BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CIV OCTOBER, 2026 NO. 10

"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.

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

SHIELD

But thou, O Lord,
art a shield for me;
my glory,
and the lifter up
of mine head.
Ps. 3:3

For thou, LORD,
wilt bless the righteous;
with favor wilt thou compass
him as with a shield.
Ps. 5:12

He shall cover thee with his feathers,
and under his wings shalt thou trust;
his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
Ps. 91:4

PRETENDING TO BELIEVE

Recently on social media, a young man from New York City named Brian Guan was posting about an experiment he wanted to try. He did not believe in God but wanted to try pretending that God was real for 30 days and post daily updates on his social media account. On Day 1, he stated his objectives for this experiment: to determine if it would make him happier, feel more fulfilled or would change absolutely nothing. In running his experiment, he would follow a daily regimen of the following:

- Do a morning prayer
- Be grateful
- Read about God in the Bible
- Try to apply its teachings

Let's pause this story for a minute. If you know our Lord and know the power of His word, you can probably already guess how this story ends. That's what I felt when I started watching Brian on about Day 5. I humorously thought… "this guy doesn't stand a chance, like a blind man walking into a trap." But this "trap" was set by the benevolent, loving God of the universe, to capture men out of the world and save them. So even if you might know how this story ends, I think it is of value to share some details. God creates everyone differently. No two people are exactly the same and there seems to be myriad avenues through which God draws souls to Himself. Now, let's get back to Brian's story.

After the first few days, Brian started noticing that he was gaining many followers

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watching his daily updates. Prior to his experiment, he had about 800 followers but was now rapidly gaining thousands of followers per day.

By Day 9, Brian expressed that he realized that simply being grateful was inadequate. There needed to be an object of his gratefulness. Specifically, he needed to direct his gratefulness to God. Further, he noticed that he felt more satisfied in being grateful when his gratefulness was directed to God.

Early in his journey, he had met a Methodist pastor that had been very kind to him and on Day 10, he visited this pastor's church. Brian wasn't sure what to expect but he liked the service and the people. Before the service, he had wondered if he'd hear preaching about how he needed to be good to come to God but heard that we can only do good through God. The pastor even used Brian's ongoing experiment as an example in his sermon which then went "viral."

On Day 11, Brian went into the city and set up a table on the sidewalk with a large hand-made sign draped across the front saying "Pretend that God is Real" to encourage people to try the experiment he was conducting. He talked with people that asked what he was doing and handed out free copies of the Book of John to several that seemed interested.

During the first few days of his experiment, he had hoped to get help with nicotine addiction and prayed that God would help. On Day 15, he noticed that his desire for nicotine had been greatly reduced and while encouraged, was having difficulty understanding and explaining his feelings about this change.

On Day 17, he commented that he had been thinking about a woman he's known for a long time and about how genuinely kind she is. He thought…"That kindness of hers is a God-given gift". For someone that doesn't believe in God, like Brian, this is a foreign thought, and he recognized it as such. In explaining this thought, Brian started crying. Shortly thereafter, someone communicating on his social media account told him that Brian had just felt the Holy Spirit. At this Brian threw back his head and laughed and cried and it appeared he was experiencing many emotions; disbelief, doubt, belief, awe, happiness, joy, hope.

On Day 21, Brian said that he shifted from pretending that God is real to believing in Jesus. Praise the Lord!

In the remaining days of his experiment, Brian expressed various changes going on in his mind and heart, resulting in joys, challenges and struggles. He started seeing people in a new light, as precious to God and also started challenging some of his own long-held beliefs and behaviors that were contrary to the teaching of scripture. For a new believer, God starts to work on His new creation. When a lost soul comes to God, there is great rejoicing in Heaven but there are also trials and spiritual struggles against the powers of darkness. As God renews us and fashions us for His purposes, there are times of peace and rest but also times of difficulty and challenge.

Since the time of Brian's experiment, a number of people have copied him with their own 30-day experiment on social media. Some may be sincere while others may just be seeking more followers. But in either case, in pretending to believe in God by praying, expressing gratitude towards God, reading His word and applying it, souls will draw nearer to God and some will be saved.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matt. 7:7

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" Rom. 8:1

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Pet. 3:9

We don't know how God will act in the life of Brian, but we know that His desire is that his faith would grow and flourish. If you think of him, please keep Brian in your prayers. He is a real person who has a soul that will never die.

