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EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

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WED 4/15  85° 57°

THU 4/16  80° 57°

FRI 4/17  85° 58°

SAT 4/18  86° 48°

SUN 4/19  60° 36°

MON 4/20  64° 39°



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Annual Alumni Banquet

— Sunbright High School —

Saturday, May 23rd · 6:00 PM

Sunbright School Cafeteria
205 Burrville Rd
Sunbright, TN 37872

\$20 Per Person
Class of 2026 Graduates
— FREE



**Celebrate · Reconnect
Honor Our Tigers**

**The Deer Lodge
Abner Ross Center**
meet on the
third Monday of the month
at 6:00 PM.

**Coalfield Genealogical and
Historical Society**
meet on the
second Tuesday of every month
at the
Senior Citizens Building
at 6:00 PM.

**Morgan County
Republican Party**
meet on the
last Thursday of every month
at 7:00 PM
at the
American Legion in Wartburg.



— In Loving Memory —

Stella Bunch Kelly, 100



She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Lillie Bunch; husband Clyde; special son-in-law Mark Shelton; sisters Aletha Bunch Spainhour and Florence Bunch Worthington; and brothers, Harvey, Isaac, Paul and James Bunch. She is survived by brother Earl Bunch; daughter Brenda Shelton; sons C.A. (Marcia) and Gary (Kathy); grandsons Stephen, Darren (Jess), Joe (Amanda), Patrick (Heather), and John (Jessi); 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Stella Bunch Kelly age 100 passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Stella grew up in Coalfield and was a true Coalminer's daughter. She was born on January 15, 1926 to the late Walter and Lillie Bunch. She served her country during WWII as a Calutron Girl at the Y-12 plant. Her husband, 2 brothers and 4 brothers-in-laws all served overseas during WWII. She was a very dedicated Christian always working in her Church and teaching many Sunday School Classes. She took pride in her ability to raise her 3 children by working off the land to provide for them. Between milking a cow and making butter and cheese, to raising a garden and canning vegetables, fruit and meat, she provided most of the food for her family. As her children grew, she started working. She worked many years as a Head Start teacher and was very proud and honored to volunteer at the Methodist Medical Center's Coronary Rehabilitation Facility.

The family will receive friends Monday, March 2, 2026, from 12:00 until 2:00 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 pm with Ronny Jones officiating. Internment will follow in the Union Cemetery, Wartburg, TN.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Stella Bunch Kelly.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



William "Bill" Phillips, 55



Liam, Oaklynn, Hunter; brother Barry (Diana) Phillips; step brothers Steven Aytes (Holly), Ken Aytes; step sister Crystale Aytes; special friend Donna Gunter and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 22, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Robert Freels and Bro. Tyler Trout officiating. Graveside services will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the Frankfort Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William "Bill" Phillips.

William "Bill" Phillips, age 55 of Deer Lodge passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville.

He is preceded in death by his father Robert Alton Phillips; special friend Steve Gunter.

He is survived by his parents Peggy and Butch Aytes; children Kailyn (Logan) Simmons, Kelsey Phillips and fiancé Adam Pass; step sons Dylan Hughett, Shade Underwood; fiancé Amie Underwood; grandchildren Sophia,

David Walker, 69



Also surviving are 18 Grandchildren and 13 Great Grandchildren whom he loved to see come and visit. He will be especially missed by his brother Dale. Dale became his main caregiver when he became sick. He also had a special place in his heart for his dog Fancy.

David Walker, age 69 of Mossy Grove, took his journey to heaven on March 25, 2026. He was born on November 5, 1956, in Sunbright, TN. David was a carpenter by trade. He took pride in building and remodeling houses across Morgan and surrounding counties.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, Parents; Georgia (Leroy) Daniels and Jr. (Wanda) Walker and granddaughter Celina Price.

He will be missed terribly by his brothers and sisters, William (Rebecca) of Dayton, TN., Dale of Mossy Grove, Kay of Wartburg and Becky of Milton, FL.

Children: Louanda, Greta, Denise and Sondra of Wartburg and Stepdaughter Amy (Spunky) Brown of Mossy Grove.

We want to give a special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff of the ICU Unit at Methodist Medical Center. They are like a family in there and welcomed us in taking such wonderful care of Davey. Also special thanks to Schubert Funeral Home, their attention to detail and kindness shown to our family over the years can never be matched.

