

Rockville

As we,
who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory,

are being transformed into His likeness
with ever increasing glory,

which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Reflections

October 2009 Volume 7 Issue 2

God be praised
for the wonderful
baptismal celebration
Rockville experienced on
September 20!



Over the past months I have pondered the verse from Ephesians 3:20, which tells us God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power." Far beyond our wildest imagination, God's power is ours for the asking. And He did show His power on Baptism Day.

He blessed us with sunny, warm fall weather. Ten young ladies testified to the goodness of God in bringing them to Him, and to this day. Of special note was the answered prayer for Ada and Althea Wimer's recovery from illness to allow them to be baptized. Also, that God orchestrated Cheryl Stoltzfus' release from the hospital in time to participate in Jewel's baptism. He is never late or early, and gives strength as His children need it.

The service at the church began with worship led by Barb Wimer, assisted by her daughters Rebekah and Ada, and Jessica and Emily Stoltzfus. Songs of commitment to Christ included I Have Decided and Take My Life. Pastor Gene gave a meditation on the meaning and purpose for baptism. He used Matthew 3, which describes Jesus' baptism, and numerous examples from the book of Acts to illustrate that the early church taught and practiced baptism. It is an outward sign of an inward relationship with Christ. It has no power of itself, but is a symbol of obedience. By being baptized, one makes a declaration for Christ that has four parts:

- repentance, turning away from the old life
- faith in Jesus
- discipleship, the lifelong process of committing every part of life to Christ and becoming sanctified
- allegiance, a pledge of loyalty to Jesus alone

Each girl gave her personal testimony of growing into the knowledge of Jesus' claim on her life and accepting Him as Saviour, including a favorite scripture. (Detailed on pages 4 and 5.) They received a lovely framed illustration of their favorite verse, done by Marla Ranck.

Following their testimonies, the vows were taken, followed by the song My Faith Looks up to Thee. The parents laid hands on their daughters for the prayer of blessing, which included Psalm 1. We sang In Christ Alone, and were dismissed from the church.

At the pond, Pastor Gene baptized each girl "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. "(S)he that believeth and is baptized will be saved!"

May each of these young ladies look back on this day as a "stone of remembrance" of the mighty work God has begun in their lives and will bring to completion in His time. submitted by Jane Weaver

LIBRARY LINES

Librarian Correspondent:
Ruby Lerch



Book Report
by Ruby

What's He Really Thinking?

Author: Paula Rinehart

Ladies, did you ever feel like you needed some kind of guide to understanding the man (men) in your life? I know, most of us have read *For Women Only*, and that was a big eye-opener for us.

But the book *What's He Really Thinking* goes a lot deeper into the issues of respect, conflict, intimacy, etc. and teaches us how to be a "relational genius" when dealing with the men in our lives.

This is one of those books where I wanted to pick up my highlighter and highlight away, but since it was the library copy, I restrained myself! I found the author's teaching on expectations and conflict to be particularly helpful. For example, did you know that when you and your husband have a disagreement or argument, there are really four people present in the room? (You'll have to read the book to find out who those other two people are besides you and him!)

I also enjoyed the chapter titled "Getting Through" where she teaches you how to step back and look at issues from a different perspective, with the challenge that "maybe there's something about him that I still don't get".

At the back of the book there are study questions for each chapter that can help you dig a little deeper. Even if you are not married, there are many excellent principles that would apply to any relationship, such as the *stroke, kick, stroke* structure of a difficult conversation.

I highly recommend this book to anyone desiring to develop deeper understanding in their relationships.

*Congratulations
to
Jason Ranck and Angie Fland*



We met at a bonfire in Fred & Teresa's back yard about 3 ½ yrs ago. (Teresa is Angie's sister.) After a few very casual dates we decided this was not the right time for us. A few years later and after many hours of us both seeking God, on our own for his direction in our future, God graciously brought us back together in a way only He can. We began dating December 28, 2009, and it wasn't long before we (and our families) knew wedding bells were ahead.