K. Brock

I HAVE SEEN THY TEARS

"…I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee…" II Kings 25:5

"Jesus wept." John 11:35

King Hezekiah became deathly sick. He prayed, but he also wept, and God heard his prayer. Tearful prayers like this can move the heart of God. One who weeps before men shows men weakness and lack of manliness. This is not so with God.

There are people prone to weeping, but their tears are useless unless they are expressed toward God. Tears accompanied with prayer are effective. If you cry in distress, cry to God. The prayers of our Lord Jesus Christ went up to God with strong crying and tears, and God heard Him.

Jesus had a strong compassion for every man on this earth. When we identify with Christ, we identify with His sufferings (Phil 3:10), and our tears go up to God. Praise God that, through Jesus Christ, we are able to approach the throne of Grace!

Jesus wept! Those tears are over, But His heart is still the same:
Kinsman, Friend, and elder Brother, Is His everlasting name.

When the pangs of trial seize us, When the waves of sorrow roll,
I will lay my head on Jesus-Pillow of the troubled soul.

Jesus wept, and still in glory, He can mark each mourner's tear,
Living to retrace the story, Of the hearts He solaced here.

Jesus wept! The Tear of sorrow, Is a legacy of love;
Yesterday, today, tomorrow, He the same shall ever prove.

John R. MacDuff
Brethren Hymnal No. 136

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

MUSLIM ENCOUNTER

After touring Spain in the 1980's with my parents, we caught a ferry from the Rock of Gibraltar across the strait to Morocco, beginning a 7-day adventure. The straight connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea and separates Spain and Africa.

Upon arriving in Morocco, one of the places we visited was the capital city of Rabat, where king Muhammad V is buried inside the Royal Mausoleum. By law and tradition, the king of Morocco must be a Muslim. The Moroccan constitution states that Islam is the religion of the state. The king holds the official title that makes him the supreme spiritual leader of the nation's Muslims. About 99% of Morocco's total population practice Islam.

Mohamed V was a revered 20th century Moroccan king and national hero, who led Morocco to independence from French rule. He is connected to the prophet Muhammad through a direct linear descent. Day and night inside the Royal Mausoleum, a rotation of reciters maintains an unbroken stream of Quranic verses next to the king's tomb, honoring the late monarch with continuous devotion. An open copy of the Quran rests on a stand directly next to his tomb. My parents and I watched and listened as the reciter read out of the Quran next to the king's tomb.

Muhammad is buried in Medina, Saudi Arabia. His grave lies inside the Sacred Chamber, which was originally the home of his wife. He was buried directly inside the house where he died. The chamber is completely enclosed by solid walls, with no doors or windows, so the grave cannot be seen or entered by visitors. Muhammad is the central human figure that Muslims follow. He is believed by Muslims to be the final Messenger and prophet of God "Allah," who received the holy book called the Quran. They believe that he is the foundational seventh century religious leader and final profit of Islam.

Another place we visited was Marrakech, where two years earlier, my family had met a young Arab college student named Ahmed, who would become our friend for the next several years. He wanted to take us to his family's country home to see how they lived. Ahmed lived

in a remote village, two hours from where we were staying. Upon arriving in the village, we stood out as the only tourists among a predominantly Muslim local community.

Ahmed took us to a market with stalls of fresh produce, handmade wool rugs, vibrant spices, and local crafts and livestock, such as sheep or goats. He then took us to his parents' house where we were welcomed warmly. Ahmed's mother made us a meal of couscous and we sat on the floor around a big dish to eat. It certainly wasn't like steak and potatoes, as it was a meal that I did not enjoy. Nevertheless, this was a wonderful experience that my parents and I had with a Muslim family. We got along well with them, but our beliefs were about as far apart as the 4,000 miles that we lived away from each other!

Islam teaches that salvation is attained through submission to Allah's will. According to Islam, Jesus is revered as a major human prophet and messenger, but He is not divine, is not the Son of God and did not die on the cross. Therefore, His death is not part of the mechanism of salvation. Globally, about 98% to 99% of people raised by Muslim parents remain Muslim into adulthood. Islamic teachings place a heavy religious obligation on parents to actively teach, protect and raise their children within the faith. Maybe this is good advice for our religion. Imagine if about 98% to 99% of our children stayed in our church. Our schools are a help, but they don't take the place of the parent's job. The Muslim children are obedient to their teaching, but they are following a dead king who can't save anyone.