The family will receive friends on Monday, March 30, 2026, from 12-1pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 1pm with Bro. Herb Judkins officiating, internment will follow the funeral services in the Byrd Cemetery, Sunbright, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Walker.

— In Loving Memory —

Inez Carroll, 91



She is survived and missed by her children, Gladys Tucker, Wade (Maxine) Carroll, Warren (Sandy) Carroll; grandchildren: Hannah (Glenn) Hembree, Joseph Carroll, Jacob Carroll, Jessie Wayne Carroll, Logan (Camden) Carroll, Claude Carroll, Wendy Carroll, Debra Carroll; special family friend Richard Carroll and a host of great grandbabies, family and friends.

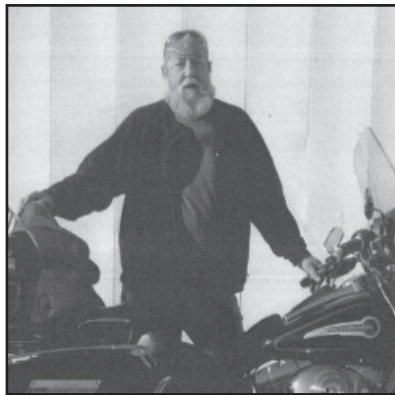
Inez Carroll, born March 2, 1935, passed away peacefully at her home in Devonia, TN surrounded by her family on April 2, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Carroll Sr., sons Wayne Carroll Jr., James Carroll; grandson Lee Carroll, sisters: Mindy Patterson, Ada Seiber, Polly Byrge, Ruthie Byrge, Mary Duncan; brothers: Otis Carroll, Eli Carroll

The family will receive friends Monday April 6, 2026 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, funeral at 12:00 with Bro. Gary Armes officiating. The graveside service will immediately follow at Seiber Cemetery in Devonia, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Inez Carroll.

David Gordon Henry, 69



ter Joyce Halloway of Knoxville and a host of friends and loved ones.

David enjoyed riding motorcycles, ATV's and going to the races. He collected football and Nascar cards. He was of the Baptist faith.

The family is honoring David's wishes to be cremated. No services will be scheduled at this time.

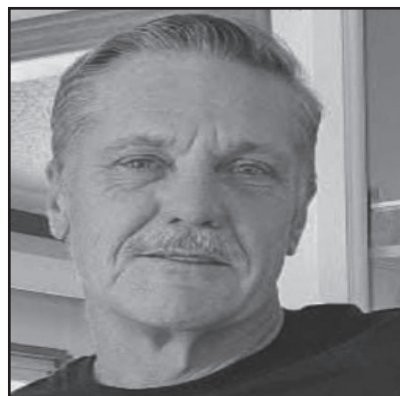
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Gordon Henry.

David Gordon Henry, age 69 of Oliver Springs passed away April 8, 2026. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Elmer and Juanita Henry.

He is survived by his wife, Tammy Henry of Somerset, KY.; daughter Tabatha Berryman of Somerset; 3 grandchildren David (Cora) New, Samantha (Andrew) New and Damien Berryman all of Somerset' sis-

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Doyle Van Daugherty, 58



wife Keisha Daugherty, Tessa Daugherty and significant other Tristan Mitchell, Robert Hawthorne and wife Heather, Brandon Gould and significant other Sarah Daugherty, Dallas Cooper, Ethan Reynolds, Ashton Reynolds, and Cameron Daugherty; brother Chad Daugherty and wife Dawn; sisters Hazel Carroll and husband Rick, Storm Hammons and Raven Hammons; 25 grandchildren; special cousins Ricky and Mike Rich and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Doyle Van Daugherty, age 58, of Wartburg went to be with the lord on April 9, 2026.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son and brother. Van enjoyed camping, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Van is preceded in death by his mother Betty Hammons; father Isaac Daugherty; sons Tyler Daugherty and Dustin Cooper; grandson Dalton Daugherty.

The family will receive friends Sunday, April 12, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Armes Chapel Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Doyle Van Daugherty.

