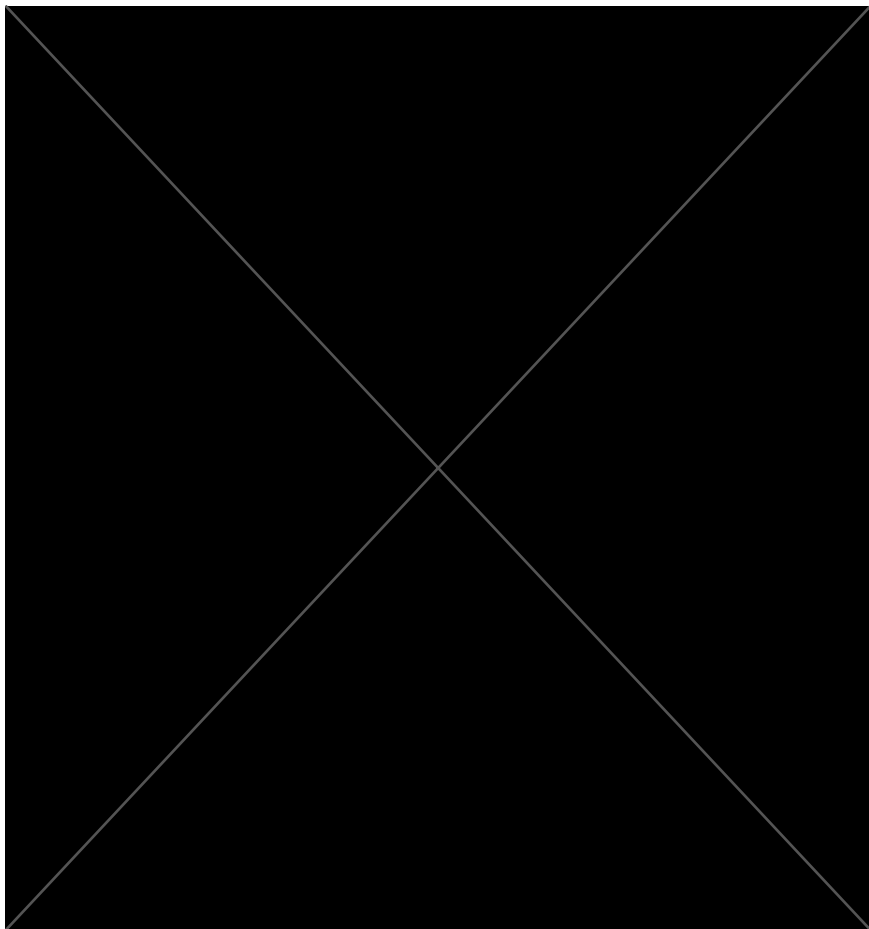
Ultimately, why should we be thankful? While you may not be able to change what is going on outside around you, you can certainly change what is going on inside of yourself, and you can change your focus from the insufficiency of your current situation, to the complete sufficiency of the One that calls us to thankfulness.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Micaiah Johnson









OBITUARIES

Syletta Noecker

Syletta L. (Potts) Noecker, 83, passed peacefully from this life into the arms of her Lord on Tuesday morning, August 29, in her Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania home. She was born March 30, 1940, to Edward S. and June (Moyer) Potts; the eldest of three children. She married Paul D. Noecker in 1957. Together, they raised eight children and lived 55 loving years together. They were lifelong members of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Syletta was truly a woman of many talents – sewing, canning, quilting, cooking and baking, among many others; and she enjoyed teaching all who wished to learn. She was interested in nearly everything and read widely. She was also an avid Scrabble player.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul D., in 2012; and a son, Andrew Sr., in 1990. Surviving are seven children: Neide (David) Aungst; Paul D. II (Sheila); Rachel (David) Schmit; Dory (Fred) Sprenkle; Erech (Sharon); Nathan (Joy); Reta (Carlos) Colindres; and ‘bonus son’ Russell (Darlene) Roeder. Also surviving are a sister, Linda (Herb) Schnyder; and a brother, Edward I. (Isis) Potts; 31 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren.

Mom spent the last several years dealing with kidney failure and dealing with dialysis. Mom was very upbeat during the years of treatment, not allowing the disease to slow her down too much. Church and friends were very important to Mom, thanks to modern technology, Mom was able to enjoy listening to messages from the comfort of her home the last few months.

Highlights of Mom and Dad’s life were General Conference, visiting the various churches across the Brotherhood and the opportunity to build at both Torreon and Romania. The Bethel School was very close to their hearts. Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren will truly miss Mom. Special thanks to everyone for the phone calls, cards, visits, and food. Also, a Profound Thank You to those Caregivers who assisted and cared for Mom.

Funeral services were held on September 2 at Kimmels Evangelical Free Church, Orwigsburg, with interment following at Kimmels Church Cemetery.

Eileen Broadwater

V. Eileen Broadwater, 86, of Montpelier, Ohio passed away on Tuesday, September 26 at Evergreen Healthcare Center in Montpelier. She was born on July 22, 1937, in Morenci, Michigan to Arthur and Jeannette (Eby) Poorman. On April 14, 1957, she married Ellis R. Broadwater in rural Pioneer and he preceded her in death on August 23, 2007.

Eileen was a faithful, loving Christian of Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in West Unity, Ohio. She loved her family and church family dearly. Eileen was a home healthcare aide for 20 plus years, doing home visits for residents mainly in Williams County. She also enjoyed her vegetable and flower garden.

