BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CIII SEPTEMBER, 2025

NO. 9

"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.

Come Unto the Lord

Come unto me,
all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
for I am meek and lowly in heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt. 11:28-30

Jesus saith unto him,
I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
John 14:6

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Hulk Hogan, Ozzie Ozborn and Malcolm-Jamal Warner. You may have heard these names in years past and you may have also heard these names recently in the news as all three of these celebrities passed on in late July.

Hulk Hogan became a millionaire through a career in wrestling with the World Wrestling Federation (later World Wrestling Entertainment) and was widely regarded as one of the greatest wrestling stars. Ozzie Ozborn was a song writer and musician who made his riches in heavy metal rock and was often known by fans as the "Prince of Darkness". True to form, he famously bit the head off a bat during a concert performance. Malcolm-Jamal

Warner was wealthy from his career as an actor, director, producer and musician best known for his performance on the TV program "The Cosby Show" in the 1980's and 1990's.

For fans, the legacies of The Hulk, Ozzie and Malcolm are generally encapsulated within the previous paragraph. By general definition, a person's legacy is the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions or character that took place in the past that were part of a person's life.

Most people desire that their life would have some meaning after they're gone; that their life will have an impact and influence on the next few generations. However, all legacies aren't equal in value. Scripture tells us

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that secular legacies based on wealth or fame are temporary and fleeting. With that in mind, what will your legacy be?

Recently Bro. Andrew Carlin held a Bible study for our congregation on this very topic, specifically evaluating what a Godly legacy looks like and whether that will be our legacy.

The lesson touched on the importance of knowing and teaching God's word in the home... "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deut. 6:7

The lesson also included the necessity of patiently and diligently applying God's word in our personal lives... "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1-2

Further, we were reminded that we are not alone in pursuing a Godly legacy but rather, are part of a much larger legacy that all believers are part of; that of Jesus Christ and His eternal Kingdom... "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Tim. 4:12

As we consider our lives, we should realize the value of being part of the legacy of Jesus Christ. And as we desire that our life would have positive meaning and effect on the current generation as well as on those after we are gone, might we remember that we will have the most success by surrendering our lives to the one that has a guaranteed and everlasting legacy: the Lord Jesus Christ. "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." Ps. 145:3-4

What will your legacy be?

INSPIRATION?

"...yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

I Cor. 9:16

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

II Pet. 1:21

"Well, it is Friday night. I should try to cook up something for Sunday morning's service." After working hard all week, the young preacher paged through his many books of sermon outlines to find something interesting for his congregation. He was an attractive man with a fine wife and two little ones. He had been elected to the ministry a few years back by an overwhelming majority and felt obligated to please. "A message from one of the great old brethren would be fine, would it not?" After all, this young man owes the congregation that much, does he not?

Such a scenario begs for the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. Who leads us, and how are we led? Look at the book of Acts, and the beginnings of the Reformation and the nineteenth century evangelistic movement. Charles Wesley wrote:

Come, Thou Incarnate Word
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend
Come and Thy people bless
And give Thy word success
Spirit of holiness
On us descend

Indeed, this is what we need: the leadership of the blessed Holy Spirit. William Bathurst penned wonderfully words that found their way into the Brethren Hymnal:

O for that flame of living fire, which shone so bright in saints of old; which bade their souls to heav'n aspire, calm in distress, in danger bold.

Where is that Spirit, Lord, which dwelt in Abram's breast, and sealed him Thine? Which made Paul's heart with sorrow melt, and glow with energy divine?

What inspires us? Does our inspiration stem from the fact that we one day realized our sin had separated us from God and we plead for a reconciliation? Did we search the scriptures and find that Christ Jesus had paid the price for our sin by dying upon the cross for us? Did we accept God's plan for us and let Him become the Lord of our life? Did we do, as Luke 11:13 tells us, "...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Our blest Redeemer, ere he breathed his tender, last farewell, a guide, a Comforter, bequeathed With us to dwell.