He is survived by the love of his life Deborah Lester Daugherty; children Amanda Davis and husband Mitch, Dustin and



— In Loving Memory —

Caroline Pauline (Huckelby) Miller, 76



Special thank you to her nurses from Quality Hospice that have provided excellent care over the past several months, Billie Bilbry and Renae Gaddes.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Schubert Funeral Home, P.O. Box 326, Wartburg, TN 37887.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Smithers officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the family cemetery.

Pall Bearers:
Randy Huckelby
Joe Miller
Tim Loggins
Randy Henry
Dwayne Russell
Jackie Norris

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Caroline Pauline (Hucelby) Miller.

Caroline Pauline (Huckelby) Miller, age 76 departed this life on April 12, 2026 at her home in Glenmary. She was born June 28, 1949.

She is preceded in death by her parents; infant sister; son Jimmy; grandson Sean; as well as many others.

She is survived by her husband and verbal sparing partner of over 60 years Jim Miller; daughters Karen Webb of Sunbright, Debbie Miller of Glenmary; son Chris Miller and wife Lisa of Sunbright; special grandson William Miller of Glenmary; grandchildren Greg (Quinette), Liz Marie, Abbigail, Lindsay, Addison, and Gabriel; great grandchildren Brycen, Rowen, Alyssa, Lincoln, and Amelia; brothers Ronnie, Charles, and Jackie and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

Allen Redmon, 90



Nicholas Shannon, Patrick Shannon, and Michael Chapeskie. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren Tegan Smith, Ryder Smith, Liam Shannon, Danielle Shannon, and Raylan Shannon. In addition, he is survived by his nephew, Charles Bullen.

Allen will be remembered for his kindness, strength, and the love he shared with those around him. His legacy lives on through his family, who will cherish his memory always.

The family will receive friends Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Allen Redmon.

Allen Redmon, age 90, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026. Born on August 11, 1935, he lived a full and meaningful life surrounded by family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Robert Redmon; his daughters, Allison Cooper and her husband Bill Cooper, and Deborah Chapeskie and her husband Leo Chapeskie. He was a proud grandfather to Angie Chapeskie, Ashleigh Cooper,

John Thomas Hall (Little Bear)



He loved making Indian dream catchers and Indian jewelry. Anyone that knew him was well aware of his love for CB-ing and junking. He loved to strip for copper and hang out at the dumpsters with his friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Fay Hall, and aunts Bernice Ritchey and Lucille Branin.

Mr. John Thomas Hall (Little Bear) passed away on April 9, 2026 at his home. He always had a smile and a kind word for everyone he came in contact with. His friends meant everything to him and he would do anything he could to help you.

Little Bear was devoted to his church and was a longtime member of the Lancing Presbyterian Church, which he attended weekly. He also helped deliver meals for the church's food ministry.

Little Bear was a member of the "Over the Hill Nation" Cherokee Tribe (Long Hair Clan).

He will be missed by his church family. Best friends Mike Byrd, Debra and Casey Gorsuch, Matilda and Grace, Monica and Shelly, all the guys at the dump sites, best CB buddy "Witch Doctor" Richard Marcum, and lifelong friend, Mary Martha Pemberton.

As John would say to everyone he met when he left was, "God Bless".

There will be a graveside service on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 3pm at the Forrestner Cemetery, Lancing.



Historically Speaking

Teach It, Tell It, Read It: A Teacher's Legacy Lives On

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Steve Reddick is a retired Oak Ridge Social Studies teacher who has worked as a Holocaust educator at Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning and as a Teacher Fellow for the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and Facing History and Ourselves. He is also a member of the Mira Kimmelman Legacy Committee. Dr. Tess Lefmann was a student in his 8th grade American History class in the late 1990s. The following article is based on a 2022 email Tess wrote to Mira Kimmelman's sons, Benno and Gene, and an email interview with her old teacher.

You will learn from Steve's interview with the daughter of our well-known friends, Sheila and Jim Michel. I am proud to know them and count them as friends and volunteers in many endeavors in Oak Ridge.

Simply put, Oak Ridge Holocaust survivor Mira Kimmelman's testimony is still changing lives.

Just ask Dr. Tess Lefmann, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Mississippi.