On May 2nd, an ordinary shopping trip to Park City Mall was postponed for a walk at Long's park. Well we walked about 100' to the gazebo where I asked the girl of my dreams to spend the rest of her life with me.....she said YES!!!! and the rest of the night was spent dreaming of our future together as we shared our joy with the families God has blessed us with.

We announced our plans for a November 14th wedding to the rest of the world and began planning the biggest day of our lives! We feel very blessed to have the friends and family around us during this time and would like to thank each of you for your words of encouragement, advice, support and prayers throughout our lives, especially the last 8 months!!

Looking forward to building a home together,
Jason & Angie

Missions

Update

Correspondent: Rhoda Snader

It was Monday morning and by all standards was shaping up to be a normal 'Mariama' day, which means hot, sunny and humid. Brian started his day translating portions of Romans and Galatians with his translation helper, Lambert. I was doing school with the kids and things were going along well. It seemed things were going so smoothly with school that we might even finish early, which would give more play time to the kids. My tribal mother-in-law was here hanging up the laundry and cutting some veggies. Our neighbor and his wife were having a very loud, heated disagreement in regards to their son and who he was promised to be married to. Still, we continued on with school.



Kids dressed up for PNG Independence Day

Then we heard the sound of utter and complete chaos mixed with loud wailing coming up from the village. I quickly asked my mother-in-law what was going on. She was visibly shaken and scared. We headed down to the village to find see what was happening. A fight had broken out between 2 brothers because one of them had stolen the other brother's wife. When the dust settled, the guilty brother ended up with 2 very big gashes -his wrist and head were both badly cut.

An hour later, one more thing came our way that was completely unexpected. The kids had eaten lunch and were quietly playing before their afternoon rest time. Suddenly there was a loud bang but no crying. I walked back to their bedroom to find Cade face down and unconscious on the floor. No one saw him when he fell so we don't know details. Cade doesn't remember the fall nor did he remember the hour or so before the fall. All we know is that he fell from the loft, which means he fell 8 ft onto the plywood floor and landed on his head. After talking to the mission Doctor on our HF radio, we decided we should fly to Wewak to make sure there was no internal bleeding.

A trip to the doctor here is a little different than most places. We called the NTM pilot who was doing another flight at the time. The Lord provided good weather late into the afternoon so he was able to come in and get us that day. As it turns out, Cade had a concussion but no other internal injuries. We are so grateful for God's protection of him.

A few things that you may find interesting about our flights to and from Wewak.... The flight from Mariama to Wewak is 40 minutes in a Cessna 206 airplane. During the 66 mile flight to Wewak we fly over 6 distinct language groups. Including our body weight, we can take off with 830 lbs. Try weighing your family, luggage and groceries next time you make a trip! You'll be surprised how quickly the weight adds up!

Our kids continue to enjoy living here in Mariama. Trenton is now in 5th grade. He loves science, swimming and fishing, Sophia, 3rd grade, is an avid reader, kitchen helper and animal lover. Cade, kindergarten, has more energy than all of us put together! Last but not least, Carson, 4 yrs old, is happy to do anything Cade is doing. Carson is also best known for his love of bananas. Every night his bedtime snack is a minimum of 2 bananas!

Thanks for your prayers, love and support to our family.
Love, Andrea for The Holmquist Family



Laura Howe
When I am afraid, I will trust
in you. In God, whose word
I praise, in God I trust:
I will not be afraid.
Psalm 56:3



Rebekah Wimer
I have set the Lord always
before me. Because He is at
my right hand, I will not be
shaken. Psalm 16:8



Jessica Lapp
Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
Psalm 86:11



Althea Wimer
And we know that in all
things God works for the
good of those who love
Him, who have been called
according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28



Ellie Weaver
“In the last days,” God says,
“I will pour out my Spirit on
all people...and everyone
who calls on the name
of the Lord will be saved.”
Acts 2:17-21



Hadassah Stoltzfus
“I took you from the ends of
the earth, from its farthest
corners I called you. I said,
‘You are my servant’; I have
chosen you and have not
rejected you.” Isaiah 41:9