Harriet Auber

Lynn H. Miller Newmanstown. PA

WHAT I ONCE WAS, I AM NO LONGER

After a few years of observation, I have concluded that a significant number of Christians, although they may be born again, have yet to discover the newness of the Christian life. Some are quite satisfied knowing that when

they die, they are going to go zooming off to heaven. That may be the case, but that is not what Christianity is all about. There is so much more.

I certainly am anticipating that when I die, I will go to heaven and embrace the reward

Christ has for me. I look forward to that, but in the meantime. there are benefits of being a Christian I can enjoy now. Discovering these benefits makes the Christian life the exciting thing I have found it to be. When I first became a Christian. I had no idea what I was in for. Yes. I believed that my past was forgiven and that I had new life. However, I did not really understand how that fit into reality for me. I found myself allowing my past to dictate my present. I allowed the sin Jesus forgave to be the Lord in my life. I well remember that astonishing day when I discovered the direction of my life. It was a sad day and yet it was a turning point in my life.

I can bemoan my past as much as I want to, but it never will get me to where God wants me to be. God forgave me of my sin through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for a purpose. Of course, one purpose is for me to go to heaven. I greatly embrace that thought and look forward to it. But one thing I really did not quite understand was that the forgiving power of Jesus Christ affects my life today and gives direction to my tomorrow.

My sin limited me and encumbered me with the burden I could barely bare. The forgiving power of Jesus Christ released me from that burden, the important thing was it not only released me, but it also pointed me in the direction God wanted me to go. My sin kept me from going in the direction God wanted me to go in and to do what God wanted me to do.

When I discovered that, my life took on a completely new dimension. My focus was no longer on the past, but was on Jesus Christ, who is the "same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). God has a plan for me. My sin interfered with that plan. God's forgiving grace unblocked that plan and now I can go forward in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I can honestly say that my new life in Christ has brought me to the place of forgetting my old life dominated by sin. I am set free. I am set free to praise the God of my redemption.

Some say the only thing we can learn from the past is to not repeat it. The problem is, often the only way not to repeat it is to have it dealt with by the power

of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we look back on our past, we can look at it through rose covered glasses. To be honest, I was not as bad as I thought I was and on the other side, I was not as good as I thought I was. I was just burdened by sin, which did not allow me to exercise my full identity in Jesus Christ.

When I realized that, it became the first day of the rest of my life. It became to me a turning point away from my past and into His future. No longer do I owe any allegiance to my old life, hallelujah. I now rest everything on God.

Yes, the enemy is quite clever in highlighting my past. But I have discovered that whenever he does that it is an opportunity for me to give thanks to Jesus Christ who saved me from that

The devil may taunt me but in every taunt, there should be a "hallelujah, to God be the glory" for rescuing me from whatever that was in my past.

I confess that I truly love my new life in Christ. I know I make mistakes and often fail, but the newness of my life is of such a nature that God's forgiving grace is always available. This grace not only forgives but strengthens me to live the kind of life that brings honor and glory to God.

I am not going to live a life that will please other people, I am quite sure. I will, however, live a life pleasing unto God and I am looking forward to the time when He shall say to me, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21)

> James L. Snyder Ocala, FL

FROM THE PAST...

Below is an article from the February 2011 issue of *Salt of the Earth*, by its author, Maddy Cordrey (Brock) at age 16. *Salt of the Earth* was a youth paper, published every other month between 2009 and 2011.

To Be Content

I wrote this article for the Bible School Writing Class that I was privileged to be able to attend, and I learned a lot of useful things about writing. I was very glad that my teacher, Bob Lehigh, said it would be fine for me to put this paper in this newsletter.

Scrub, scrub, scrub. Knuckles aching, I grimly focus on eliminating the rust stains from the shower. The task is taking much longer than I assumed it would and I'm getting extremely tired of it. It seems that whenever my head gets too high in the clouds, my chores and responsibilities catch me and drag me back to reality. Just like the brambles that snag my dress when I walk in the woods, all the things I need to do entangle me. How frustrating it is to have so many dreams and at the same time so much work to hinder you; work that it tedious, difficult and sometimes very boring. "God!" I cry. "Isn't there any possible way to make this enjoyable? Or at least...bearable?"