Tess, the eldest daughter of Oak Ridge residents Sheila and Jim Michel, is a 2002 graduate of Oak Ridge High School. As a sixth-grade student in Martha Deaderick's Social Studies class at Jefferson Middle School, she sat spellbound in the darkened school auditorium as Mrs. Kimmelman described in detail her experiences surviving the grueling conditions in the deadly Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and her liberation from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April, 1945.

"This is not a happy or nice story, but it is the truth and it must be told," Kimmelman began.

"I was paralyzed in my seat listening as she spoke," Tess writes, "and after that day, my life changed. As a 12-year-old, I simply could not understand genocide and the roots of such evil. I wanted to understand why social injustices continued to exist in the present. Learning about the Holocaust became my route to figuring out the world and who I was in it.

"I read Mrs. Kimmelman's Echoes from the Holocaust memoir twice that year. I read Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl, Elie Wiesel's Night, and Viktor Frankl's Man's Search for Meaning. I was only twelve, but I was transfixed. I was impressionable, and Mrs. Kimmelman gave me a gift: she taught me to speak the truth, to be brave in the face of adversity, and to question my role in the world."

Tess recounted these experiences in a 2022 email that she sent to Mira Kimmelman's sons, Benno and Gene, following an Oak Ridger article by Kay Brookshire that described the newly created 'Mira Kimmelman: Learning from the Holocaust' contest which was established by her two sons after their mother's death in April 2019. Now in its fifth year, the 'Learning from the Holocaust' contest is open to public, private, and home school students at the middle and high school levels throughout Tennessee.

The contest is organized and administered by the Mira Kimmelman Legacy Committee, which consists of Benno and Gene Kimmelman, Oak Ridger Ronnie Bogard, and local Holocaust educators, including Dr. Julie Kinder-McMillan of Robertsville Middle School, Dr. Sheila Morton of Oak Ridge High School, and Darrell Schwartz of Roane County High School.

Mira Kimmelman's lessons continued to



Steve Reddick (Courtesy of Steve Reddick)

shape Tess's life after she graduated from Oak Ridge High School. "It was your mother's story that drove me to want better for our world," she wrote to Benno and Gene, "or at least be someone in it trying to chip away at some of the systemic injustices that lead to inequities. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I knew I was fascinated by the human spirit and all it is capable of. In college, I majored in psychology and minored in history. I took every WWII history course that was offered. My junior year, I spent a semester abroad in Italy. While there, I flew to Poland and spent four days walking the grounds of Auschwitz. It was a solitary and contemplative experience like few I have ever had.

"I wanted to go, not to understand, but to bear witness. I traveled alone, without any understanding of the language, written or spoken, so the trip unfolded in near silence, which felt fitting for the introspective nature of the trip. At Auschwitz, I joined a guided tour, but I remember almost none of what was said. The words couldn't compete with the weight of the place.

"What I remember most is the vastness of the place, the open land where so much was destroyed in an attempt to hide the crime. The emptiness itself speaks. So many lives passed through there, were reduced to numbers, and then extinguished. Standing there, I thought of Mira's time at Auschwitz and felt baffled by her story as only one. One life, fully lived, among millions of others just as complete.

"What stays with me are the objects, the ordinary things left behind in unimaginable quantity: silverware, shoes, and most of all, the human hair. Each strand once belonged to someone who brushed it, washed it, expected to keep living. The hair made the loss intimate, unbearable in its quietness. In those remnants, the vastness of Auschwitz narrowed into something painfully small and human.

"I left understanding that to bear witness is not to comprehend the whole, but to remember that every life there was complete, ordinary, and irreplaceable. It was an experience I will carry with me always."

Following her graduation from Duquesne University, Tess worked as a Residential Program Counselor for adolescent girls at Peninsula Village, before embarking on her graduate career in the College of Social Work at UT-Knoxville.

"One of the courses in my doctoral program was a Teaching Pedagogy class in which we were to design a course and create a syllabus. I designed mine around the implications of the Holocaust for social workers.

"Learning through survivors like Mira made me realize how critical it is for social workers to understand how helping professionals can



Dr. Tess Lefmann – daughter of Sheila and Jim Michel (Courtesy of Tess Lefmann)

become complicit in systemic harm when ethics are subordinated to policy or bureaucracy, and how moral courage can make a life-changing difference.

