

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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CHRISTIAN GIVING

Bro. Fred E. Grimm

(Reprinted from the October, 1947, issue of the Silver Lining)

Even with all the teachings in the Bible concerning the subject of Christian giving, it is one that is passed by too lightly by a majority of God's people. Considering the fact that great blessings are promised if God's Word is adhered to, let us see what He wishes to teach us about giving.

First of all, we are no longer under the law (of Moses) which demanded a certain amount to be given. What, then, does the Bible teach that applies to us in the Dispensation of Grace? In searching the scriptures, we find numerous passages on this subject, but space would not permit referring to all. The following instruction was given by the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." 1st Corinthians 16:2. Most of God's people keep books to a greater or lesser extent or know within reasonable measure to what extent "God hath prospered him." But we ask, "What portion of our income shall we give to the Lord?" This the Lord has left for us to decide for ourselves. We read further, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:6, 7. It would be in God's power to force us to serve Him in everything and especially in giving Him a portion of our income; but we see plainly that it must be voluntary on our part. In the Old Testament days, a tenth, or tithe, was required as a minimum. Ought we to give less? Let us make up

our minds whether we want to give that much, or more, or less: remembering to give our gifts cheerfully and not grudgingly. God is a God of order and we should do this as orderly as possible.

What a blessing there is in giving! Christ taught that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Who is there who has ever given cheerfully to some one in need or to the Lord's work for spreading the gospel who has not been richly blessed? Let us not give with the idea that God will always reward us with material gain, but rather give in the spirit of love toward God and our fellow men. And, yet, we can read in the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, verse 10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Our Lord, in a sermon, taught the following: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38.

The question sometimes arises as to where the money should be given. There are always regular needs in the church. If everyone would give as the Lord has prospered him, the problem of raising money would be more easily solved.

There are two great present day needs for funds. Let us consider the distress among those of like faith. If we would realize in a small way what suffering is the

lot of many of God's true followers, we would look with shame upon the small gifts we have given. No doubt they and we often wonder why God seemingly has forsaken them. Could it not be that He is trying us to see if we will give a part of the bountiful blessing He has bestowed on us? Many prayers are offered for those unfortunate ones, but what are we doing to help God answer our prayers? The story is told of a small boy who had often heard his father, a rich farmer, pray for the poor, but he never saw his father giving anything to help them. One day, after the father had again earnestly prayed for the poor, the small son said, "Father, I wish I had your corn crib." "Why?" asked the father. "I'd help the Lord answer your prayers," answered the child. What a rebuke! Do not many of us need such a rebuke?

The other great present day need is the spreading of God's Word. God has never changed His command given to His disciples when He told them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." We have an avenue opened to us in purchasing Bibles, or portions thereof, in foreign languages where God's word is little known. Will we do our part to furnish the gospel to as many people as possible? Not many can go, but practically all can give. Will we be unaccountable if we have not done all in our power?

Perhaps other avenues will open for us to help spread God's word as the last days are approaching and the Lord's second coming is nearing. We all need to pray, but funds are needed as well. Let us examine ourselves in the light of the scriptures to see if we are doing our part.

THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY

By S. H. Froelich

(1 Corinthians 13)

IN THIS thirteenth chapter of the First Corinthians the apostle Paul teaches us what is greatest of all gifts: Love. He says, "If I can speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a blaring trumpet or a clanging cymbal." Where love is lacking, there is no life; and therefore, even though someone would speak with the tongues of angels, and yet would not have love, his speech would be of no benefit either to him or to his hearers.

A musical instrument has no life and can bring forth no note until a person blows life into it; and as enchanting as the tones may be for the moment, so quickly are they again silent. It is the same way with false speakers. All their most finished words leave no life behind them. For if I had all knowledge and all faith, yes, and know all mysteries, I would be of no help to the church if I did not have love.

Much knowledge puffs up; and when love is lacking, pride easily results. It is, therefore, dangerous to have much knowledge with little love. Even though knowledge is very valuable for those who teach—yes, they should pray for it—yet it may become just so useless without love, for only love builds.

In regard to faith: All who would be converted must believe, but not all must have the faith which moves mountains. There is a difference between these two kinds of faith. The first must be had by all who would be converted, and this is called saving faith. The faith which moves mountains is possessed by few, and is called the miracle working faith.

"Though I give all my goods to the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, it profits me nothing." People's purposes, even though they think to do good, are often not the fruits of love. Often the motive is to win praise or honor or is the expectation of working out their salvation. The reward, however, in that case is lost, for true love is not the motive force. Even believers shall carefully examine themselves to see whether what they do is done from pure love so that self-love or the desire for honor is not mixed with it.

For where the inner man is not wholly permeated by the love of God—which comes from God and which God Himself is—we cannot do anything in true love. It is really remarkable, and yet it is true, that a person might give his body up to be burned without having the true love of God. For many martyrs have died in whom there was no pure love, even though they believed to have offered their bodies for Christ's sake.

There are animals who in spite of their lack of understanding put people to shame by their loyalty. For example, the story is told of a lion who was rescued from a snake by a man who had joined in one of the Crusades. The lion became so attached to the benefactor that he absolutely did not want to be separated from the man any more. It happened that on his return trip the man had to board a ship on which he did not have permission to take the lion, and so had to leave him behind. The lion then jumped into the water and attempted to swim after the ship, but he was drowned. Does this act not

shame unconverted people? For where are two on earth who love each other so sincerely?

Love is the foundation of the kingdom of God. Who continues in love, continues in God and God continues in him.

Faith, hope, and love are the threefold cord that is not easily torn. And God draws us by the cord! The more that we free ourselves from the world, the nearer do we come to Him, and are between heaven and earth as was Jesus on the cross. The higher that we are drawn from the earth, the more are we able to see into the mysteries of God. If we so occupy ourselves with godly things, in quiet fellowship with God, we become more and more familiar with that which is of heaven and always nearer to that which God has planned for us to be! Yet we wait, though as not yet unveiled, until the Lord comes with all His saints to redeem us. Then will He give the crown of life to each of His faithful ones!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

The Word of God, which is God, says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14. In verse 9 the Word tells, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none

CHILDREN'S HOME ANNUAL SALE

SEPTEMBER 16 — 9:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to come and be with us. We would appreciate hearing from you if you will be staying for the weekend.

Please feel free to come, and, if you like, bring your campers. There are places for hook-ups.

We are planning to have many articles for sale and hope that this will be a weekend of Christian Fellowship for many in Leo.

If you have articles to donate—quilts, antiques, crafts, plants, etc.—please send or bring them to the Home as soon as possible.

Notice that the date has been changed from Sept. 9 to Sept. 16.

THE SILVER LINING

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of his." The presence of the Holy Spirit in our heart and the necessity for us to allow Him to lead us is so paramount that without that, no matter what else we do, we are not considered children in God's sight. It is no wonder that the Lord Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for putting too much emphasis on the lesser things, when He said that they ought to have been concerned with the more important things, judgment, mercy, faith and the love of God. Matt. 23:23 and Luke 11:42. Jesus knew and taught that being subject to His Spirit should be put first, before anything else, in the lives of his followers.

I write this as an admonition for myself and also as an exhortation to all of us who believe that we are God's children. We have a definite need at our Children's Home for a couple to be houseparents and a brother to be an administrator. We believe that this project is God's will, as we know through experience how God has led us here and has worked since its beginning. We also believe that He is trying to lead someone else to take up this work. If anyone feels God's Holy Spirit leading him here, please believe and follow. Our dear Savior said, "... the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest," Luke 10:2. The Lord has always used people to do His work even though He doesn't need them (we need Him). But He wants His people to do His work and has commanded us to do it. If His disciples had been told to be silent, the Lord said that "the stones would cry out." Luke 19:40 Let us not be so against letting God lead us to do His work that we would make Him resort to using stones in our place.

We have six children in our home in addition to our own two little girls. Jerry and Rhonda are scheduled to return from their stay with a relative on Aug. 1.

We have appreciated all those who have been with us this summer to help share the load, and will continue to appreciate any others. Please call if you have an interest.

The Quilt Sale date has been changed from the 9th to the 16th of September. Our children are working in the ceramics room to make and decorate pieces to be sold at the sale. We also need your contributions of quilts and crafts.

May the Lord be with all of us and awake us in Spirit and Truth in these days of materialism and apathy. We should put Him first and love Him with all our soul, heart, mind and strength.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."

The author, Dickens, also revered the beauty of nature. At one time he stated, "Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress."

Our residents, too, enjoy the beauty around us. Very recently, one made the remark, "I like this Home. It's pretty." Remarks like this indicate genuine gratitude to all who have so kindly helped us in any way in the past and who continue to do so. Your reward will indeed be according to the riches of the Heavenly Father. Helen Steiner Rice must have known people like our benefactors when she wrote the following poem:

So let us give "ourselves" away,
Not just today but every day.
And remember a kind and thoughtful deed
Or a hand outstretched in time of need
Is the rarest of gifts, for it is a part
Not of the purse but of a loving heart.
And he who gives of himself will find
True joy of heart and peace of mind.

Anna Eberhard, one of our new residents, is the daughter of Anton and Hattie (Rieman) Eberhard. Anton was born in Switzerland, and Hattie was from Fairbury, Illinois. Ann has one sister, Mrs. Leona Messner, of Phoenix, Arizona. Her favorite pastime is writing letters and crocheting. Among her favorite foods are ice cream and coffee. Birthday time for Ann is Mar. 12. We look forward to happy days ahead with Ann.

Since the latest writing, two

more residents have come to make this their home. Kathryn Knapp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everitt Knapp of Carterville, Missouri, and Keith Weyeneth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Weyeneth of Metamora, Illinois.

Progress has been made on construction of new office and conference room space, adjacent to the present office. The old conference room space will be needed for additional laundry room in the future.

Summer is waning, and with that we like to begin thinking of fall schedules. Perhaps a reminder about our annual Benefit Day in November would be welcome. Your contributions for that event, as well as for our Gift Shop which is open all during the year, are needed.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Hazel Vibbert

We had a wonderful week of meetings from June 26 through June 30. Sis. Cathy Kelly and Bro. John Bolin were married by Bro. Levoyd Moore. She is the daughter of Bro. (and Sis.) Wilfred Kelly. Sis. Judy Haggemaker and Bro. David Haggemaker were married by Bro. Levoyd Moore. Bro. David Bertsch and John Wagler assisted. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Carl Haggemaker. We had many visitors for the weddings and we wish those who were married long and happy Christian lives together.

We have had many in the hospital. The following are home: Sis. Mary Tucker, Dewey Perry, and Penny Vibbert. Sis. Ora Massey, Avie Allen, and Sis. Louise Hall remain in the hospital at this writing.

Jeff Moore and Judy Haggemaker graduated from high school. Jeff had a perfect attendance record for all twelve years.

ALABAMA, LANDERSVILLE

Lynn Klopfenstein

The fellowship of God's children was blessed in a special manner as Bro. John Wagler and Elder Bro. David Bertsch conducted a communion service. The reality of our salvation was once again brought into focus.

Hospitalized include: Sis. Judy Lou Allen, Vernon Harville, Louise Lou Allen; Bro. Grady Berryman, Titus Dotson and Ira Albred.

We are always thankful for visitors and extend a cordial invitation to our brethren across the land to plan a visit to

this area. There is a lot of history to re-live as well as Christian fellowship. Recent visitors include: Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig and their children, Fred & Becky, Altadena, Cal.; Bro. Lester and Sis. Dora Huber of Lexington, Ky.; Bro. Harold and Sis. Marge Zeltwanger and son, Todd, of Bremen, Ind.

The Sunday School enjoyed a picnic and fellowship recently in the nearby Bankhead Forest.

A new building is under construction for our elementary school. The Lord has blessed this ministry in a wonderful manner, and we thank Him for His Spirit and Will in this labor of love. The prayers of our brethren are needed as an effort is made to salvage lives from the snares of Satan. We are yet in need of two teachers. Any of our brothers or sisters who may be interested in a teaching position can write for additional details. School begins on Aug. 21. Much prayer is needed.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

July 15 and 16 was a joyous weekend as Jody Knochel and Steve Freed gave their testimonies and were baptized. Elder Bro. Joe Waibel came from Bay City to baptize his granddaughter, and Bro. Tom Freed and family flew from Indianapolis to witness Elder Bro. Richard Schubach baptize Steve. A delicious church supper and evening services with Bro. Ron Heininger (Bloomington) completed an especially happy weekend. Bro. Steve's parents are Bro. and Sis. Allan; Sis. Jody's parents are Bro. and Sis. Herb.

We have been blessed with many summer visitors and several ministers. Our thanks go to Bros. Tom Lehman (Elgin); Ron Heininger (Bloomington); Ron Steiner (Rittman); and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Joe Waibel (Bay City) for the many precious sermons. We would welcome your future visits.

Paul Doolittle was our surgery patient, and we ask your prayers for his recovery and comfort.

Sis. Ann Stortz who has worshipped with us while living with her sister Caroline Klaus Collins has gone to the Eureka Nursing Home. May the Lord be her Comforter.

A THOUGHT FROM A SERMON: God did not stay Abraham's

hand—He spoke to him. What if he had not been listening for that still small voice? Would we have the faith to take our small son for a sacrifice, and would we listen?

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Caroline Kaufman

We consider ourselves very fortunate to hear the precious words of visiting ministers. We thank Bro. John Kloetzle from Altadena and Bro. Tom Leman from Elgin, Ill., for sharing God's Word with us.