My cry did not go unheard. Though I have in no wise mastered being cheerful during every job, the Lord has shown me three things in particular that are a great help.

 My day goes noticeably better when I start my morning by getting into my Bible and praying to God.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33

I like to think that God understands that it is impossible for mankind to start his day on a good note unless he starts it with his Creator. And who would want to pass up an opportunity like that?

2) While I'm working, I like to keep my mind occupied thinking of a school project, an interesting book I read lately, or a fun conversation I had with a friend. Time goes a lot faster when you're not telling yourself that you're miserable.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8

Thinking about worthwhile things as you labor makes you a truly good steward of your time. And it takes your mind off of how tiresome your job is!

3) Singing a song works like magic when it comes to lifting your spirits. What's also nice is that it can cheer all those who are around you (providing you're a decent singer! J). Most importantly, it's a wonderful way to praise the Lord!

"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high." Ps. 7:17

Just as medicine can cure a sick person, so singing can most certainly cure a discouraged one.

When you are tempted to complain and pity yourself as you perform an unpleasant task, compare your life to lives of the majority of people on this earth. Remembering people who have to walk for miles just to get water that is only semi-clean makes me feel pretty fortunate to have the luxury of a shower (even a rusty one). Contentment: it's all a matter of acknowledging how blessed you really are.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil. 4:11

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.

II Sam. 19:16-23

Have you ever made the comment to yourself or someone else, "I'm sure glad we live in the day of grace?" I believe that is how Shimei felt in this situation with David. David shows him mercy when others felt he should be put to death.

As we know in Chapter 16, Shimei cast stones and cursed David and his servants, and at this point Abishai wanted the liberty to kill Shimei. But David did not extend that liberty to Abishai. Here in Chapter 19, we see a replay of Abishai wanting to kill Shimei. But David extended grace to Shimei.

We don't know all the reasons David extends this grace, but we do see a side of David that shows his willingness to forgive someone that has done him wrong.

I see that as a real challenge in today's culture and even in church culture: extending grace and mercy in forgiveness and moving forward together in close friendship. It seems we have the verbal 'I Forgive You' down pat, but to walk from that point in unison as brother to brother without a wall being built is a great challenge.

This was a situation that was between David and Shimei. but Abishai wanted to step in and take care of things. Do we ever find ourselves being an Abishai in a situation? Do I become a conflicting factor of a relationship when I should really be in the shadows in prayer? Or when I am in David's shoes. do I look for the Abishais to 'help' my cause? Do we at times make a much bigger deal out of a situation than needed? Such might be avoided if we learn the art of extending grace and walking together as brethren.

I see this as a great challenge, people. Let us follow the heart of Jesus as we walk through the challenges that come our way.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board Bro. Caleb Heckman

BIRTH

Alec & Kendra Brock of West Unity, Ohio welcomed Aerilyn Willow on August 4, 2025.

OBITUARIES

June Cass

June D. Cass, 89, formerly of Reading and Bethel and most recently of York, PA, passed away Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at WellSpan York Hospital in York.

She was the wife of Walter J. Cass. They were married on February 14, 1955, and celebrated 70 years of marriage.

Born in Reading on August 13, 1935, she was a daughter of the late Herbert F. "Ted" and Evelyn "Evy" (Berkenstock) Snyder.

June attended Tulpehocken High School in Bernville and also attended the Curley School in Ajo, AZ during several winter seasons when her father worked as an electrician for the Copper mine.

June served as a conscientious objector, alongside her husband, for two years as a nurse's aide at Philadelphia Hospital from 1955-1957. She later became a nurse aide at the Berks Heim as well as being fluent in writing and speaking Spanish. June was able to help many Spanish students attending Tulpehocken Elementary School district to learn English.

