

more Bible Church
 Great Cove Rd,
 more, PA 17238
 I-70- Warfordsburg exit, take
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 lsburg, PA, take US 522 South
 church will be on the right.
 and hotel suggestions are
 d, PA and Hancock, MD.
 hotels, mention that you are with
 ennonite Bible Institute.

Annual Night of Music	Feb. 3
Choir Tour	Feb. 10 - 17
Ministers' Week	Feb. 13 - 17
Fourth Term	Feb. 20 - Mar. 31
Missions Conference	March 3 - 5
Graduation	March 24
Choir Tour	April 1 - 21
Fifth Term	April 10 - May 19

We have openings for men & ladies in fifth term.

**Ministers' Week
 February 13 - 17, 2023**

Registration: Monday, February 13, 10 am - 12 noon

Dismissal: Friday, February 17, 1:00 pm

Costs: Institute rooms - \$15 / night, meals - \$5.00/meal.

An offering will be taken to help cover costs.

Pre-registration is required.

**Please contact the office for a brochure and/or registration after Dec. 10.
 www.smbi.org**

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Blessed to be a Blessing

By Clifford Schrock

The Bible is a unique collection of 66 books, written over 1500 years, by 40 writers, from all walks of life. Sometimes we read it as a collection of separate books. Yet, it is one unified story. More than that, it is a story that continues and that we become a part of today.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis could be considered the prologue to the story. About one-half of biblical history is wrapped up in this short text. Chapters 1-2 describe the creation of a perfect world God and the creation of man to bear God's image and to have dominion over the world that had been created. Soon, man chose to sin which resulted in the curse, the chaos which followed, and removal from the garden and the tree of life. Chapters 6-9 record the catastrophe of the flood. Finally, chapter 11 reports the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel. You can count on it that exercising our dominion outside of God's dominion will always result in curse and chaos, catastrophe, and confusion.

When considered as a prologue to the main story, this backdrop helps us understand the theme of scripture and history. As individuals or as the collective world, we are in need of redemption! Scripture brings us this redemptive story, and in Revelation 22, the story concludes with a return to the tree of life whose leaves are "for the healing of the nations."

Therefore, there is an obvious shift in the narrative as we continue into Genesis 12. With the prologue complete, the main characters and themes are presented in the opening lines of the text- as any well-written story should do. The text shifts from the broad strokes of history to the actual story line of redemption.

The characters are introduced as Abraham and his descendants- Isaac, Jacob, the 12 tribes of Israel, and ultimately Jesus. Of course, Jesus is the main character throughout the story. While we still talk about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they were not the main characters even in their own stories. Later there is Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, the Judges, Ruth, Esther, David, Solomon, the prophets, Peter, Paul, Dorcas, and the list goes on. Each of them was significant for their places in the larger story. That list could go on through history to include early church fathers, our Anabaptist forefathers, maybe your own grandparents, and now

blessed". So, this is the theme of scripture. Yes, Abraham was blessed. His descendants were blessed, and we are blessed, but not as an end in themselves. We have been blessed, so that the blessing can be passed on to other families of the earth. All are broken and in need of redemption which comes through Jesus.

This theme continues through the rest of the scripture. In Exodus 19, we find the covenant re-established with the children of Israel. As God prepares in preparation for this event, He reminds them of recent events as He brought them out of Egypt. He gives them a clear identity and mission by saying, "I will be a peculiar treasure, unto me... ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." The mission of Israel in this can be overlooked. Priests are intermediaries between God and the people. Not only was there a priest, but the entire nation was to be a kingdom of priests. The original theme from Abraham's call is repeated.

"I will bless thee...,
 and thou shalt be a blessing...
 and in thee shall all families of
 the earth be blessed."

When we jump ahead to Peter's writing, we find the same theme in the New Testament believer's mission. "Ye shall be a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people." We are to be a people who should shew forth the praises of God.

God has called you out of darkness." Once again, we are blessed and blessed, not as an end itself or that we can be a blessing upon our own lusts. No, we are called to be a blessing!

As we find ourselves between Thanksgiving and Christmas, this theme can become real to us. In the opening part of the story in Galatians 3:7 by saying, "Ye are the seed of Abraham." We are part of the descendants of Abraham. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing.

As we think about Christmas, it is an important event in the redemption story. However, the Bible gives us less than two pages recording the birth of Jesus. In rounding his final days and his death and resurrection, once again, points us back to the theme of redemption.

