

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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ETERNAL SECURITY

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

It was in those early years in Japan. My wife and I lived in a small hut in a bamboo thicket where mosquitos thrived and a multitude of rats used our attic for a baseball diamond to practice sliding during the night. Our ceiling was made of over-lapping slats to let the house breathe during the rainy season. That also permitted the rats to knock dust down on our bed which was spread out on the straw mats each evening and then gathered up again in the morning. That still is a very practical way of sleeping in the Orient. Since then, the hard working Japanese have cleaned up the rats and performed an economical miracle, but at that time the country was suffering very much from the effects of World War II.

I was in an intensive Japanese language course at the university and was having serious difficulty. I studied nothing but Japanese, full time, for 15 months straight. No student should think that because his grades have always been good that he can handle anything. He can't. There is always a course of some kind that will take that confidence out of you. I had met my Waterloo, the name of the battle in which Napoleon was defeated. On more than one occasion, I exploded in tears. I remember riding my bicycle home from the university, part way through the day, when I could stand the pressure no longer; tears poured down my cheeks and I sobbed to let off tension. I went home and started slapping oil on the house. Houses were not painted in Japan in those days, but oiled. I needed to do something to help my nerves. During those years, I somehow never became angry, but just wept.

To add to the pressure, there was always the feeling in the States that I should have useful employment

in Japan, that man's main obligation in life is to earn a good livelihood for himself and his family.

At about that time, we had guests who were traveling through Japan on their way to work for the Lord in another country. These loved ones were formerly of our group of believers but were then working with another group who required that they believe in eternal security, or "once saved, always saved," in order to work with them for the Lord.

In our conversation with our guests, the matter of eternal security came up, and I was told that my faith was on shaky ground because I did not embrace the doctrine of eternal security in the same way that my guests did. In fact, I went so far as to state that I believe it is possible for the true child of God to lose his salvation if he "does not abide in the vine," which of course refers to abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Needless to say, I was badly shaken, considering my emotional condition at the time, to be told in effect that I was probably not really a child of God and that my name was probably not written in the Lamb's Book of Life because I believed a true child of God, if he went back to the ways of the devil and continued therein, which I understand to be a possibility, would not have the promise of eternal life. At the same time, I felt I had to study my Japanese assignment for the next day, and I remember studying the text books at the airport while seeing our guests depart.

There are many Scripture verses to give assurance of salvation to the believer who suffers from doubt. Perhaps the most often quoted is John 5:24, "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word,

and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." As a young believer, I considered this matter very seriously and asked many questions of our brethren about it, which earned, for me, the reputation of being a believer in eternal security.

There was little room for doubt that the original Greek wording of the above quoted verse indicates present possession of eternal life, for those who "believe", who trust in and cling to and rely on Him who sent Jesus Christ. My Greek friend in the army told me that the Greek word for "believe" means that you will trust in and stay with Christ "though the world turn upside down." The words of the last quote are the very words he used.

Those of us who believe that it is possible to be lost after repentance and a true conversion to Christ understand John 5:24 to refer to those who continue to cling to Christ to the end. To say that it is impossible to have eternal life and then to lose eternal life is not convincing to us. It is still our understanding that the assurance of salvation requires a clinging to, and an abiding in, Christ.

There are many other verses that give assurance of salvation to the true believer. To thoroughly cover them all would require the writing of a voluminous book, a task I am not now attempting, which warn and which take away a person's assurance of salvation if he continues to walk in ungodly ways, separated from Christ. One such Scripture portion is Hebrews 6:4-6, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good

word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

The above quoted verses put fear into the heart of anyone who takes God's Word seriously. Yet, here too, we must realize that some people need such a stern warning, even as others need such reassuring verses as John 5:24. It does not mean, according to our understanding, that there is no hope for those who still find grace to repent and live a holy life in Christ Jesus. It does mean, though, that, as long as a person who was once converted and continues to live in sin and away from Jesus Christ, he is crucifying the Son of God afresh and putting Him to an open shame, and, that as long as this kind of a life continues, it is impossible for him to be renewed to repentance. In actual experience, some have walked in the ways of the Lord for a period of time, turned back to the ways of sin, but then repented. How were they able to re-

pent? By discontinuing their sinning. Obedience opens the windows of heaven through which the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ pours out in abundance. This grace is not forthcoming if we continue to walk apart from Jesus Christ, but it is restored to a broken and obedient heart. The important thing is to quit bouncing around from one master to another. Abide in Christ!

Several other Bible references, among many, which refute eternal security are Luke 8:13, "They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." and Colossians 1:22 and 23, ". . . to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel. . ."

We are not ashamed to be among those who put emphasis on abiding in Christ in contrast to those who put emphasis on eternal security, even if the professing believer wan-

ders far from the straight and narrow way spoken of by our Lord. However, we do not love others any less if they have a different view, but we warn them that they must not use their belief in eternal security as a false assurance when they are living apart from Jesus Christ. In our own brotherhood, we would not ask a brother or sister who embraces eternal security to teach Sunday School or to minister the Word as we want unity and harmony in working together.

". . . Walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin," I John 1:7. If we truly walk in the Light, we can then say with the Apostle Paul, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38 and 39.

ETERNAL SECURITY

Bro. Ernest A. Graf

Our Savior warned (Matt. 24: 23-26) of false prophets and false christs in the latter days. We see many manifestations of this today. One such very insidious deceptive doctrine is a falsely defined "Eternal Security," identified by the motto, "Once saved, always saved." Genuine Eternal Security is the essence of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His holy apostles as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Eternal security is the purpose and the objective of the death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven of Jesus Christ.

However, the attainment of this most blessed situation and achievement is conditional. It is conditional upon obedience to the Word and Spirit of the Scriptures.

Both John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance and regeneration of heart and life. Jesus stated to Nicodemus (John 3:3-5) that unless a man is born again, he cannot see nor enter the kingdom of heaven.

Now the claimants of "Once saved, always saved," ignore, and thereby deny, the teachings in the

Word as to the holiness of life which must follow redemption and regeneration.

There are many scriptures which refute the doctrine of "Once saved always saved." Several of these are as follows:

Matt. 24:13: But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

John 8:11: Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.

John 5:13: Behold thou art made whole; go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Rom. 6:1,2: Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid! How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?

Rom. 12:1,2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice; holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds.

Gal. 5:1: Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free, and be not tangled again in the yoke of bondage.

Heb. 10:26,27: If we sin wilfully after we receive the knowledge of truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Rev. 2 and 3 consist entirely of encouragement to a Godly life and

THE SILVER LINING

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a warning against backsliding by souls once purchased by the precious blood of Christ who have started upon the narrow way.

Rev. 22:14,15 reveal who shall

have a portion in the New Jerusalem and who will be excluded.

There are many other Scriptures giving instructions how the true believers must conduct themselves

to find and retain the most blessed and worthwhile thing in life — Eternal Security!

Bro. Ernest A. A. Graf, Akron, Ohio.

A TREASURY OF PRAISE

A History of the Zion's Harp Hymnal (Continued)

USING THE ZION'S HARP TO GAIN CONVERTS

There is some evidence which supports the theory that the **Zion's Harp** songbook may have been used as a tool in "evangelistic" endeavors during the church's early presence in the United States.

A few historical references allude to the fact that a certain "song book" was used to help explain the doctrine of Christ as our forefathers of the faith attempted to establish a foothold on the North American shores. These references are not explicit in saying the hymnal was the **Zion's Harp**, but there is a good possibility it was.

As previously stated, the Evangelical Baptists in Europe, under S. H. Froelich, had always used some form of the **Zion's Harp** hymnal in their meetings. In fact, at that time it is assumed they only used one hymnal. Owing to the fact that the Apostolic Christian people have always exercised caution with regard to using proper hymnals, etc., it is especially logical to conclude that in the first half of the 19th century this was true as well. Thus, it is the author's conclusion that reference to a "song book" being used to help expound the doctrines of Christ could very well mean that the **Zion's Harp** was used.

Arletha Zehr Bender in her book, **A History of the Mennonites of Lewis County** makes reference to the fact that a "songbook" was used by a man from Switzerland who was attempting to explain the "new birth." This occurred at the French Settlement in Lewis County, New York, the site of the two current Apostolic Christian churches at Croghan and Naumburg.

By 1850, a sizable number of Europeans lived in Lewis County, New York. Many were of Mennonite origin, and others had roots from the Evangelical Baptists in Switzerland and Germany, Bene-

dict Weyeneth was dispatched by S. H. Froelich to visit this area, and minister to them if needed. Among his initial activities was the visiting of several Mennonite churches in the area.

Bender writes, "In the year 1850 an invited elder Benedict Weyeneth from Switzerland came to the French Settlement. Some have said that two men came at this time, both from Switzerland, who were of a sect popularly known as 'die Froehlichen.' A little different teaching unfamiliar to the Amish Mennonite people was introduced by them. Attending the regular Sunday morning worship service (in a Mennonite assembly), Benedict Weyeneth was granted permission from Rudolph Virkler (a Mennonite Bishop at that time) to read a song from a book. The song being read after the conclusion of the regular meeting indicated the teaching of immersion, it is thought. He presented to the congregation the importance of these doctrines and visited their homes reviewing the changes necessary for them to adopt."

Bender further describes, "Here they were known as the 'New Amish.' They claim for themselves at the present time the name of 'Evangelical Baptist.' They were present at the usual meeting for worship and preaching services, and after the conclusion of the meeting, they asked to read a song out of a book. Some church officials would not allow such liberty, but Bishop Virkler granted them the liberty."

Based on these two references, it is logical that this book could well have been the **Zion's Harp**. For this song book truly contains the richness of God's plan in words that are both inspiring and accurate.

A review of the Topical Index of the **Zion's Harp** reveals that 13 songs pertain to Repentance, 11 to The Holy Baptisms, and 2 to The New Birth From Above. Often, the

authors are tremendously explicit in communicating the great truths of the Bible, and one can readily see that such a book could well have aided Bro. Weyeneth as a tactic in bringing the good news to those lukewarm assemblies in Lewis County.

If, indeed, this "song book" was the **Zion's Harp**, it only adds further lustre to a book that is greatly appreciated, and which continues in the late 20th century, to inspire the hearts of God's people.

The Zion's Harp . . . A Classic!

The brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church are very appreciative of the **Zion's Harp** hymnal, and truly recognize its spiritual worth to the brotherhood. Over the years many comments have been made concerning this hymnal, but none have surpassed the statement made by a late, elder brother who succinctly and matter-of-factly exclaimed, "The **Zion's Harp** songbook is indeed a classic!"

Certainly, in referring to this song book as a classic, fair justice has been rendered. This, then, gives rise to the question, exactly what is a "classic"? The dictionary defines it as "a work, especially in literature or art, of the highest class, and of acknowledged excellence." On this basis then, those who have over the years come to love and appreciate the songs in the **Zion's Harp**—and who recognize their intrinsic worth—can unreservedly unite with the conclusion that this hymnal is a "classic."

Songs in the **Zion's Harp** cover a wide expanse of time. They register a legacy that spans five centuries, from the time of Frau Kruedener to the present. Over the centuries, these songs have helped to lighten burdens, and to truly inspire converted believers in Christ.

By contrast, the book as it is known to the Apostolic Christian Church today, is little over a century old—not very old at all! Yet, it is logical to conclude that these songs, which have stood for centur-

ies, will continue to be echoed from the lips of individual members, and will be manifested as a score of inspiration to the brotherhood.

In retrospect, two factors seem to stand out regarding the spiritual worth and durability of the songs contained within this hymnal. First, in addition to exemplifying considerable substance regarding the doctrine of Christ, it is compatible with the King James Version of the Bible in that the word form of each book matches (ie. Thee, Thy, Thou, Thine). Adjunct to this, the Zion's

Harp serves as an auxiliary inspirational source to the Bible.

Secondly, the lyrics of these songs were born in the rich historical context of German hymnody and the authors, mostly, were trained theologians and musicians. The fact that these songs continue to be inspirational in the fast-paced 20th century is a fitting tribute to this collection of songs.

Essentially, the hymns of the graphic book of confession. It is a sacred collection which has enriched the various phases of history.

The songs are an abiding memorial of inspirational lyrics and tunes. The hymnal mirrors the believers' joys and sorrows and deepest experiences. In short, it is an eloquent witness for the all-conquering and invincible power of faith.

Since the 1830's, the Apostolic Christian brethren have cherished this beloved Zion's Harp hymnal. May they never tire of it. And, may this treasure of praise continue to live on . . . and remain a classic!

This is the conclusion of "A Treasury of Praise."

A TIMELY WARNING

Speaking With Tongues (Charismatic Movement)

Ed. note: the following is a reprint of the publication **Speaking With Tongues**, published by the Apostolic Christian Church of Peoria, Illinois.

SPEAKING WITH TONGUES (Charismatics)

The doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the speaking with tongues has been exercised by the Pentecostal Church since approximately 1900. This doctrine has been spreading until now it is in practically every denomination. In order that we understand this movement, it would be well to know something about the beginning of this doctrine and some of the characteristics of it. It seems as though it was started by a Charles F. Parham who lived from 1873 to 1929, and has been called the father of the modern Pentecostal movement. He established the Bethel Healing Home and the Bethel Bible College, in Topeka, Kansas. The student body which was about 40 was asked to research the question—What is the Bible evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost? There was unanimous agreement that speaking in tongues was this evidence. From this time, which was in the Fall of 1900, there was a concerted effort to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with its evidence of tongue speaking. One of the students spoke in tongues on January 1, 1901. This person was a lady, and was not necessarily the first person in modern times to speak in tongues, however she was the first person to have received such an experience as a result of specifically seeking a baptism in the Holy Spirit

it with the expectation of speaking in tongues. Henceforth, Pentecostals were to teach that baptism of the Holy Spirit was an experience to be sought and to be verified in tongues. In 1905 Parham established the Houston Bible School, in Houston, Texas. One of his convinced students was W.J. Seymour, a Negro Holiness Preacher. Seymour was invited to preach at a Nazarene Church in Los Angeles California. He was later locked out of this Nazarene Church because of his extreme holiness preaching. He then held meetings in a home, and on April 9, 1906, seven received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. Many people were then attracted to the meetings by the shouts of praise that came out of the building. The meeting lasted night and day for three years. From this place the teaching of Pentecostalism spread rapidly across the land. The services were led by both male and female preachers.