Through the majestic ways of our Lord, our prayers for another spiritual leader here in the valley were answered. Bro. Loren Knapp has felt the beckoning call of the Lord and the firm support of our congregation. His wife is Sis. Evelyn. Children still at home are Kathy, Cindy, Joy, and Lucy.

No miracle which shows the power and love of God is more visible than a baby. We, with great joy, welcome Douglas John to our small church. His parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Glo Bauer. He will have his home with Brad, Sis. Lisa, Steve, and Angie.

Temperatures are soaring here in the valley, accompanied by thunderstorms. Recorded highs are 106 degrees.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

There was reason for rejoicing at the presence of so many brethren who had come from various churches to worship here with us at Rockville. It would hardly be possible to explain to certain people the joy experienced within the beautiful fellowship and Christian love we have in our togetherness. Our visitors had come from Buffalo, Rittman, Iowa, Princeville, and other areas; all brought greetings from their respective churches.

The opening, or morning, hymns sung by the several hundreds of voices present were most "heavenly" if we may use that term; it is our custom here, as many of you know, prior to the ministers' entering the pulpit, to sing hymns for one half hour. It is generally agreed and voiced by so very many that this is a blessing in itself. I remember that Tillie Gudeman, a Sister at Cissna Park, Illinois, once said "If one misses the first hymn, they have missed the first blessing." I believe that nearly all of

us can come up with some of these quotations which we count as immortal.

The Sunday School children with their teachers, parents and others, had a very pleasant outing where all could enjoy good food and prepared beverages, etc. This is an annual event observed every year about this time.

We have two dear friends who were announced for baptism. They will give their testimonies later. Sermons by inspired brethren are most welcome, such as Bros. Simon Wagonbach and Earl Kilgus brought to us recently. Our Christian lifeline is comprised of love; we are repeatedly reminded of this from the pulpit and from the hymns written by inspired brethren and other believers. We often hear that our cup runneth over; we can attest to this since Bro. Bob Meyer of Bluffton was here on Sunday. We dare not say that anyone present was left out or neglected in his inspired message. The Word of God tells us what we have to do to reach that eternal home. We can clearly see what we must do to gain our salvation.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Louise Ella Akel

Surprise! Surprise! How nice to receive a pleasant surprise. We never know what is in store for us when we attend church on Sunday. Sometimes the Spirit of God surprises us with accuracy that no one could dream of when spoken through a dear brother while ministering chastisement, comfort, and guidance to the flock. How we need the precious Word of God to lead and direct us.

We were pleasantly surprised to have our Elder Bro. Joe Braker, wife, and family from Morton, Ill., in our midst.

Then came another pleasant surprise. It was announced that Sis. Brenda Beer (daughter of Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy) was engaged to Lynn Stoller (son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva from Leo, Ind.). Everybody expects a happy marriage when it is according to the Word and solemnized in the Lord, inviting Him as a special guest, Lord and Master of the new married life. We wish them much joy and happiness. It is nice to be in Florida, because we have many surprises related to our attendance. Sometimes, people from the sis-

ter church worship with us, as did a young newlywed couple from Canada. Here and there, we receive a sprinkling of visitors from throughout the United States. We are glad for their company, as we are a small group; and each one helps the attendance, especially in summer.

Our ministers and elders are truly brothers in faith laboring continuously in behalf of the flock. We give a big thank you to all the true servants of the Lord and to those who serve the Lord in the congregation.

Caroline is still in Budapest, Hungary, and does not expect to return until it is necessary to resume her teaching duties in North Miami.

SURPRISE

Not all surprises are delightful—
Like weather, they take a turn.
Some are complimentary,
While others cause concern.

Some are contagious
And bring a smile.
Some won't leave,
And linger awhile.

"I'm surprised she said this
And he said that."
How much we judge
From a little chat.

People love surprises
That bring a lot of cheer,
But we shouldn't be surprised
To know the Lord is dwelling here!
Louise Ella Akel

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kathryn Schroeder

II Timothy 2:19-21

"... the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour and some to dishonour.

"If a man purge himself from these (sins), he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

The Lord's minister, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, guided the young couple, Robert Little and Deborah

Siladie, into the holy bonds of matrimony last September; and now, June 4, he led them through their testimonies into the baptismal waters in the culmination of God's intent. The beloved congregation rejoices in the knowledge that Bro. Rob and Sis. Debbie are well prepared to meet the vicissitudes of this earthly life.

Our dear Emma Lach, who has worshipped with the congregation of the Apostolic Christian Church for several years, became a member, June 4, by her testimony and expressed desire; and with joy we call her Sister as we long have perceived her to be.

A church supper was served to all after the testimonies were completed; this was followed by the baptismal rites.

Wed. evening, June 7, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach served holy communion to brethren who had been unable to attend our earlier service.

We said a fond farewell to our beloved Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach with a prayer of hope in our hearts for the season of their return.

Our minister, Bro. Phil Wingeir, left here June 30, for Alto, Michigan, to visit his daughter and family, Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman. He was absent from the pulpit the first three Sundays in July.

July 2, with appreciation our congregation heard two sermons of deep perception given to us by Bro. Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale.

We welcome the family of Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Rocke to our community of permanent residents. The first of the year they moved from Tremont, Ill., to 2203 River Ridge Dr. Their daughter Sharon is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan U., Bloomington, Ill., where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977. Sis. Diane graduated from the Tremont High School in June, 1978.

The latter part of June, Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Reiman visited their children in the North. They cherish the memory of having had a happy reunion with Mary's brother, Bro. Jim Weyeneth, in Roanoke, Ill., shortly before his death.

Sis. Elizabeth Knapp was in Cissna Park to attend the funeral of seven members of one family who lost their lives in a tragic car accident. Bro. Glen Egolf was Eliza-

beth's nephew from a previous marriage. The other father was Bro. Aaron Bauer. Deep sorrow was eased by the loving care given to the funeral arrangements.

This is in acknowledgement and appreciation of the work of Sis. Paulette Calame who generously & unselfishly added the task of reporting the May and June issues to her already full schedule.

INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Leman

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:2)

Many of us are finding that the way out of the circle of sin is through Jesus Christ. This past month two dear friends, Terri Meister and Pete Wood, have turned to the Lord and found perfect peace in God. We pray that they will follow the Holy Spirit and learn through the spirit and grow in the Spirit.

Bro. Henry Souder requested a special thank you be given to everyone who sent greeting cards to Sis. Leah for her birthday. Your love and thoughtfulness was well appreciated.

Since God forgives us, we too must foregive

And resolve to do better each day that we live

By constantly trying to be more like Him more nearly

And to trust in His wisdom and love Him more dearly.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Connie Troxel

Teresa Fiechter

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . . Psalm 127:3. Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp were blessed with a new daughter, Tiffani Ann. Phil and Cindy Hoover are the parents of Michael John. Rodney and Jean Reinhard are the first-time parents of Julie Marie. Sweet little Mary Jo has come to live with Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky Ringger.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Pam Yergler (Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene) was announced on July 9.

Sis. Sylvia Gerber (wife of Bro. Ervin) and Sis. Tillie Bahler are in the hospital, and we pray for

their recovery.

We want to give special thanks to everyone who visited us this month, especially visiting ministers Bro. Homer Reineck from Toledo, Bro. Rod Huber from Valparaiso, and Bro. Don Gudeman from La-Crosse.

In the month of July we naturally think of the Fourth, which is Independence Day. The following poem would be our prayer for America.

THANK GOD FOR AMERICA

Thank God for America,
The land of liberty;
Thank God for her People,
The strong, the brave, the free!
Dear God, save America,
For her we intercede;
Dear God make America
A Christian land indeed!

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein

Sharon Neihouser

We appreciate the visits of Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Virgil Metzger (Champaign), and Byron Stoller (Gridley) who brought us the Word of Life.

Our Sister, Ela Pelsy, passed away July 10 and funeral services were conducted on July 12. She leaves three sisters, Anna Gudeman, Sis. Ada Abersoll, and Josephine Gudeman, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. May God comfort them in the loss of their loved one.

Hospitalized this month were Fred Howat (husband of Sis. Carol), Sis. Barb Wuethrich, Bro. Phil Feldman, and Sis. Paulette Putt.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Evelyn Pelsy in the death of her father, Frank Lizenby.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Grace Heinold - Lois Bucher

On July 16 we enjoyed a blessed day when Bro. Henry Dotterer, Rittman, and Bro. Bruce Leman, Roanoke, were with us. We are thankful for their efforts and the many teachings given to us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Sam Clauss and Alice Heinold who are in the hospital. We are thankful that Bro. Richard Nuest has recovered from his surgery and is home again.

TODAY, TOMORROW AND ALWAYS HE IS THERE

In sickness or health,
In suffering and pain,
In storm-laden skies,
In sunshine and rain,
GOD ALWAYS IS THERE
To lighten your way
And lead you through "darkness"
To a much brighter day.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Al Frautschi

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Did you know that the Christian life is

A life of joy?
A life of peace?
A life of assurance?
A life of power?
A life of contentment?
A life of eternal duration?

Why not try it for yourself?

Spiritual blessings were brought through the ministry of visiting Bros. Dan Cook, Tremont, Ill., Loren Stoller, Latty, O., John Bahler, Rockville, Conn., Robert Meyer, Bluffton, and Edwin Bahler, Remington.

Several from our Leo congregation are on a European tour. They are: Velma Williams, Sisters Beth and Susan Stieglitz, Bro. Lester Pulver and son, Chris.

Bro. Gary Garman has been a patient in an Indianapolis hospital. Steve Stieglitz recently had surgery. Sis. Mina Bertsch has again been admitted to a nursing home.

We rejoice with Bro. Lynn Stoller (son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva Stoller) as his engagement for marriage to Sis. Brenda Beer (daughter of Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida) was announced.

There is a story told about a man who was blind but who, on dark nights when he was feeling his way along through the shadows, always carried a lantern. Someone asked him one night, "Why do you carry a lantern, sir? It does not help you for you cannot see anyway."

The answer came back quickly, "No, but others can, and I carry the lantern so they will not miss the way."

Even if the world is dark for you, you can make it bright for somebody else. ARE YOU LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OTHERS?

INDIANA, MILFORD Sandy Beer

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matt 21:22)

The key to prayer is faith. We can often learn from young children. A small boy in our Sunday School has been praying for a long time for a baby brother or sister. His parents recently told him that this will be so. They then overheard him saying his prayers as he was thanking God.

Surely the Lord wants to add children to His family. How we are fervently praying for new brothers and sisters! Just as this little boy thanked God for answering his prayers, we rejoice and thank Him for each child that is added to the fold.

We recently held funeral services for Wilbur Baumgartner. We extend our sympathy to his brother and sister, Bro. Ted and Sis. Edith of our congregation.

Spencer Martin (John and Leona) recently underwent ear surgery and is progressing well. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Martin.

As summer vacation time is here, we are enjoying many visitors who are greatly appreciated.

A special thank-you to Bro. Bob Beebe (Bremen) for coming and ministering to us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

Mildred Clauss

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die . . . (Ec. 3:1, 2)

This is the season and time we women are busy harvesting the fruit from our labors in our gardens earlier in the spring. As I was picking my raspberries the other day I thought how much we are like some of these things that grow. Not all the fruit is ripe at the same time. Each day we must go back and harvest that which has been ripened and matured by the heat of the sun and sometimes rain and storms. Berries, being only objects, do not know which ones will be ripe tomorrow. We are the same in God's sight. Only He knows when the storms of life and the sun's heat have ripened us and made us ready for Him to come and take us to Him.

Who of us on Wed. night July 12 at church could look across the congregation and know one of our dear brothers was almost ready for harvest.

The next morning, before most of us had had breakfast the sad news was spreading that our Bro. Marvin Clauss, 57, had been called Home before he arose from bed. He died from a massive heart attack.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Sis. Lorene (Lenhardt), two sons, Tom from Eureka and Rex from here, one grandson, his aged father, Bro. Alva (who gladly would have exchanged place with him, but that is not for us to choose), and two brothers, Bro. Robert and Paul. Funeral services were held Sunday, July 16 with Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Joshua Broquard conducting the services.

Bro. Marvin was always active and helpful in our church and will be greatly missed by all of us. We pray that God will be Sis. Lorene's constant companion, strength, and comfort in this time of deep sorrow.

She desires that we express her thanks to all who showed their expressions of sympathy.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gene Lehman of Wolcott and Kenneth Weirtz of Cissna Park.

Sis. Mary Schieler has been moved from Fairhaven in Fairbury to Parkview Home in Francesville.

Sis. Anna (Clauss) Stortz is now a resident of the home in Eureka.

Gabriel Adam was born to Sis. Diane and Bro. Phil Isabel June 20. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Marie Schieler.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marie Heinold

We are sorry for Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper who fell and broke her arm.

Ministering brethren Edward Frank and Arthur Gudeman favored us with visits this past month.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lam. 3:22 & 23.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-

Holly Stahl

Last week I was fortunate enough to be driving through the country just as the sun was beginning to set. As it sank lower in

the sky, I witnessed one of the most splendid sunsets I have ever seen. The sky was lit in shades of rose and gold from the East to the West and the warm light it cast on the earth set everything glowing. The whole scene demanded my attention so I stopped my car and soaked in the last rays. As I sat there, I thought as beautiful as creation is, it is only a reflection of our Supreme Creator. It was for His Glory that the sun colored the sky and my stopping to watch should only be to praise Him. My thoughts turned to a verse in Isaiah: "Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created these things..." I thanked God for giving us such beautiful reminders of Himself.

