



Congratulations, Graduates!

Daniel Repman, Kendra Kennell, and Larry Beiler

Calendar of Events

Fifth Term	April 15 - May 24
Priority Registration Ends	May 1
Missions Involvement	April 27 - 28
Choir Tour	May 24 - 30
WATER.	June 24 - Aug. 2
Family & Youth Week	Aug. 5 - 9
Staff Retreat.	Sept. 19 - 20
First Term	Sept. 21 - Oct. 31
Post-Term Opportunities.....	Oct. 21 - 31
Second Term	Nov. 4 - Dec. 13
Christian Nurture Conference	Nov. 15 - 17
Choir Tour	Dec. 13 - 20

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the Monitor

Living Tselem

By Clifford Schrock

Ancient Egypt was a very religious culture with hundreds of deities. Most of these deities also had a physical representation that was intended to reveal something about the character and nature of the deity. Before reading further, look at the image of Osiris. What does it say about him? Osiris was ruler of the underworld, so he is portrayed with full headdress, a whip and a shepherd’s staff. The Pharaoh was also thought to be his representative and upon death became Osiris. So, the Pharaoh is also almost always portrayed with a whip and a shepherd’s staff. The whip spoke control and maintaining order while the shepherd’s staff identified the Pharaoh and the god as the provider of all things.

Moses, of course, grew up in the courts of Egypt and was very familiar with this concept. The Israelites, in general, demonstrate their familiarity with image making just days after their departure from Egypt with the casting of the golden calf. The Hebrew word that they used to identify these images is *tselem*.

With this background in mind, consider how Moses, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, describes the creation of man. “And God said, Let us make man in our *tselem*, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own *tselem*, in the *tselem* of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:26-27)

So, God created man to display His character and nature to the world. In addition, he selected Abraham that through him “shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3) Just days after Abraham’s descendants came out of Egypt, God specifically forbade them from making graven images because they were to be a “holy nation” to “declare His glory among the nations” (Ex. 20:4, 19:6, Ps. 96:3) Finally, Peter describes us as “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, an holy nation, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (I Pet. 2:9). We see, then, a theme that God intends for His character and nature to be revealed to the world through the way we live—the way we bear His image as living *tselem*.

How do we live *tselem*? First, in Gen. 1:26, we are specifically created for dominion. We are beings of free will and choice. The means we respect the free will and choice of

others. At the same time, this dominion is to be exercised in harmony with His sovereignty. When we fail to do so, it will lead to curse, catastrophe, and confusion as it did in Gen. 3, 6, and 11. It also means that while all things are lawful, not all things are expedient and we should not be brought under the power of any (I Co. 6:12). Addictions and bondage to



anything— pleasure, work, money, acceptance, bitterness, power, etc— is contrary to God’s nature. When we are set free in Truth and are free to do the will of the Father we are living *tselem*.

Second, it is clear that in the original design, God had immediate (not mediated) face to face relationship with Adam and Eve as He walked with them in the garden. Following the fall, this relationship was no longer possible. However, after calling the children of Israel out of Egypt, God established a relationship with them that took place through the medium of the priesthood and sacrificial system. It wasn’t wrong, but was certainly inferior to what Adam and Eve originally enjoyed. Jesus came to break down this barrier so we are restored to immediate relationship with the Father and can come boldly to the throne of grace.

As *tselem*, this means that when we live in personal relationship with God we are the light of the world. We yet see through a glass darkly, but look forward to when we will see Him face to face. It also means that when we love our brother that we interact with from day to day, people will know that we are His disciples. Further, we value immediate relationships over those that are mediated. For example, when we choose face to face relationship instead of relationships mediated through our electronic devices we are living *tselem*.

Third, during fourth term, I taught a class on Christian Morality. In thinking about that subject in the context of *tselem*, I am impressed with how it touches every aspect of our lives. We are the temple of the Holy Ghost. That should be obvious through the display of the fruits of the Spirit seen in every day life. When we talk with our children, sit in our house, walk by the way, when we lie down or when we stand up the character and nature of God should be clearly seen (Deut. 6:7). Scripture is more accessible than every before with smartphones and Bible apps, but hiding it in our pocket is does not have the same life shaping, sanctifying effect as hiding it in our heart. Know and live the biblical text.

These are just a few examples, but ask God how He wants to be displayed in your life. You are living *tselem*!!!

Return Service Requested

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His Eye Is On The Sparrow
Do Not Be Afraid
I Know The Lord Laid His Hands On Me
The Lord Is My Light
Sing And Rejoice
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Peace, Perfect Peace

~Births~

Marvin & Martina (Kauffman) Charles
~ Clark Charles

Pancho & Roseanne (Reimer) Wiebe
~ Alexander Reed

David & Sharilee (Yoder) Yoder
~ Braden Lee

Jason and Dorcas (Nissley) Siegrist
~ Alisha Brooke

~Weddings~

Travis Miller & Ivanna Strubhar - 2.16.19

Daniel Miller & Kimberly Petersheim - 2.23.19

Marvin King & Regina Reiff - 3.2.19

Donnavon Wingard & Jill Shrock - 3.9.19

World Awareness Training In Evangelistic Responsibility



WATER

June 24 - Aug. 2, 2019

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, Hong Kong, Guatemala, Ireland, Southeast Asia, & more for 4 1/2 weeks in ministry. There are 35 locations to choose from and several new locations this year which include Thailand/Malaysia, Mongolia & Myanmar.

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.

Scripture in Cultural Context

Study biblical culture
for four weeks in the
classroom during first
term.
Sept. 21-Oct. 18, 2019

Seats are still available!
Find more information or
register now at smbi.org.

Note: While the classroom
study and tour are the ideal
combination, either one can be
taken independently.

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Minister's Week 2019 Sessions

Minister's Week sessions are available to order:

Jesus Unveiled - Mel Stoltzfus
Historical Perspectives - Wendell Heatwole
Knowing God - John Coblenz
Scripture in Cultural Context - Clifford Schrock
Women in Ministry - Barb Coblenz
Bonding as Brotherhood - Val Yoder
The Patriarchs - Galen Schrock

To order a flash drive of sessions contact the office -
717.485.4341 or smbi@smbi.org

\$20/ flash drive (all sessions included)