Certain passages in the Old Testament speak of the rainfall in Palestine in two seasons—the early rain and the latter rain found in Hosea 6:3 and Joel 2:23. Pentecostals believe that these passages have a prophetic character. The early rain was Pentecost with its unusual signs and blessings, Acts 2. The latter rain began at the turn of the century and is continuing to fall within the Pentecostal revival and growth. Such a conviction, although built upon a misinterpretation and a misapplication of Scripture has no doubt given impotence to its growth. **The phenomenon of speaking in tongues is not unique to the Christian religion. Occur-**

rences among pagans have been recorded by writers of old. In the 20th century, it has also occurred among Mohammedans, the Eskimos and the pagans of Tibet and China. Since God is not the source of this speaking in tongues among the pagans, this is an indication that this phenomenon can be duplicated by satanic or human effort. The first clear instances of speaking in tongues in the Bible are to be found in the New Testament. It was mentioned in Mark 16:17, and was experienced by the Disciples in Jerusalem, Acts 2. Next, it is mentioned in Acts 10 which gives the account of Cornelius in Caesarea and then by the Disciples of John the Baptist, in Ephesus, Acts 19. Lastly, it is mentioned in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, I Corinthians 12:14. After the time in which the Apostles lived, speaking in tongues ceased as a normal activity of the believers. This is recorded by the early Christian writers.

The contemporary expression of the tongues movement has only been in existence for five to ten years, and yet it has caused great debate and amazement in both the Pentecostal Church and in other Protestant Churches. It is important that we evaluate this tongue's movement in the light of the Scriptural truth to ascertain whether it be of God or not. Great effort has been put forth to promote the modern tongue's movement. One of the groups responsible for this promotional effort is the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International. This group has sponsored banquets and conventions throughout the world and especially in this country.

There are local, monthly banquets and regional, national and international conventions held in modern hotel and convention centers. At these affairs, the featured speakers are key Pentecostal leaders. Another key group which is sponsoring the modern tongue's movement is the Blessed Trinity Society, which sponsors Christian Advance meetings throughout the country. It must be recognized that speaking in tongues is a lot more widespread than most Christians realize. At the present time, in many of the various Protestant Churches, the tongue speakers have remained as loyal members of their churches, however their zeal for their new found experiences has caused strife and division within these churches. According to some churches, there are several alternative solutions to this problem. The tongue speakers can stay within their local churches and promote their experience at the risk of splitting the church or possible excommunication. In some places, they can stay and keep quiet about their experiences, or they can leave their respective churches and identify themselves with the Pentecostal assemblies.

Again, we must realize the fact that tongue speaking is taking place everywhere—in homes, in private and public prayer groups, in church services, and in banquet and convention rooms. Quite often, certain unusual things happen before and after the person has spoken in tongues. There is a report of a physician on record which states thusly: "When I went to bed, I had no more than pulled the covers over me when the room was filled with a mighty rushing sound, which might be described as wind, and in a few moments tongues of fire." Four months later this man received the baptism of the spirit and spoke in tongues, after people had laid their hands on him, according to Biblical pattern. It might be well if we observe what the Scripture has to say in this regard. In Acts 2, wind and fire were present at Pentecost, but there was no laying on of hands. At Pentecost, when the winds and fire did occur, the Disciples were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. This man, however, did not receive the spirit or speak in tongues until four months later. Also, the sound at Pentecost attracted a large crowd, but his sound attracted none. There are many cases recorded about the ex-

periences of those who received the fullness of the spirit and speak in many and varied, and very likely most of them have some results, but it must be remembered that the results of a spiritual experience do not form the test of the divine genuineness of the experience.

There is an account recorded of a Lutheran minister who was also a tongue speaker, who gave the following information as instructions: In order to speak in tongues, you have to quit praying in English. You simply lapse into silence and resolve to speak not a syllable of any language you have ever learned. Your thoughts are focused on Christ, and then you simply lift up your voice and speak out confidently in the faith that the Lord will take the sound you give Him and shape it into a language. You take no thought of what you are saying. As far as you are concerned, it is just a series of sounds. The first sounds will sound strange and unnatural to your ear, and they may be halting and inarticulate. One of the Pentecostal leaders gave the following instructions to those who sought to speak in tongues at Yale University: (1.) To think visually and concretely rather than abstractedly. For example, try to visualize Jesus as a person. (2.) Consciously, to yield their voices and organs of speech to the Holy Spirit. (3.) To repeat certain elementary sounds which he told them such as bah-bah-bah, or something similar. He then laid his hands on the head of each seeker, prayed for him, and the speaker did actually speak in tongues. Now, we must consider there are no indications in the Biblical accounts that persons were primed or instructed to repeat certain sounds in order to facilitate the experience. The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. Also in Acts 2 and 10, there was no laying on of the hands at the time of speaking in tongues. In addition, in all three Biblical accounts, in Acts 2, 10, and 19, there is no evidence that one person prayed that another might speak in tongues. It can be therefore concluded that the principle of giving instructions for speaking in tongues is foreign to the Biblical record. Men spoke in tongues spontaneously as the Spirit prompted them.

It now behooves us to search the Scriptures to determine the validity of speaking in tongues in our modern day. The word tongue is

used 25 times in the New Testament to describe the actual phenomenon of speaking in tongues. It is mentioned in Mark 16:17, Acts 2:4, 11, Acts 10:46, Acts 19:6, I Corinthians 12:10. It is mentioned here twice. I Corinthians 12:28 and 30, I Corinthians 13:1 and 8, I Corinthians 14:2, 4 and 5 where it is mentioned twice. Also I Corinthians 14, verses 6, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 39. According to the original Greek, the speaking in tongues indicated speaking in a foreign language. This is a contrast to the ecstatic speech that results in most of the tongue speaking today.

The only mention of the phenomenon of speaking in tongues in the four Gospels is found in Mark 16:17. In searching the Gospels, we find that the Holy Spirit was the agent of the conception of the Lord Jesus, Luke 1:35. At least five persons are said to have been filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, as recorded in Matthew 3:16 and Luke 4:1; John the Baptist, mentioned in Luke, 1:15; Elizabeth, in Luke 1:41, Zacharias, in Luke 1:67, and Simon in Luke 2:25. It must be noticed that none of these are reported to have spoken in tongues, either during or after the experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would baptize in the Holy Spirit and with fire, Matthew 3:11, but he never mentioned that speaking in tongues would be the physical evidence of this experience. Jesus also predicted the Advent of the Holy Spirit into the world and into believers' lives, John 7:37 and 39, John 14:16, and John 16:7, but he nowhere intimated that it would be accompanied with the phenomenon of speaking in tongues. One of the Pentecostal leaders advocated that believers are expected to ask God for the Holy Spirit and that tongue speaking would be the evidence of His reception. It should be noted, however, that Christ said that He would pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, John 14:16. The Disciples were not told after this declaration to ask for the Holy Spirit. Christ also outlined the future relationships of the Holy Spirit to the believer and the world, John 14:17, without any reference to speaking in tongues. In one of His appearances after His resurrection, it is said that Christ breathed on them and said unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost,"

John 20:22. This climatic event was not attended either by speaking in tongues. In emphasizing the events of Pentecost, Acts 2, the advocates of the modern speaking in tongues have failed to give proper significance to this initial reception of the Holy Spirit by the Disciples. The absence of the existence of the phenomenon of speaking in tongues in the Gospel period is significant. Several were filled with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was predicted apart from any mention of this phenomenon. **Jesus outlined the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Disciples without mentioning it. In Mark's account as recorded in Chapter 16, verses 15 to 18, it states:**

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Here are listed five signs that shall follow them that believe, including among them the speaking with tongues. In regard to the sign, in my name shall they cast out devils, this occurred only by the acts of Peter, Philip, and Paul. There is no indication in the Acts or in the Epistles that all believers practiced this. In regard to the sign, they shall take up serpents, there is no illustration in the rest of the New Testament of any believer performing this deed. Even though Paul has been cited as an example in Acts 28:1, 6, it must be remembered that he did not pick up the snake, but rather that the snake bit him. About the sign, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them, the Bible is rather silent about this practice. The sign, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, is one that is mentioned, and many accounts of healing without the laying on of hands are recorded, these being in Acts 3:1 to 11, 9:32 to 35 and 19:11. However, there

are cases where the laying on of hands resulted in physical healing, these being in Acts 9:17 and 18, 28:8 and 9; also in James 5:14 and 15. Again, this is not a universal practice. Of course, the other sign in regard to speaking with tongues, as mentioned before, is primarily in the Acts and in I Corinthians. **It seems rather strange that present day tongue speakers put so much emphasis on that one sign, and practically none on the other four.**

(Continued on Page 25)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

"I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared the faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving kindness and thy truth from the great congregation." Psalm 40:10. The Lord is always right, and our human opinions are often wrong. We are thankful that He is always trying to work what is right in our lives by His Holy Spirit. Both in our personal lives and here at the home, we must declare that He has been faithful to us. We will not conceal His loving kindness and His truth from our brethren.

One may look upon us for some great sign of conversion or success, but we have none to show. Neither have we a demonstration of the Lord in any strong wind, earthquake, or fire (I Kings 19:11-12). But in a still voice of encouragement we are led on by a great, big wonderful God who doesn't cast us off in our iniquities or leave us when we make mistakes. He keeps on encouraging and teaching us in the small, ordinary needs of our everyday life with answered prayer. I John 3:21, 22; 5:14-15.

He has been good to us, has worked things out for us, and has provided for our every need. We would never be able to do our job here if God did not provide for us and the children.

Therefore, take courage everyone, and put your trust in the Lord. He is faithful who has promised. Heb. 10:23. The Lord encouraged us Sunday with the story of Jehoshaphat's victory. Read II Chron. 20 and praise the Lord (vs.22) for His victory in your life if you will let Him work it.

We only write these things to declare His loving kindness to the great congregation.

As in your household, so it is in ours; the running around and summer activities are hectic. We have four girls with full-time jobs. Transporting them to and fro, running to the doctor for allergy shots and knee injuries, getting clothes, and attending the 4-H fair takes up a lot of our time. One houseparent "runs" while the other stays back in the kitchen to cook, do the wash, and watch the little ones. Needless to say, we could not have gotten along this summer without the volunteer help of some single brothers and sisters.

We had a grape arbor constructed. Some maintenance installations and a summer school program were implemented because of them.

Regular days off are needed for the houseparents. With these continued needs, we are looking for a full-time couple to fill in for all of these functions. We know the Lord is seeing what we need and will provide.

We sure thank Him for sending us the Aberles. They are working out very well. We also thank Him for our new administrator, Bro. Bob Cockburn, who is now with us full time. Both he, his wife, and his family are living in the Leo area.

We also want to express our appreciation to Bro. Bruce Knapp who served us very adroitly for the past year. His tasks went everywhere from changing diapers to giving an impartial "ear" to our teenagers' complex problems. Many times he gave the houseparents relief. We thank him very much.

Reminder—The Quilt Sale is Sept. 15th.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME SALE

The third annual auction and sale will be held on Saturday, September 15, 1979, at the Children's Home. Many crafts, plants, baked goods, etc. will be offered for sale in the west tent.

In the east tent the auctioning will begin sharply at 9:00 a.m. with a huge assortment of quilts, comforters, and afghans being put up for bidding. A new category this year will be RS China. A total of 81 pieces of this fine china will be auctioned off beginning at 1:00 p.m. Included in this selection will be RS Prussia, RS Prussia-red mark, RS Germany, RS Tillowitz, a 12 inch red portrait urn signed Kaufman, an Angelica Kaufman charger with gold trimmed ornate-signed,

as well as many other pieces. Be sure to come early to have enough time to view these beautiful pieces before the auction begins. Rounding off the auction will be the sale of many good condition antiques, including a 5½ foot high spinning wheel, a five drawer oak chest with hat cupboard, a Cheney Talking Machine (walnut veneer) with 25 records, a brass foot warmer, as well as many other items.

In addition to the opportunity to view, bid, and purchase the many items available, we will also have a selection of fine food for your consumption to help you keep up your strength for the day's activities.

Last, but not least, we invite you to come visit us so that you may see the facilities, get to meet our kids and staff and enjoy the fellowship we have come to find at our annual sale here at Leo.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Albert Schweitzer once said, . . . the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Here at our unique Home, we and you have such a golden opportunity to serve where it is so very much appreciated. We want this Home to be a place where character is built, where sacrifices are made to contribute to the happiness of others, where love has taken up its abode. One cannot measure a HOME by inches or weigh it by ounces any more than one can set up boundaries of a summer breeze or calculate the fragrance of a rose. If a home can be measured, it could most likely be measured by the disciplined love which reigns there.

An unknown author who had respect for the One who holds us all in the hollow of His Almighty Hand, wrote as follows:

I'm glad my times are in Thy hands:

It is so sweet to know
That everything by Thee is planned
For me where'er I go;
The hand that holds the ocean's depths

Can hold my small affairs;
The hand that guides the universe
Can carry all my cares.

Thou seest all that's coming, Lord,
The pleasure and the pain;
And Thou art shaping all for me
And my eternal gain.
Thy hand is one of love and power,

So gentle yet so strong,
It surely can control all things
Which unto me belong.

I'm glad I cannot shape my way,
I'd rather have Thy will;
I'm glad the ordering is not mine
I'd rather have Thy will;
I do not know the future, and
I would not if I might,
For faith to me is better far
Than faulty human sight.

My times are in Thy hands, O Lord
'Tis restful it is so;
And as I tread an untried way,
'Tis quieting to know
That my dear Father up in heaven
Doth understand my case,
So I can safely trust to Him
All till I see His face.

Again, we pause with a sense of awe and reverence for the One who holds the perfect time schedule for each of us in His Almighty Hand. On June 25, we found it necessary to bid farewell to Edward C. Getz, who has lived at our Home since November of 1973. Edward was the son of Sameul D. and Eunice Altorfer Getz, who are both deceased. One sister, Marjorie (Truman) Baumgartner, two neices and one nephew, of Bluffton, IN, survive.

Eddie's melodious singing voice and his cheerful greeting are no longer ours to hear, but the memory will linger with us. His mission on earth is now completed. Ours was the privilege to have had a part in that assignment.

We are happy for Sis. Ruth Schwartz who has been able to move back home to Bluffton, IN, where she has employment.

An educational class, who had been studying about the Presidents of the United States, had the privilege of taking a trip to Springfield, IL, to tour Lincolnland. Our kitchen department added to the enjoyment by providing a picnic lunch to be eaten at noon.