Catherine Ranck

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Matthew 5:8



Ada Wimer

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
II Corinthians 12:9



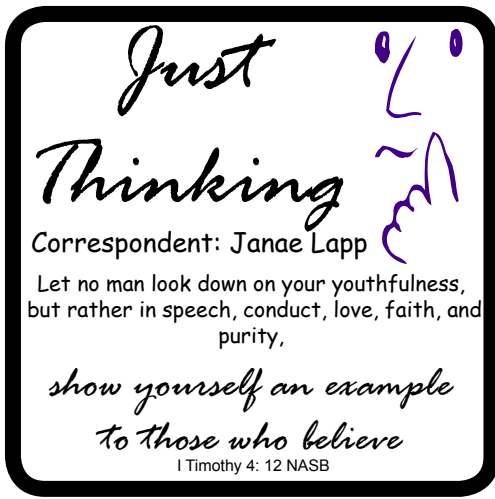
Jewel Stoltzfus

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16



Jenna Lerch

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16



This summer I had the opportunity to attend Worldview Academy for a week at Grove City College. I must admit, I was not too thrilled at the prospect of spending an entire week without my phone in a place where I didn't know a single soul, but I decided to make the most of the situation.

Many hours a day were spent listening to lectures, but I

was amazed at how quickly the time passed. One of the most meaningful parts of camp for me was meeting with a small group of girls after every session, hashing out everything that had been discussed, and talking about what difference it would make in our lives.

"We live in the golden age of apologetics at the moment the devil has made everyone incapable of hearing apologetics." This quote by John Mark Reynolds is one that I heard in a lecture taught by Jay Winslow. In other words, at a time when there are a myriad of resources backing up the validity of the Christian faith, the culture around us no longer cares about defining truth. Part of this is due to the fact that the most dominant form of discourse in America is images. Whereas words communicate through analysis, are precise and exact, and can be read in linear, logical fashion, images communicate immediately and intuitively, are impressionistic, and are scanned subjectively. A generation conditioned by images is more likely to have a worldview that is influenced by feelings and emotions rather than facts and logic. Though feelings and emotions have been created by God, it is dangerous to base our worldview upon these things, for Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

God has shown himself to be a God of the written word. When he appeared to men in the Bible, he did not reveal himself in a physical object that could be duplicated. Instead, he appeared through intangible forms: a burning bush, a pillar of fire. John 1:1 states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The written word holds much value, not only in reading the Bible, but also the words of those who have gone before us. Finding people who have thought great thoughts gives us the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of great minds.

This topic was only one of many ranging from New Age beliefs, to the grace of God, to the evolution debate. Never before have I been so challenged to seriously consider my beliefs, and reasons to holding to those beliefs. submitted by Andrea Stoltzfus

Persecution

A Report of a JR Youth Event
submitted by Ellie Weaver

On Friday, September 25, the activity at Aden and Wilma Stoltzfus' home would have looked rather strange to someone who didn't know what was going on. There were flashlights waving and casting light in every possible direction, people sneaking around corners only to scream and run when someone saw them, and about ten yelling, screaming people in a playhouse being guarded by another person. What is all this?? Persecution.

The point of the game is to give the Jr. Youth Group a glimpse of what it is like to be persecuted, while having fun at the same time. What happens is this: there are five stations(churches) at various points around the property. You and your team (the Christians, usually 3-5 people per team) have to get to each station in order. While at your station you are supposed to kneel and hold hands and read a Bible verse from a 3x5 card (most groups conveniently ignored the holding hands part.....any guesses as to why??). The first team to get through all five stations together was the winner.

Sound easy? Here's the catch: Secret Police. The Secret Police are guys from the youth group. This year they were Evan and Caleb Whitman, Allen Stoltzfus, Gabe Stoltzfus, and Derek Burns. (Wow, they were fast!) The job of the Secret Police is to run around and tag people. When you're tagged, the police have to escort you to the jail(playhouse). Only when a member of your team comes and tags you again can you go free. The Secret Police also take great delight in terrorizing you while they're at it.