We need to follow the right directions in order to make it to heaven. John 14:6 says *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Jesus is not a dead king in a coffin with reciters trying to talk to him all day long, but rather a living savior who can save everyone who comes to him. Possibly with the expansion and migration of Muslims, it will give Christians more opportunity to interact with them and direct them toward the living savior.

I wonder how much better our world would be if people spent as much time searching

through the Bible as they do searching through their phones! The flip side of this is that there are people who are disobedient to the right teaching. They want to follow certain things but make the excuse that some things aren't a salvation issue. I wonder how many times God is going to be happy with a response like this. They are basically saying that their way is better than God's way. May we follow the teachings of Jesus and realize that it is not up to us to decide what is a salvation issue and what isn't. My prayer is that we will all be obedient to the right teaching.

Raymond Weidman
Ephrata, PA

OBEDIENCE BASED UPON CONVENIENCE

The older I get, the more I admire my father who passed a number of years ago.

This goes with what Mark Twain said that the older he got, the smarter his father began to look. I can appreciate what he meant by that. When you are a child, particularly a teenager, you think you know everything. You think you know more than your father does, and you are determined to give him a lesson or two. I only wish I knew today what I thought I knew when I was a teenager.

As I have grown up and become a father myself, and then a grandfather and then a great-grandfather, I have realized that even though I did not quite understand what my father was doing at the time, I now look back and see that he was doing the right thing.

Then, I did not appreciate the spankings he gave me. I guess today they would be somewhat illegal, and he could be in a lot trouble. However, back then, spankings were part of growing up. My father had one rule, which was, "If you get a spanking at school, you'll get a spanking at home."

That spanking at home was given before my father really understood why I got a spanking at school. As far as he was concerned, it did not matter. The only thing that mattered was I had put myself in a position where the school needed to spank me. Therefore, I also put

myself in a position where my father needed to spank me.

At the time I did not appreciate the spankings, but looking back, I realize that my father was doing the best he could to make my life a better life. I hope he succeeded.

It is easy to criticize your father when you are the son and don't know very much about life in general. As we get older, we often begin to appreciate all of the things our father's did. I even appreciate some of the mistakes my father made. Because he made mistakes, I can now rationalize the mistakes I find myself making. After all, my father was human and so am I. I must have inherited it from him.

There are a few things I disagreed with my father on, then and even now. Often he would say at the dinner table, "Eat all your vegetables."

I would chew away and try to eat all the vegetables on my plate. I did not notice until later in life that although I was to eat all my vegetables, my father did not eat all his vegetables. He had a way of conveying the idea that I needed to eat them and then distracting me from what he was eating. If vegetables were good for me, why were they not good for him?

I guess my father had my health in mind rather than his own health. I guess maybe he thought that when he was young, he ate enough vegetables and when you get to a certain age, you do not have to eat your vegetables anymore.

If I did not eat all my vegetables, they would be put in the refrigerator and that's what I would have for breakfast the next morning until I finished all my vegetables.

At the time, it did not really make much sense to me, but looking back, I realize my parents were trying to do the best they could. And they must've done a great job because I turned out to be a great person. Of course, that observation is only held by one person, me. If my parents were so bad, then how did I turn out to be so good?

As a parent, I realize that you just try to do the best you can, you are going to make mistakes and you are going to do things that later on, you are going to regret.

I remember one time spanking my son only to realize a

week later that he did not do what he was accused of doing. How do you take back a spanking? My son's suggestion at the time was that he could spank me, which would make everything even.

I find it is easy to say something that you believe, but then it is another story to be in complete compliance with what you say you believe. This has been the problem of many Christians.

On one side, they say they believe all of the Bible, but then their life does not portray the fact that they believe all of the Bible in their daily life. They have made some exceptions, like the religious leaders of Jesus' day.

I need to understand that what the Bible has to say is something I need to employ in my daily life. Just like my father's activities and actions were put into my life that created in me fatherhood, so the word of God needs to come into my life a to make me more Christlike each day.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

JEHOVAH GOD IS MY NAME

In the darkness of night
There is a holy light
And it beckons to me
Come and walk with me.
I will lift you up to a higher plain
Jehovah God is my name.

If you trust in me with all your might
I will be to you that Holy Light.
We will climb the steepest mountains
We will sail through the seas
I will lift you up to a higher plain
Jehovah God is my name.

I have given my Son for all mankind
To break the chains and the fears that bind.
To free the captive and to heal the blind

It is in my strength that you will find
I will lift you up to a higher plain
Jehovah God is my name.