A reminder that in a few short months it will again be time for the annual Benefit Day will give us all the incentive to make the needed preparations.

Robert Louis Stevenson evaluated man's proper attitude toward the swiftly-moving days which constitute our time on earth in the following prayerful comments: "Good-night—When the day returns, call us up with morning faces and morning hearts, eager to labor, happy if happiness is to be our portion; and

if the day be marked with sorrow, strong to endure."

Thought Gems from the Home for Handicapped—

Most footprints in the sand of time were made by work shoes.

Give me a little work to occupy my mind, a little suffering to sanctify my spirit, and a little good to do to comfort my heart.

We cannot take with us to Heaven what we have; only what we are.

In love's service, only the wounded can serve well.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

Now available: Sunday School workbook, "Intermediate Workbook—Part I," for 3rd and 4th grades, based on Egermeier textbook. Workbook covers 1st half of O.T. and N.T. stories, plus Easter stories. Part II workbook should be available early fall, which covers remaining stories. Order from Apostolic Christian Publications, 524 Valley Court, Eureka, IL. 61530.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

"Jesus loves the little children" and all too soon they are young teens and pre-teens. A graduation tea was held to honor our high school graduates Cheryl Farney, Bro. Steve Freed, and Bro. Herb Knockel and Denny Zollinger, who graduated from grade school.

We're glad to see Paul and Carol Doolittle and Dorothy Kraft assembling with us again. Some of our dear ones have been quite ill at home for weeks and your prayers are needed. Bro. Ernie DeMille has been very ill. The doctor told Sis. Martha to call the family home from the other states. Our prayer is for God's will. Sis. Doris Kokanovich is sorely missed with a severe infection-type illness. At this writing, Sis. Doris has just been hospitalized. Sis. Ruth Vaughn was hospitalized for surgery and is doing nicely. Sis. Madeline Knochel (Bro. Ted) had foot surgery.

On June 2, we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Loren Knapp give us some humble teachings on earthly goods. Our heart and eyes should be on our precious Saviour. We hope that Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn will soon return.

Jerry and Sis. June Tooley were blessed with a little girl. Jessica June. Stephanie and Kelly welcome her as do grandparents Harvey and Sis. Dorothy Rieger of Forrest.

Our Sunday School picnic was held June 23 at Prescott, AZ. Many enjoyed the beautiful drive north as well as the cooler air and God's handiwork manifested in the tall pines and beautiful blue sky.

We enjoyed our monthly hymn-sing which was preceded by a delicious "Phoenix Potluck" supper.

As of this writing, our unusual summer weather has brought six straight days of over 110 degrees, with several records being broken for previous highs. Truly, our Lord cares for our every need, whatever it may be, as a 25-45 degree drop during the night is a blessing. Still, our beloved brethren and friends come to worship and visit.

Sis. Evelyn Hoerr wishes to thank all for prayers, cards, and gifts from near and far while she was hospitalized.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Mac Donald - Shirley Witzig

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 117.

How thankful we were for these ministering brothers who shared the Truth that "endureth forever": Bill Dotterer (Phoenix), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), and Lenard Meyer (Chicago). May the Lord richly bless these willing vessels.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

Each morning we awaken to a new day. . . and it is often so soon passed. What is time?—It is a connection of seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years; and then it goes on and on and eventually there is eternity.

Days and years of small in number often seem long to us. Yet, with God, 1000 years is as but yesterday. Who of us can recall their memory? God has a perfect memory. He remembers everything. The Scriptures, throughout, substantiate that. We cannot calculate nor attain by any natural comparison the kind of mind and power of comprehension nor insight of our omnipotent God. Still, we have the assurances that the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity dwells in the humble heart of the believer. This is what the new convert builds his or her hope on—to know that his conversion was the work of God.

In recent days, here at Rockville,

three dear friends gave their testimonies with boldness and confidence. Truly, the miracles that came forth as the testimonies were laid open were marvelous. All were then baptized and went on their way, joyfully. The names of these converts are: Joan Eliot (Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine Luginbuhl), John Lanz (Bro. Edwin and Marylyn Lanz), and Steve Neir. Bro. Steve is now one of our newcomers whom we gladly welcome. Bro. Joe Ramsier, Rittman, was present for the service and assisted our Elder Bro. John Bahler.

Our Church had the pleasure of having Bro. Ed Bahler of Remington, IN, and Bro. John Klotzle of Autadena, CA. The beautiful messages were filled with spiritual meaning and Godly wisdom. We are fortunate people that the truth is still placed before us.

Stunned and saddened was our church and community recently when our dear youthful Bro. Bruce Hoffman, 28, was taken from this life. While he was returning from his work, a trailer-truck struck his car, demolishing it. His death seemed to be instant. He is survived by his parents, Bro. Ed and Elsa Hoffman, four brothers, several aunts, and other relatives. His burial was at Ellington.

Death came to Bro. Benjamin Kloter, 85, after a lengthy illness. He leaves a son, Ernest Kloter, and two daughters. Burial was at Ellington.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

John and Caroline Hejja

Many people seem to always be searching for happiness, but they are going about it the wrong way—constantly running in the opposite direction. They look for it in worldly pleasures and material possessions. And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15)

Those who are covetous always feel poor because they constantly feel that they are lacking and are looking for something more. Those who are satisfied must feel rich when they count the many blessings which the Lord has given them and return thanks to Him for those things. Christians should look within themselves and thank God for the spiritual and material blessings He has given.

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God tells us to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." (Romans 12:15) We should not compare our lot with that of our brothers and feel sadness (or worse yet, jealousy) because we do not seem to possess the material goods or personal qualities that another may have. If one has been particularly blessed in some way, we should be happy with them. Herein lies the Christian's happiness and satisfaction: "Let your conversation be without covetousness: and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)

Many of our local members have traveled north for summer vacations. We are glad for the safe return of those who are with us again and pray for the safety of those who are still traveling.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elda Martin

Our Sis. Edna Roscher was planning to spend some summer months in Rockville, CT. She made a stop in Washington, DC, and upon returning to her car she fell and broke her hip. She had to spend several weeks there but has now been able to go to Rockville to finish recuperating.

Bro. Roland Keller has spent several weeks in the hospital following surgery on his knee.

We were grateful that Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, MO, brought God's

precious Word to us.

The Lord has granted fifty years of married life to our Sis. Lydia and Moses Vonia. A dinner and reception was held in their honor before they departed to Detroit, MI, to celebrate with their children who live there.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL
Dixie Knapp**

Each born-again believer is filled with both joy and fear when thinking of death—joy for their own expectations of being with Jesus, fear because of those very special people who have not yet had their hearts cleansed. Is fear necessary? What power is there in prayer? Since an unsaved person must make his decision for Christ himself, how can prayer affect this person's decision? How can a believer "pray believing"?

John gives direction to these questions when he writes, "This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." (I John 5:14) God promises to hear us if we ask within his will. But what does "hear us" mean? Does it mean he'll grant our petition? Scripture verses such as John 9:31 and 11:41, 42 imply that hearing our prayer is synonymous with granting our request.

If we are praying for our loved ones, how can we know for sure that praying for their conversion is "asking according to his will"? I Timothy 2:3,4 answers that question. Here Paul says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Now, not only do we know that God will answer our prayers when our request is within his will, we also know that the conversions of our family and friends are things he wants, too.

How are we to pray, then? How can we help these souls to gain victory over Satan's grasp on them? What weapons do we have as born-again believers? Paul describes our power when he says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." (II Cor. 10:4) We have the power to pray for the "pulling down of strong holds" such as hatred, selfishness, or pride in those peoples' lives, those things that are standing

in the way of their yielding to Christ's call.

We are to continue this work of prayer for those who have not been transformed through rebirth. Jesus said, "... The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37,38) Here, the people who Jesus commanded to pray for workers in time became the workers themselves.

We are commanded to pray for our loved ones' salvations and to use God's holy power to combat the strong holds Satan has on them. Each person has to make his decision to repent, but we, through God's help, can pray for power over Satan's hold on them. We all know people who need our prayers, don't we? Now is the time to send those prayers to our Father.

Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum have said many prayers for their children. Bro. Alden did not live to see those prayers answered, because on May 26 he fought his last battle. His victory has been won. So often joy and sorrow walk together. Now he must be rejoicing with the angels because their daughter, Connie Woodcock, and their son, Brent, have sought new beginnings in their lives through Christ. Another answer to prayer!

Bro. Merle Bucher was with us on July 1 to assist in the marriage of his and Sis. Leona's son, Bro. Tim, to Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum. Bro. Alden's presence was felt on this special day. Elder Bro. Dan Koch lead the exchange of vows.

Bob Pyne feels as if he had a foretaste of what hell will be like when an explosion caused severe burns over his body. At this time, he is still in critical condition in Springfield's Memorial Medical Center. Through this tragedy, he has admitted that he does not want to spend eternity in hell. From his hospital bed, he has asked God's forgiveness of his sins and now wants to taste of the joys of heaven. He needs our prayers.

Because of the love we share as believers, it is hard to see good friends move away. Bro. John and Sis. Rose Huette, Calvin, and Lisa have moved to Phoenix. Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth, Justin, and Jordan have also moved to Phoenix. We are grateful for the good memories we've shared and will continue to hold.

Little Jarod Rinkenberger, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon, is his smiling self now that he is well and home from the hospital.

Tillie Nussbaum and family wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for the many beautiful cards, letters, and sincere prayers given during Alden's long illness and ultimate passing from this life. They will never be forgotten. She feels that God took their loved one from their family circle to the promised rest in eternity where there are no disappointments, suffering, or bodily deterioration. She states that they can sing, "I've got more to go to Heaven for than I had yesterday," with a new perspective.

She feels especially blessed since Alden's death because her two remaining unconverted children have (as mentioned previously) found grace to yield their lives to Him.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Evelyn Endress**

We joyfully welcome Sis. Kathy Kieser as our newest sister-in-faith. Elder Bro. Dave Kieser and Leroy Huber (Eureka) were with us on the evening of June 16 when Kathy gave her testimony of faith. The following day, Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) were our visiting ministers, along with Bro. Dave. What a wonderful Father's Day it was for Kathy's father, Bro. David, and her mother, Sis. Shirley.

David Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) had the misfortune of getting his right arm caught in a grain auger. Many thoughts and prayers are with him as its healing progresses.

Lisa and Mark Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha) and Sara Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) were all hospitalized for tonsillectomies.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

No soul is such a "black hole" of intense darkness that if he or she reach out through prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship, the Lord will refuse to flood that soul with His light.

At a recent church meeting, we were reminded of the most important reason for our maintaining good church order. We must be personally responsible and not let ourselves become careless. In Exodus 3:2-6, Moses was told to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. The ground was no

different physically, but it and he were in the presence of our righteous and holy God. And each time we assemble, do we not plead that His Spirit be present? So must we remember the order and respect due in His Holy Presence. We are ever thankful for our visiting ministers through whom the Lord revealed His Spirit, mercy, and grace once again. Bro. Ed Alt, Cissna Park, IL, ministered to us Wednesday, June 20 and Bro. Bill Gerst, Alto, MI, Wednesday, July 11.

The end of June, our Bible class was able to share a day at Roanoke with their Bible class and several others. Early in July, several of our group gathered again in Bloomington for Youth Fellowship Day. Remembering such invitations from our own youth, the times we had and the friends we made, we are truly grateful that our Bible class was made part of such a get-together.

Our beloved Sis. Diane Siever has moved to Peoria, IL. Her family will soon follow. We will continue to pray for her and them that the Lord may bless them, abundantly. Our prayers also follow Jenny Gerst (daughter of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marj Gerst) who has returned from her European trip and finished her last course at Illinois State University, completing her Bachelor's degree. We pray that the Lord will be with Jenny.

Bro. Jim Grivet had surgery, recently. For him and Sis. Martie, we wish the Lord's strength and mercy, as well as his rapid recovery.

One of our visitors reminded us that, no matter how hard Satan tries to keep us as one of his own or trip and tempt us as we struggle upward while trying to follow our Lord Jesus Christ, he has no love in his heart. Human souls are only pawns in his war against our all-powerful God.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Judy Bauer

Mary Anderson

Two young converts have expressed their desire to bring their testimony of faith before the congregation and be added to our fold of believers. They are: Annette Ruetter (Willis and Sis. Anna Marie) and Carol Rinkenberger (Bro. William and Sis. Marge).

A daughter, Sally Helen, was born to Sis. Jeanie and Bro. Larry Kaufman. Eager to assist with her care are her sisters, Christine and

Jill, and brothers Timothy and Michael.

Bro. Les Maul returned to the hospital for further surgery on his leg which he broke some time ago. He is now home and recovering nicely. Sis. Nettie Otto also returned to the hospital for a time but is now back in her home. Sis. Isabel Bauer (Bro. George) was a surgical patient but is home again.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Bro. Arlyn Rudin (Alvin and Dorothy) to Sis. La Nae Laukhuf (Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera) of Latty, OH. Our best wishes are extended to them as they plan their future together.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gay Knapp

Pat Rinkenberger

"He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home." Goethe

Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen (Schieber) Hangartner are at home in Eureka. They were united in marriage on June 17. We hope they will always feel God's peace in their home.

With us on June 17 were Elder Bro. Josh Broquard and Bros. Joe Zimmerman, Morton, and Walter Anliker, Eureka. Other ministers this month were Bros. Loren Knapp, Tucson, Donald Gude-man, La Crosse, and Simon Wagenbach, Tremont. Surely we can feel God's power when He speaks to us through His servants. May they find grace to fulfill their commitment to the Lord.

A Promise To the Lord

I promise that I'll always serve Him gladly. . .
when He can use my voice to speak His Word,
to share His loving message of forgiveness,
of peace and hope with those who haven't heard.

I promise that I'll always serve Him gladly. . .
when He can use my hands to do His will,
when there's some help or comfort I can offer,
when there's a special need that I can fill.

I promise that I'll always serve Him gladly. . .
when He can use my life to show His way. . .

for He has promised He will help me always,
and He keeps His every promise. . .
every day.

Amanda Bradley

There is joy in the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber. Jared Michael was born on June 29. His sister, Laura, welcomes him as do his grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma Schieber and Bro. Lee and Sis. Velda Overmyer.

"Happiness is neither within us only, or without us; it is the union of ourselves with God."

