

Apr. 7		Attend A Capella Gospel Sing - Goshen, IN
Apr. 8	9:30am	Rosewood Fellowship - Shipshewana, IN
	7:00 pm	Salem Mennonite Church - New Paris, IN
Apr. 9	7:00 pm	Sharon Bethel Amish Mennonite - Kalona, IA
Apr. 10		Travel
Apr. 11	7:00 pm	Kitchi Pines Mennonite - Blackduck, MN
Apr. 12	7:00 pm	Northern Youth Programs - Dryden, ON
Apr. 13	1:30 pm	Hosanna Christian School - Winnipeg, MB
	7:00 pm	Abide Christian Fellowship - St. Anne, MB
Apr. 14		Crystal Spring Hutterite Colony
Apr. 15	10:00am	Interlake Mennonite Church - Arborg, MB
	7:30 pm	Salem Mennonite Church - Mylo, ND
Apr. 16	7:00 pm	Coalridge Mennonite Church - Coalridge, MT
Apr. 17	7:00 pm	Fairfield Mennonite Church - Fort Shaw, MT
Apr. 18		Travel
Apr. 19	7:00 pm	Cheyenne Christian Fellowship - Cheyenne, WY
Apr. 20	7:00 pm	Skyline Mennonite Church - Canon City, CO
Apr. 21		Travel
Apr. 22	9:30 am	Cedar Crest Amish Mennonite - Hutchinson, KS
	7:00 pm	Cornerstone Mennonite Church - Oswego, KS
Apr. 23	7:00 pm	Spring Hill Mennonite Church - Latham, MO
Apr. 24	7:00 pm	Mt. Olive Church - Montgomery, IN
Apr. 25		Travel
Apr. 26		Recording
	7:00 pm	Weavertown Amish Mennonite - Bird-in-Hand, PA
Apr. 27		Return to SMBI

Calendar of Events

<b>Fifth Term</b> .....	<b>April 16 - May 25</b>
Priority Registration Ends .....	May 1
Missions Involvement .....	April 28 - 29
Choir Tour .....	May 25 - 31
<b>W.A.T.E.R.</b> .....	<b>June 25 - Aug. 3</b>
<b>Family &amp; Youth Week</b> .....	<b>Aug. 6 - 10</b>
<b>Staff Retreat.</b> .....	<b>Sept. 20 - 21</b>
<b>First Term</b> .....	<b>Sept. 22 - Nov. 1</b>
Post-Term Opportunities. ....	Oct. 22 - Nov. 1
<b>Second Term</b> .....	<b>Nov. 5 - Dec. 14</b>
Christian Nurture Conference .....	Nov. 16 - 18
Choir Tour .....	Dec. 14 - 20

A Quarterly  
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01

January - March 2018

the Monitor

You've Got Options

(Green Beans, Marshmallows, and Rat Poison)

By: Albert Stoltzfus

**Part I** “What’s wrong with it?” You hear that question in the air. I’ve asked that question. We often ask it when we’re told we should refrain from something. Or we see someone else refraining from something that looks OK to us. And so we press, “What’s wrong with it?”

Two times in I Corinthians (6:12 and 10:23) we find the same statement: *All things are lawful for me but not all things are helpful.* All things are lawful... Paul seems to be clarifying that as New Testament believers we do have a lot of freedom. There are a lot of things that aren’t wrong... but not all things are helpful.

“You’ve got options.” We like to say that, and in our times how true it is. What to eat? What to buy? What to wear? How to travel? How to communicate? What for recreation? Who to listen to? What to do on Sunday? On and on. With so many thousands of choices to make, to only rule out the ones that aren’t wrong will never narrow things down enough to find the best. Will you give up the best in exchange for the good?

Do you ask “What’s the big deal about finding the best way?” Well, think about it. With the Kingdom of God in focus ... to just do good enough to get by... Hmmm, seems like a poor approach. Life is too short and there are too many OK things to do to squander our time and energy just doing whatever isn’t wrong.

We need a better question. Paul’s statement clues us in. “Is it helpful?” The contexts of this statement give us further direction. I Corinthians 6:20 indicates that we should ask “Does it glorify God?” I Corinthians 10:24 and 33 capture another question, “Does it benefit my brother?”

“Does it glorify God?” is a deep question in need of further exploration. It’s easy to say that we’re giving God all the glory while doing things to glorify ourselves. So stop and consider, really... does it bring glory to God? *All things are lawful for me but not all things are helpful.*

**Part II** “*Our thoughts shape our lives. We grow little or big by the ideals we cherish and the thoughts upon which we dwell.*” -Anonymous

One of the interesting things about life is that we tend to become who we really want to be. No, I’m not talking about growing 6 9 inches taller or getting dark hair because that’s what we dream of. Rather, the inner man, and in turn much of the outer man, follows the course of

our dreams. This idea is supported by Proverbs 23:7, *For as he thinks in his heart so is he.*

As we move into adulthood, the dreams and pursuits of our childhood begin to take shape. Sure, many of them fall apart but some of them become reality. They solidify. Because of this the Proverb writer warns us to *keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.* Keep your heart... keep it like a determined soccer goalie keeps his goal.