"So, I designed a course focused on connecting social work's core values (service, justice, dignity, relationships, integrity, and competence) to historical examples within the Holocaust...the purpose being to teach social workers how to recognize complicity, resist dehumanizing systems, respond ethically under pressure, and honor the dignity of vulnerable populations."

While working on the assignment, Tess spoke directly to Mira Kimmelman "for advice and to get her thoughts... she was incredibly generous with her time, her story, and her blessings. What I remember most was her remarkable willingness to help, seemingly at any cost. She was both a messenger and a catalyst for change, and speaking with her only reinforced that in my mind.

"I remember effusively praising how wonderful I thought she was, and she seemed completely uninterested in flattery. She was on the phone for a purpose, and that was not it! That honesty and focus felt so real, just as she had always seemed, and it left a lasting impression on me."

Mrs. Kimmelman's focus on understanding and fighting injustice and inequities directly shaped Tess's doctoral research on the "Effects of Prenatal Stress and Poverty on Fetal Growth." While at UT, she also completed a fellowship with the Urban Child Institute in Memphis that focused on conditions affecting neurocognitive development and learning in early childhood.

Known affectionately to her students as "Dr. Tess," she began teaching at Ole Miss in 2015, where she is a popular professor who has taught courses in the Department of Social Work and across several other departments. Along the way, she has created three courses of her own: "Foundations in Maternal and Child Health," "The Social Construction of Motherhood," and "Below the Line: Perceptions of Poverty."

On February 20 of this year, Tess was a featured speaker on a soon-to-be released TedX program on which she discussed, 'Why Environment Matters More Than You Think.'

Tess's ongoing investigative research focuses on the "social determinants of health that impact disparities along the reproductive-perinatal continuum...(including) early childhood development, breastfeeding, and access to reproductive health care." This research regularly takes her beyond the classroom into community health centers in the Mississippi Delta region and

- Continued on Page 8

Historically Speaking Teach It, Tell It, Read It: A Teacher's Legacy Lives On

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

other rural areas, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Jackson, Mississippi. In each setting, she focuses on encouraging, supporting, and educating young mothers in pre- and post-natal topics such as blood pressure monitoring, healthy nutrition and cooking, and breastfeeding.

Equally important is Tess's other social justice work outside the classroom. She serves as a Confidential Advocate for the university's Office of Confidential Advocacy, Support, and Education. In that role, she supports students "in the crises that follow interpersonal violence of varying kinds (e.g., during evidence collection at the hospital, statements given to university or community investigators, relocation to safe housing, filing charges in court, etc.), and to ensure that they are protected throughout under Title IX."

Tess says that this work "feels relevant and meaningfully connected to my role as a social worker and my desire to create more equitable spaces to support wellbeing." She also serves on the executive committee of the local chapter of United Campus Workers of Mississippi, a "wall-to-wall union currently focused on ensuring that all workers have a living wage and fair housing." In recent years, her advocacy work has led to her involvement in political campaigns to elect officials with a social justice focus.

When asked about the challenges of teaching at a university in today's political climate, Tess writes, "Being in the poorest state in the union, among the highest proportion of African Americans, with a pervasive reminder of our sordid past in current culture and legislation, I have grown as a social worker and become more fervently committed to social justice initiatives... As an accredited social work program, we are required to teach certain competencies that have allowed me to speak to things that might otherwise be seen as questionable and/or silenced. I would be lying if I was to say I haven't been afraid and uncertain many times, but I continue to find goodness where there's dark and that's what I choose to hold on to."

"What keeps me motivated is a deep belief in humanity and in the idea that good ultimately triumphs, even when the path feels long and uneven. Mississippi so often receives a bad rap in the press and in popular narratives, yet it is an incredibly resilient place, full of people quietly and persistently working toward something better. There is a profound strength here; so much care, creativity, and commitment happening in communities that rarely receive recognition. We have our battles, absolutely, but we also have real wins, and those deserve to be named and celebrated."

"I find daily motivation in my students, who continue to surprise me with their willing-

ness to sit with discomfort, ask hard questions, and imagine alternatives to the world as it is."

Tess's greatest motivation lies in her two young children: "I teach them the same things that Mira Kimmelman instilled in me: to speak the truth, to be brave in the face of adversity, and to question their role in the world. (They) remind me that the next generation not only wants better and more but is prepared to work for it with honesty and courage."