Wings of Silver

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Time is so precious. We each have a certain amount of time allotted which we can use after our own choosing. It is a serious matter to consider that some day, before a righteous Judge, we will have to give an account of how we spent this time. How did we use it? Did we spend it walking within His will?

Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Schock and their family have moved to Morris, MN, where Richard has set up his medical practice. We sincerely wish them the Lord's leading and blessing in all that they do.

Sis. Eleanor Steffen and two of her children (Gordon and Sheila) have also moved from our community to the Peoria area. We will miss Eleanor and her children in our midst, but we can continue to pray for one another.

Vacation Bible School was conducted the week of June 18 for pre-school through high school classes. The high school sessions were also open to any of our adult friends. It is a serious undertaking to continue to bring the Word of God to our children in purity, and it is only through His grace that such can be carried out.

On June 24, our Bible Class Sunday School students were the guests of the Roanoke Sunday School. There were many blessings of the day, and we pray that the spiritual seed that was sown may take root and grow in the hearts of our children.

We wish to extend a warm and sincere welcome to Chuck and Sis. Marsha Albritton and their two small children, Jason and Amber, who have moved to our community from Detroit. We extend the same to Jane Hirschey who has moved

from Naumburg, NY. May the Lord bless our fellowship together.

A number of our loved ones have been hospitalized. Certainly it behooves us to remember those who suffer illness in our prayers and to reach out to help those in need. Those hospitalized were: Sis. Emma Wenzler, Walter Foell, Elsie Schock, Edward Moser, Sis. Mabel Steffen, Bro. Lyle Kellenberger, and Bro. John Steffen.

Bro. Steve Fischer (Urbana) and Sis. Joyce Schock were united in holy matrimony on July 15. Comforting it is when this holy union can be a three-fold cord with the young couple seeking together to serve their God. Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) was among the invited guests to this wedding, and we were privileged to have him bring us many holy teachings.

Timothy Arthur was born to Bro. Eugene and Sis. Sue Braun on July 19. He is also welcomed into his family by his young brother Phillip. The grandmothers are Sis. Cecelia Braun and Sis. Mary Jane Hirschev.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

We have three new babies to report this month. Dale and Lezlee Leman are the happy parents of their first child, Steven Russell, born June 16. The grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Reinman of Eureka. On June 24, Nathan Leroy was born to Dale and Sis. Fredora Wiegand. He has a sister, Ruth, and six brothers, Ben, Glen, Charles, Norman, Ernie, and Jacob to help take care of him. His grandparents are Sis. Fanny Wiegand of Gridley and Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Eureka. Also on July 7, Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid became the parents of little Rachel Ann. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Laura Kupferschmid and Bro. Roy and Sis. Edna Blunier of Eureka.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Thelma (Bro. George) Saathoff and Sis. Mary (Bro. Ernie) Fehr. They are both home again, for which we are grateful. Bro. Jack Prather was also in the hospital a few days after having his arm badly injured in an automobile accident on the way home from work. He was home from work for several weeks but is all right again. Surely we must often feel that God is watching over us to protect us from worse injury. Bro. Eli Somer-

halder is again in the hospital for tests. His wife, Sis. Emma, was telling me that it will be two years ago this August that she had successful brain surgery. To all who so kindly remembered her in their prayers, she wishes to say many thanks. She could feel loved ones praying for her, and it was a comfort to her and Bro. Eli.

Our thanks go to Bros. Ron Heiniger and Bill Kupferschmid of Bloomington who, along with their families, spent a Sunday with us. We appreciate the visits of our brethren.

The weekend of June 30 and July 1 was the Camp Picket reunion held at Eureka. We were glad for all the visitors with us on Sunday. It is always a great pleasure to meet loved ones from so many of our churches. A special thanks goes to Bro. Manz of Junction, who was among the group who were in service together. We thank him for sharing God's Word with us. He stressed that by following only one word, "Obedience," much could be gained in our Christian walk of life.

We have had a number of weddings. Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin had two sons married this summer. Larry Martin was married to Mary Beth Uphoff, a daughter of Mrs. Edwin and the late Mr. Edwin Uphoff. Their wedding day was June 16. On July 8, Bro. Alan Martin was married to Sis. Sharon Leman at Remington. Also, on June 17, at Congerville, Sis. Karen Schieber became the wife of Bro. Mark Hangartner. His parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma. We welcome these three new brides to Eureka.

On Sunday, July 8, Elder Bro. Ezra Feller, with his wife and others from Cissna Park, were with us for a Sunday. We received many good teachings. Particularly steeed was that deception would come in the latter days, quite apparent in our time.

Sunday, July 15, we witnessed the "union of hearts" of Sis. Janet Leman and Bro. Robin Rocke. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Leroy Huber. We ask God to be with this young couple as they start a new life together with the Lord as the third partner in their marriage. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke, all of Eureka. Also with us that day were Bros. Joe Schrock of Congerville and Jim Leman of Roanoke. We invite them to come again.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

We rejoiced to have Jerry and Donna Kaisner give their testimonies and be baptized. Jerry is the son of Bro. and Sis. Merle Kaisner, and Donna is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Walter Schwind of Roanoke. Three of the Roanoke ministers are uncles of the young couple and were here for the occasion: Bro. Don Sauder, Bro. Bill Hodel, and Bro. Jim Leman. Bro. Jim Byrd was here Saturday evening.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Dale Eisenman, Bro. Ben Manz, and Bro. Loren Knapp.

Ouo Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard has reached four score years as his 80th birthday was July 14. May the Lord continue to bless him with health and strength for his many responsibilities.

Bro. Dale Banwart has been elected to take the responsibility of teaching in Sunday School. We know the Lord will be with him in his new duties.

My father, Bro. Edward Huber is home after having 13 weeks of therapy at the Americana in Urbana. Sis. Lydia Nussbaum had the misfortune of falling and breaking a bone by her hip. Bro. Ernest Gerber is at Carle Hospital. Little David Banwart had a tonsillectomy.

Randy and Rhonda Stoller were blessed with a baby boy, and they named him Jeremy Allen. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Duane Kilgus and Bro. and Sis. Elmer Stoller. The great-grandparents are Sis. Marie Kilgus, Bro. and Sis. Ernest Gerber, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Werner of Oregon.

Bro. Josh Broquard performed the wedding ceremony to unite in marriage Pete Walter and LaRue Steffen, daughter of Ray and Sis. Doris Steffen.

Those from our congregation taking the 15-day Apostolic Christian Heritage Tour to Europe are: Sis. Lydia Maier, Sis. Ida and Sis. Rosa Hari, Sis. Martha Maier, Sis. Marie Kilgus, and Bro. John Wiedman.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Beverly Eisenmann Jan Bachtold

We are encouraged as once more the waters have been troubled and Teresa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene) has turned her back to the "world" in repentance.

Sis. Peggy Young and Devra Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty) were both

in the hospital. We are thankful that they could return to their homes. We hope that this will also be true for our present patients, Sis. Mary Metz and Sis. Rose Tyler. Bro. John Stoller has his leg in a cast because of an accident with his hogs.

We have been richly blessed over the past month by willing servants of the Lord. Bro. Bill Kupferschmid from Bloomington was with us on Father's Day. Also serving us were Bros. Ed Alt from Cissna, Duane Kilgus from Fairbury, Jerry Kuntz from Oakville, and Loren Knapp from Tucson. May God ever continue to inspire and encourage our ministering brothers.

The home of Randy and Rhonda Stoller has been blessed with a bundle from Heaven. Little Jeremy Alan was born June 21 and is a grandson of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus from Fairbury.

May God bless our loved ones, Sis. Donna Zimmerman (Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Larry Bachman (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn) of Rittman, whose engagement was announced.

Pete Walter and LaRue Steffen (Ray and Sis. Doris) were married at the Fellowship Hall July 7 and will be living in rural Forrest.

It was a beautiful evening in June when we gathered for our annual Sunday School picnic. It's always a blessing to hear the little children sing about Jesus.

God has blessed Bro. Eli and Sis. Eldora Walter with 50 years of married life. They enjoyed a family gathering with their children in honor of this occasion.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

Recently a minister ended his sermon with the quote from the Scripture when the Lord said "FOLLOW ME." A feeling of guilt struck me, as so many times in the fast moving life we make our plans and go ahead. It almost appears that we expect the Lord to follow us! What a blessing we could be missing.

The Londoner's reunion brought many visitors, and we appreciated having ministering brothers Edwin Ringger and Elmer Witzig with us.

Justin Meece (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) has been wearing a cast on his right arm after having been injured in a fall. Matthew Kieser (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie) re-

ceived injuries to his left hand at his home.

Sis. Bev. Joos (Bro. Glen) was hospitalized for surgery and is now resting at home. Sis. Joy Hohulin (Bro. Jim) has also submitted to surgery and is hospitalized as only He can do.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Hilda Bauman and Sis. Lavina Ott in the passing of their brother, John Rechkemmer of Phoenix, AZ.

Robert and Sis. Loretta Hess wish to thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy and love shown to them at the time of the tragic death of their dear son, Rick.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

How can we please God? Jesus said, "I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. We who seek to be conformed to the image of Christ, having been purchased and cleansed by His shed blood, want our walk of life and our innermost thoughts to be pleasing in God's sight. Because Jesus said that whatsoever we do to the least of His brethren we do unto Him (Matt. 25:40), pleasing our brother for his good is one way we can please our heavenly Father. If we do not care about our brother's feelings, we do not really care about Jesus' feelings, either. We have then become self-centered and are ourselves. A visiting elder spoke about this recently, and he asked the question, "What if Jesus didn't care about what we think or how we feel? We are on a dangerous spiritual pathway," he went on to say, "when we no longer care about what affect our words or actions may have on our brother in Christ." What a privilege it is to serve the Lord by doing good unto all men, and as the Scripture says, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10.

Byron and Katie Martin were extra blessed with the birth of twins, Richard Lee and Debra Lee. They were born June 20 and have one sister, Heather. The grandparents are Sis. Laura Martin of Gridley and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Irene Aberle of Sabetha, KS.

Bro. David Zehr and Sis. Vicki Steffen, both of Gridley, were united in marriage on June 17. Bro. Arthur Schlipf of Gridley married Sis. Twyla Menold of Morton on July 15. Diane Stoller married Clyde Tegard on July 7.

Rhonda Funk was in the hospital last month and is up and about again. Sis. Mary Martin, Sis. Esther Yergler, and Rachel Stoller, 18 month old daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry, have also been hospitalized patients.

We appreciated the visits of Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler of Wolcott, IN, ministering Bro. Glenn Funk of Witchita, KS, and ministering Bro. Ed Kloter of Goodfield, IL.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Doris Bachtold

A young adolescent boy was made fun of by his peers because he took piano lessons and also sang. When they found out that he went to church, they ridiculed him even more. But he stopped their laughing by stating, "I know where I'm going; I'm going to Heaven. I can't help it if you don't know where you're going."

What actually is belief? It has been said that the English language does not contain adequate words to fully describe the meaning of believe. Greek and Hebrew words can pinpoint and portray the true depth of this word. Believing means: "to rely on; to adhere to; to follow in the footsteps of." 1 The question then arises to each of us: does our personal belief encompass this much? When the eunuch asked Philip if he may be baptized, Philip replied, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." (Acts 8:37)

God's Word is ever springing forth fresh from each vessel that comes to minister unto us. We thank Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), Joe Schrock (Congerville), Al Aberle (Tremont), Don Sauder (Roanoke), and Carl Wyss (Washington).

We welcome anyone to attend our Bible Study Services which are held every Thursday evening at Schroeder Hall in either Room 130 or 138. This building is located on the corner of College Avenue and University St. in Normal.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker — Phyllis Farnacy

Summer is swiftly fleeting by as we see the abundance of God's blessings throughout our community. Hot sunny days bring the sounds of laughter and joy from our children at play. Soon these sounds of summer shall diminish as our children return to school. The task of teaching and training

our children is of the utmost importance, not only scholastically, but, even more, spiritually. For the Scriptures tell us in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We are indeed thankful that two brothers and two sisters have been willing to be used as Sunday School teachers. We wish Bros. Ed Kaiser and John Zimmerman and Sisters Marie Herman and Marcia Kaiser God's blessings in this most important task. Our dear children are our future church. We pray that God will give the increase to the good seed which has been planted.

June 22 was a very joyous day for our Sis. Cathy Knoblock and Bro. Randy Sutter of Bremen, IN, as they were joined in holy matrimony. We pray God's richest blessing on this dear couple as they begin their walk together.

The funeral of Sis. Mary Ann Wuthrich was on June 30. May God comfort her husband, Eli, the four children, grandchildren, and her brothers and sisters. She will be missed by many of us, family and friends.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn Roeschley welcome into their hearts and home their new daughter, Summer Lea, who was born on July 7. Also welcoming home this precious little one are Stephanie and Geana. The grandparents are Sis. Mabel Roeschley and Bro. and Sis. Andy Lehman, Sabetha, KS.

This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Rod Huber, Valparaiso, IN, Kent Heimer, Taylor, MO, and Harold Schmidgall and Byron Stoller, Gridley, IL. We appreciate their coming and sharing the Word with us.

July 15 was the day chosen by our dear Sis. Twyla Menold and Bro. Art Schlipf, Gridley, IL, to become united in holy matrimony and become one in Christ Jesus. The parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold and Mr. and Mrs. Adam Schlipf of Gridley, IL. May God richly bless them and be the head of their newly established home. Sis. Twyla will be missed by many of us, especially by her dear Sunday School class!

Our love and prayers are with all those who have been confined in hospitals, at home, and at Restmor. Let us continue to be prayerful for these dear ones.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

"And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." Mark 16:20. Bros. Ed Aeschliman of Philadelphia, Loren Knapp of Tucson, and Fred Knapp of Congerville came to proclaim God's Word to us. May God bless the words that were spoken and the ministers for faithfully endeavoring for the Lord.

On July 7, a precious little girl was born to Sis. Ruth and Bro. George Huthman. Their daughters, Katherine and Susan, welcome their sister home.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Nancy Harvey became the first-time parents on July 10 of a darling little boy, Blake Christopher. The grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harvey of Peoria.

Among the hospital patients this month were Sis. Eunice Kammerer, Sis. Ruth Yoder, Bessie Metzger, and Ron Hanes. We pray God will bless them on their road to recovery.

