

Words

Oh, to be a little gentler...
Oh, to strive a little harder,
Just to be a little wiser with our words.
In this world, we're falling faster...
Those around us falling farther...
Just because there's some
Who can't control their words.

Some can cut right to the marrow...
Some can slowly pierce our hearts through...
They're just angry, bitter, empty, selfish words.
Let us change the world we live in,
Let us show what we believe in,
Just by being a bit wiser with our words.

By: Megan Zehr (1st and 3rd term student)

Registration is open for 2020-2021

- *Priority registration ends May 1
- *2020-2021 Catalogs are available
- *Contact the office to have one mailed to you.
- *Visit our website - smbi.org to fill out an application.

Calendar of Events

Fifth Term April 13 - May 22

Priority Registration Ends May 1

Missions Involvement April 25 - 26

Choir Tour May 22 - 28

WATER.June 22 - July 31

Family & Youth Week Aug. 3 - 7

Staff Retreat.Sept. 17 - 18

First Term Sept. 19 - Oct. 29

Tour / JOURNEY Oct. 18 - 29

Second Term Nov. 2 - Dec. 11

Christian Nurture Conference Nov. 20 - 22

Choir Tour Dec. 11 - 18

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01

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the Monitor

Hast Thou Known the Holy Scriptures?

By: Clifford Schrock

“And he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written...” (Luke 4:16-17)

This is a well-known story, but perhaps there are several things we often miss. Not only was Jesus presence at the synagogue on the Sabbath His normal thing to do, but every aspect of these verses was according to custom.

It was traditional for Jesus to stand to read the biblical text. In fact, while it does not specify in this passage, it was typical for the entire congregation to stand in respect for the reading of the Holy scriptures. For example, in Nehemiah’s time, twice it specifically notes that all the people stood for the reading of the book of the law of God

(8:1-8). Apparently, they stood from morning until midday!

Not only did they stand for the reading, but in Jewish history the Ark containing the tablets of Moses was the most valued piece of furniture in the tabernacle and Solomon’s temple. In the second temple and the synagogues of the New Testament this was replaced with the Torah closet. So, the ‘book’ or scroll was brought to Jesus and then returned to its sacred storage. As this was done, the scroll was often carried through the congregation where they would touch the fringes of their garments to the scroll and then to their lips in demonstration of Psalm 19:10, “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

We also observe, Jesus “found the place.” We recognize the following words as being read from Isaiah 61. But in His time, there were no chapter and verse divisions. How did He know where to read? It is thought that this was the passage for that Sabbath according to the annual reading schedule for the Torah and the Prophets. Even today, traditional Jews maintain a reading schedule by which they read through the Torah every year beginning after and concluding with the fall feast of Succoth.

Another well-known passage is Jesus’ response to the question, “Which is the greatest commandment in the law”?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37). This is an obvious quote from the Shema which is repeated at least twice daily in Judaism. Immediately following is “And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. 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. and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (Deut. 6:4-9) Of course, Orthodox Jews do this with their phylacteries, and most Jews still have a mezuzah on almost every door frame. The intent is to be constantly reminded of the commandments, the statutes, and the judgements of

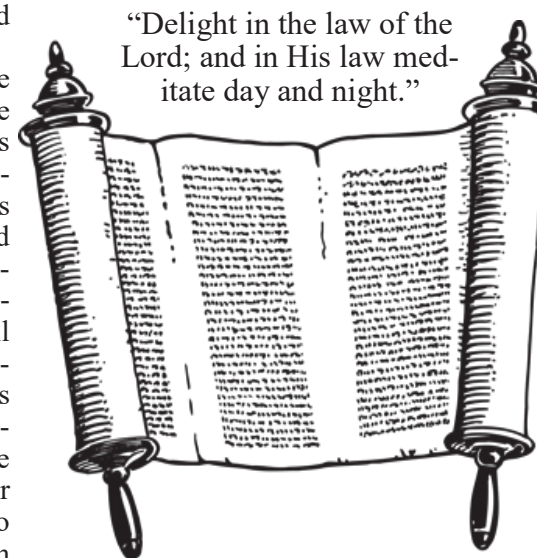
God.

We see how Jesus pulled the “greatest commandment” from this passage, but how well do we know and apply the rest of the context. Obviously, Jesus lived out the calling as he routinely quoted and used parallels from the scriptures throughout His ministry. During a study tour to Israel last October, our young traditional Jewish guide also demonstrated remarkable mastery of the scriptures. It is a challenge to do the same.

An ancient quote from the Talmud, a collection of rabbinical writings, says, “As the fish of the sea immediately perish when they come out of water, so do men perish when they separate themselves from the words of scripture.”

The biblical text is not an optional resource. As Proverbs 4:13 says, “Hold on to instruction, do not let go of it, guard it well, for it is your life.”

So what can we learn from “all scripture which is profitable”? Be immersed more fully in the text of scripture. Respect them more, not because in them we find life, but because they testify of Him who is Life (John 5:39). Read them more regularly, even by schedule. Read more fully, rather than little bits here and there. See them as a complete, unified story with setting, main character, and overall plot rather than a disjoint collection of stories. Hide it in your heart. Finally, “delight in the law of the Lord; and in His law meditate day and night.”



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Non-Traditional Opportunities!!!