Coming full circle back to that darkened auditorium at Jefferson Middle School and Mira's

indifference—all characteristics that know no bounds. These traits spread like wildfire. If we remain indifferent to human suffering, it can happen again; it can happen here, and who knows who the next victims will be? Only by remembering the bitter lesson of Hitler's legacy can we hope it will never be repeated. Teach it, tell it, read it."

Thank you, Tess, for doing exactly that.

Afterword: The history and implications of the Holocaust are currently taught at Oak Ridge High School, Roane County High School,



Tess giving her TedX talk (Courtesy of Tess Lefmann)

Kimmelman's impact on her, Tess says, "I often hear Mira's voice in my head and heart, especially in moments when I need to act with honesty and courage. I think of the way she stood before my 6th grade class and shared the most intimate, harrowing details of her life during the Holocaust. We, as young adolescents, developmentally wired to squirm, joke, and tune out, were compelled to listen because of the raw honesty and intentional framing of her words. She entrusted us with the hardest parts of her life so that we could become more compassionate, more aware, and more willing to act. That example has never left me."

"In my own classroom, when I teach about the stark realities of health disparities and the systems that perpetuate them, I hear Mira's guidance: demand attention, hold space for discomfort, and invite transformation. I strive to embody her strength, ensuring that my students are not just listening, but truly ready to hear and to carry that understanding into action..."

"When I think of what must have sustained Mira, and so many others who endured the unimaginable, I am reminded that even in the darkest circumstances, people have found reasons to keep going, connections to one another, a sense of responsibility to the future, and the quiet insistence that life, dignity, and meaning still matter. That legacy challenges me to keep looking for what is life-giving, to keep showing up, and to believe that hope is not passive optimism, but an active, daily choice."

In both her professional and personal life, Tess Lefmann embodies Mira Kimmelman's parting words in "Echoes from the Holocaust: "The Holocaust is a lesson in human (and inhumane) history that took place because of hate, bigotry,

and other high schools across Tennessee in a state-approved elective called Holocaust and Human Behavior, a curriculum designed by Facing History and Ourselves. At the middle school level in Oak Ridge and elsewhere, the Holocaust is often introduced through novels and guided units in individual teachers' English Language Arts and Social Studies classes. Participants in the Mira Kimmelman 'Learning from the Holocaust' contest are often students in these classes. The contest is open to secondary-level public, private and home school students across the state. Contest information can be found at mklegacycontest@gmail.com.

Mira Kimmelman initiated a Holocaust Remembrance Program at the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR) for her students over 40 years ago. Her legacy continues in what is now a community-wide Holocaust Remembrance Program that will be held this year on Sunday, April 19th at 3 PM at JCOR, 101 W. Madison Lane, Oak Ridge.

Thanks, Steve! WOW, what a powerful testimony! You have captured the essence of what it means to really focus on the needs of youth at hand and by letting Tess express it so eloquently. Historically Speaking readers were given insight that otherwise might never have been available to them! The Holocaust was horrible and cannot be forgotten, else as Mira said, it could even happen again...and that must never be.

Romans 14



Melvin Howard

(Romans 14:1-12) helping those in the faith: this chapter is a complex segment of Scripture that frequently has been both misunderstood and abused. It confronts a variety of issues. The text arises out of a transitional era in religious history when many converts to Christ were passing from one divine system (the Mosaic regime) to another (the Christian age).

Because of the diverse backgrounds, religious and cultural, of both Jews and Gentiles, many problems arose that threatened the unity of the body of the church. A number of principles, therefore, are set forth that, if pursued conscientiously, would help ameliorate this potentially explosive situation.

This segment deals with relationships between the “weak” (v. 1) and the “strong” (15:1). The weak are those who have a lesser level of spiritual knowledge; the stronger are those more mature in the faith. The weak have not yet discerned the difference between expediencies and doctrine, and may be inclined to be argumentative. Patience is to be exercised with the weak as they learn, but they must not be allowed to take control to the disruption of Christian unity.