Just last month, Holly Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie, was diagnosed as having leukemia. She has been undertaking treatments at the St. Jude Hospital in Memphis. Surely the family needs all of our prayers at this time. We pray God will supply them with strength and courage.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers; none goes his way alone; All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

Edwin Markham

We are always thankful for the visitors we have and especially for the ones who give of themselves in sharing God's Word. Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern, KS, meditated on I Peter 2, "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. . ." What is our aim in life? We should walk carefully, and abstain from all appearance of evil, and look forward with anticipation to the reward awaiting the just.

When the Washington and Peoria Bible Classes were with us, Bro. Don Wagenbach of Washington ministered from Acts 26. How many of those present, at one time or another, were almost persuaded

to be a Christian as Agrippa was, when Paul spoke to him? Bros. Roy Wieland of Bay City, MI, Ron Steiner of Rittman, OH, and Kennie Dietz of Bradford also spoke words of wisdom. We only wish we could contain more of them. "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also them likewise." St. Luke 6:31. Do we at all times listen to the Holy Spirit and heed it's promptings, or do we do what we want to do and trust that the Holy Spirit will go along with our desires? How much happier we are when we listen and follow the Spirit's promptings—even in a still small voice.

We thank all of our visitors and pray that God's blessings on them.

Many gathered together on July 1 to share with the children, teachers, and parents of the Sunday School for the annual picnic. 350 enjoyed the perfect evening under spreading oak trees. What a joy to hear the singing of the children of all ages and see the excitement in their faces as they sing of God's love and creation. May all be blessed.

Soon school will be starting again, and our prayers go especially to those who will be leaving the shelter of their Christian homes, going into a world of chaos and uncertainty. We trust that they may be able to discern right from wrong and not be innocently deceived and led to wrong company. We trust that they will always keep in mind the teachings they have received at home and church and be a light to those around them.

Recently, Sis. Mary Martin underwent major surgery and suffered a set-back. We are thankful that she is at her mother's home, Sis. Louise Martin, making a satisfactory recovery. Her little nephew, Andy Martin, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary, underwent surgery for a hernia. He also, is making a nice recovery. Bro. Harold Steitmatter is presently undergoing tests, and we trust he will have good results.

We are thankful to hear that Bro. Rod Wagenbach has received his bone marrow transplant in Seattle, WA. Although a very sick young man, his body, so far, has accepted the treatment. His sister, Sis. Raylene Zimmerman, was the donor and is also recovering satisfactorily. God can work miracles. If it is His will, we trust Bro. Rod may have some useful years. Many prayers have been uttered for this

suffering family, and they have said that they feel the prayers of their loved ones back home.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Our Bible class had as visitors the Bible classes from Chicago, Champaign, Elgin, and Gridley on June 24. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann was our visiting minister in the morning and spoke to the Bible Class in the afternoon. The teachers and students had a happy day.

Bro. Dennis Martin (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen) and Sis. Coreen Lori Lowe (Connie and Thomas Lowe), Portland, OR, were united in holy matrimony by his uncle, Elder Bro. Edwin Hohulin. They are planning to live in Oregon for a while before returning to Illinois.

Ben Fehr (Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen) and Kathy Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell) exchanged their wedding vows in an evening service at the Fellowship Hall on June 29.

Bro. Gary Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra) and Sis. Tammi Diggle (Bro. John and Sis. Sarah) were united in marriage on July 1. We wish God's richest blessings and love to those dear couples as they establish their homes.

A little daughter, Brandi Ellen, was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber. Byron welcomes his little sister. May God bless them.

We thank our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word with us: Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Union City, NJ), and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL).

Bros. Aaron Bertsch and John Mangold have returned home from the hospital. Sis. Laverne Leman is home, also. Sis. Lucy Fischer is hospitalized at this time (surgical). Sis. Raylene (Wagenbach) Zimmerman is in the Seattle Cancer Research Center as a bone-marrow donor for her Bro. Rodney Wagenbach. May God's sustaining grace and help be their power in weakness and source of strength in the days to come.

For we must share if we would keep
That blessing from above;
Ceasing to give, we cease to have—
Such is the law of love.

Unknown

ON THE PRAIRIE

The sun's coming up on the prairie,
Corn and hay glisten with the fore-
night's rain;

The aroma of the earth fills the
senses—

Barn swallows darting, diving,
down the lane.

There's a church—stands alone on
the prairie;

Stone graves and the pines wait
nearby

For the prayers and the songs Sun-
day morning

As the brethren from far and near
arrive.

The truth's always heard on the
prairie.

Winds of change, o'er the years,
tests of time . . .

They're so thankful to God for the
Prairie

And the blessings He's laid there to
find.

It seems the wind always blows on
the prairie

As the world and the time pass on
by;

But God's Word stands unchanged
on the prairie,

Fountain flowing of grace, never
dry—

Strength and comfort through the
day we die.

Timothy D. Sauder

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

If any little thought of ours
Can make one life the stronger;

If any cheery smile of ours
Can make its brightness longer;

Then let us speak that thought
today,

With tender eyes aglowing,

So God may grant some weary one
Shall reap from our glad sowing.

(Author Unknown)

Visiting ministers were Bro. Harold Zeltwanger (Bremen) and Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington). Many timely warnings were brought to our attention. We thank them for their labor of love.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ben Carius.

Sis. Emma Getz fell in her home, breaking her arm. She hopes to have her cast removed soon. She wishes to thank all for their deeds of love, gifts, and cards, and also thanks the Young Member Group

who sang for her. May God bless and reward each one.

Sis. Hanna Koch was hospitalized for eye surgery. She is back home and recuperating nicely. We thank God for His healing power.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann Sauder have another little son, Scott Michael. He was born on June 26 and was welcomed home by his brother, Kevin. The grandparents are Bro. Earl and Glenna Sauder and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert.

A sweet baby boy, Matthew Gene, was born to Ron and Julie Koch on June 30. The grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Annie Koch and Harold and Ruth Hillman.

Adam Marx (husband of Margo Yergler) was injured in a motorcycle accident and is hospitalized at this time.

Our Annual Sunday School Picnic was held June 24 at the Tremont Park Shelter. We had a very good turn-out this year.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the many gifts, deeds of love, and prayers given during their son Brent's recent accident and confinement.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

Haste and seek your soul's
salvation,

Your repentance comes today.

For to wait will bring you sorrow,
Only grief comes from delay.

Hymn 52, Zion's Harp

Our hearts were filled with joy when we heard that several souls have made the decision to turn their hearts to the Lord. We rejoice with these souls and pray that we soon may add them to our fold.

We are again thankful to have had Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont, and Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, with us to deliver the message of God's Word. May these brothers be richly blessed for their labors.

At a time when many of us are away from home for vacations, whether short or long, may we all remember our Lord wherever we may be, and may we do only those things which are pleasing in His sight.

A precious bundle of joy arrived as Joe and Sis. Karen Baker welcome little Luke into their family. This is their first child.

The kiss of the Sun for pardon,
The song of the Bird for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a
garden,

Than anywhere else on earth.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Peggy Gerber - Shari Kaehr

Our congregation rejoices with the two souls who have hearkened to our Lord's call. We wish Brad Fiechter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine) and Juli Isch (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carolyn) all of God's grace as they walk this path of life in Christ. We can only pray that more souls will heed His loving call.

Many in our congregation were saddened to hear of the passing away of Elmer Heyerly. Elmer's wife, Frieda (Kaehr) Heyerly, preceded him in death. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Martha Moser, Bro. Ervin Gerber, Bro. Roger Kaehr, Sis. Effie Bertsch, Sis. Katie Gerber, Sis. Mary Steffen, and Marie Sprunger (11 year old daughter of Kent and Sheila). We pray and trust that God will heal and restore each one according to His will.

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Harry Sutter (Fort Lauderdale) and Bro. Ed Aschliman (Union city) with us this month. Words cannot express how much we appreciated their timely messages.

On June 24, Bro. Terry Nueunschwander and Sis. Jean Gerber were united in holy wedlock. Bro. Steve Schwartz took as his wife Sis. Julie Baumgartner on July 8. Joe Nueunschwander (Bro. John and Sis. Irene) and Cheryl Croy promised their lives to each other. On July 14, Jeff Kaehr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and Colleen Zello were united as one. We wish God's richest blessings on all of these precious unions.

Bob and Brenda Bertsch were blessed with a precious baby son on June 22. The baby was named Jason Robert. Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Anita Bertsch are the grandparents. Rebecca Leigh was the name given to a baby girl born to Dave and Linda Aschliman. Rebecca's happy grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida Aschliman.

On July 13, two families were blessed with new bundles from heaven. Tiercell William is the first-born child of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin Schwartz, Little Abby

Marie was given to Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber. Abby is also welcomed home by Molly and Joseph.

We feel privileged to have four young people make their homes with us. Sis. Ruth Schwartz has been transferred from the Morton handicapped home to the home of her parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Josephine Schwartz. We lovingly welcome Sis. Ruth back home. We also welcome Bros. Dave Mueller and Kim Troxel from Ft. Lauderdale and wish them God's blessings in their home and new jobs. Bro. Dee Nueunschwander has moved to Bluffton from Indianapolis as the Lord opened up a job for him here.

To all we extend a welcome and pray that together we may all learn to know our Saviour better.

(We have a correction from the July issue. Sis. Carrie Gilliam was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Herman (not John).

INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

I live 'mid my affections;
This world I do not love;
With longings true I journey to
heaven's home above;
There dwells my soul immortal,
my treasure's where my heart,
The mind from earthly portal,
Arises heavenward.
Fade, earth and idle pleasure,
they are still the Soul's distress;
They glitter from a distance,
yet who will them caress,
Accepts but filth for jewels and
for the pearls but sand;
For in their magic potion,
There is but death at hand.
Ascend, my heart with gladness;
Beyond there's joy and love;
Endure all pain and sadness,
to gain the rest above.
Let others choose what's earthly,
Pursue that which is vain
I dwell 'min my devotions,
for thus death is but gain.

No. 84, Zion's Harp

June 24 was a very special day as many from our congregation traveled to Morton for the wedding of Bro. Randy Suttor and Sis. Kathy Knoblock.

Bro. Bo and Sis. Arlene Kaehr are the happy grandparents of a baby boy, John Michael. His parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Alberta Kaehr of Alabama.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein

Sharon Neihaus

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:1. On Father's Day, Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris) richly reminded us of the responsibilities of a father and of being a follower of Christ. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) also visited us on that day.

Amber Elaine has come to brighten the home of Dewain and Debbie Davis. She was born on June 16 and is their first child. The grandparents are Sis. Carol Bucher and the late Bro. Dwight.

Sis. Tyla Geyer has suffered a light stroke and was hospitalized but at this time is at Parkview Haven. We pray that God's rich grace will be sufficient for her every day. May she find comfort in the following verse: "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. . ." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

The week of June 25-29 was a very enjoyable one for us as Vacation Bible School was held each evening. Our ministers and topics for the week were as follows: Monday—Bro. Bob Pfloderer (God's Love—His Word); Tuesday—Bro. Jesse Beer (Our Savior's Life); Wednesday—Bro. Wayne Anliker (Apostle's Pathway); Thursday—Bro. Todd Feller (The True Meaning of Church to Man); and Friday—Bro. Dewayne Metzger (Man's Responsibility to God and Church). Then on Sunday evening, a program was held so each class could tell something of what they had learned that week. We thank each visiting minister who was willing to come and lend of their time and talent to teach us. We appreciated each one's efforts which made the week such a blessed one.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. We are rejoicing that two more souls are seeking the truth in Him through repentance.

Christian Endeavor was held on July 7, 8 with Remington, Wolcott, and Francesville as hosts. Over 200 youth gathered together for a weekend of fellowship. May God richly bless the efforts of those who made the weekend possible.

July 7 was the wedding day of Denny Westfall (Bro. Karl and Sis.

Mary) and Kathy Morris. We wish them God's Blessings.

On July 15, we gathered in the morning to hear the testimony of a dear friend, and in the afternoon we welcomed into the fold our new brother, Ron Hendershot. We wish him God's guidance and direction as he has taken the most important step in this life. Sis. Jenna Getz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris) has been directed by God in the second most important step, as her engagement was announced to Bro. Dan Kilgus (Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene) of the Remington congregation. An added blessing of the day was having Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) with us for the morning service.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuestr

Our Vacation Bible School was a most blessed week. Here to deliver a message to us were Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Harold Zeltwanger, Marvin Schmidgall, and Bill Gerst. These messages were specifically for the Bible Class students but were also enjoyed by the congregation. We offer sincere thanks to the brothers for their time and effort.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Duane Metzger and several ministering brothers who attended the Fort Sam Reunion here at LaCrosse. They included Bros. Roy Grimm, Chuck Hemmer, Bert Butikofer, Earl Gerber, and Marvin Stieglitz.

The Youth Fellowship week-end was held at the Wolcott, Remington, and Francesville Churches on July 7 and 8. Our Bible Class students attended. It is such a blessing to see so many of our youth gathered together.

Our Sunday School picnic was held July 22. We will now have "vacation" until Sunday School resumes in September.

Sis. Louise Alt wishes to thank all for their cards, letters, visits, and prayers. She appreciated it all so much.

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

The story is told of a young man who was packing his trunk for his first long journey far from home. As a friend stood by, the young man packed one article after the other—his suits, shoes, clothes, books, and, finally, his tennis rack-

et and balls. There remained a space about six inches by four inches. The rest of the trunk was full.

"What are you going to pack there?" asked the friend.

"I have reserved this corner," replied the young man, "to pack a guidebook, a lamp, a looking-glass, a volume of poems, a microscope, a telescope, some histories, several fine biographies, a package of love letters, a book of songs, a hammer, and a sword. I'm going to put in that little space the Bible my mother gave to me."

—Frank E. Gabelein

Three ministers, Bros. Gene Fetter, Toledo, Henry Dotterer, Rittman, and Sam Schlatter, Junction, favored us with their messages and visits, July 1.

Daily Vacation Bible School, headed by Sis. Jyl Norr, concluded after two weeks with a supper and short program at the Fellowship Center.

Serve Him not out of a sense of duty, but out of a heart so overflowing with love that you can't help but work for Him!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Connie Beer
Sandy Beer

The good news from Milford is that we now have 12 converts. We are so thankful that the Lord is still calling His lambs into the fold. Nothing lifts the church up more than the results of the power of God's grace.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price were blessed with the arrival of Daron Eugene on June 25. He was welcomed home by his two brothers, Jeremy and Jason. The grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Emma Knapp (Morton) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Katherine Price.