Eileen is survived by her son, Don (Cheryl) Broadwater of Montpelier; three grandchildren, Jennifer Broadwater, Melissa (Josh) Baker, and Rachel Broadwater; four great grandchildren, Keenin, Raiden and Kiara Tidball and Aaron Baker; one sister, Betty Nicholls of Montgomery, Michigan; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ellis R. Broadwater; daughter, Debbie Broadwater; sister, Midge Rupp and brother, Richard Poorman.

Funeral services were held on September 30 at Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in West Unity with Dennis St. John and Ken Brock officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery in Montpelier.

NEWS ITEMS

Leadership Conference

Leadership Conference 2023 is being hosted at Berean Dunkard Brethren Church in Peru, Indiana, November 10,11 & 12th. The theme for this year is forgiveness. Officials should be receiving more information on the conference soon, if not already.

For lodging reservations please contact Amber Carpenter at 765-470-2920 (call or text). Please have reservations in by October 28th. Thank you!

Subscription Price Increase

For 2024, the subscription price for the Bible Monitor by mail will increase to \$10 per year. Subscribers can still receive the Bible Monitor by both mail and email (e-Monitor) upon request. For subscribers that don't want a paper copy and only want the e-Monitor, the subscription price will remain \$5 per year. While this increase will not completely cover the cost of publishing and distribution, it will come closer than does the current price of \$5 per year.

For those interested in a little history on this matter, when the Bible Monitor began in 1922, the subscription price was \$1 per year. While this might sound like quite a bargain, let's not forget about inflation. Due to inflation over the last 101 years since 1922, that initial \$1 subscription would be equivalent to approximately \$18 today. The subscription price then remained at \$1 until it was increased to \$2 in 1981 (about \$6.70 today) and then increased to \$5 in 1998 (about \$9.35 today).

Invitation to Write

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

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

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

Bible Monitor Submission Schedule – Articles and News Items

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

Reminder - Rudy Cover Bible Story Book – Coloring Book

Rudy's Bible Stories is available on Amazon in paperback (\$11.99), hardcover (\$19.99) and Kindle (\$3.99). The book includes approximately 240 of Rudy's Bible stories and approximately 20 illustrations by Sis. Bethany Johnson (Manuel). To buy your copy, just log-in to Amazon and search for "Rudy's Bible Stories" or for "Dunkard Brethren Publishing". To save some shipping costs, groups or congregations may want to consider bulk ordering, especially through those with Amazon Prime.

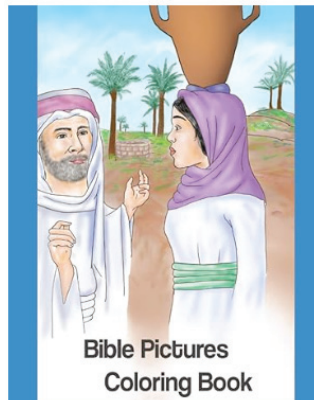
As noted in the description on Amazon, *“Discover stories of the Bible that will not only entertain your child but ground them in the truth. The author relates the stories and often shares experiences from his own life. Each story lists Bible references so that your child can look them up on their own.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

If you are active in writing product reviews on Amazon and would like a copy of the book (as a .pdf file or paperback proof copy) in exchange for your honest review, please contact Bro. Marvin Lorenz at dbcpublishing@gmail.com. In requesting a copy for review, please indicate to Marvin your preference for a .pdf document or paperback proof copy.

Coloring Book

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

The covers of the book and coloring book are shown below.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR December 2023

December 3 - John 20:1-13 - Hopeless During a Hopeful Time

1. As Mary saw the dark empty tomb, what would she have thought and what was her message to the others?

2. What is the significance of the graveclothes left in the tomb vs. Lazarus' clothes still binding him at the time of his resurrection?

3. John went in the tomb, saw, and believed, while Mary remained outside weeping. How do these spontaneous actions apply in our lives?

December 10 - John 20:14-31 - Casting Aside Nets and Doubt

1. Why would Mary not have recognized Jesus and what did he say for her to believe?

2. In Acts 1:3, it says Jesus showed them "many infallible proofs" after His resurrection. What did he show them in this account that proved He was alive and caused them to believe?

3. Jesus did many more signs than could be written. What is written is clearly enough for us to see and believe. Why do we not always believe?

December 17 - John 21:1-14 - No Ordinary Fish Fry

1. What are the parallels between the disciples casting their nets in doubt and us in our day, as we go about our life?

2. What are several miraculous points in which Jesus revealed Himself that day?

3. We have built relationships many times around a campfire. Jesus revealed Himself at this fish fry. Did this provide an intimate setting for Him to ask Peter some very hard upcoming questions?

December 24 - Galatians 4:1-9 - The Birth of Christ

1. Can you describe the bondage we were in before Christ came? (vs.1-3)

2. The “fullness of time” (vs.4) means the time was filled up and complete. (Greek meaning) What does that mean to you from God’s perspective and from Man’s?

3. What are several of the spiritual benefits to the believer listed in this passage? (vs.5-7)

December 31 - John 21:15-25 - Come, Dine, and Feed My Sheep

1. Peter was called into a deeper love for his Rabbi and a deeper calling of discipleship. What is the significance of asking Peter these three questions, Do you love me?

2. After Peter answered each question, Jesus responded with the instructions to “feed my lambs and sheep”. How does this apply to the importance of servant leadership?

3. John closes out his book with this account. In this chapter, the disciples are called to fish, to feed, and to follow. What are some ways we can apply this teaching into our calling of discipleship and ministry, as we attempt to lead our families and churches?

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