For example, weak brothers of a Hebrew background may have entertained certain dietary scruples that compelled them to abstain from certain foods (v. 2; Lev. 11; 1 Cor. 8). Some doubtless had not learned that all meats were permissible under the new covenant (Mk. 7:9; Acts 10:9-16; 1 Tim. 4:3). The brothers were encouraged to not be harsh with this immaturity, but help these saints grow in knowledge; do not force them to go against their convictions in optional matters. Those who conscientiously abstain from certain foods are admonished not to censure those who do not. Each will give account to the Lord (v. 3-4). One must guard the sensitivity of his conscience and be “assured” in his own mind of what he does (v. 5). Both the weak and strong are trying to please God (v. 6). No person can live recklessly, just as he wants, without taking others into consideration; ultimately, we must strive to please the Lord foremost. Since all Christians belong to him, we must keep that in mind as we deal with each other (v. 7-8). The fact that Christ is said to be “Lord” of the dead as well as the living reveals” (a) the dead are not nonexistent; (b) they are conscious.

Christ’s authority over us is grounded in the fact that he died and was raised (v.9). It is a shameful thing indeed that brothers would reject one another over inconsequential matters. Do we not realize that all of us will stand before God in judgment (v. 10)? As Isaiah wrote, at the judgment seat of God all will bow before him, confess him, and give account of his own earthly conduct (v.11-12). The type of issues that should not divide are not fundamental doctrinal matters---immorality (1 Cor. 5:1), heresy (Tit. 3:10), or corruption of worship (Col. 2:23)---but permissible options.

(Romans 14:13-23) the value of the conscience: harsh judging must stop, for it may be the cause of someone falling away from the faith. Paul knew that no meat was unclean intrinsically, but it could become “unclean” if one violated his conscience by eating what he believed was sinful (v. 13-14). If the stronger flagrantly offends the weaker, he is not acting in love. He could destroy him for whom Christ died (v. 15). Two important points here: (a) A child of God can be “destroyed” (Mt. 10:28; 2 Thes. 1:9). (b) Christ died, not just for the masses, but for the solitary brother as well. O the value of a soul! The strong must try to act in a prudent manner so as not to invoke the criticism of the weak (v. 16).

Issues regarding eating and drinking pale into insignificance when one considers more exalted concepts, righteousness (3:21), peace (5:1) and joy in the Holy Spirit (5:5; Gal. 5:22-23). Those who focus on these matters will win the approval of both God

and man. Let us then persistently pursue these exalted themes, for they will produce peace among brothers and the building-up of faith (v. 18-19).

If one flaunts his eating of meat and “overthrows” (v:15) the faith of his brother, he has overthrown “the work of God.” How terrible! All meats are clean, but to indulge in an environment where the weak are present, knowing it could bring offense, is evil (v. 20). One should be careful in whatever he does, eating meat or drinking wine, so as not to cause the weak to stumble. The person is happy (blessed) who does not condemn himself by the improper use of his liberty (v. 22). The person who deliberately violates his own conscience is sinning and will be condemned. The conscience (equivalent to the soul) is one’s most valuable treasure; it must be carefully guarded. It hardens with abuse (Jn. 12:37-40; 1 Tim. 4:2).

1 Tim. 5 verse twenty-three pertains to a matter relating to Timothy personally. The young evangelist had a persistently troubling stomach ailment, likely due to the commonly recognized bad water in Ephesus. One remedy for such was to mix “a little wine” with the eater to purify it. Perhaps fearing unjust criticism, Timothy had refrained from the procedure and was suffering the consequence; such jeopardized his work. Hence, Paul encouraged him to stop drinking the water in its polluted form. Instead, mix a little wine with it for his stomach’s sake and this oft-occurring illness. The water-wine prescription was a well-known medical remedy, and not an invitation to participate in the regular afternoon “happy hour.”

An identifying mark of God’s people is how they live. This was one of the main points in early Christian apologetics. Jesus put the matter incisively in John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” The point is probably not so much that conduct proves that one is a disciple as that conduct is a witness to Christ. The truth claims of Christianity are seriously damaged when Christians do not live as Christians. Ultimately, truth must be judged on other grounds, but an important indication of whether something is true is what results from its practice: “By their fruits you will know them” (Matt. 7:20) applies to ideas as well as to people. The failure of Christians to live up to their teachings is a serious matter but does not invalidate the faith they profess. The value of high standards is in part precisely that they are just beyond the grasp: this gives an ideal toward which to reach and by which to judge endeavors.

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