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Robert Beer (Mansfield) and Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse). Words cannot express our appreciation for their labor of love as they shared the Word with us.

After being hospitalized for six weeks, Sis. Betty Knockel, 78, was called out of this life on June 24. We express our sympathy to her remaining family.

Bro. Andy Kammerer was a surgical patient at Goshen Hospital where he is recuperating. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his wife, Sis. Laura.

Sis. Wanda Wiesser, being in failing health, has been moved to the Lu Ann Nursing Home. Hospital patients this month were Bro. John Wuthrich (medical) and Gwen Wiesser (surgical).

Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer and family are relocating in Illinois and will be attending the Goodfield church. We want to wish them God's blessings and will miss them in our congregation.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today.

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,

Leading to eternal fire;

Seek the everlasting treasure,

Ere the day of grace expire.

Haste, while yet His grace is offered;

Waste no time in worldly thought;

Now begin your pilgrim journey,

Cleansed from every stain and spot.

You will find by faith, revealing

Full redemption in His blood;

For each sinner there is healing,

Baptized in this cleansing flood.

Zion's Harp, Hymn 52
Verses 1 & 4

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

On Sunday, July 8, Sis. Sharon Leman was united in marriage to Bro. Alan Martin from Eureka. They will make their home in Eureka, and we pray that God's blessings will abide with them.

Scott Schneider and Debbie Von Holton exchanged marriage vows on June 30. We pray that God will bless their hearts and lives with His love. Their parents are Sis. Anna Schneider and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Von Holton of Wolcott.

The engagement of Bro. Dan Kilgus and Sis. Jenna Getz of Francesville has been announced. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus from here and Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris Getz from Francesville. We rejoice with them on this happy occasion.

Rex and Tammy Clauss (Sis. Lorrene Clauss) and Keith Leman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Edna Leman) have found peace with God, and announced that they will give their testimonies to the congregation. May God continue to give them grace to walk in His ways.

Wilma Clauss (Mrs. Paul) was recently hospitalized for tests. She will be returning to the hospital soon for surgery. We trust she will feel God's nearness and know we are preparing for her speedy recovery.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Clarence Kachelmus (Forest). May God bless them for their service of love toward us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Susie and Marie Heinold

THE SUNSHINE OF A SMILE

Just when the day seems longest
And the inch seems like a mile,
Then's when you always welcome
The sunshine of a smile.

It's after losing battles
When your anger's easy to rile,
That's when you're easily bolstered
By the sunshine of a smile.

When you're in a strange surround-
ing

Numbered in the rank and file,
You are very much elated
By the sunshine of a smile.

Jo Ann Young

For blessings of love and edification this past month we are grateful to ministering Bros. Steve Gutwein, Harold Zeltwanger, and Charles Hemmer and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and their companions. This is also true about everyone who found it worthwhile to come and worship with us.

A sermon gem to ponder: A Christian striving only for self is like building a house of straw and stubble; it will not stand fire and there is no insurance on it.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Laurel Widmer

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

II Corinthians 4:15

Hospitalized this month were Ryan Basham (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Arles Kropf. Both have recovered. We are all glad that health has been restored and they are back with us again.

The Wolcott, Remington, and

Francesville Bible classes were hosts this month for Christian Endeavor. This is an excellent opportunity for the youth of today to form tomorrow's friendships. We give thanks to the teachers and all those who participated in planning this weekend for the young people.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Mayme Gerst — Judy Gehring

Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz spent a Wednesday evening with us for services.

Our July monthly singing was held July 8. A few from Oakville came and joined us in hymns of praise to our Lord.

John Jones left for California. He is in the service. His parents are Bro. and Sis. Blaine Applegarth.

Our Annual Sunday School picnic was well attended. We sang several hymns with our Sunday School children.

Bro. Harvey Heiniger spent some time with the Canadian brethren.

IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

We are enjoying perfect summer days; skies are blue, flecked here and there with snowy clouds. Corn and hay fields present lovely pictures, as rainfall has been sufficient in this area. We have so much to thank our heavenly Father for: His plan of salvation, our friends, work to be done, opportunities to help one another, and the beauties of nature, which are manifold.

I want to tell you about a pair of Baltimore orioles that wove their hammock-like nest and hung it in one of our maple trees only a few yards from our house. As you well know, their song is very melodious. We greatly enjoyed having them so close. After the eggs hatched, the parent birds were kept very busy supplying food for their offspring. It so happened that our mulberries were ripening at this time, and many trips were made back and forth from berries to the nest. To hear the young birds chirp when the food appeared was heart-warming. A few days ago, the young left their "hammock," and now we miss them. Their brilliantly colored plumage of orange and black is noteworthy.

By the way, speaking of our mulberry tree, one morning we saw three half-grown coons enjoying the berries, sitting high up among the thick-leaved areas. At ten o'

clock they left our garden to hie to the woods. We haven't seen them since.

Our town of Elgin staged a homecoming project in June. Many folks came to enjoy the program and to meet kin and friends whom they hadn't seen for a time. Our church service (regular) was very well attended, due to the influx of folks. Uncle R. C. Gehrig, daughter, son-in-law, and son from North Dakota and many of the Frieden relatives and Reitz relatives from Missouri and California were among the visitors.

We were blessed by having visiting ministers. They were Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Nathan Steffen. Bro. Nathan assisted Bro. Paul Butikofer in serving Holy Communion. One is always reminded of our dear Lord's sacrifice out on Calvary, which was for our sake. It strengthens our love for Him. We heartily thank our ministers for their efforts.

Bro. Jacob Gehring's physical condition prevents him from attending our church services. May God provide him and Sis. Bertha with faith and strength necessary to carry on cheerfully.

Sooner or later, if we are wise, we know that life is a mixture of good days and bad, victory and defeat, and give and take. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose. Rom. 8:28.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Connie Gerst

This month was a blessed one as we were able to share communion together for the first time. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) lent their services in this important undertaking.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Jerry Kuntz and John Schmidgall (Oakville) and Uriel Gehring (Burlington).

We have had some new arrivals in our area and wish to extend to them a sincere welcome. Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Witzig plan to be with us during the time Tom works on his residency at the University Hospital. Also, Sis. Cindy Knobloch (the Nick Knobloch's of Princeville) is now a student in the Xray technician program at the University.

Just recently, my husband, Joe, and I have moved to a different ad-

dress. For anyone wishing to contact us, we can be reached at the following address:

Joe Gerst
Box 104 P, R.R. 1
Amana, Iowa 52203
Phone 319-846-2348

June 17 was the wedding of Bro. Bruce Frank and Sis. Bonita Stock. They have both been living in our area for the past while. Since Bonita's parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Edythe Stock of Cissna Park, the wedding took place there. Bro. Bruce's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Clara of Oakville. We wish Bruce and Bonita God's blessings as they begin their marriage.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

We are thankful to report that God is still calling souls unto repentance. Those who have recently surrendered to the Lord are Theresa Meyer, daughter of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer, and Sheila Moser, daughter of Bro. Ade and Lydia Moser. Mistakenly omitted previously is Larry Leuthold, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold. What a miracle when Satan loses his hold on a soul.

A most welcome visitor was ministering Bro. Simon Wagenbach. We are grateful for the Word preached in truth and purity.

There is quite a list of hospital patients, some for surgery and some for tests and medical. They are Ed Roeman, Bro. Bill Wulf, Tina Moser, Ben Feucht, Sis. Mary Metzger, Bro. Jake Metzger, Scott Moser, Bro. Ed Gerber, Sis. Debra Metzger, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger, Clay Metzger (son of Keith and Mary), and Kimberley Metzger (daughter of Bill and Charlotte).

NOTE: Check your coat closet. A brown $\frac{3}{4}$ length men's coat was taken by mistake at the funeral of Bro. Ken Knoblock. If this is yours, please contact John Giesel, Rock Rapids, IA. He has the one with a zipper for a lining which his does not have.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Phyllis Siegle

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Psalm 90: 1, 2.

"How gently God commands! How kind His precepts are!" We

have been blessed again to hear God's Word in its truth and sincerity as Bro. David Wiegand, Urbana, spent a Sunday with us. Our thanks are extended to him and to those who accompanied him.

September is the collection month for the "Silver Lining" subscription renewal. Please make your checks payable to "Silver Lining."

A baby boy, Scott Duane, was born to Marray and Janet Jordon. The grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Elizabeth Grimm. May he add much joy to their home.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp
Ginny Wuthrich

On June 25, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. John Schmidgall, both of the Oakville congregation, spent the day ministering to us. After regular services, Bro. Ed shared with us the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Many blessings were received by all present. We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

Welcome into the home of Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Webber is a new little daughter, Hanneli Rebecca. She was born July 9 and is a sister to Mark, Sylvia, and James. Sis. Emma Webber is paternal grandmother.

Sis. Sonia Wegner was elected to serve as Sunday School teacher. May God grant her grace as she takes on this very important responsibility.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mrs. Raymond Anliker
Mrs. Dennis Fehr

We are grateful for the privilege of being able to gather in God's House to be fed with the Holy Bread of Life. We are grateful when brothers are willing to lend themselves to that end. We were privileged to have Bros. Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Tom Leman (Elgin, IL) as our visiting ministers this month.

Our Bible Class and congregation bid farewell to three Y.F.U. exchange students who spent the school year in host families homes. They were Geir Dingstad from Norway who lived with Bro. Vic Banwarts; Seija Korhones from Finland who lived with Bro. Ivan Schmidts; and Dagmar Wohlgemut from Germany who lived with the Bill Zauggs. We feel our Bible Class gained much by sharing our Christian ways, and our students all seemed to have had a wonderful ex-

perience with their host families. A farewell supper was given in their honor on July 1 at the Fellowship Center.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Beutel

For the benefit of the young friends, the Shioda and Tokyo church people met at a pond; we went fishing and then had a fish fry together.

Sister Hiroko Natori's father had surgery and is still hospitalized. She would appreciate your prayers in his behalf.

Last Sunday, July 8, we gathered at Sis. Reiko Furuya's apartment for our monthly singing. We had a very blessed and enjoyable singing. Singing praises to God is a beautiful way to worship Him.

Two years ago July 6 I arrived in Japan. It will soon be time for me to leave Japan. During the past two years I have met wonderful people, and I have made lasting friendships. The Japanese people have been very kind to me, and they have often shown me warm hospitality and generosity.

It is wonderful that in this idol-worshipping country there are those who believe in the only true God, our Heavenly Father. It is truly a blessing that one can find the same faith here that our brothers and sisters in the States have. May our Heavenly Father bless and strengthen our brothers and sisters here and draw many more dear souls to Him.

The young children in our kindergarten have become dear to me. I pray they will always remember and believe the Biblical truths they have heard and always trust in God.

I have had wonderful experiences here, and I have precious memories of Japan. We truly need the prayers of those we love wherever we are. May we always strive to do His will so we can someday live with our Heavenly Father and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for eternity in Heaven.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki
Marie Inoue

The other day I met an old grandmother going to the local Buddhist temple, and I asked her why she goes to the temple so often. She replied that her ancestor are there, and she can go and talk to them. She said she was 92 and tired of living in this world. She will be hap-

py when she can join her ancestors. I asked if she knows where she is going after death. She replied, "No, but I'm pretty sure I can meet my ancestors." I told her the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3: 23); For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) I explained about the love of God and also that we shall someday stand before Him and be punished because of our evil deeds done in this world. She didn't realize she's a sinner, as she told me she never had any sins before God and really believed she would go to her ancestors some day. I found out that it is not easy to turn the minds of most Japanese old people to the Lord because their circumstances and background are stiffened by Buddhism and Shintoism. I closed the conversation by telling her I'd pray for her and her family. It seemed to make her happy.

We have had some new students come to our Sunday School, and we are glad more are interested in hearing the good news of God's Word. We are all looking forward to the coming fellowship meeting at the end of July near Mt. Fuji. This year, Shioda church is our host, and we pray for God's blessings on the meetings and those planning them.

Sisters Urushino and Onoda each have a member of their family undergoing surgery this week. We think of them and remember them in our prayers.

KANSAS, BERN Esther and Stella Moser

I will sing a song this morning
About the glory of the earth;
Of the beauty God has given,
As morning brings rebirth.

I will see the radiant wonder
Of early rising of the sun
That proclaims in brilliant color,
Another day has just begun.

I will move with eager gladness
To lift my life into God's care
And tune my soul to hear His voice,
Knowing He answers sincere
prayer.

N. M. Waite

We are thankful and rejoice that the Lord has granted grace to Emma Hami to turn to Him in repentance in the sunset years of her life.

Emma is now ready to bring her testimony before the congregation in the near future. May the Lord add His blessings.

Our guest ministers were Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott) and Mark Bahr (Detroit). We appreciated their efforts in the Lord's work.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Alvin Strahm in the sudden passing of his brother, Ivan Strahm, 68.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Frieda Strahm are able to be in their home again at this time.

Arlene Bauman is hospitalized with leg problems.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Jan Kraft

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth
(1827-1878)

Martin Rinkart was a pastor at Eilenberg, Saxony during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). Because Eilenberg was a walled city, it became a severely overcrowded refuge for political and military fugitives from far and near. As a result, the entire city suffered from famine and disease. In 1637 a great pestilence swept through the area, resulting in the death of some eight thousand persons, including Rinkart's wife. At that time he was the only minister in Eilenberg because the others had either died or fled. Rinkart alone conducted the burial

services for 4480 people, sometimes as many as 40 to 80 a day!

During the closing years of the war, Eilenberg was overrun or besieged three times, once by the Austrian army and twice by the Swedes. On one occasion, the Swedish general demanded that the townspeople make a payment of 30,000 thalers. Martin Rinkart served as intermediary, pleading that the impoverished city could not meet such a levy; however, his request was disregarded. Turning to his companions the pastor said, "Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God." On his knees he led them in a fervent prayer and in the singing of a familiar hymn, "When in the Hour of Utmost Need." The Swedish commander was so moved that he reduced the levy to 1350 thalers.

In the second stanza he asks that God will "guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills." But the overwhelming atmosphere of the hymn breathes utter confidence, regardless of consequences.

In the world today, it is entirely possible that we may experience great difficulty, persecution, and even war and death. Christians should prepare themselves and their families for this possibility, so that if and when it comes, we might face it in spiritual victory, giving testimony that ours is a faith that works. It may help us to know Martin Rinkart's experience, and his hymn confirms these words of the Apostle Paul:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:35-39.