Later, I came across a poem that reminded me of that sunset once again:

"I need not shout my faith, Thrice eloquent
Are the quiet trees and the green listening sod;
Hushed are the stars, whose power is never spent;
The hills are mute: yet how they speak of God!"

Each of us should join the rest of creation and truly glorify our God!

We have been blessed by several visiting ministers in Bloomington: Harvey Grimm, from Bern, Ks.; Steve Rinckenberger from Cissna Park; Fred Knapp, of Congerville; and our elder brother, Dan Koch. Each visited and shared the Word with us.

We also are happy to congratulate Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb on the birth of their new son, Clint David, who was born July 2.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Jane Leman

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held in Princeton Park. New teachers elected for the coming year are Bro. Kenny Knapp and Sis. Charlene Dietz.

Surgical patients were Bro. Verle Kieser and Sis. Judy (Dave) Knobloch.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN URBANA

Charlen Banwart

Our New Student Welcome will be held Aug. 27. All new students at the University of Illinois, Parkland College, and other schools of higher learning in our area are invited to worship with us and attend

the mid-afternoon picnic. Anyone who would like more information or who needs a ride may contact Bro. David Wiegand or Bro. Clark Baurer.

"Jesus Christ is passing by, Sinner, lift to Him thine eyes; As the precious moments flee, Cry, be merciful to me!" (Gospel Hymns No. 620) This song was one of the hymns sung by the 375-voice combined choir at Youth Fellowship Day which was held at the Illinois State University Union in July. Several of our Bible Class students attended for the first time. The Godly teachings, beautiful singing, and Christian fellowship we enjoyed reminded us of the joys awaiting us in Heaven. We are thankful for the brethren who planned and carried out this event.

"Thy word, O Lord, forever is The mirror where we see Our faults and duties as they are Our likeness unto Thee." (Zion's Harp No. 142) Ministering Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Ken Schneider (Remington) brought God's word to us on Father's Day.

Our Sunday School picnic, which is to be held July 30, is to be followed by a Sunday School recess during the month of August. The Bible Class recently went on an overnight camping trip and were reminded of the uncertainty of life when they came upon a traffic accident in which there were at least two fatalities. May we live each day as we will wish to have lived when our life here on earth is ended.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Consider the hammer:

It keeps its head (temperance).
It doesn't fly off the handle (patience).
It keeps pounding away (perseverance).
It finds the point, then drives it home (seeks the truth).
It looks at the other side, too; and often clinches the matter (long-suffering).
It makes mistakes, but when it does, it starts all over (striving for perfection).
It is the knocker that does so.

Author Unknown

"... Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatso-

ever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things . . ." Philippians 4:8

Our welcome goes out to Sis. Melinda Knapp from the Cissna Park, IL, congregation and Vern Ramseyer of Bay City, MI, who are now living and working in the Chicago area. We pray that they will feel the same warmth, love, and blessings of the Lord that we ourselves felt when we came here.

Sis. Christina Fuhrmann has been hospitalized. In her physical, we wish her the Lord's supporting strength. Bro. Gottlieb Lehmann's sister recently died in Germany. Since then, Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Emily have gone to Germany to visit. Their earthly family circle being broken, we pray that the Lord will comfort them and provide balm for their wound.

How high are our sights, how contented our lot? De we realize our great calling?

"What are you doing?" a man asked of three laborers beside a building under construction.

The first replied, "Stone-cuttin'."

The second smiled, "Puttin' in time until a better job comes along."

The third man waited a moment and then said, simply, "I'm building a cathedral!"

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Knapp

Judy Bauer

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Carroll Gerber and Bro. Bob Beebe. We are so thankful for our ministers who bring us God's Word.

Sis. Ollie (Mrs. Ezra) Feller and Bro. Bob Kaufmann were surgical patients and have returned home. Grace (Mrs. Art) Laubscher is a hospital surgical patient.

Sophia Neukomm, 85, passed away July 10. Funeral services were held here with Bro. Ed Alt officiating. She is survived by three brothers, Louis, Joe, and Bro. Ben, all of Cissna Park. Burial was in our church cemetery.

It was announced that Joyce Young, daughter of Roland and Mary Young, found peace with God.

Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow. (Robert Louis Stevenson)

Our whole community was deep-

ly saddened when the news came to us of the tragedy that had occurred to our loved ones who were on vacation in California.

Words cannot express our sorrow at a time like this, but knowing that God knows best and never makes a mistake, we must take courage and go on.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Judy Wettstein

Gay Knapp

"Ready to suffer grief or pain,
Ready to stand the test, Ready to
stay at home and send others if
He sees best." (Hymns of Zion)
We hope our Bro. Richard Hasty
can feel this way as he recovers
from back surgery. He certainly
has suffered much.

Joan Miller (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Betty) married Richard McVey, Jr. (Mr. and Mrs. R. McVey, Sr., Monmouth, IL) on July 21. A reception was held for them at her parents' home on Aug. 4. We wish them much happiness.

LIKE LITTLE SHIPS

All of the good things that we do
Like little ships put out from shore
Hurry along before the waves
And then in a twinkling are seen
no more.

But who can tell how bravely they'll
sail
Or whether the way will be long or
short
And who can know in what happy
heart
An act of kindness will come to
port!

Jean Kyler McManus

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

On July 2, our church enjoyed the fellowship of many young believers from Sabetha, Fort Scott, Wichita, Junction, and Latty. What a special blessing when we are able to meet and greet one another in the Lord!

Bro. Joe Braker united Bro. Jon Roecke (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Opal) and Sis. Jolene Steffen (the late Bro. Elmer and Sis. Eleanor Steffen) in holy matrimony on July 9. Many visitors were here to witness their marriage and wish them God's blessings. Among those visitors were ministering Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton) and Willis Wiegand

(Congerville).

Sis. Lena Grimm (West Bend) remains hospitalized due to a fall July 8 at her daughter's (Sis. Eleanor Steffen) home. Bro. Gerald Kellenberger also remains hospitalized. May we remember them in our prayers so that Satan and his many hordes may not touch them in their hour of physical weakness.

We rejoice that Sis. Ida Steffen and Sis. Ida Moser, who both were hospitalized, have been discharged and are now convalescing in their homes.

David Zierke (grandson of Sis. Martha Zierke) was killed in a motorcycle accident on June 27. May God grant her and her family special grace and comfort in their sorrow.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and family in the death of Kay's father, Bro. Homer Polk, Detroit, July 11.

Other brethren who brought us many teachings from God's word this month were Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger (Pulaski), Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City). How strengthening to the spiritual man to so freely sit under the sound of the gospel.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

I felt you might be interestd in hearing a little of the feelings of some of our sisters who made a trip to Europe.

In Hungary, during the Fourth of July weekend, our thoughts often turned to our homeland, as five sisters and I were privileged to visit our brethren in Europe. The four days which we spent in a Communist-controlled country are ones we shall never forget. Their churches of faithful believers are truly an oasis in a desert.

From the moment we stepped off the train in Budapest to the tearful parting at the train window, we were overwhelmed by the deep Christian love they showed us. We were especially touched by the singing from the **Zion's Harps**; it was the most beautiful we have ever heard. It was quite humbling to see how the brethren and friends stand and sing for **hours**, seldom looking at their books, with little concern for personal comfort on a warm day in a crowded church. Young believers from surrounding

area churches came to the church in Ersekcsanad for services, and the aisles and foyer overflowed to the church yard! It made us sad to think of empty benches in our American churches.

At one singing there were visitors from Yugoslavia and Germany, and there was one brother from Rumania. We were singing the Zion's Harp songs in five different languages. Often we were unable to join in the singing because of the tears we shed as we witnessed the devotoin of these loving people and marvelled at the like-mindedness we found so far from home. Although unable to speak Hungarian, we were able to fellowship enough to compare our similar experiences in the Lord and feel that we were of one heart and mind. Our faith has been strengthened through this wonderful experience, as well as our appreciation to God for our freedom in America.

As we bade farewell to our dear sisters and brothers, we found new meaning in our hymn, "God be With You," as we sang it together. We truly realized the depth of the message in the chorus. "Till we meet at Jesus' feet." The Budapest and Ersekcsanad churches sent greetings to the brethren in America.

We hope and pray that the Hungarian government will continue to allow them the freedom to worship and that the brethren in other countries, where they are forbidden to worship, can feel strength through our prayers. They welcome visitors from America, as it is difficult for them to obtain permission to come and see us."

Contributed by Evelyn Blunier from Eureka

This little poem seems rather fitting.

GOD'S LOVE

We can only see a little of the ocean,
A few miles distant from the rocky shore;
But out there—beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon,
There's more—there's more.
We can only see a little of God's love,
A few rich treasures from His mighty store;
But out there—beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon
There's more—there's more!

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

With great joy we welcome several into the fold of Jesus Christ: Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber's children, Christa and Richard, and Richard's wife, Dawn; Bro. and Sis. Merle Kaisner's son, Donald; and Randy Steidinger. Their testimonies were all of God. Richard said he wanted to rear his children in a Christian home, as he was influenced in the Christian home in which he was raised. We praise the Lord for the effects of a good Christian home.

Our Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard has a new little grandson who was middle-named for him. Bro. Josh and Sis. Marie's daughter, Doris, and her husband, Larry Cottrell, named their new baby, Justin Joshua. Justin has a brother Troy. Other grandparents are the Clair Cottrells.

We are sorry for those hospitalized: Sis. Louise Furrer at Hope-dale, Sis. Ruth Walter, and Bro. Walter Moser.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger were blessed with a new baby boy, and they named him Timothy. Other children are Michael, Phillip, Joy, and Matthew. Grandparents are the Reuben Fehrs and Urban Steidingers.

Bros. Ed Frank and Earl Banwart brought us inspirational sermons.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Kathryn Steidinger

Beverly Eisenmann

God shared many precious teachings from His Word through visiting ministers: Bros. Virg Metzger (Urbana), Ben Manz (Junction), Merle Kaisner and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Earl Banwart (West Bend), and Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Bittman).

Three of our friends took important steps in their lives as they became married in July. May God be a welcome guest in each of their new homes. Karen Kupferschmid (Bro. Orville and Sis. Marlene) and Gary Moser are making their home in Fairbury, as are Sam Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean) and Sherrie Metz. Karen Schladenhauffen (Gene and Sis. Velma) and Rick Bauman are living at Pontiac.

Bro. Ed Bach is a hospital patient. We are thankful that Bro. Ray Wenger can be among us

again after a long hospital stay because of back surgery. He gives heartfelt thanks to all of his relatives and the brothers and sisters who remembered him so lovingly with cards, gifts, prayers, and many kind deeds during his illness and surgery. He prays that God will bless each one.

God's great power was manifest in the winds which hit our area one Sunday afternoon. A tornado destroyed the whole farm-place of Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Aberle and little son Jeff at Chatsworth. Sis. Connie was working at Fairview Haven and Bro. Doug and Jeff were able to leave with his father (Bro. Bill) before the storm hit. We are so thankful that no one was injured. They are thankful to God for His love and care and for the many loved ones who came to their aid in their time of need. They hope that God will bless and reward each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm

LIFE HAS MANY BLESSINGS
I've looked
and met with beauty all around me,
Listened
and heard Nature's special song,
Dreamed
and felt no limits ever bound me,
Shared
and found a journey half as long.
I've trusted and
discovered faith could guide me,
Tried
and seen it pays to do my best,
Loved
and had a loving friend beside me. . .
Each day I've lived,
I've learned how much I'm
blessed.

Amanda Bradley

On July 2, Bro. Donald Manz, Junction, Ohio, visited and brought God's Word to us clearly and plainly. We were reminded that in this busy world, it is necessary to "Make Time to Be Holy."

We had a very blessed Wednesday evening, July 5, when in a crowd of many witnesses, Dan Beutel (Bro. Al and Sis. Carol of Tremont) gave his testimony and told of the wonderful peace God gave him. He was baptized that evening and is now our brother in faith.

Sis. Helen Streit is wearing a cast on her left arm, having fallen from a ladder at home.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

"... That Christ's death and suffering be remembered. Faithfully for Him to stand." We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion when Elder Bro. Roy Sauder of Peoria came up on a Wednesday evening to assist Bro. Edwin. How good it is to be impressed often with the great price our Savior paid in our behalf.

Bro. Daryl Hodel was united in marriage with Sis. Debbie Leman of Roanoke.

Bro. David and Sis. Christine Zeller are the happy parents of a new son, Luke Aaron, who was born July 1. He has two brothers, Benjamin and Seth. Luke's grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hulda Meiss of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zeller of Morton.

Our hospital patients are Jake Ringger, his wife Barbara Ringger, Sis. Deanna Marti, Bro. Steve Stortz and Sis. Matilda Alt.

SUBMITTED BY BRO. CURT GRAMM (GRIDLEY)

"TRULY THE HARVEST IS GREAT, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW." Matt. 9:37 We have been called here on earth to serve our great God and help lost souls through repentance and baptism to a new life in abundance in Christ Jesus.

In our dear precious faith we have many churches and brethren around the world. Bro. Ben Gramm and I have been blessed by God and given the opportunity to visit our church in Japan. I had a desire to visit for some years, and when I asked Ben about it, we both prayed earnestly and found God's permission and blessing for our trip.