There’s a myth afloat that once you decide what you’re about in life, adverse things won’t affect you much. You’ll be able to handle anything. Your heart will be... I guess like rubber. Scripture teaches otherwise.

Perhaps a good comparison is the human body’s immune system. We’ll take a look at Phil the Physical Man and his environment. He takes things in by breathing, eating, and absorbing them through his skin. His mental outlook affects his response to them, as does his level of exercise. There are many filters at work. His skin is a filter, his nasal passage, his liver... all helping out. If he eats good food perhaps he can handle a few toxic fumes. He can, however, only afford to sit around eating junk food *and* breathing bad air about so long before it will do him in. So he establishes good health habits. He is sanitary. He eats green beans. Lots of them. Occasionally he eats marshmallows, but not many. He knows they won’t sustain him. If he ever eats rat poison, it would certainly not be intentional. Should he accidentally take a little in, his immune system is ready. He takes good care of it.

Now how about Sam the Spiritual Man? If indeed “our thoughts shape our lives”, then we must consider where our thoughts come from. It seems the majority of our thoughts are prompted by the things we take in through our eyes and ears. The mind works as a filter as they trickle toward the heart. Accepting, Believing, Embracing, Becoming. There’s a progression. We should not be surprised at one of these steps if we took the previous one.

So Sam the Spiritual Man sets out to take life in. Some things that have set the stage in which he had no choice are his parents and childhood experiences, but from there he has options. He will choose heroes, friends, books, music, movies, and many more things that will affect his immune system.

Continued on page 2

Return Service Requested

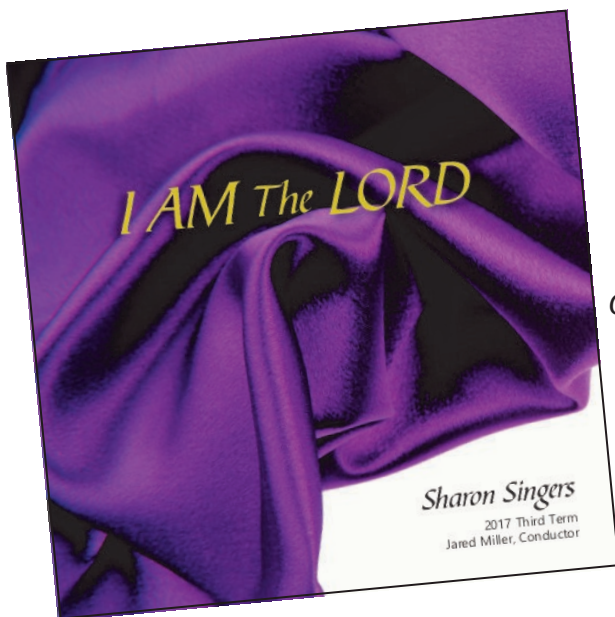
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

Our new 2018-2019 catalogs/handbooks are now available.  
\*The course catalog and student applications are available at  
smbi.org.

\*\*Contact your local church or call/email SMBI for more  
information or a catalog.

\*\*\*Due to high postage rates, Catalogs are shipped to  
international addresses only by request.

Continued from p. 1

These things may compare to green beans. He'll feel strong and alive. Or rat poison. Too much and he'll die. Maybe he'll choose marshmallows. How long can he feed chiefly on marshmallows and survive?

My friend, you've got options. What are you feeding your spiritual man? *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*



## ~Births~

Andrew & Amy (Zimmerman) Gehman  
~Bradley Scott

Joshua & Bethanna (Taylor) Harper  
~Quinton Courage

## ~Weddings~

Devon & Melissa (Martin) Hartzler  
~Kinza Mikelle

Benjamin & Julia (Howe) Neff  
~Clayton Paul

AJ Rotelle & Jenna Martin - 3.24.18

## World Awareness Training In Evangelistic Responsibility



*W.A.T.E.R.*

*June 25 - Aug. 3, 2018*

We welcome you to join us for a week of training at SMBI and then join a mission team in the U.S., Mexico, Belize, Spain, Guatemala, Ireland, Southeast Asia, & more for 4 1/2 weeks in ministry. There are 31 locations to choose from and several new locations this year which include 158 in Greece and Jungle Breezes Youth Ministries in Guatemala.

**Young men, especially, are needed but there are also many locations open for ladies!**

Come prepared to bless and be blessed.

Contact the office for more information on available locations.

### Unless The Lord...

As the middle of December came around, the finances of SMBI looked about as bleak as the barren winter landscape. However, by God's provision through answered prayer and the contributions of individuals, businesses, and churches, amazing things have happened. Since mid-December, we have been blessed with generous cash gifts, the donation of a 2017 Chevy 15 passenger van and a new pellet grill capable of handling 80 lbs. of chicken at once. We also purchased a new display board and table cover for the public relations table on choir tour (\$1,000). Looking ahead, the floor covering in the ladies' lounge and hallway will be replaced April 11 (\$1,000-already funded). A sound system and digital projector will be installed in classroom B during fifth term (\$2,500). After decades of service, a couple exterior doors need to be replaced and numerous other maintenance projects are scheduled for this summer. We look back and rejoice and step forward into the future in faith.