KANSAS, KANSAS CITY Paula Bahr

Uncounted Blessings
I've known the curse of doubts and
borne my share of fears,

And I've endured despair and shed
my share of tears.
But looking back I've learned at
least one cherished lesson:
My woes are small compared to all
my myriad blessings.
Still I ungrateful fret while bless-
ings high have mounted,
Because possessed with fears, my
blessings go uncounted.
—Perry Tanksley

Let us pray that the Lord will
in some way remind us to count
our many blessings when doubts
and fears assail. Worrying and
fretting can easily rob a Christian
of the joys he can be experiencing
along the path to heaven and dim
the glow in our candle so that oth-
ers may not even notice it.

We ask God's blessings on and
extend our thanks to Bros. Gene
Marti, Springfield, and Roger
Aberle, Sabetha, for bringing their
families and leading us in worship.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

I recently read the unusual ac-
count of the hymn "Jesus, Lover
of My Soul" and decided to share
it. It is said that Charles Wesley
was enduring some very depress-
ing circumstances. While contem-
plating his troubles, he sat at his
desk beside an open window. Sud-
denly, he was startled by a small
bird that fluttered into the room,
darted against his chest, and crept
inside his large coat. Gently, put-
ting his hand over the trembling
creature whose heart he could feel
palpitating against his own, he
looked out the window and imme-
diately saw the reason for its
fright. There circling nearby was
a huge hawk. Still holding the bird
against his chest and seeing in its
frantic flight a picture of his own
search for refuge in God, he wrote
these words: "Jesus, lover of my
soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While
the tempest still is high! Hide me,
O my Savior, hide—Till the storm
of life is past; Safe into the haven
guide; O receive my soul at last!"

The words of our precious
hymns bring us so close to our Lord
intimes of need. It seems to give
them greater meaning when we
know the reason for their being
written, as in the above account.
How thankful we are for these
songs of praise and for those who
have been inspired to write them
for us. Praise be to God for this

gift of love.

Our hospital patients this month
included Sis. Lucy Hoffman and
Sis. Elizabeth Otti. Sis. Lucy is
again in our midst after her illness,
but, we are sorry to say, Sis. Eliza-
beth is still suffering from her
leg operations. How we hope and
pray for her to again be up and
around soon.

It was again our appointed time
to hold services at the Manor the
8th, and, as always, it was a won-
derful blessing for us to see the
pleasure our small efforts gave the
dear elderly ones there.

Sometimes wards seem so small
when we want to express our grati-
tude to someone. Ministering Bro.
Loren Knapp was in our midst the
15th of July. Though he had been
called upon to lend himself in a
number of churches on his trip
from his home church in Tucson,
he still lent himself for us and
blessed our Lord's Day abundantly
by bringing us two uplifting mes-
sages through God's inspiration.
Though we may fail to say it some-
times, we thank and praise God for
our brethren who minister the
Gospel. We pray that our precious
Lord will bless them and enrich
them for their faithfulness in
teaching us children God's truth
from His Word.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

Wherefore gird up the loins of
your mind, be sober, and hope to
the end for the grace that is to be
brought unto you at the revela-
tion of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fash-
ioning yourselves according to the
former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you
is holy, so be ye holy in all manner
of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy;
for I am holy.

And if ye call on the Father,
who without respect of persons
judgeth according to every man's
work pass the time of your so-
journing here in fear:

For as much as ye know that ye
were not redeemed with corrupti-
ble things, as silver and gold,
from your vain conversation re-
ceived by tradition from your fa-
thers;

But with the precious blood of
Christ, as of a lamb without blem-
ish and without spot: —I Pet. 1:
13-19.

This was the text which Bro.

Art Bahler, Fairbury used as his
text from which he richly brought
forth the Word of Life. He and
Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest,
visited our congregation for eve-
ning services on June 24. It was
wonderful to have them in our as-
sembly and feel the same love and
Holy Spirit flow from heart to
heart. Truly, God is good to us.
May we never forget to count our
blessings daily and thank Him and
praise Him for His infinite love
to us. We owe him a great debt,
so we should be more fervent in
spirit and dedicated to our great
God.

Bro. Max Burnham was a hospi-
tal patient for knee surgery this
month. We are glad he has recov-
ered quickly and didn't miss one
Sunday of church.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

We enjoyed having Bro. Mark
Bahr as our visiting minister dur-
ing this past month. He, Sis. Bev,
and their family were here to at-
tend the funeral of his grandfath-
er.

Bro. Ben Hartter, 89, passed
away. His funeral was held June
26. Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Al-
phia Strahm, Jr., had the services.
Survivors are his wife, Sis. Mary
of the A.C. Home; three sons, Bro.
Lester, Bern, Bro. Virgil, Sabetha,
and Clyde, Topeka; five daughters,
Sis. Eloise Bahr, Sabetha, Sis. Ma-
rie Grimm, Bern, Helen, Denver,
CO, Erma Nell, Raytown, MO, and
LaVonne, Overland Park, KS; 39
grandchildren; and 39 great-
grandchildren. Burial was in the
Sabetha Cemetery.

A son was born to Sis. Sharon
and Bro. Carl Strahm on July 3.
He was named Travis Lynn and is
welcomed home by Tom, Troy,
Trent, and Terry.

Sis. Carrie Aberle is a new resi-
dent at the A.C. Home.

Hospitalized this month have
been: Pam Edelman (surgery),
Sis. Mayme Rokey, Sis. Carrie
Aberle, Bro. Aaron Moser, and
Priscilla Kellenberger.

The waters again have been
stirred. Tim Moore, Brent Meyer,
and Brent's wife, Lisa, have start-
ed to repent. We wish them God's
Grace as they continue on their
journey.

We offer our sympathy to Sis.
Cordelia Locher on the death of
her brother, Ivan Strahm.

Gayla Grimm has graduated

from nursing school and is now employed as LPN at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

A few months ago, we wrote about Brent Robertson who by profession of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized at Wesley Hospital, Wichita, KS, in a bathtub. Although he could hardly take a step, witnesses saw him walk to the tub where he was able to have his desires for baptism fulfilled. Those who visited him in the months to come and those who ministered to him will attest to his joyful countenance and his faith in the redemptive work of our Lord.

Bro. Brent departed from this life in St. Louis, MO, where his mother was residing. He chose his own casket prior to his death, his last earthly attire, songs to be sung at his funeral, and the minister who was to preside. He requested the young sisters of the faith who had ministered to him in song while he was yet living to sing again at his funeral. The service was not one of death, but life—not defeat, but victory. At the request of his mother, Erma Robertson, his friends and brethren at the service sang as a final tribute, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Coming of the Glory of the Lord," a song his mother said he loved to sing.

Mrs. Robertson wishes to express her deep appreciation to those who took the time to send cards and letters to Brent during his illness.

Although he loved life and would have liked to live a full life here, it was quite evident that he knew the power of acceptance of God's will for him.

Ministering Bro. Roy Wernli and Sis. Betty of Lamont, Kansas, spent Sunday, June 18, with us. Their daughter, Sis. Barbara, is very much at home here in Wichita. Our congregation appreciates Sis. Barbara's willingness to help when she is called upon to do so. Our church, on a rotation system, replaces one Sunday School teacher per year. She will replace Sis. Kathleen Galatin who has taught in the primary grades for three years.

Okon Essien, our very close Nigerian friend who has attended our church here for some months, was the unfortunate victim of an in-

dustrial accident which severed four fingers of the left hand at the second joint and all of his fingers of the right hand, plus part of his right palm. When the accident happened, his counterparts exclaimed that now he will lose his will to live because in Nigeria to be maimed is a very bad thing. Because of the lack of rehabilitation in African Nations they felt he would become unproductive and useless to society. It has been a wonderful revelation to them to know that benefits are provided in a country that is a product of benevolent Christian forefathers. His rehabilitation is progressing well due to his determination and belief that God will not set him aside but desires to use him as he is. He is a student at Friends University and hopes to continue his work in education and counseling upon returning to Nigeria.

Many of our congregation held a song service for Sis. Hattie Farnay at her 80th birthday on July 10. Much to her delight she received a lacy pink summer sweater from the group.

Lastly, a final thought that was conveyed to us by a visiting minister: "Each morning as we arise, we have an opportunity to live on a mountain top or in a valley. The choice is ours." Perhaps, as we observe the faith of others and see their witness here on earth as God manifests himself in their lives, we can also go forth and do likewise in the name of the Lord and bring forth much fruits . . . that we may be His disciples.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Joan Baumgartner

History teaches us that there is no substitute for the family if we are to have a society that stands for human beings at their best.—Ray L. Wilbur.

Many young people from our congregation travelled to Morton to witness the beginning of a new family as Sis. Cathy Knobloch and Bro. Randy Suttor were married on June 24. Sis. Cathy has been a part of our congregation for several years and her warmth and enthusiasm are already missed. We trust Cathy and Randy will be a blessing in their new home church in Indianapolis.

As we made the long trip to Morton from Lexington and home again, the children passed the hours by singing gospel songs we

have learned together in Sunday School. I was touched by the relevance of the words of these songs to my own life. The truth we find in little songs like "Jesus Loves Me," "Where He Leads I'll Follow," and "Fishers of Men" apply not only to tender hearts in Sunday School but also to hearts that have walked with Jesus for years. How precious to know that He never changes and His promises and comforts remain with us through years of growth and change!

Bro. Steve Gutwein and his family, along with several others from Francesville, spent July 8 with us. We appreciated Bro. Steve's message and the renewing of old acquaintances. Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Graham (Gridley), Bro. Dan Steffen (Champaign), Bro. Doug and Sis. Brenda Suttor (Bremen), and Sis. Marsha Knobloch (Princeville) also joined us for worship in recent weeks. We always are encouraged by visitors in our small congregation.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Knochel

It was a sad and quiet hour to have heard that our dear Bro. Ralph Ramseyer passed away. May God's love yet comfort the hearts of his wife, Sis. Lillian, his son, Bro. Dean (Washington), and his daughter, Pam. We surely will miss Bro. Ralph.

We are thankful that ministering Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger and his wife (Pulaski, IA) could visit us to share God's teachings. Their son, Bro. Ken Rinkenberger, and his wife, Sis. Jill, just moved to our area and assemble with us. We welcome them to our congregation.

We also rejoice to hear that Yvonne Arnold expresses that she has peace in her heart. May God's blessings be with her.

Sis. Muriel Rylance is now in the hospital for heart surgery. We pray that God will continually watch and care for her and her family in such a needful time.

The Ralph Ramseyer family wishes to express their heart-felt thanks for the sympathy shown through the many cards, gifts, and prayers during the time of their bereavement. May God bless each and every one.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

In every generation, skeptics arise to announce the death of God

and the end of historic Christianity. The Bible is dismissed as unscientific and incredible. In contrast, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35) After nearly two thousand years, that statement still stands.

Voltaire, the noted eighteenth-century French philosopher, predicted that within fifty years the Bible would be a dead book. Ironically, his own house became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society. Today the Bible is still a best-seller, while an entire six-volume set of Voltaire's works recently sold for very little.

Yes, the Bible will survive, but its attackers will not. Jesus said that those who reject the word will be judged by it anyway (John 12:48).

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop, Bro. Nathan Stoller of Bradford, and Bro. Joseph Stoller of Princeville. We thank these brothers for their inspiring messages. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

On June 24, we enjoyed the visit of a nice group of young members from various churches. We thank them, along with all our visitors who come and assemble with our small congregation. Each and everyone is greatly appreciated.

We gathered together on July 7 to listen to the tapes from the conference of our elder brethren.

Many prayers were offered for Sis. Bernadine Miller and Everett Olson as they were hospitalized in the past month.

Dark Shadows Fall In the Lives of Us All

Sickness and sorrow come to us all,
But through it we grow and learn
to "stand tall"—

For trouble is "part and parcel of
life"

And no man can grow without
struggle and strife.

And the more we endure with
patience and grace

The stronger we grow and the
more we can face—

And the more we can face, the
greater our love;

And with love in our hearts we
are more conscious of

The pain and the sorrow in lives
everywhere;

So it is through trouble that we
learn how to share.

Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

"The harvest truly is great . . ." (St. Luke 10:2). We welcome 11 new brothers and sisters into the body of Christ! They are Randy and Shirley Koehl (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Esther Koehl, and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vie Wulf), Wayne, Mary, and James Koehl (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl), Bob and Gwen Feuchtenberger (Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma), and Paul, Jr., and Pam Fehr (Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr). As we looked into the happy faces of our new brothers and sisters, we knew they had reason to rejoice "because your names are written in heaven." (St. Luke 10:20) We look forward to adding to this list in the near future as many more new converts have received peace.

Mary Koehl has joined the many here who have chosen to live for Christ. She is the daughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys.

A baby girl, Tonya Rae, was born to Jackie and Ken Nohl. The grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sophie Nohl, and Lloyd and Dorothy Durkee. Lloyd and Dorothy are also the grandparents of Paul William, born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf. Little Paul's other grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Al Aberle (Tremont), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN).

July 15 was the wedding day for Ted Gramm and Wanda Charles. Ted's parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ala Gramm.

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitudinal sins." (I Peter 4:8)

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

The season for vacations and reunions is here. Let us ever be thankful for the blessings Christians receive when they gather from near and far.

The Mike Miller family gath-

ered here for a reunion in June. I think of our dear departed Bro. Mike and Sis. Ida, how they came from Pulaski, IA, in 1924 to minister to a small group of believers here in Winthrop. Some of the dear souls attending the reunion were their children. In 1926 and 1927, the first church building was erected. The congregation continued to grow, and in 1948 a small addition was built. Our present edifice was erected behind this first building, with the first worship service being held May 26, 1968.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and inquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4

Ministering Bro. Noah Miller of Minneapolis shared God's Word with us on Sunday, June 24.

It was announced that another soul has found peace with God and man. Machalle (Shelly) Messner is the daughter of Bill Messner. She is currently residing in the Lester, IA, area.

Our Elder Bro. Harold Messner united Jamie and Verl Schmidt in holy matrimony on Saturday, June 16. May God continue to lead and guide this young couple.

Many gathered together for our annual church potluck picnic held in the Winthrop City Park.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Rose Alice Howk have a new granddaughter. Tom and Karen Smith are the parents of Andrea Mae, born July 9.

Sis. Jeanine Messner (Stan) was hospitalized for treatments, and Ministering Bro. Elmer Schmidt had knee surgery.