We left for a three week stay in Japan on Mar. 13. Our first week we spent with the brethren in our Tokyo congregation. I was greatly impressed by the abundant love which was shown to us. How often we hear over the pulpit that we can go from church to church and find the same mind and faith in all our brethren, and I found that to be very true, even half way around the world where brethren dwell in a culture which has chosen, primarily, to worship idols. But our churches there are a haven of rest

for soul weary people who wish to find and serve the only true and living God. We were taken to see things in Tokyo, but the time we spent in visiting and fellowshiping with these, our dear brothers and sisters, were the most precious of all.

We then went out to the country and visited there the remaining two weeks. As in Tokyo, we were welcomed with open arms in the love of Jesus. It was here in Shioda that we had our first Sunday worship service in Japan.

I felt very lost as the service was conducted in Japanese, but Bro. Willis Ehnle would stop occasionally to sum up, in English, what he had said. But none the less the love that was bestowed upon us was truly heartwarming. I found faith that was uplifting to me and courage to stand up for Jesus. I found a deep abiding love for these brothers and sisters in Japan. They will always be near to my heart, just because of the Christian love they gave me. One incident in particular will always stand out in my mind. For me this trip had some anxious moments. My father was near death, according to doctors, and a decision had to be made to go to Japan or to stay. After much prayer, our faith assured us that God would sustain him until I could return. On the first Sunday in Shioda, a dear older Japanese sister, who spoke little English, came to me bringing Bro. Willis as an interpreter. She told me that she believed it was important that we two young brothers came to Japan, and that she had been praying ever since she knew my father was sick and that we might not be able to come. She prayed the Lord would work it out that my father would be given life until I could visit Japan and return to be with my father. She believed God heard her prayers and had faith to believe it would be done. To have her express her faith to me in that manner, enabled me to have less anxious and concerned moments while in Japan. I was deeply touched by examples of faith and love shown to us by our brethren in Japan. My experience has opened my eyes to a better understanding and appreciation for our churches in Japan. It is my desire to share this experience with our churches in America. It is important that we remember our brothers across the ocean. We

need prayers; so do they. We should remember our churches in Japan and pray that they, too, will be able to withstand the fiery darts of Satan and grow in faith and numbers in our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For those churches or groups who would be more interested in hearing of our experiences and finding out more about our churches in Japan, please contact me by mail or phone: R.R. 2, Box B7, Gridley, Ill. 61744—Phone 309-747-2339.

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Deanna Marti

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) As the world around us is becoming darker, how much brighter our light will shine if we stay connected with our Divine Power Source. Prayer, reading the Word, and fellowshiping with the saints are the three ways to strengthen this connection.

We thank our many visitors that come and fellowship, and our brothers who share the Word. This month we were fortunate to have with us Bro. Joe Schrock, Congerville; Bro. Art Bahler, Fairbury; and Bro. Bob Pohl, Burlington.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

The marriage vows be blest,
Uniting heart to heart
Of son and daughter whom we love;
Thy grace to them impart.

Henry Beer

On July 2 Sis. Susan Hoerr and Bro. Paul Plattner were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and Bro. Jake and Sis. Bernice Plattner of Morton. Sis. Jody Waibel and Bro. Jack Hoerr said their wedding vows to each other on July 16. Their parents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr. We wish them much happiness and may their love continue to grow.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister became the happy grandparents of Shane Leon. His parents are Leon and Ellen Robison.

The Peoria congregation was privileged to have two visiting ministers. On July 2, Bro. Floyd

Schmidgall from Morris and Bro. Joe Zimmerman from Morton were here.

This month Sis. Carol Rieker, Sis. Carrie Stiegele, and Bro. Will Perdelwitz were hospital patients. We hope they regain their strength soon.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

"In the days of sunshine so live that in the days of rain you will still be happy." Author Unknown

On July 9 we were blessed with many teachings which freely flowed from the lips of our guest minister, Bro. Kenny Knapp of Taylor, Missouri. We were warned to beware of justifying ourselves, as one of the present day stumbling blocks is the idol of justification. Our forefathers built their faith on hard work and trust in God. We should be overcomers and fill ourselves with the living water only our Lord can give. He told the woman at the well about it; and we, too, can be recipients of this living water, if we but ask.

Our thoughts have wandered at times to those who were gathered in Bloomington for Youth Fellowship Day. Our prayers were that many of the tender young hearts would be touched with God's love and be drawn closer to Him. How the Lord and His angels must have rejoiced when the youth in a combined group, sang hymns of praise to His name.

We are thankful that three more young souls have repented and are now fully enjoying the blessings of God.

Sis. Judy Knobloch recently submitted to an appendectomy and is recovering at home. We are thankful to have Bro. Ervin Martin worship with us again. He was hospitalized with a heart attack. We are also thankful that Bro. Phillip Musseleman is able to be with us again after an absence of several months. We rejoice that our dear young convert, Rod Wagenbach, has been able to be in our midst the past few weeks. He was hospitalized for several weeks. We are thankful that our loving Lord hears the prayers of, stands by the side of, and restores the health of those who call upon Him.

"Prayer doesn't necessarily change things for you, but it changes you for things."

Author Unknown

Recently, one of our ministers said that God forms, sin deforms, and Jesus transforms.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

Look to this day! . . . For yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision . . .

The summer is passing so quickly and the crops are growing so fast. The corn is so tall and shooting ears, and the soybeans look very good. We are enjoying so many vegetables from the gardens. We truly have been richly blessed and thank our Lord who gives us all.

Many of our loved ones have been vacationing this summer. In a few days the eleven from our congregation will be returning home from the Heritage Tour in Europe and I'm sure they will have many interesting things to tell.

We appreciated having young folks with us from Bay City, Michigan and Gridley, Ill. recently. It is an inspiration to have the front benches filled with young folks who enjoy singing and take part in prayer. May the Lord bless them. We are told that God will not lead where Grace will not keep. It is up to us to abide in His love and follow His guiding.

We ask the Lord to bestow His blessings on Darrrell Wagenbach and Sis. Julie Hodel of Roanoke as they have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Betty Wagenbach and Ed and Helen Hodel.

First-time parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann Endress, whose son, Clint Anthony, was born July 25. Grandparents are Sis. Mildred Endress and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum of Forrest. He has a great-grandfather Metz also.

Bro. Sam Martin was involved in a very serious accident when he was pinned between a tractor and the bucket attached. He was able to pull the lever to free himself but it fell the second time. Then he got free and had to lay on the ground for 15 minutes before help came. He had several fractures: three vertebra, pelvic has three fractures and his tailbone. He was badly bruised but luckily not injured internally. He is in traction and will need to be for at least eight weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with him during these trying times for him and his wife, Sis. Mary, and two little children.

We are thankful he wasn't more seriously injured and feel his guardian angel was there with him.

Many gathered at Jubilee Park Sunday, July 30, to take part with children and teachers for the Sunday School Picnic. It was cloudy most of the day but late afternoon cleared and was a beautiful evening. There will be no Sunday School during the month of August.

Rodney Wagenbach wishes to thank everyone who so kindly remembered him with prayers, gifts, cards, and visits during his illness in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless those who give without remembering, and those who take without forgetting.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder · Mae K. Hodel

My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
My allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or
late.

Tarry not it will not wait!

Bro. Jim Weyeneth often gave the number 253 from the **Zion's Harp** at the close of our services. It was sung at his funeral service. He passed away at the age of 85 and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sis. Laura; two daughters, Sis. Marilyn and Sis. Dorothy (John) Hoerr; and two sons, Bro. Melvin and Donald. Bro. Jim was well acquainted with the songs in the **Zion's Harp** and the **Hymns of Zion**. At the close of the services, he would often announce a hymn and the verses would correlate with the sermon we had just heard. His family wishes that God will bless each one for the love, kindness, and sympathy shown to them.

Sis. Deborah Leman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Daryl Hodel (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean) of Gridley were united in holy marriage on July 9. May God's love fill their heart and home.

Sis. Peggy Zimmerman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Helen) and Bro. Tim Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara) have announced their engagement. They plan an October Wedding.

Bro. William Hodel and Bro. Jim Byrd are our new ministers. May God richly endow them with His Holy Spirit and grace to meet their every need.

Ye messengers of peace shall bring
The glorious gospel of the King
To men in accents truthful.
How great your blest reward shall
be
When Jesus Christ, the Lord, will
see

That you were true and faithful!
Every brother who such mission
And position Has been granted
Shall be to the end undaunted.
(Zion's Harp, 210)

Visiting ministers this month
were Elder Bros. Leroy Huber and
Edwin Ringger, Bros. Jim Hoerr
(Peoria), Walt Anliker (Eureka),
and Elmer Witzig (Gridley). May
God bless them for their labors of
love.

Sis. Emma (Alvin) Hodel is re-
ceiving therapy at Forrest Park.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi

Thou hast given us so much,
dear Lord; Give one thing more—
a grateful heart.

Author Unknown

We are glad that Sis. Hanna
Koch can assemble with us again
after being confined to her home
with muscular rheumatism. Bro.
Robert Frank injured his arm
while at work. We're thankful that
it is healing and that he is hopeful
of going back to work soon. We
pray for them and ask that God's
blessings will be upon them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Diggelman,
Bloomington, IL, announce the en-
gagement of their daughter, Sis.
Malinda Sue Meece to Bro. David
L. Aberle, son of Bro. Walter and
Sis. Vera, Tremont, IL. We wish
them much grace and the Lord's
guidance as they plan their wedding
on Oct. 8.

Our sympathy is with the fam-
ily of Eli Bolliger who was taken
out of this life instantly on July 3
at the age of 56.

In our fellowship hall on the
evening of July 13, Bros. Ben and
Curt Gramm showed their slides
of their visit to Japan. We truly en-
joyed the beautiful scenery and
the short visit with our dear ones
in Japan. The brothers reminded
us to always remember our breth-
ren in Japan in our prayers, as we
need one another's prayers.

Convert Danny Beutel, son of
Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol, was bap-
tized at the Goodfield Church on
July 5. We wish him God's grace,
peace, and love. Bro. Danny and

Janet were blessed with a sweet
baby girl, Heather Renee', on June
8. Fond grandparents are Bro.
Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel, Tre-
mont, and Harold and Loretta
Wettstein, Eureka.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

Linda Ziegenhorn

July is a month for vacations.
Everyone seems to be away and
we've had a lot of visitors. We
must remember to keep the Lord
in our vacation plans, for we need
Him always.

Once again, we want to thank all
the visiting ministers who have
come to share God's Word with us.
They were: Bros. Chuck Hemmer,
Dan Koch, Ralph Garber, Joe Kais-
ner, Roy Sauder, John Ringger,
and Kenneth Dietz.

When I was in Sunday School, the
question was asked, "Is it worse to
have a bad thought or to say it?"
The answer was, if we say it, it's
like opening a feather pillow in the
wind. The feathers go everywhere
and it is impossible to retrieve
them.

We must be very careful not to
say things that may hurt other
people, for once they are said, how
can we ever retrieve them?

INFLUENCE

Author Unknown

Drop a pebble in the water,
And its ripples reach out far;
And the sunbeams dancing on them
May reflect them to a star.

Give a smile to someone passing,
Thereby making his morning glad;
It may greet you in the evening
When your own heart may be sad.

Do a deed of simple kindness;
Though its end you may not see,
It may reach, like widening ripples,
Down a long eternity.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Mayme Gerst - Judy Gehring

God is beside us each step of the
way
If only we lean on His arm as we
pray.
His love is eternal and help can be
wrought,
If faith is applied in each prayer
and each thought.

The soldiers' reunion at Oakville

was well attended and we were hap-
py to have some of them visit us at
Burlington Church.

We were privileged to have some
visiting ministers this month. Bro.
Joe Schrock, Congerville, Illinois,
spoke on "The Last Times." Matt.
24 It would be good for all of us
to read it again. Bro. Ray Sinn,
Latty, Ohio, said it means so much
to have the congregation pray for
the minister; they can feel it. Sure-
ly we should do our part. He men-
tioned that we need all ages in the
church, the old and the young. He
spoke of love and unity. Bro. Wal-
ter Steffen, Milford, Indiana sees
God in everything. Since this is
vacation time, many will be seeing
the wonderful physical works of
God. Bro. Walter spoke of faith
and love and being a good light.
"He that will love life and see good
days let him refrain his tongue
from evil and speak no guile."
"The eyes of the Lord are over the
righteous." We appreciate these
brothers' giving of their time and
their efforts. May they be richly
blessed.

The annual Sunday School event
was held June 16 and was well at-
tended. We appreciate the untiring
efforts of these teachers who give
of themselves so willingly. "Train
up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not de-
part from it." Prov. 22:6 May God
bless them and also the children.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner
were blessed with a baby girl,
Dawn Marie. She has a brother and
sister anxiously waiting for her to
come home.

Sis. Ruth Reiman broke her hip,
but is home and doing fine. We vis-
ited her this evening and her spir-
its are "real good." She wishes to
thank everyone for remembering
her with cards and visits.

IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

The days are growing steadily
warmer. The sights and sounds of
summer call to us to enjoy the out-
doors. Each day the shrubbery and
the trees grow more lush in their
profusion of color. The birds give
us their best songs, and each day
calls us to enjoy and appreciate
what God has created. God is a
great artist. He gives us a new sort
of landscape in each of the four
seasons. At this moment, the fields
of corn and the meadows are truly
beautiful. The young swallows have

left their nests and can now be seen skimming across our garden and balancing on the electric wires, giving us their sweet warble, as only swallows can.