Persecution helped me see that persecution is a real way of life, and that it would be awful to live like that: sneaking around corners and hiding all the time.

(Some side effects of the game may include, but are not limited to: skinned and bruised knees, grass stains, a sore throat, banged up knuckles, and drowsiness the next day.)

Do you Know... Craig Smucker's?

Correspondent: Christina Kurtz

It has been a little over a year since Craig and I were married and what an exciting time it has been! Craig and I met on a blind date set up by his brother Eric, one night in late October of 2007. We both say that we knew there was something special between us even on the first night! You know that saying "When it's right, you just know"? Well that was certainly true for us and a few months later and I was walking down the aisle on the home (Smucker) farm to say "I do" to my true love. After we were married I moved into to Craig's house right down the road from the family farm; I quickly tossed away the bachelor furniture and started to make our house a home. As if those few months between meeting and getting married weren't fast and fun filled enough, 2 months after we were married we found out there was a little Smucker on the way!

Our joy arrived on May 15th, 2009 at 1:09 in the morning. We named her Leah May Smucker; May after her mommy, great grandmother and her great-great grandmother. Our family says she looks like her daddy but has the personality of her mommy...oh boy this could be interesting! The first two months of Leah's life she had some trouble putting on weight and was extremely fussy. After a rush admittance to the hospital and a lot of tests the doctors discovered she has acid reflux. This is not that unusual among infants and should go away on its own with time, but for now she is on medication to help her keep food down. The first few months were bumpy and we thank you all for your love and support. Leah is now happy and healthy, she is growing and is about 13 pounds and 26 ½ inches long!! We have had so much fun experiencing the joys of new parenthood, from her first squeal to laughing out loud to her first attempt to eat cereal; it has all been a growing experience.



Craig is working as a salesman selling seed for Pioneer Hybrid; this is his fifth year for Pioneer, and keeps him very busy and also makes me appreciate rainy days when he's not away the whole day! Craig's newest interest is goose-hunting, even off season when he sees geese flying above; he gets a scary look in his eye, and he has a lot of fun hunting birds, groundhogs and deer. Sometimes in our own backyard! I am staying home to take care of Leah and also finishing my degree at Lancaster Bible College, I should be finished in December. My newest loves are the horses I see out my back window. Gene has added five new horses to the farm recently and I have been enjoying naming them and learning how to ride them.

Life can get pretty crazy trying to keep up with work, school and an infant, but somehow in the midst of the crazy days an overwhelming joy is found. Craig and I often stand in silence by Leah's crib while she sleeps and think about how truly blessed we are. We are excited to grow our family and to have a new little niece or nephew in a few months, and to see what this next step in life holds for us. submitted by Becky



Friendship Sisters visit the Conestoga House

On August 19th four Friendship Sisters spent time enjoying God's beautiful nature at Conestoga House near Rohrerstown. Cindy, Renee and I met at Sherilyn's home and had a wonderful lunch there. Then she arranged for her girls

to babysit Renee's children and mine, so we could get away for a few hours. The four of us were greeted at Conestoga House by a topiary of a fox (dressed in riding attire) sitting atop a horse. It was fun to see the various topiaries located throughout the gardens.



For those of you who do not know-- Conestoga House was willed for public use by James Steinman (the original owner of Lancaster Newspapers). The house represents one of the most intact estates of the second quarter of the 20th century anywhere in Pennsylvania between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. One of the original owners was Benjamin Hershey, a noted leader for the Mennonites of Lancaster County.

The flower displays were beautiful. Trying to guess the plant names, made it almost like a game for us, Cindy usually knowing more than the rest of us. We did lots of Ooohhing and Aaahhing at all the beauty.

We enjoyed the fellowship we had together that day, memories that will last a long time, I hope. We highly suggest visiting the Conestoga House (it's FREE), especially with some Friendship Sisters if possible.



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