The classroom is the traditional learning environment here at SMBI and that continues to be our primary approach. However, we also recognize the value of experiential learning opportunities. The WATER program has always been built around an apprentice model. In 2014, we first offered wilderness personal development trips as part of the First Term Enhanced program. In 2017, we offered our first Anabaptist study tour to Europe, in 2019 offered our first study tour to Israel and in 2021 plan to again offer an Anabaptist study tour to Europe. As a revision of First-Term Enhanced and our wilderness personal development trips we are now pleased to introduce *Journey*.

Journey

This 12-day opportunity is designed to take the student a step forward on their spiritual, emotional, and physical journey in a hands-on learning experience. In October 2020, we plan to offer a canoe trip for the ladies and a hiking experience for the men. These intense trips provide ample opportunity to deepen relationships with God and others and expand team-building skills. Time will be devoted to individual and group reflection to maximize the experiential lessons which are encountered. This program can be an extension of first term or as a course of its own. If not combined with first term, use the standard application with the regular application fee. Some preparatory assignments will be included. Contact the office for an application or use the standard student application at smbi.org.



~Births~

Benjamin & Ann (Fisher) Good
~Anders Gratian

Keldon & Deidri (Yoder) Kennell
~Adalynn Raye

Marvin & Regina (Reiff) King
~Natalie Grace

Devon & Melissa (Martin) Hartzler
~Chloe Annalise

Wendell & Kathy (Herschberger) Kennell
~Alex Robert
~Bennett Richard

Phillip & Deanna (Hartzler) Weaver
~Kayana Lynn

Project Updates:

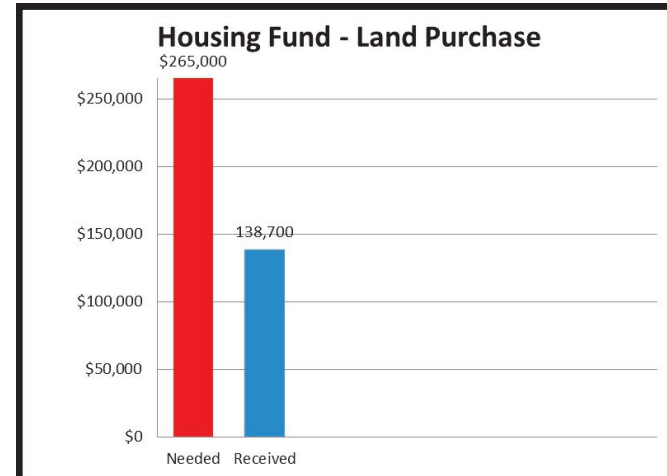
Well Project:

The well project at School House Village is complete. Drilling two wells, installing one pump system, and a water softener totaled \$14,610.00. If you wish to contribute to the cost of this project you may still do so by sending your contribution to the office earmarked "Well Project."

Housing Fund - Land Purchase:

July, 2019 SMBI entered a purchase agreement on a nearly 18 acre parcel of land adjoining the institute. The property includes an existing house. Settlement for the property is scheduled for July, 2020 with further development to follow as funding allows.

If you wish to contribute to this project, checks may be sent to the SMBI office noted for the "housing fund." Donors who wish to support this project anonymously may do so through the Anabaptist Foundation. Make your gifts payable to "Anabaptist Foundation" with "SMBI Housing Fund" written on the memo line of your check. Mail these contributions to: Anabaptist Foundation, 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA, 17837.



New Option!

SMBI now offers a new contribution option. Some people prefer regular scheduled rather than periodic giving, so you can now set up a recurring monthly contribution on the support page of our website at smbi.org. Numbers are fun to play with in this possibility. For example, if just 50 of the hundreds of alumni from over the years would set up a recurring donation of \$25/mo. it would add \$15,000 to the annual budget!!!

4th Term Tour Itinerary

April 4-24, 2020

Ohio, Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania.



See full itinerary at smbi.org
or check out our
Facebook page for updates during tour.

World Awareness Training In Evangelistic Responsibility

WATER

June 22 - July 31, 2020

We welcome you to join us for a week of training at SMBI and then join a mission team in the U.S., Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Liberia, Thailand, & more for 4 1/2 weeks in ministry. There are 30 locations to choose from. **Young men, especially, are needed but there are also some locations open for ladies!**

Come prepared to bless and be blessed. Contact the office for more information on available locations.



Water Training Week Team Activity

There are still openings in 5th term 2020

Classes offered:

David/Joseph - Nelson Kurtz
Victorious Christian Living - Byron Wolfer
Sermon on the Mount - Clifford Schrock
Spiritual Life - Elijah Yoder
Hymnology - Benjamin Good
Christian Family II - Nelson Kurtz
Galatians, Col., Phil., Philemon - Elijah Yoder
Minor Prophets - Byron Wolfer

Choir directed by: Benjamin Good

Minister's Week 2020 Sessions

Kingdom Piety - John D. Martin

When They Ask - Dale Eby

The Gospel According to John - Nathan Good

The Covenants of God - Dale Weaver

Psalms 23 for Women - Various Speakers

Christians and Addictions - Frank Reed

To order a flash drive of sessions contact the office -

717.485.4341 or smbi@smbi.org

\$30/ flash drive (most sessions included)