We recently enjoyed a blessed weekend. Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) were here. Kathy Pulfer gave her testimony and was baptized. It was a wonderful day for all who were privileged to be present. We rejoice with Sis. Kathy. We praise God with song because we are happy—we thank Him and praise Him.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Marie Butikofer and her family in the loss of friend Anna, the daughter of Marie. She passed away on the 15th of July at the LaCrosse hospital. Bro. Noah Gerber from West Bend had the services. We will certainly miss Anna. She always had a ready smile for us.

Whatever life shall bring your way,
God in His heaven shall care for you.

So with this knowledge may you go
Serenely, content to know
Whatever comes your whole life
through,
God in His heaven shall care for you.

Sis. Celia (Frieden) Butikofer was born in Clayton County, Iowa, on a farm near Elgin. She passed away on June 1 at the age of 90. She was baptized in 1904. She lost her husband in 1962 and is survived by nine children. She was a kind and loving mother—always cheerful, and enjoyed seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Louisa Christen was born on the Christen farm in Clayton County, Iowa, also near Elgin. She died at the age of 80. She spent most of her life time on the farm, where she enjoyed gardening and other nature very much, and always liked to work with flowers. She is survived by two sisters and two brothers—Rose Zaugg, Celia Woman, Walter Christen, and Ernie Christen.

We enjoyed having Bro. Sam Schlatter (Rittman) explain some Scripture to us. We thank him and his wife for visiting us.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Twilla Whipple
Connie Gerst

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Wayne Anliker (Forrest), and John Steiner (Oakville). We had many good teachings, two especially come to mind. We were reminded of the love that we should have for God and for one another, and that this is demonstrated by true obedience to God's Word. The other teaching was how we should be the salt of the earth. When salt is put on food, we can no longer see it, but we know that it is there because of the flavor. So our lives should be, that we do not always have to be noticed for our good works, but that we may quietly do the Will of God.

LIFE IS A HIGHWAY

Life is a highway
on which the years go by . . .
Sometimes the road is level,
sometimes the hills are high . . .
But as we travel onward
to a future that's unknown
We make each mile we travel
a "Heavenly Stepping Stone"!
Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

Our area was unexpectedly hit by a vicious tornadic wind on July 6. Many trees were uprooted, buildings smashed, and silos toppled. No one can remember a storm like it. Mid-week services were about to begin at church and everyone quickly went to the basement. Several cars in the parking lot were damaged by falling trees. There were hundreds of close calls and narrow escapes, but God showed His power and His mercy. Not a single personal injury was reported. There were livestock losses and property damage. I believe every home and farm in the congregation had some damage.

This is the time of year when many reunions are held. On July 1 the Moser family reunion was held here with several families staying over for Sunday. The father and grandfather of this family was Bro. Jacob Moser, one of the first to establish and build the Lester church. He also served as minister before moving to Morris. Ministers from this group who stayed for Sunday were Bros. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, Bill Funk, Garden Grove, Alphi Moser, Morris, and Noah Ger-

ber, West Bend. We are thankful for their service to us. On July 16, Bro. Joe Aberle, Sabetha, brought us God's Word.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Roy Metzger, Sis. Violet Knobloch, and Brian Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline). Rae Lynn, the small daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger, has a cast on her leg after receiving a fracture on a merry-go-round.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Phyllis Siegle

God never makes us conscious of our weakness except to give us of His strength.

Proving and baptism was held July 12, for our new one in faith, Georgia Wiegand. She is the daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Martha. We welcome Sis. Georgia and wish her God's blessings in her new-found faith.

A little bundle of joy, Will Carroll, came to gladden the home of John and Sis. Ingrid Buster on July 2. They also have four other children, Ward, Inga, Ivy, and Karl.

We were very happy to have ministering Bro. Ray Sinn, Latty, Ohio, visit us. It is with grateful hearts that we can hear such inspiring messages again delivered to us through His Holy Spirit.

THE HUMBLE TEACHERS

The birds of every kind and color
Share a common sky,
And each one knows there's room
Enough for all the rest to fly.

From sea gull with its muted voice,
The sparrow meek and small,
Both know that He who made the
Greatest, made the least of all.

What those of humble mind have
learned,
Would they could teach mankind,
That though God builds from many
plans,
He labels each divine.

A. DeWitt

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mrs. Raymond Anliker

Becky Banwart

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), and Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski). We are very grateful for their services and ask God to bless each

one for their efforts.

Three little bundles from heaven were received in our congregation. On July 6 Roger and Rhonda Reker became first-time parents to a little son, Stewart Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart. On July 7, Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr welcomed a new daughter, Tricia Diane. Grandparents are Sis. Nima Fehr and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena Grimm. On July 10 Michelle Marie became the new daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz. Grandparents are Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz and Sis. Emma Meyer of Lester, Ia.

Hospital patients were John Fehr (Bro. Jim's) Leslie Schnieder (Louis'), Kyle Schafer (Ron's), Sis. Emma Luthi, Sis. Lena Grimm, Sis. Kathy Butikofer (Elgin, Ia.), and Sis. Ruth Reiman (Burlington). At the time of this writing, newborn baby Stewart Reker (Rogers) remains under intensive care at the University Hospital in Iowa City. May God provide for little Stewart and his parents, according to His will. Surely He knows best.

Our congregation, the Bible Class, and Bro. Ray Anliker's family will be saying a fond farewell to Kim Madsen, a Y.F.U. exchange student from Allborg, Denmark. He was with us eleven months. Kim's last Sunday is July 16, and he flies to Denmark July 21. May God always be with him.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Beutel

One day in kindergarten the children drew pictures for the bulletin board. As the children drew their pictures, I asked them to explain them to me. One boy drew his friends and himself. He also drew a face in the sky. When I asked him who this was, he said, "God, looking." It is wonderful that Hiroshikun has learned about God in his youth and has this understanding of Him. It is so important that children learn about God in their young, tender years. As Hiroshikun showed in his picture, may we always remember our Heavenly Father is watching us.

We enjoyed our monthly singing the second Sunday in July at the home of Sis. Kiyoko Hirosei.

We are looking forward to our fellowship meeting at the foot of Mt. Fuji during the last week in July. It is truly a wonderful bless-

ing to fellowship with those of like mind and faith. May we always thank God for the many blessings He gives us.

The following, by Willis R. Ehrlé, is included.

His name is Hajime Saegusa and he had just received a letter from the farm family in Illinois at whose home he will be spending the month of August. It was my night to teach the Saegusa family oral English in their home, and the translation of this letter from English to Japanese was uppermost in their minds.

In with the letter was a photograph of the family in America, mother, father, a daughter, and two sons, one of whose name was Mike—three children, all in their teens. The mother had written the letter and apologized for not having written sooner, explaining that they were all looking forward to Hajime's coming but that they had all been so busy and so sad that writing had been neglected. The reason they were sad was that Mike, the younger of their two sons, had been killed about one month previously in a truck accident. She wrote, "We loved him very much."

This Japanese family was shocked. They marvelled that Americans can write so casually about death and that a photo was enclosed that included Mike. I really do not know to what extent and in what areas the view of death differs in the West and in the East, but I have the feeling that the attempt to face death realistically is greater in the West than in the East. I base this partly on the fact that there is usually drinking after a funeral in Japan which strikes me as a ploy to forget it and make a gay party out of an otherwise sad occasion. However we face it, "It is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

KANSAS, BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

We extend our best wishes and the Lord's blessing to Bro. Curtis Strahm and Sis. Ellen Zaugg upon the announcement of their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Parents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Richard and Dorothy Zaugg (West Bend).

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Nathan Steffen and Tom Le-

man (Elgin, Ill.), and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, O.). We enjoyed the fellowship and that of their families.

Sisters Shirley Strahm and Peggy Baumgartner have safely returned from a European vacation. They especially enjoyed visiting Switzerland.

Our ministers held funeral services for Emma Marti, 89, on June 28. Emma was a resident at the A.C. Home for five years. A generous and out-going person, she loved to visit and willingly shared her material blessings. Emma is survived by one sister, Sis. Minnie Meyer, nieces and nephews.

Bro. Pete Esslinger is getting along well after hip surgery. He wishes to extend sincere thanks to everyone who so thoughtfully cards, and visits.

Bro. Alpha Strahm was hospitalized for surgery.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Steiner, Rittman, and Dale Eisenmann, Chicago. We thank these ministering brothers and their families for sharing some of their time with us as they traveled across the country. I'm sure they have shared the similar experience as I have while traveling. How "frustrating" it is when we take a wrong turn or lose the way and can't find our destiny. Can you imagine the frustration it will be if we don't keep on the straight and narrow path that leads to the destiny above with God. May we always use the Bible as our map and reach that glorious kingdom above.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

"It takes time to be spiritual; you can't expect it to just happen!" Are you a traveler who expects a speedy journey? In the deep jungles of Africa, a traveler was making a long trek. 'Coolies' had been engaged from a tribe to carry the loads. On the first day, they marched rapidly and far. The traveler had high hopes of a speedy journey. On the second morning, these jungle tribesmen refused to move—they just sat and rested. On inquiring into the reason for this strange behaviour, the traveler was informed that they had gone too fast and too far on the first day, and that now they were wait-

ing, only waiting, until their souls could catch up with their bodies."

In this whirling rush of life we are too often like the poor jungle tribesmen on their first march, only they were able to discern what they felt they needed to restore life's balance. Too often we do not do this. "Jesus calls us over the tumult of our life's wild restless sea."

(Taken from "Springs in the Valley") by Mrs. Charles Cowman

Sis. Ella Raaf and Angela Beyer, five-year-old daughter of Kerry and Steve Beyer, were hospitalized.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Frieden

A story is told of an elderly Christian widow who resided in a lonely cottage, high on a cliff overlooking the sea. She was frequently distressed when she saw the debris from wrecked fishing boats that had washed up on the shore. At other times the piteous cries of perishing crewmen pierced her heart. One stormy night when the howling wind made her heart more apprehensive than usual, an idea suddenly occurred to her. Perhaps if she placed a lamp in her front window, it might act as a small beacon to warn unwary seamen of the treacherous coast. She heard later that its light had been seen and had aided some sailors who were lost in the raging tempest. From then on, she kept it burning from dusk to sunrise. Over the years, many endangered fishermen had come to thank her for her helpfulness.

Our light and its influence may be small, but if we keep it burning brightly for the glory of God's name, we never can tell what wonderful things can be accomplished through our lives. So let's brighten the corner where we are and let God's light shine through for all the world to see.

Sis. Matilda Schupbach has had a lengthy siege of illness, and we pray that the Lord may be with her and return her health quite soon. We miss her presence in our midst.

KANSAS, LAMONT Susan Emch

"Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine:
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine.

For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit,
Thou makest me new."

Zion's Harp

This song should reflect each of our lives as it now does for Jill and Jeri Luthi (Bro. Lloyd and JoAnn) who were added to the fold of Jesus. Elder Bro. Lester Hartter from Bern, Kansas, assisted our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker with the work, and it took us back to the time of our testimonies of faith.

Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, Ohio, ministered to us and we truly felt the Spirit of God speaking.

Bro. Floyd Isch and Sis. Matilda Emch were hospitalized for tests. We are happy to have them assemble with us again.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mrs. Joe Steiner

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, Ill., Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, O., and Bro. Tom Leman, Elgin, Ill. We appreciate the efforts of our brothers in bringing us the Word of Life.

Bro. Paul Strahm, 79, passed away at his home July 3. He had cancer and had been ill for about 18 months. Surviving him are his wife, Sis. Helen; one daughter, Velma Albin of Dawson, Neb.; and four sons, Merlin of Topeka, Ks., Gary of Lawndale, Calif., Don of Sabetha, and Del of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. There are ten grandchildren. Also surviving are three sisters and three brothers, including Bro. Aaron and Bro. Ephriam, Bern. Services were held July 5 in Sabetha by Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Joe Aberle.

KANSAS, WICHITA Judy Langhofer

Your reporter, Glennis Allenbaugh, is on vacation and asked me to write this column for her.

I am reminded of our Lord, walking as an earthling amidst all the daily cares and pressures, who saw wisdom in getting away from the crowds for a rest. This was usually his most intimate time with God. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane he went a little way from his beloved Apostles to be alone with God.

"There is a rest that belongs unto the people of God." Normally we equate this with that which is eternal, but we are told there is a time

to plant and a time to reap—and we might add, a time to labor and a time to rest. Sometimes resting can be our most fruitful hours, for it is then that we can be refreshed by the Holy Spirit and have our most intimate time and fellowship with God.

With these thoughts in mind we reflect upon another milestone in the Wichita Church as Bro. George Lambert, who ministered here for twenty-five years, retired from the active ministry.

Sis. Glennis mentioned that one thing she observed about George was that he loved to tell the story of Jesus.

Bro. George had a few closing comments I would like to share with you. He said that it was a difficult decision to make. To minister the Word has been his life. He always appreciated the prayerful support of the congregation, inasmuch as it isn't always easy to preach. He asked that we do not forget to pray for the ministry of the Word. He will continue to serve the church as his health permits. He closed his pulpit ministry with the wonderful words of Paul to the Philippians, 3:13,14:

Brethren, I count it not myself to have apprehended, but this I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things that are before.