Doris Compton
Carlisle, PA

A BOY

There are homes without boys, parents living alone,
And many a good boy is without a good home.
But the one I am praying for both night and today,
The one that I care for in a very special way,
Is the boy who is good, both ambitious and true,
Who has a good home and is obedient too.

Yet he lacks but one thing, only one thing I say,
And it's the greatest of all, in every single way.
It's the boy without God, as a brother and chum,
Who has never said "yes" to His call, "Won't you come?"
That is the boy, dear Lord, for whom I do pray,
That He'll add to his life, what he's lacking today.

Christmas Carol Kauffman

Selected by Philip Ruch
Fort Wayne, IN

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 foot of the cross, the soldiers cast lots for the clothes of Jesus. I wonder what that scene must have looked like to Jesus. As He looked past His bloodied feet, what did He see? What did He think? What emotions did He feel? He must have been amazed at the soldiers, who, as far as they were concerned, were

just taking care of another Friday morning criminal. They were just casting lots for whatever they could get.

This picture is striking. Do you see it? It makes me think of us today, "The religious." We claim heritage at the foot of the cross, and yet we play games there too. We compete for members and status. We voice our judgements and condemnations. Competition, selfishness, personal gain - it's all there.

It is important to stand firmly on the Truth of God's Word, and it's imperative to eradicate sin, but how many pulpit hours have been wasted preaching on trivial things? How many churches have divided over small issues? How many leaders have taken their pet-peeves, drawn the sword of bitterness, and gone to battle with brethren over issues that are not worth discussing?

Here, we find ourselves so close to the cross, but so far from Christ. Jesus prayed, "May they be one." Is this too idealistic? Too hard to achieve? I don't think so. Harder things have been done - once upon a tree, a Creator gave His life for His creation. Maybe all we need are a couple hearts that are willing to follow this example.

Are we more similar to the church in Acts, who pushed back against salvation for others, than we are like the Creator who died for each one of us? Who is unwelcome at your church today? May each of us, as Christ's followers, do our part to overcome lingering prejudice against people who are different than we are. May His power work in and through us to set aside petty issues and become one in the Spirit.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Bro. Gerry Priest

WEDDINGS

Edwin Wadel & Jaclyn Lichtenberger. Edwin, son of Titus & Rosene Wadel and Jaclyn, daughter of Jesse & Dorinda Lichtenberger were united in marriage on May 2, 2026, at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. They reside in Roxbury, Pennsylvania.

Lyndon Wadel & Karen Lichtenberger. Lyndon, son of Titus & Rosene Wadel and Karen, daughter of Jesse & Dorinda Lichtenberger were united in marriage on July 11, 2026, at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. They reside in Newburg, Pennsylvania.

Ryan Weaver & Kalina Edgecomb. Ryan, son of Preston & Amanda Weaver and Kalina, daughter of Lonnie & Julie Edgecomb were united in marriage on August 29, 2026, at Lyndon, Kansas. They reside in Bethel, Pennsylvania.

Dalton Alspaugh & Madelin Priest. Dalton, son of Chad & Lois Alspaugh and Madelin, daughter of Matthew & Beverly Priest were united in marriage on September 12, 2026, at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. They reside in Strausstown, Pennsylvania.

Nathan Delagrange & Alyssa Nines. Nathan, son of Dan & Lynelle Delagrange and Alyssa, daughter of Mark & Susan Nines were united in marriage on September 12, 2026, at Montpelier, Ohio. They reside in Hicksville, Ohio.

BIRTHS

Bradley & Moriah Bowman of Union City, Ohio welcomed Averie Kate on July 16, 2026.

Cole & Hallie King of Dayton, Ohio welcomed Britton Clay on August 9, 2026.

NEWS ITEMS

Women's Retreat

Ladies…you still have time to register for Women's Retreat on October 2-3 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is *"Hospitality in Jesus' Name"* and the speakers are Mary Sue Moss, Melissa Davison and Kathy Schaurer.

You can use the QR code below to register online or print a paper brochure. If you need last minute help with registration, please contact Jenni Koval (at 937-845-0521) or by email at dbwomensretreat@gmail.com



West Fulton, Ohio
The West Fulton congregation will plan to hold their fall revivals October 4-11 with Bro. Paul Skiles from the Juniper Hills, New Mexico congregation. On Sunday, the 4th, 9:30 a.m. service with a carry-in meal to follow, evening service at 6 p.m. Services will be held each night Monday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The concluding service will be Sunday the 11th at 9:30 a.m. followed by a carry-in lunch. Please pray for brother Paul as he prepares for these messages. All are welcome to attend.