June was an experienced equestrian rider during her youth and young adulthood and worked as a horseback riding guide for Frenchie's riding stables in Ajo. She played guitar and participated in several fiddle festivals in Ajo. She enjoyed playing guitar and singing with her sisters and friends locally as well. June attended the Millbach Conservative Brethren Church in Newmanstown, PA in person and online.

In addition to her husband, June is survived by a daughter, Melanie,

wife of Arthur Johns, of Paradise, PA; two sons Lauren, husband of Linda Cass, of Glen Rock and Lee Cass, of Bethel, four grand-children, four great-grandchildren, three sisters, Renee, widow of George Throne as well as the late Leonard Wampler, of Schubert, PA; Susie, wife of Timothy Alspaugh, of Bernville, Kathy, wife of Lee Burkholder, of Ephrata and a sister-in-law, Miriam Snyder of Ephrata. She was pre-deceased by a brother, Jack Snyder.

A funeral service was held July 1, 2025, at the German Baptist Brethren Church, Myerstown, PA with internment in Bern Cemetery, Leesport.

Betty Walker

In 1940, Betty Laverne Bashor was born to William and Verta Bashor in Live Oak, CA. When she turned 7, the family moved to Ceres and started attending the Dunkard Brethren Church. At the age of 10, she gave her heart to the Lord and was a faithful servant her entire life.

While attending Turlock High School, she decided she was interested in a boy named Ronnie. She changed her schedule to get a class with him. She instead got a class with a boy named Henry; a boy she called a country bumpkin. They began dating and got married in 1958 just after graduation. They just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in July.

A family would come quickly. David was born in 1959. After mom worked for several years at Sears, I was born in 1964. Mom loved her boys but had always wanted a little girl. My parents decided to start fostering children and gave a loving home to many. My sister Brenda came to live with us and became the girl Mom had always wanted.

For those who knew Mom, they appreciated her attention to detail. Her house was always immaculate. The top of the fridge had to be clean, the baseboards and the windows. Children kept running into the sliding glass door. It was so clean they couldn't tell it was closed. She had to put stickers on it to prevent any injuries. ©

Her attention to record keeping was unmatched. She was the family archive! She still had the list of itemized expenses from their honeymoon in her file cabinet last I checked. I think they spent close to \$10.

She was the one we all called to get phone numbers, addresses, dates for when things in the past had occurred, and recipes. She knew when upcoming events were being held in the family and could tell you the location (and even the fastest way to get there). The past week preparing for the funeral, her skills were sorely missed.

Mom lived for the church, her family, and her grandkids. She was always present for her kids' school activities, cheering us on. She served as PTA president and was the little league score keeper. Her grandkids lovingly referred to her as "the grandma with the cookies". She was an amazing cook and loved to serve her family and others with her gifts. You could always count on fresh baked cookies in the kitchen.

Mom loved all 12 of her grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister, Martha Jean, and left behind three brothers: Bill, James, and Tom.

Mom went to be with the Lord on August 4th and now is in the loving arms of her Savior. We could not be happier for her!

The scriptures say in I Thess. 4:13-14 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."

The funeral service was held August 9 at the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church, Modesto, with internment following at Lakewood Memorial Park in Hughson.

NEWS ITEMS

Teaching Positions Available - Bethel Dunkard Brethren School

Are you passionate about making a difference in children's lives? We invite you to prayerfully consider the opportunities available at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School.

Several teaching positions have already been filled but we are still seeking dedicated individuals for the following positions:

- Teacher for 3rd 4th Grade
- Teacher's helper

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Anthony Martin at **717-202-5795**.

Grandview, Missouri

We extend a heartfelt and warm welcome to come worship with us as we have our revival meetings August 28-31 with Bro. Clem Bowman from the Cornerstone, Ohio congregation. Service times are Thursday & Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m., followed by lunch, examination at 2 p.m., supper at 4:30 p.m. and Lovefeast at 6 p.m. Sunday morning worship at 8 a.m., breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Sunday School & preaching at 10 a.m. and lunch at noon. Please pray for Bro. Clem as he prepares to share the Word. We welcome your presence & prayers.