I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Wichita Church is always thankful to have visiting ministers. In fact, we plead that you do not pass us up when passing through the area. We want to thank those who in the past two months have shared the ministry with us: Bro. Bob Pohl, Oakville, Iowa, Bro. Raymond Roth, Kiowa, Kans., Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, Kans., Bro. Eugene Marti, Lamar, Mo., and Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, Ohio.

Our vacation Bible School was held in early June with 40 children attending. It was concluded with a presentation of the things learned. It is amazing what a few hours of teaching can do to inspire these little children. They learned things that they will never forget. We want to thank the young mothers who took such an interest in this work.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Penny Erismann**

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever . . . John 14: 15, 16

Elder Bros. Waibel, Bay City, and Bro. Ben Maibach, Detroit, spent the July 4th weekned with us as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Kathy Steffen (Sis. Helen).

Little Chadwick Allen made his arrival July 5 to the happy parents, Greg and Rhonda Rairigh. Congratulations! This is their first.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Gary Maibach, Rittman.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Patsy Knochel**

" . . . a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) July 7 brought much joy to Bro. Gregg and Sis. Lela Leman with the birth of their first child, a girl, Rachael Diane. (Grandparents: Wallace and Sis. Marilyn Leman and Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Violet Ringger, all of Bluffton).

A baby is a Gift of Life

born of "the wonder of love,"

A little bit of Eternity

sent from The Father Above,

Giving a new dimension

to the love between husband and wife

And putting an added new meaning

to the wonder and Mystery of Life!

Helen Steiner Rice

We truly appreciated that, again this summer, ministering Bros. Ernest Graf and his wife Sis. Louise (Akron) and Gary Maibach and his wife Sis. Mary Ann (Rittman) could spend a Wednesday evening with us while on their summer vacations. We were blessed with many inspiring words and were again reminded of the new heaven and the new earth. "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Rev. 21: 22, 23. May we all continue to work and press forward as worthy servants for the Lord so that our names will be written

in the Lamb's book of life.

John and Sis. Darlene Cluff and their three children have moved back to Bay City. They spent some time in the Chicago area where John was getting some special training for his job. We surely missed them and are glad to have them back.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Bonnie Popp**

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die . . . A time to weep . . . and a time to mourn. Ecclesiastes, 3. And so it was for us in Detroit this month.

It was with much joy that we assembled to dedicate our new edifice to the Lord's will and service. Assembled with us were many friends and brethren. Sharing in the ministry on that day were Elder Bros. Walter Anliker, Rudolph Graf, Henry Grimm, Wendell Gude-man, Andrew Virkler, and Joseph Waibel. This day was blessed by God. May we remain grateful for these special times of refreshing.

We are always grateful for those brethren who visit with us and minister to us. Bros. Ernest Graf and Gary Maibach ministered to us this month. We ask the Lord's blessings upon them.

Chuck and Marsha Albritton are parents of a new baby girl. Amber Dawn is welcomed into their hearts and home, and Jason is happy to welcome a baby sister, too.

We laid a dear sister and a dear brother to rest. Though we will miss seeing them here upon earth, we yearn to meet them again in heaven.

Sis. Elaine Burgos passed from this life on July 1. Though Sis. Elaine experienced illness for some time, she rejoiced in the Lord because of the strength, mercy, and peace that He gave her. I often shared her problems with her this past year. Her courage and joy in her salvation were evident, not only to me, but to anyone who talked with her. Our prayers will remain with her dear husband, Gabriel, and children, Mary Beth, Rick, and David.

We remember the family of Bro. Homer Polk, who so recently passed from this earthly pilgrimage. Bro. Homer also knew of physical difficulties, but had confidence that the Lord was always

near. We will miss his smile of joy and love. May God always be near his wife, Sis. Alice, and children, Larry, Alan, Edwin, Julie, Louise, Sis. Kay Cargill, Sis. Evelyn Wieland, Dorothy Kattalus, Betsy Leger, Eleanor Holbel and Nancy Kurtz.

I could write much about the lives of these two dear ones—about their faith in times of joy or distress. What a comfort to know that each one who knew them has the opportunity to share eternity with them in the joy of our Lord.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl**

One teacher at school taught us a good way to increase our vocabulary. Each week take the dictionary, let it fall open and choose a word. Use that word throughout the week as often as you can. We can apply this idea each Sunday as we go to church. Try to pick out one thought or idea to think on and remember all week. We want to absorb as much as we can, but just as we increased our vocabulary in school, we can increase our knowledge of God's word, and grow in our faith.

In our morning service Bro. Al Aberle (Tremont, Ill.) read, in Jeremiah 12, some of the prophecies of what the Jewish people would have to endure. He left us with a question: How much could we endure if we were tested in our faith? Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, Ill.) gave us a calm assurance in the afternoon reading in Rev. 21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

We also had Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis), Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) as our visiting ministers. It is a joy to hear the greetings each Sunday from so many places during the summer vacation months.

Several of our brothers drove to Gary, MN, to help those stricken by a tornado. ". . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)

Bro. Bob Grimm spent an evening with our Bible Class, telling them where peace is found.

A little boy, Jason Lee, is the first child of Gary and Dorene Mos-

er. Grandparents are Bro. Alpai and Sis. Pearl Moser and Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper

Some people would put a price tag on our salvation. There is no cost—"Jesus paid it all." None of us can resist a bargain; if we see a coupon in the paper for a half-price item, we rush to take advantage of it and stand in line for it. Yet the multitudes ignore God's precious Word. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17)

We enjoyed visiting ministering Bros. Arnold Gerst, Chicago; Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski; and Alphi Moser. May God bless these brothers and their dear wives who travelled with them.

It was a beautiful summer evening when we gathered together to hear what God had in store for us. Brother Albert's word sounded the same as in years past. That just goes to show that the Word is the same now as then.

What Various Hindrances we Meet. God helped our forefathers through drought and depression. Can He save us from ourselves in these times of inflation and prosperity? God helped Job through famine and loss. Job could still praise God. Do we hang our hearts on earthly things? God is all powerful. He caused strong winds to pick up and smash down a whole town. I know my Redeemer liveth. As we go through life together, ever pleasing the Lord, let us not fall for the curious arts of today. Let's be a shining light in this dark world, as the light in the window that guided a small boy home to his mother.

The Dan Messner family reunion brought together 200 dear loved ones from near and far. This family has lived and worshipped here since they moved to Winthrop in 1920.

Our Sunday School picnic and church potluck was enjoyed in the Winthrop Park. What a fortaste of the great joy when we shall meet up yonder on the resurrection day.

Sis. Geri Messner (Marvin) was hospitalized for treatment.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Linda Schmidt have a baby son, Aaron

Uriah. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Braker - Sandra Marti

If you have a tender message,
Or a loving word to say,
Do not wait till you forget it,
But whisper it today;
The tender word unspoken,
The letter never sent,
The long forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent—
For these some hearts are break-
ing,

For these some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for
them
Before it is too late.

Frank Herbert Sweet

How often do we miss a blessing
by waiting until it's too late?

Our small congregation has really enjoyed the guests who have assembled with us this summer. It's spiritually uplifting to meet those whom we've never met before and yet feel so united by God's Love. We extend a hearty welcome to anyone vacationing in our area to visit us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Lena M. Haerr

If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36)

On July 4 I was in Europe, and I read about the Statue of Liberty and about Christ. How wonderful to feel God's presence in Austria, too! The highlight of my trip was to be with loved ones of our faith, behind the iron curtain in Budapest, Hungary. We had many spiritual hours of love, devotion, singing, and praising God. I was so thankful for the privilege of being there and for returning home safely.

Pam Riney (Gene and Irene) and Sis. Marie Butikofer were hospital patients. Mary Beth Hastings (Sis. Naomi Meimer) had surgery when she had an accident in the butcher shop where she works. She lost her fore-finger and part of her middle finger. We are so thankful that it was not worse and that she's getting along well. Four-year-old Eugene Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris) had surgery on July 17 and is also getting along well. Bro. Gerald Sutter entered the hospital on July 19 to have surgery on his

elbow. We wish all of them speedy recoveries and the best for body and soul.

We were thankful for visiting ministers: Bros. Kenny Dietz, Bradford; Phillip Sauder, Cissna; Walter Steffen, Milford; John Lehman, Berne; Sam Huber, Sabetha; and Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott.

The crops look so lush and green, and we can feel the Lord provides for our needs. Let us always trust in Him.

Not so in haste, my heart;
Have faith in God, and wait;
Although He linger long,
He never comes too late.

Author Unknown

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY (and Philadelphia, Pa.)

Ed Aeschleman

We were all shocked to hear that our dear friend Arthur Cook was stricken with a heart seizure. He has now been released from intensive care and is making satisfactory progress. We thank God for answering our many prayers. May God also give Arthur's dear wife, Sister Minnie, grace to endure and strength to help until Artie is again restored to reasonable health.

Janice Aeschliman, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschliman, and Coast Guard Ensign Donald Wilt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wilt of Norton, Ohio, were married at the home of Janice's parents on Saturday, July 15. We pray that the new couple may receive God's grace and rich blessing in their new life together.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In Whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp, 236

The words of this beautiful hymn echo in each of our hearts as we rejoice over the blessings that have been ours throughout our past lives and throughout the past month.

We were able to assemble together when our Elder Brother Andy Virkler of Bay City visited us and

expounded the wonderful Word of God. We were strongly urged and reminded to watch and pray each day of our lives.

Many blessings were also ours last weekend when our Elder Brothers John Bahler and Rudy Graf were in our midst. We heard both words of warning and encouragement to help us as we travel our earthly pilgrimage. We thank each of these brothers for their visits and messages and for their labors in our community.

A covered dish supper was enjoyed by all when we assembled on a Wednesday evening with the Naumburg congregation.

At this writing, Urban Farney is a medical patient.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Corrine Virkler

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. John Bahler of Connecticut and Rudy Graff of Ohio minister to us on Sunday, July 16. They brought us the Word from I Peter 2 where it says that we should desire the sincere milk of the Word so that we may grow from it. In the afternoon and evening we voted to select elders for the Naumburg and Croghan churches. Bro. Robert Beyer was selected for the Naumburg church, and Bro. Norbert Steiner for the Croghan church. May God be with them and bless them in their new labors.

Bro. Andrew Virkler of Bay City ministered to us on Sunday, July 9.

Andrew Virkler of the Bender Nursing Home is in the hospital. Sis. Barbara Bachman, our 100 year old sister, had cataracts removed from both eyes and is able to assemble with us again.

We were glad to see Sis. Clara Merz assemble with us again after a long absence.

Jesse Karcher is home from the hospital after suffering a stroke.

OHIO, AKRON Gail Spangler

Lord help me be more aware
Of the blessings of each day—
The joy of loved ones near me,
The sound of children's play,
The beauty of a rosebud,
The smiles on people's faces,
The peace of quiet places . . .
Lord, help me be more aware
Of things I cannot see—
The peace of mind, the courage,
Th strength you give to me,

The guidance and direction
And forgiveness from above—
Lord, help me be more aware
Of Your abiding love.

Robin St. John

Sister Ella Messner (Bro. Richard) is a hospital patient. We pray that the Lord will touch her with His healing hand, and that she might feel His strength and nearness every day.

OHIO, JUNCTION Gwen Manz

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter are the parents of a boy, born June 29. Douglas Steven is welcomed by his brother, Corbin, and grandparents, Bro. Alvin & Sis. Eldora Steiner, Rittman, and Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Sis. Caroline Dotterer passed on to her reward on July 6 in Rittman. She was born January 8, 1892, to Henry and Lydia (Steiner) Dotterer. Caroline was the youngest of twelve children and the last one of her family. She was buried July 8 in the Dotterer Cemetery following funeral services conducted by Elder Bros. Theo Beer, Milford, Loren Stoller, Latty, and Joseph Ramsier, Rittman, and ministering Bros. Ben Hartzler, Rittman, and Robert Beer, Mansfield.

Bro. Robert Beer shared God's Word with us the following day.

Maeburn and Sis. Julia Hale have returned to their home in Florida.

OHIO, LATTY

Karen Klopfenstein - Susie Sinn

We were encouraged when Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlinton) brought us the true Bread of Life. Also visiting with us the same evening were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Don Manz, Ben Manz, and Sam Schlatter (Junction). May the Lord always grant a double portion of grace and blessings to those who minister the Word.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein, Jeff, Wendy, Scott, and Todd have decided to make their new home in Phoenix, Arizona. We are sorry to see them move, but we pray that the Lord will guide them in all things.

On July 2, ministering Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Joe Schrock (Congerville), and Ben Manz (Junction) visited us. We should always be thankful that our ministering brethren fully rely up-

on the Holy Spirit for their inspiring messages.

Roger and Kay Miller are the happy parents of Matthew Amos. Little Matthew remained in the hospital for a time, but is now home and is doing well. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller.

Pleased grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller, as a daughter was born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller. Welcoming tiny Jennifer home is her sister, Carrie.

Baptized into thy name most holy
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, tho' weak and
lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ and dead to
sin

Thy spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Bro. Phil Souder (Cissna Park) spent the weekend of July 15, 16 with us to share and witness the proving and baptism of Bro. Henry Breitweiser, husband of Sis. Katie. We pray that the Holy Spirit will take its free course in his life. May the Lord continue to grant wisdom to the elder body so that they will shepherd their flocks according to His good and holy will.