Our world is awash in curse, chaos, and confusion. But, there is hope! Through Ab-

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prayer and financial support from churches, parents, students, administrators, and staff. Whatever our role, it is to reflect and consider the One who really made it all possible. God has poured out His bountiful love on all of us, and for that we are deeply grateful. Thank you for being a part of the team at SMBI as we work to grow the ministry and assist many in their preparatory ministry.



Project Update

Looking to look back on this year and see what was done with projects around campus. We have several larger projects. The public lounge is being redone with new carpet, lighting, paint, and furniture. It is a significant improvement! Garage improvements were made, concrete sidewalks upgraded, and a patio added at the staff housing purchase. It was some much needed TLC! Completing the main project in September. The placement of the new staff housing was completed this year. It hardly seems like a year ago; it is so bright and cheery. The placement, plus appliances, mattresses, and landscaping, and a garden shed for \$500. With all work complete, about \$100,000 needed to fully fund the project.



Leaving

Ms. Doris Wolfer have served as assistant and faculty for 7 1/2 years. They include their time of service in December moving to Hagerstown, MD where they worked with a city church plant. Their time in the classroom and library, in student life, and with significant facility projects were appreciated. Linda Beiler have served as faculty

Income	
CD SALES	12,045.25
CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS	110,547.15
FACILITIES RENTAL	25,494.00
INTEREST	12.65
MUSIC INCOME	5,587.89
PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	50,655.70
RESALE ITEMS	3,265.67
ROOM & BOARD	163,882.45
SNACK BAR	3,672.50
STUDENT SERVICES	7,030.00
TUITION	156,987.35
VEHICLE	795.70
WATER	73,165.30
YEARBOOK	2,412.95
Total Income	615,554.56

Expense	
BANK & CREDIT CARD FEES	1,993.62
BUILDING IMPROVEMENT	33,321.59
ELECTRIC	28,626.16
FOOD	83,758.03
FUEL	15,122.38
GIFTS & REMU	19,757.40
INSURANCE	9,630.09
MAINTENANCE & BUILDING REPAIR	41,251.05
MUSIC	6,436.92
OFFICE & PRINTING	8,733.21
PAYROLL	235,283.48
PAYROLL TAX	16,744.91
POSTAGE	4,352.07
PUBLICATIONS	12,306.51
REAL ESTATE TAX	11,375.36
RENT	7,855.00
RESALE	2,052.94
SANITATION	1,305.84
SNACKBAR	2,616.65
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	2,761.26
SUPPLIES	14,047.36
TELEPHONE/INTERNET EXPENSE	5,388.02
TRAVEL	1,597.50
TUITION WAIVERS	13,865.00
VEHICLE EXPENSE	3,186.83
WATER PROG	60,848.21
YEARBOOK EXPENSE	1,367.51
Total Expense	645,584.90

Nathan & Rachel (Wagler) Eby
-Kendrick Shawn

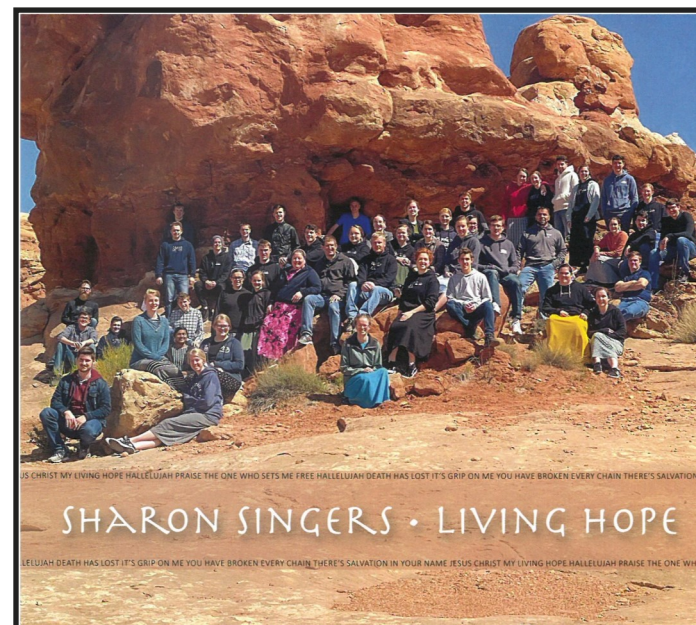
Luke & Stephanie (Forry) Helmuth
-Kenton Reid

Elliott & Krista (Forry) Munn
-Carrie Anne

David & Sharilee (Yoder) Munn
-Cason Tyrell
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