Joy Reed, Correspondent

Quinter, Kansas
We, the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church, wish to invite each of you to our Fall Revival Meetings. Brother Tom Hawbaker of the Grandview, Kansas congregation will be our evangelist from Wednesday October 7 through Sunday October 11. There will be preaching services Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Saturday will begin with an examination service at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. At 3 or 3:30 p.m. there will be a communion service followed by a fellowship meal. Sunday begins with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and preaching at 11 a.m. A meal will follow. A 2 p.m. service TBA. Please come join us as we share praises, encouragement, and community together.

Beth Jamison, Correspondent

Lititz, Pennsylvania
All are welcome at the Lititz, Pennsylvania fall revivals, October 14-18, with Bro. Bart Hoblit of the CornerStone, Ohio congregation as evangelist. Evening services at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday morning at 9:30

a.m. Sunday is our Love Feast Day with the examination sermon at 9:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School. Lunch will be served, and the Love Feast is Sunday evening. Please remember the meetings in your prayers and attendance.

Arlene Birt, Correspondent

Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

Everyone is invited to join us for our fall Love Feast services October 30 - November 1. Bro. Micaiah Johnson from the Hart, Michigan congregation will be the speaker. Services start Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. Saturday there will be a service at 3 p.m. and the communion service begins at 7 p.m. Sunday services are morning worship at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast. Sunday school and preaching service begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be a served meal and the weekend will close with a 2 p.m. service.

Teresa St John, Correspondent

Berean, Indiana

We welcome all to join us for Bible teaching and Love Feast services beginning Friday evening, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. Bro. Jeff Davison from the Garnett, Kansas congregation will be our guest minister. On Saturday November 7 we will meet at 4 p.m. for Examination Service with a light supper to follow. Communion service will commence around 7 p.m. Sunday morning worship will be at 8 a.m. with breakfast to follow. Sunday School and Worship service will begin at 10 a.m. with lunch to follow. Please be in prayer for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Melissa as they come to share the Good News with us and our local community.

Donna Wray, Correspondent

Leadership Conference

Officials and their wives are invited to attend the annual Dunkard Brethren Leadership Conference. The conference will take place November 13-15 and will be hosted by the Quinter, Kansas congregation.

For lodging reservations please contact Beth Jamison via text or call at 785-299-0512. Please register if you plan on coming even if you don't need lodging.

Minutes in One Volume

The updated Minutes from General Conferences are now available on the Dunkard Brethren website. With this update, Minutes from all the way back to the beginning of the Dunkard Brethren Church are now digitally available. This single volume includes General Conference Minutes from 1927 to 2026.

To see the Minutes in One Volume, go to the Dunkard Brethren Church website and:

- Scroll down to "Publications"
- Click on "Learn More"
- In "Dunkard Brethren Church Minutes", click "Download"

This digital version of the Minutes is quite useful as it is not only organized by topic but is also searchable. For example, if you are interested in seeing the history of conference decisions on topics such as Baptism or Missions, simply refer to the Table of Contents and review the appropriate section which provides a chronological history of decisions on the topic. Alternatively, you can search for words such as "Baptism" or "Missions", etc. to find what you are looking for.

A special thanks to Bro. Marvin Lorenz for the many hours he has invested in this project.

Subscription Renewal

As we approach the end of another year, it may soon be time to start thinking about renewing your subscription to the Bible Monitor. For 2027, 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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR October 2026

Oct. 4 - Acts 10:27-33 - Cornelius Meets Peter

1. Does God show partiality with the good news of the Gospel?

2. How much time had passed between the angel's appearance to Cornelius and Peter's arrival at his house?

3. Was Cornelius wrong to say that he saw the angel four days ago?

Oct. 11 - Acts 10:34-41 - Salvation is for All Who Believe

1. Why should we fear God when He calls each one of us His friend and child? _____
2. What does Peter mean in verse 35, "Works righteousness?"

3. How fast do you move when God tells you to do something?

Oct. 18 - Acts 10:42-48 - Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

1. Why did the Holy Spirit choose this moment to fall upon Cornelius and his friends? _____
2. Who were, "Those of the circumcision" in verse 45?

3. Why were they astonished? _____

Oct. 25 - Acts 11:1-10 - Peter is Challenged by the Jews

1. How happy were they to hear that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God? _____
2. Did God send Peter to Cornelius to teach Cornelius?

3. How was Peter's testimony made credible to those in Jerusalem?

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