Bro. Dan Sinn, Sr., submitted to major surgery recently. We pray that God will restore his strength as He sees fit.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful—
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

Isn't summer a wonderful time of the year here in the North? The fields and woods seem to burst forth the wonderful beauty of the Creator.

Bro. Henry Beer wrote the above poem and it seems so fitting to include it with this writing.

Bro. Henry has a tape, which some of you may have, of the "Bird

Concert." Some years ago, he taped the birds one Sunday morning at his Marcreek Cabin. The birds praise the Lord so beautifully; and each time I play it, it reminds me of my duty to praise my Lord of-tener.

One lovely summer day, my sister and I took a walk in the woods near our home. We took our tape player with us, wondering what the birds in our area would do when they heard the praises of the other birds from the tape. We started the player, and soon the birds began to sing and come nearer. To our amazement and delight, one little red-wing black bird became so excited and inquisitive that he flew down to the tape player and hopped all over it, trying to determine from where the music was coming and seemed to enjoy the song of the birds and the organ music.

How true it is that the Christian also seems to want to draw nearer and nearer to the hymns of praise when God's Word and song are being brought forth.

We rejoice that a new bundle from heaven has arrived at the home of Carol and Bill Kovach. The happy grandparents are Sis. Emilie and Harold Went. Little Jennifer Lynn was born July 12.

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by many on July 9 at the home of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder.

Bill and Becky Sauder have moved to Florida. We will all miss them very much. Their new address is 13151 87th Place North, Seminole, Florida 33542.

Hospitalized recently have been: Sis. Louise Sabo, Bro. Robert Sauder (who was severely burned but is improved and has been released), Sis. Martha Enderle (who had a fall and received a broken ankle), Penny Bocka (who had surgery), and George Levy (who suffered a stroke). We pray for each one and wish them God's nearness and comfort.

Our church was saddened by the passing of Sis. Elsie Beer, 69, wife of Jacob Beer, on July 14. Elsie suffered for many months with cancer, and the Lord, in His tender love and mercy, gently called her home. Sis. Elsie was a loving person and could always make you feel welcome when you visited her.

Sis. Caroline Dotterer, 86, was also invited to come home by the

Master on July 5 and was laid to rest in the Junction Cemetery. She lived in the Junction community during her early years and came to Mansfield as a young lady. Caroline was a wonderful example to all.

Before leaving for the Rittman home, Caroline gave me the following poem:

Growing Old

A little more tired at the close of day,
A little less anxious to have our own way,
A little less anxious to scold and to blame,
A little more care for a brother's name—
And so we are nearing the journeys end
Where time and eternity meet and blend.

Author Unknown.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Mary Jane Winkler

Margaret Winkler

Our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness to God. Eight dear souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. Mark Ramsier (Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez), Bob Klotzle (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Jane), Dale and Beth (Hartzler) Pelfry (Bro. John and Sis. Joan Hartzler), Art and Bonnie (Hartzler) Ingold (Bro. John and Sis. Joan Hartzler and Bro. Carl and Sis. Irma Ingold), Karen Riggenbach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita), and Dan Rufener (Bro. Orin and Sis. Anna) felt the need to seek their Lord and we pray earnestly that they may all find the peace that passeth all understanding and feel the cleansing power of the Lord.

Our hospital patients for this month were Connie (Beery) Kendall, Sis. Martha Bauman (Bro. Jerry), and Sis. Anna Blought. Bro. Ed Riggenbach has returned home from the hospital much improved. May all these dear ones lean on the Lord for strength and grace through their physical problems.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier are rejoicing in the birth of their daughter, Laura Ann. Little Debbie welcomes her home. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner became grandparents again with the birth of their grandson, Douglas Steven. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila

(Steiner) Schlatter (Junction) are his parents.

The death angel has called three dear souls out of this life. Sis. Caroline Dotterer, 86, died at our "Home" after a long illness. Funeral services were held in Junction. Sis. Irma Hilty, 78, died at our "Home" after living there only a short time. Funeral services were held here. Her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren survive. Virgil Hanzie, 64, died at home after a long illness. Surviving him are his wife, children, and grandchildren. May the Lord comfort all these dear families in the loss of their loved ones. Although they leave a vacant place in our hearts, the Lord can comfort, sustain and give us peace.

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Bro. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis), and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield). We thank these dear brothers for their labor of love.

At our Sunday School picnic for the young children, Bro. Ken Indermuhle spoke to all of us about the Golden Rule. He gave examples to the children telling them how it works and that we should always treat the other person like we want to be treated. The thought occurred to me that, in our Christian walk of life, if we always follow the Golden Rule, we will not offend our brethren because we will always treat them with kindness and love, just as we would want to be treated. Let's all try harder to let Christ's love show through us and to live by the Golden Rule.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

Once again the Lord has given us a glimpse of that Beautiful City. As brethren and friends gathered on the hillside in West Virginia, all who came with a need were filled. We wish to thank Bro. Uriel Gehring from Burlington, Iowa, for conveying the message given to him by God. There were greetings given from fifteen churches. What a blessing to think that there will be many representatives from every true Christian flock at that meeting in the air. Let us strive to be true to our faith so that we might some day give our greetings in heaven.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ed Ringer from Gridley, Ill.,

with us in July. The wonderful Word was brought forth with enthusiasm and should be a lasting memory to all of us. We were reminded of our many blessings and the need to constantly give thanks. How uplifting it can be to praise, God from whom all blessing flow.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

We have been enjoying company from many congregations again this summer. Times of fellowship such as these, are truly a foretaste of heaven's joys. We greatly appreciate all who visit us.

Some years ago, when I was teaching a Sunday School class of primary aged children, we had a story about Jesus' calming the sea. After the story was finished, I asked the children questions about it. I asked a very attentive little girl what Jesus said to the water, and she in childish simplicity answered, "Please! Be still!" I wonder how often our dear Lord would like to say that to us. It seems we get "tossed about" with waves of worry and cares, and often our small bark is nearly covered by waves of doubts and

fears. How good it would be if we could listen to His voice say, "Peace, be still." Then the seas of our lives could be as that beautiful sea, with the moonlight of God's love shining gently on the swells of life.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; Neither shalt the flame kindle upon thee." (Isaiah 43:2)

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

The all-day meeting at the country church on June 26 was well attended. The attendance was the largest ever. People came from many places. The main speaker for the day was Uriel Gehring from Burlington, Iowa. His wife was also here. Delbert and Kenneth Indermuhle ministered to us, too. The day was lovely and warm with a good breeze on the hilltop. Many expressed their joy that they were able to come back this year. Services were held at the Sardis church on Saturday eve-

ning, June 25, and again on Monday evening, June 27. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Steffen and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sohn of Fairbury, Ill., were here for the week-end and attended the services at the country church. They were guests of the Barth Sisters on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you all for coming.

Recent guests of Miss Della Witschey were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Indermuhle and baby; Ralph Witschey of Dallas; Catherine Thompson of Dallas; Mr. and Mrs. David Edge and two children of San Leandro, California; Mr. and Mrs. John Witschey of New Matamoras, Ohio; and Mrs. Harry Mullett and daughter, Ruth, of Doolin Route.

Chauncey Wade is a patient in the local hospital at this time, undergoing tests and treatment.

Frank Barth left July 18 for a few day's visit with relatives in Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Medina, Ohio, were guests of the Barth and Ritz families over the week-end of July 15th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riggenbach and daughter, Bonnie, visited recently with the Paul Giles family in Alfred, N. Y.

SILVER THREADS

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

October 12, 1944

(First printed in the Silver Lining on Nov. 15, 1944)

Dear Ones,

I've been wanting to drop you a few lines for some time. I just finished reading the September issue of the Silver Lining and so I decided I'd write you immediately what I think about your paper. My folks have been sending them to me since I have been overseas (I came over last spring) and truly those little papers have proven to be some of the best Christian literature I've had opportunity to read . . .

A short time before I left the states I accepted Christ as my Saviour. I'm so thankful that I have come to know the happiness that Jesus can give. One evening, about the fourth day out, Bro. Wilmer Blunier of Roanoke, Illinois, bumped into me. I met him while I was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, last summer, and we were very good friends there. So you can im-

agine how very glad I was to see him. We had many discussions on religion the remainder of the trip. We often read the Bible together and sang hymns. As I was quite young in Faith at the time it was great comfort to have a good Christian friend as a companion. I truly believe it was an act of God, and since then I've had many more blessings. Yes, we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." I am looking forward with great pleasure to returning to my church and becoming a child of God by baptism. I hope more of my friends will come to know Christ as I have, for only then can they, too, come to know His infinite grace and mercy.

I am enclosing a little pamphlet which I'm sure you will enjoy. Would be nice to put in your paper sometime if you have the room and would care to.

Wishing your continued success and God's blessings upon your work.

Sincerely, Wilbur C. Hoerr

(From the Peoria Apostolic Christian Church.)

Seven Men Went Singing Into Heaven

Editor's note: This is the article that was sent to the Silver Lining by W. C. Hoerr from England.

* * *

"One of the strangest experiences in my life connected with war," said Nordenberg, an eminent engineer in Finland.

"I offered my services to the Government and was appointed an officer in General Mannerheim's army. It was a terrible time. We besieged the town. It had been taken by the Red Army and we re-took it. A number of Red prisoners were under my guard. Seven of them were to be shot at dawn on Monday. I shall never forget the preceding Sunday. The seven doomed men were kept in the basement of the town hall. In the passage, my men stood at attention with their rifles.

"The atmosphere was filled with hatred. My soldiers were drunk

with victory and taunted their prisoners, who swore as much as they could and beat the walls with their bleeding fists. Others called for their wives and children who were far away. At dawn they were all to die.

"We had the victory, that was true enough; but the value of this seemed to diminish as the night advanced. I began to wonder whether there did not rest a curse on arms whichever side used them.

"Then something happened: one of the men doomed to death began to sing! 'He is mad!' was everybody's first thought. But I had noticed this man, Koskinen, had not raved and cursed like the others. Quietly he had sat on his bench, a picture of utter despair. Nobody said anything to him each was carrying his burden in his own way and Koskinen sang, rather waveringly at first, then his voice grew stronger and filled out, and became natural and free. All the prisoners turned and looked at the stranger who now seemed to be in his element:

'Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on
His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark, 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me
Over the fields of glory, Over the
jasper sea.'

"Over and over again Koskinen sang that verse, and when he finished everyone was quiet for a few minutes until a wild-looking individual broke out with 'Where did you get that, you fool? Are you trying to make us religious?'

"Koskinen looked at his comrades and his eyes filled with tears. Then he asked quietly: 'Comrades, will you listen to me for a minute? You asked me where I got this song: it was from The Salvation Army. I heard it there three weeks ago. At first I also laughed at this song, but it got me. It is cowardly to hide your beliefs: the God my mother believed in has now become my God also. I cannot tell you how it happened, but I know that it has happened. I lay awake last night, and, suddenly, I felt that I had to find the Saviour and hide in Him. Then I prayed—like the thief on the Cross—that Christ would forgive me and cleanse my sinful soul, and make me ready to stand before Him whom I should meet soon.

"'It was a strange night,' continued Koskinen. 'There were times when everything seemed to shine around me. Verses from the Bible and from the Song Book came to my mind. They brought a message of the crucified Saviour and the Blood that cleanses from sin and of the home He has prepared for us. I thanked Him, accepted it, and since then this verse has been sounding inside me. It was God's answer to my prayer. I could no longer keep it to myself! Within a few hours I shall be with the Lord, saved by His grace.'

"Koskinen's face shone as by an inward light. His comrades sat there quietly. He himself stood there transfixed. My soldiers were listening to what this Red revolutionary had to say.

"'You are right, Koskinen,' said one of his comrades at last. 'If only I knew that there is mercy for me, too! But these hands of mine have shed blood and I have reviled God and trampled on all that is holy. Now I realize that there is a Hell and that it is the proper place for me.

"He sank to the ground with despair depicted on his face. 'Pray for me, Koskinen,' he groaned, 'tomorrow I shall die and my soul will be in the hands of the devil!'

"And there these two Red soldiers went down on their knees and prayed for each other. It was no longer prayer, but it opened Heaven for both, and we who listened to it forgot our hatred. It melted in the light from Heaven, for here two men who were soon to die sought reconciliation with God. A door leading into the invisible stood ajar and we were entranced by the sight.

"Let me tell you shortly that by the time it was four o'clock all Koskinen's comrades had followed his example and began to pray. The change in the atmosphere was indescribable. Some of them sat on the floor, others talked of spiritual things.

"The night had almost gone and day was dawning. No one had had a moment's sleep. 'Sing the song once more for us, Koskinen,' said one of them. And you should have heard them sing! Not only that song but verses and choruses long forgotten came forth from their memories as buds in the sunshine. The soldiers on guard united their voices with them.

"The town clock struck six. How I wished I could have begged for grace for these men, but I knew that this was impossible.

"Between two rows of soldiers they marched out to execution. One of them asked to be allowed once more to sing Koskinen's song. Permission was granted. Then they asked to die with uncovered faces—and with hands raised to Heaven they sang with might and main. 'Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on his gentle breast.'

When the last lines had died out the lieutenant gave the word 'Fire!' and the seven Red soldiers had fought their last fight. We inclined our heads in silent prayer.