Karen Rissler, Correspondent

West Fulton, Ohio

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will be holding their fall revival meetings Sept. 7-14. Bro. Devin Sweitzer from the Quinter, Kansas congregation will be our evangelist. Sunday the 7th there will be a service at 9:30 a.m. followed by potluck and then a children's service at 2 p.m. No evening service. Monday through Saturday each evening will be a service at 7:30 p.m. The concluding service will be Sunday the 14th at 9:30 a.m. followed by potluck.

All are welcome to attend. Please pray for Bro. Devin as he prepares for these services and for safe travels.

Joy Reed, Correspondent

Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

Sunday, September 21, the Pleasant Ridge congregation will have a Harvest Meeting with Bro. Clem Bowman from the Cornerstone, Ohio congregation as the speaker. Sunday morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch to follow. There will be a closing service at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to come worship with us.

Teresa St. John, Correspondent

Bethel, Pennsylvania

The Bethel Congregation will hold their fall revival meetings Sept. 24-28. Bro. Jeff Davison from the Garnett, Kansas congregation will be the evangelist. Service times are Wed. thru Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. morning at 9:30 a.m. and fellowship meal at noon. Final service at 2 p.m. Please pray for Jeff as he prepares the messages and preaches God's word, for his family, our congregation and the lost. All are welcome to come or listen by phone (610-933-3169).

Karen Gingrich, Correspondent

Women's Retreat

This year's Women's Retreat is scheduled for October 3-4 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Please join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is "Sharing the Good News of Jesus" and the speakers are Pheba Sam of Bryan, OH, Melanie Sensenig of Manheim, PA and Sarah Priest of Chambersburg, PA. Please pray for this year's retreat and for the speakers as they prepare.

Registration brochures will soon be emailed to congregations and individuals. If you receive this email, please print paper copies for the sisters in your area. This event is open to all women age 14 and up, so feel free to invite anyone who may enjoy the encourage-

ment and fellowship of this gathering. To be added to the email list, send a request to Melissa Brock at brockfam7@gmail.com.

Looking ahead...

If you feel called to help with next year's Women's Retreat, you are welcome to attend the planning meeting on October 13 at 11 a.m. at El Camino Real restaurant in Decatur, Indiana.

CASP 2026

If you read the *Torreon Mission Update*, you may have recently seen that the next Conservative Anabaptist Service Program (CASP) project is scheduled for June 20 – July 17, 2026, at Torreon, New Mexico. Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) has approved this project and Bro. AJ Trujillo is lining up work in the community. There will be a need for men, ages 18-25 as well as support staff couples. Be watching for more information to come in the *Bible Monitor* and on the DBC website.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR September 2025

Sept. 7 - II Sam. 19:16-30 - Shimei's Repentance

- 1. Why did Shimei, who cursed David, seek forgiveness?
- What did Shimei say to David that led to David's initial forgiveness?
- 3. What does David's quick forgiveness of Shimei reveal about his character?

Sept. 14 - II Sam. 19:31-43 - David Blesses Barzillai

1. Who was Barzillai and what role did he play

2.	What does Barzillai's declining David's offer reveal about his character?
3.	What caused the dispute between the men of Judah and the men of Israel?
Sept. 21 - II Sam. 20:1-13 – Sheba Rebels Against David	
1.	What motivated Sheba's rebellion?
2.	Why did Amasa fail to gather the army as commanded?
3.	How did Joab's ruthlessness in dealing with Sheba compare to David's leadership style?
Sept. 28 - II Sam. 20:14-26 – Sheba Dies	
1.	What was Sheba's goal in revolting against David?
2.	Why did Joab listen to the wise woman?
3.	What role did the wise woman play in ending the siege, and what does her wisdom reveal about conflict resolution?

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