"What had happened in the hearts of the others I do not know; but so far as I was concerned I was a new man from that hour. I had met Christ in one of His lowliest and youngest disciples and I had seen enough to realize that I too, could be His. 'The Lord looketh from Heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men'" (Psalm. 33:13).

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25)

—(Translated for "All the World" by Major Clara Becker.)

RECIPE FOR LIVING

Author Unknown

- 1 Cup of good thoughts
- 1 Cup of kind deeds
- 1 Cup of consideration for others
- 2 Cups sacrifice for others
- 3 Cups forgiveness

Mix thoroughly, add tears of joy, sorrow, and sympathy for others. Fold in 4 cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and raise the texture to great height of Christian living. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with the heat of human kindness. Serve with a smile.

THE HEAVENLY RAILWAY FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN

Author Unknown

The road to heaven by Christ was made,
In heavenly truth the rails were laid.
From earth to heaven the line extends
To life eternal where it ends.

The Bible is the engineer

Which points the way to heaven
clear,
Through tunnels dark and dreary
It does the way to Glory steer.

God's love is the fire, His truth the
steam,
Which drives the engine and the
train.

All who would to Glory ride,
Must come to Christ, in Him abide.

Repentance is the station theme
Where passengers are taken in,
And where there is no fare to pay,
For Jesus is, Himself, the way.

Come sinners, come, now is the
time

At any station on the line;
If you'll repent and turn from sin
The train will stop and take you in.

SUCCESS

It's not the amount of gold you
have,
Or the many acres that you own;
It's not the mansions that you may
have
That spells success in your home.

It's the little things you do each
day. . .
The kind word you have spoken;
It's helping the one who is down
and out,
And healing the heart that is
broken.

It's doing the job the best you can,
It's the loving and giving in life;
It's keeping your eye on higher
things
And your chin up in every strife.

If you are the kind that wants
success,
Just try to help those in distress;
A life that is clean, a heart that is
true,
And doing your best . . . that's
success

Author Unknown

OUR PILGRIMAGE

This world is like a forest
That we must travel through;
There's quicksand, traps and
dangers

Hidden from our view.

Our forefathers walked the same
path

And clearly blazed the trail—
They marked the way to Jesus
And hoped we wouldn't fail.

There are wolves who act so very
meek,
They lead the lambs astray—
But all along the streams we find
God still points out the way.

To wells of living waters that
Refresh both soul and mind,
The Lord's advice rings loud and
clear—
Seek, and ye shall find.

Thank you, dear departed ones
For faith so tried and true;
If God His mercy still imparts,
We hope to be with you.

Louise Ella Akel

PSALM OF LIFE

Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream.
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not as they seem.

Life is real, Life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal.
Dust thou art, to dust thou turnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment and not sorrow
Is our destined end or way.
But to act that each tomorrow
Finds us farther than today.

Life of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime;
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints that perhaps another
sailing ore Life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again.

Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

H. W. Longfellow

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

Out on an ocean of waves and foam.
A shipload of soldiers was travel-
ing home.

The struggle had ended their surv-
ice complete,
For loved ones and homeland their
hearts seemed to beat.

Faintly an outline like clouds low
in the skies,

Our homeland's in view one soldier
did state,

At noon we were sailing beneath
the Golden Gate.

Sailing thru the harbor our ship
soon reached the pier,
A band was playing to welcome us
home to our land so dear.
To think of this experience makes
us think of our own life,
How we're sent to earth a while in
the struggle and strife.

Satan's forces are ferocious, try to
slay each loving soul,
Will we join the Saviour's army or
Satan win his goal?

Christ's church is God's ship of
faith to rescue those he
brought,

God's Word the map and compass
true and shield for battles
fought.

Not all who are aboard this ship
will reach the golden strand.

For in leaning too far overboard
they're lost in sinking sand.

Let us tidy up our precious ship—
each one tend his station,
For it may have to last for the
coming generation.

The way we know not by ourselves,
this earth is foreign ground,
Let us trust our great commander
as our ship is homeward
bound.

May we give ourselves in service
in strength of our first love,
'Til we hear the gleaming band on
that grand pier up above.

Bro. Alpha Moser

SPEAK OUT FOR JESUS

You talk about your business,
Your stocks, your bonds, your
gold,

And in all worldly matters
You are so brave and bold.
But why are you so silent
About salvation's plan?
Why don't you speak for Jesus,
And speak out like a man.

You talk about the weather,
And the crops of corn and wheat,
You speak of friends and neighbors
That pass along the street.

You call yourself a Christian
And like the gospel plan,
Then why not speak for Jesus,
And speak out like a man.

Are you ashamed of Jesus
And the story of the cross
That you lower His pure banner
And let it suffer loss?
Have you forgot his suffering?
Did he die for you in vain?

If not, then live and speak for

Jesus,

And speak out like a man.

Author Unknown

The Sermon . . .

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that soul looks upon Jesus Christ, he can be lifted up and can walk again. That heart can be reconditioned and converted and can receive strength for the day, strength to walk before God and serve him. That's a miracle of our present day and time; and we thank God that we are living in the new dispensation of grace wherein we can find access to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Just as the people marveled and were filled with wonder and amazement when the lame man walked, so we marvel when souls who have walked the way of this world as servants of Satan can look upon Jesus Christ with a spiritual eye and can be lifted up and be converted. This was a different Peter from the Peter who denied Christ. This was a different Peter, a mellowed individual, one who was now really converted. We must give honor and glory to God in all things, beloved. We did not merit or deserve the grace of God. Neither do we merit his blessings to either the temperal man or to the spiritual being, but we must give honor and glory to Jésus Christ who gave this freely to you and me.

We are living today in a very frustrated and turbulent world. Oh, of course, we have prosperity; of course, we have a life of ease; of course, we do not have to worry about food for tomorrow, and never before have we had it so good. But, beloved in the Lord, let us walk cautiously for in being so blessed with the comfort of this life, we may forget God and we may forget the things that are truly important in our lives. Mankind has been blessed with many things and God has imparted great wisdom to mankind. Never before in the history of the world have we obtained such wisdom, and it is positively fantastic when we think of the things that have been invented.

But I'm sure, beloved, that our forefathers, could they come back, would be appalled at the condition of this life and time; would be appalled at the evil and the unright-

eousness which is rampant today. I speak, beloved, of the exposition of evil to our young people, our youth whom we so dearly love and cherish. Never before have the morals been so loose in our colleges and schools of higher learning, which is something that gives great concern to those of us who have children. We lay on your hearts the grave responsibility to live so that we demonstrate a light in this dark and wicked world to our children and our young people so that they do not behold in us a stumbling block; so that they know that we stand for a true purpose, even as Daniel stood. Let us never waver in this purpose. Let us never depart, in our daily walk of life, from our dedication to our Lord and God, for we are accountable for them. Have you ever thought about that my beloved in the Lord? We are accountable for those lives which we have brought into this world, for those whom we love and cherish, for those whose lives and welfare we often place before the altar of Almighty God. There is a great deal that we can do about this. We must never give in to Satan or compromise with him because the minute we do, we have lost our cause; and don't think for one moment that our children cannot detect our weakness because they can. We are God's people; let us remain God's people. We have a Saviour who can see our hearts and knows them. Let us keep our hearts undefiled from the world, and no matter what the sacrifice, beloved in the Lord, let us always be ready and willing to make that sacrifice before God to His honor and His glory. Then we may one day become worthy of entrance into the presence of His glory and into his kingdom.

In this chapter, Peter and John were very emphatic when they spoke the words, ". . . why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" We must never, beloved, no, we must never take credit for that which God imparts to us by His grace, but we must give God the honor and glory for it is rightfully His. What are we, when we consider the span of life to be three score and ten as spoken of by the Psalmists? I'm sure that there are some present who have reached the age of three score and

ten. When you look back through the years, it is as a dream; it seems like yesterday that we, too, were children and I've always had a soft spot for this congregation because I worshipped as a child within your ranks. Now those fathers who have gone on and are at rest have left us this blessed heritage of faith. I'm sure they would never want us to eulogize them or say that they have done anything great in this life. They were men of deep humility. You know what they would want; they would want us to carry on for posterity, for our children whom we love.

Now, just a word for our dear friends who have gathered this morning hour under the sound of God's precious gospel. We have spoken briefly of the times in which we are living and we do not wish to be cynical this morning, but let's be realistic. Let's face facts. Are you sure of tomorrow? Are you absolutely sure that you will be here? If God would somehow terminate your life, would you be ready to answer His summons and say, "Here I am Lord with my talent which has gained other talents?" Are you in that position? If you are not, beloved friends, if you are not, remember just remember, that the day of opportunity is yours today. We place it before you and because of the gravity of the time in which we live, we only ask kindly. We pray to God that somehow, you too, might come to Him who can give you light and the most wonderful opportunity to be in His service. Just ask any one of the faithful, dedicated members, any one of them, how they feel about this and they will tell you. You will have a source of inner strength and you'll have something that you can really treasure. This is the beginning of wisdom, the fear of the Lord. May you this morning, now, today, heed the summons; for He says in one of His beautiful Scripture passages, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you; seek and you shall find." Find what? Find real happiness, to say nothing of the joy which one day shall be yours in the infinite realm of glory when He shall call us all, finally, to Him and shall judge everyone who has lived upon this earth. May His boundless grace descend upon us all that we might walk before Him as His people and His children.

SERMON SPOKEN BY BRO. ROY SAUDER OF PEORIA, IL.

Taken from Acts Chapter 3

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father: In the beauty of this Sabbath morning, we come before Thee. We would never count ourselves worthy of the infinite love which Thou has sent unto us again, but rather that we are many times unworthy of this love which Thou dost in such full measure bestow upon us. We are thankful, Heavenly Father, that we can assemble in this place with these whom we love, these brethren who walk the same way that we walk and with whom we are bound in like faith. Father in heaven, this is a precious heritage, this heritage which Thou has established upon this earth through Jesus Christ, Thy Son. We pray Thee that, so long as we live, we shall never forget the supreme sacrifice Thou didst make on Calvary's cross so that we could have the hope of immortality through Thy shed blood; and that we can continue to greet one another in the precious faith which is ours and which we cherish in our hearts. We pray that we would be faithful servants, Heavenly Father, walking after Thee, so that we might be able to transcend all that which is carnal, clinging to Thee, O Lord, and to the cross upon which Thou didst die and shed Thy precious blood. May our hearts ever be willing to follow Thee, willing to do that which is Thy will, even though it might be the bearing of a heavy cross and even though we might have much frustration in this life. We are thankful, Heavenly Father, for hearts that could be moved unto repentance in this congregation; and we pray Thy blessing upon them that Thou wouldst give unto them faith, hope, and love, these three virtues which are so necessary. We ask Thy blessing upon this congregation; upon the elder who works and shepherds this flock; upon the ministers who faithfully serve and proclaim Thy precious Word; and

we ask, Lord, that more could yet be turned unto Thee and Thy marvelous light, finding the living hope in Thee, our Lord and Saviour, and the joy which is in Thy service. We thank Thee for the assembly of our dear friends who gather in this morning hour with us. Bless Thou them and touch their hearts, Lord God, we pray Thee.

We pray, Heavenly Father, for the boys who are scattered in the far and distant outposts of this world in the service of their government. We pray for those who are upon the fields of battle, whose hearts today may be turned unto Thee, our God, and toward those whom they love. We pray that a special portion of courage and faith and devotion may be theirs, and that Thy Father blessing might be their portion and lot. Lord Jesus, we pray that somehow Thou wouldst move the hearts of men who are leaders of nations so that a feeling of brotherhood with one another and esteem for Thee, our God, may be in their hearts. But, Lord, we are not much vexed at this turmoil and frustration which seems to be prevalent for we know that we are living in the end times, and we pray that we might become more dedicated and that we might seek for more faithfulness in this time in which we live. May our hearts be concerned for one another and our love never grow dim or diminish. We pray that Thou wouldst now bless our gathering together, and remember Thy poor servants who are to proclaim Thy word, not only here but in all places. May a prayer be breathed in each heart that we might be edified, and that we might leave this place lifted up with a Father blessing. Forgive us, graciously, where we err for we find we come far short of Thy goodness, O Lord. We pray for the sick and for those who are suffering. Abide with us now; we ask in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Beloved, it never ceases to amaze us when we read in the Scriptures of God's miracles. We read this morning of a time when, in the course of their dedication to God, Peter and John went together to the temple to pray. This was not unusual for Peter and John as it was "... the hour of prayer." A lame man was laid daily at the beautiful gates of the temple to ask alms of those who entered. This man was not blessed with the sustenance of worldly good, and he had to beg so that he might nourish his body and exist. Probably not everyone was benevolent and gave to him.

As these two men of God drew near to the temple, we read that Peter fastened his eyes upon him and said, "Look on us." The lame man expected something, but Peter just said, "Look on us." It says that "... he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them," and Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give thee." (Here is where the miracle takes place.) "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The lame man did not expect to hear this. For a moment place yourself in the position of this lame man at the gates of the temple. Every other morning he had received, perhaps, a mere pittance to exist, but here was a man who said, "Look on us," a man of God. Perhaps he had sought the advice of physicians many times and was not healed. Peter took him, we read, and lifted him up and "immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength," he leaped up and stood, and walked. He entered the temple and praised God.

You might say, if you read this chapter, "That's wonderful!" Well, it was wonderful, but when Jesus Christ, beloved, comes to an unconverted soul and says, "Look on me," and with the eyes of faith

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