Too much sunshine makes a life barren. We must have clouds and rain to reap a rich harvest.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY (See Kansas, Kansas City)

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

After many months of planning, work has begun on our new church. It is our continued prayer that all will be done according to God's will in this endeavor. We appreciate the support of all of our brethren across the land. Ministering Bro. Bill Gudeman, Elgin, IL, was with us on June 24 to bring forth the true Word of God. I think that being permitted to assemble in God's house and hearing His holy Word is a great blessing that we too often take for granted.

Paul Stefan and Debbie Banta were united in marriage on June 20 by Bro. Gene Marti. Paul's parents are Bro. Willie and Sis. Hilda. Debbie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Banta. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

Stephanie Gerber

Obedience to God's Word is the key to true happiness. We were filled to overflowing on June 27 with the God inspired message brought by Bro. Loren Knapp from Tucson, AZ. Words are inadequate to express our thanks for these spiritual blessings. May we as individuals show our appreciation by being obedient to Him and exercising more love to those around us. We thank Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn for stopping by.

July 4: Sometimes we forget the real reason why we celebrate Independence Day. Let us always remember to thank God that we have this great country to be part of. Most of all, let's be thankful for the freedom to worship as we please.

Ministering Bro. Rod Huber and his wife Sis. Mary, from Valparaiso, IN, spent the evening of July 5 with us. We enjoy being able to come together on a beautiful quiet summer evening and sit around a table to be fed the spiritual food prepared by God, served by one of his ministers.

We are grateful to have Bro. George Hoerr back in our midst after being a hospital (medical) patient for several days. Also, it's good to see Bro. Gerald Sutter take his place on the pulpit after his bout with surgery.

Ministering Bro. Frederick Knapp and his wife, Sis. Marjorie, from Congerville, were guests on July 8. It is an usual blessing when three young men, from one family, Bros. Kenny, Loren, and Frederick are chosen for the ministry from different areas.

We were among those who were recipients of many valuable and timely teachings by godly inspiration in the past few weeks. Thanks to our visitors and our local ministers who, Sunday after Sunday, never let us down.

Let's not become so busy in this fast moving world that we forget to stop and smell the roses. May we live in such a manner that if Christ

would come or our lives would be taken, we would be ready and not need to change anything. It may then be too late to change!

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

Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bros. Corbin Bahler and Lee Bahler of Rockville paid a welcomed visit to Union City on June 24. A blessed day and a good measure of food for the spirit was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Our dear sister Bertha Weisert in Union City underwent surgery recently and is making good progress at home since leaving the hospital. God has again heard the prayers of many and granted His healing power to overcome both the affliction and the handicap of advanced age.

We have enjoyed visits from a number of midwest brethren at both the Union City and Philadelphia churches in spite of some gasoline shortages here in the East. Thankfully, it appears the fuel problems are now behind us, and we hope other brethren will not alter possible plans to visit us for that reason.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

O, Spirit of God's strength and
might,
Create in us new life and light;
O, join us all in heart and mind,
That access to God's throne we find
Within Thy light.

O, may we all united stand
By holy tie and sacred band,
As members of Christ's body here,
Led by Thy Spirit true, sincere,
With one accord.

Hymn No. 200, Zion's Harp

This beautiful hymn was sung on June 24 when we were all joined in heart and mind as we partook of Holy Communion. We were so vividly reminded of our Lord's suffering on the cross for each of us. How thankful we are for this precious sacrifice which was made for us and for the opportunity to have our sins removed through His blood and suffering. We are thankful that the door of grace still stands ajar and pray that many will take advantage of this privilege. We thank our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler of Bay City for assisting our Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer in this service.

Our thanks and appreciation also go to Bro. Kenneth Indermule from Sardis for ministering to us on a Wednesday evening. A covered dish supper was enjoyed by all in the church basement before the evening service.

Our Sunday School children, parents, and teachers enjoyed our annual weiner roast at Witaker Falls State Park.

Arthur Woolschlager and Sis. Irene Farney were medical patients during the last month. Cynthia Virkler, daughter of Nat and Sheila, had surgery on her ankle.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Our two churches at Naumburg and Croghan assembled together on June 24 for communion. Bro. Andrew Virkler was with us. We had a spirit-filled weekend. Bro. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer, during that next week, shared communion with a few who are unable to get to church.

We are happy for Jesse Karcher that he has been able to be taken into the fold. He was baptized a couple of weeks ago.

Julia Karcher has been a patient at Carthage Area Hospital for surgery. She is now back home and doing quite well.

Wednesday evening, July 11, the two churches here, Croghan and Naumburg, had a potluck supper. Afterward, we were privileged to listen to Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle from Sardis, OH. He spoke on the 12th chapter of St. John and brought out how the kind deeds of Mary and Martha could have helped in some way to give the Lord courage to stand the trials He had to endure for our sakes.

OHIO, AKRON

Lynell Palitto

We were privileged to have Bro. James Hoerr minister to our spiritual needs on July 8.

Sometime ago, Bro. Gordon Greenbank was hospitalized for a few days, but he is able to assemble with us again. Jill Schamback, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Joyce, underwent successful skin graft surgery on her heel. Her injury was due to a bicycle mishap. Ken Greenbank, son of Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily, suffered burns on his face, arm, and chest and required hospitalization in the Burn Unit at Akron Children's Hospital. We're happy to report he is recov-

ering. Bro. Dave Graf experienced foot surgery. Bro. Elmer Graf, Sr., is hospitalized at this writing.

We welcome Sis. Mary Shick who is spending the summer months in our community. Her home is in Florida.

How glad we were to see Sis. Kathryn Reese. She moved to Colorado two years ago.

In closing, a word of comfort, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

We have a new sister in the Lord! In my early years here in Girard, Margaret Kincaid attended services. Then she and her husband went elsewhere for a number of years. She had the desire to return to the "Little German Church." She was not quite ready for baptism until she read the timely article in the Silver Lining that Bro. Willis Ehnlé wrote on the Simplicity of Repentance. She said, "I've done all that," and she was eager to be joined to the body of Christ. Sister Margaret is 81. We praise the Lord for her.

Our special thanks go to Bro. Rudy Graf who serves us faithfully. He was here for communion service and baptism. Bro. Ernest Graf and others with him served our congregation when Harold and I spent the weekend in Princeville. Thank you, Bro. Ernest.

What a joy it is to lift the phone and hear a brother say, "We are coming to worship with you." Bro. Gary Miabach called to say this recently, and I knew we could look forward to a blessed Sunday of worship and fellowship. Thank you, Bro. Gary, for remembering us.

OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

Among our visitors this month was ministering Bro. Edward Alt From Cissna Park.

Russell Manz (Bros. Elias and Sis. Evelyn) has found grace to seek the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with the angels in heaven to know that another soul is seeking the Lord, and we ask God to bless him in his new walk of life.

The new address of our friend in the service is:

Schlatter, Philip A.
PSC 5, Box 6658
Bldg. 418
Lowry AFB, CO 80230

OHIO, LATTY Susie Sinn

Jeffrey Lynn is the newborn son of Bro. Rodney and Sis. LeAnn Stoller. Little brother Timmy is glad for a playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera Laukhuf and Bro. Delmer and Sis. Margaurite Stoller.

Several of our loved ones were hospitalized for tests this month. They are Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann), Sis. Mildred Stoller (Bro. Louis) and Sis. Mirian Zeltwanger. Mike Stoller was hospitalized for a short time after being in a car accident. We are thankful that most of them are assembling with us again.

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3

Melanie Hackenjoos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene) has heard the call of God. We are thankful that she has chosen to follow His ways. May she feel His abundant grace and strength each day.

Visiting us, recently, were Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington), Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron), and Bro. Don Manz (Junction). We surely want to thank these beloved brethren and pray that God will continue to bless them in His service.

On July 15, the engagement of Sis. LaNae Laukhuf (Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera) to Bro. Arlyn Rudin (Alvin and Dorothy) (Cissna Park) was announced. May God ever guide them as they plan their lives together.

Also engaged are Beverly Plummer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann) and Mike Akerman.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge Laukhuf and family in the passing away of Sis. Marge's father, Bro. Elmer Graf, Akron.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD,
I SHALL NOT WANT . . . Psalm 23.

Recently, someone told of a true incident that happened in Switzerland. Two men were driving together, and they came upon a shepherd who was attending his flock of sheep. The one man suggested they stop the car as he wanted to talk with the man. He got out of the car and walked over to the

shepherd and asked him if he wanted to sell his sheep. The man looked startled and said, "Oh, no, I love my sheep. Oh, no, I couldn't sell any of them. You see, there are the lambs who need guidance; the older sheep need my love, oh, no, I couldn't sell them." Well, said the man, "Do your sheep know your voice?" He answered, "Oh, yes, sir; listen." He made a noise, and the sheep looked up. He made another noise, and they went to the right; another noise, and they went to the left. "You see, sir, they would not listen or follow anyone else. I cannot sell them."

Aren't we fortunate to have a Saviour who looks after His own? The sheep know his voice. Our elders are also such a wonderful help to us, and if we heed their warnings of love, we surely will not stray too far from the master Shepherd.

Our elder, Bro. Rudolph Graf, has guided and shepherded our flock here at Mansfield since 1949. He has had much patience through the years, and we thank him for his kind words of counsel and advice. We hope he can give us counsel for many years to come.

Our graduating seniors were recognized on June 24. A short talk entitled "What is the goal you want to attain?" was given by Bro. Donald Cordrey, followed by the presentation of Bibles from the church to each senior. The seniors were: Sis. Elise Bocka, Keith Kemper, Wes Washington, Wendy Sauder, Terry Brady, Carre Hollinger, Mindy Matuck, Shelly Banks, and Mark Sauder.

Hospitalized: Loving thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Dorothy Durnkin, Hazel Beer, Arthur Dotterer, Dona Beard, and Justin Sauder (baby son of Ricky and Wendy Sauder). We are very thankful and happy to report that our minister, Bro. Ben Stavenik, is recovering very well from heart surgery and has been able to attend church again.

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by many on Sunday afternoon, July 8, at the home of Sis. Linda and Catherine Morrison. We wish to thank them for their deed of love.

There's Someone who loves every sinner;
He's calling, O hear Him today;
'Tis Jesus, our blessed Redeemer—
He's only a prayer away.

Though friends may deride and forsake you
And leave you alone in the way,
Remember the promise of Jesus—
He's only a prayer away.

When others forsake and desert you,
And you're in the depth of despair,
Let God share your burden and sorrow—
Just seek Him and He'll be there.

He's only a prayer away.
God will be with you whenever you pray.

He's only a prayer away.

Johnny Lange and
Harold Graham

OHIO, RITTMAN Janette Blough

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers bring us God's Word during this past month. They were Bro. Larry Weneger, Bro. Bruce Leman, Bro. Rudy Graf, Bro. Robert Beer, Bro. Bill Emch, and Bro. Harold Emch. May these brothers be especially blest for their messages.

We are glad to have several of our congregation assembling with us again after being hospitalized for surgery or sickness. They are Sis. Diane Lanz, Bro. Robert Beery, Betty Baughman, and Sis. Pearl Marty. We hope and pray that our dear Lord will continue to bless them with good health.

Sis. Laura and Bill Oplinger have left our area to live close to their daughter in California. Although we miss seeing their faces in our congregation, we are glad they will be assembling with our Altadena, CA, congregation.

The engagement of Bro. Larry Baughman and Sis. Donna Zimmerman of our Forrest congregation has been announced. Bro. Larry is the son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Baughman. We wish them the Lord's guidance and blessings as they plan their life together.

On July 8, we were privileged to witness the joining of two hearts as Bro. Ken Maibach and Sis. Ann Martin took their wedding vows. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin their life as husband and wife.

We are happy to report the birth of a son to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser. Steven Ray has two sisters, Gail and Darlene, and one brother, Aaron, to welcome him home. His grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis.

Liz Gasser and Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder.

OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

Once again our cups were filed to overflowing as we gathered for the memorial service in West Virginia. Brethren were present from the following churches: Phoenix, AZ; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, Gridley, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, LaCrosse, Milford, Remington, and Wolcott, IN; Detroit, MI; and Akron, Junction, Mansfield, Rittman, and Sardis, OH. Many friends gathered from the West Virginia communities.

The ministering brothers that served us were Ed Ringger, Gridley, IL, Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Floyd Weiland, Detroit, MI, Fred Knapp, Congerville, IL, Henry Beer, Milford, IN, and Wally Ramsier, Mansfield, OH. May God bless all who took part in making the day possible.

We had rain during the day, a first for many years, but as we were reminded by one of the ministers, without the rain we would not be able to live. We must always remember to give thanks in ALL things. The rain drew everyone inside the building which created a very unified feeling, another blessing from God. Once again we wish to thank everyone for coming and for their support.

We had two uplifting evenings of vacation Bible School. Bro. Harold Emch, Girard, OH, spoke to us the first evening, and Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, OH, the second. Bro. Ed Aeschleman, Union City, PA, ministered to us one Wednesday evening. May God richly bless them all for lending themselves to God for His inspiration.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla

We were privileged to have with us Bro. Hartzell Kaisner of Detroit on Sunday, July 15. He brought us the teachings of Jesus Christ through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." In our Vacation Bible School, held the week of June 25-29, the children learned that the followers of Jesus are His sheep, and He is the shepherd. The Bible stories taught them to love, trust, worship, and serve Jesus. It was very inspiring to see their shining faces and

hear their voices as they eagerly learned new songs of praise to the Lord. We were very happy to have several friends and neighbors of our children join us at Bible School, and some of their parents also came to the little program presented on Friday.

OREGON, SILVERTON Mary Jane Winkler

We were privileged to have ministers among our visitors this month. Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and Bros. Robert Miller and Garth Steffen (Portland) brought us many good teachings. We are again reminded of the need to prepare for eternity and to make sure that we are ready to meet our Lord. We want to thank our dear brothers for lending themselves, and we trust the Lord will bless them.

We truly have been blessed with visitors, and we want to thank all who took the time to visit us this summer. We greatly enjoyed the fellowship. It is so heartwarming to meet and greet those of like mind and faith. We surely have a blessed heritage.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA (See New Jersey, Union City)

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We've enjoyed our summer visitors and are so grateful that they included Zapata in their vacation plans.

Sis. Margery Koehl from Peoria has moved to Zapata as a permanent resident after spending two winter seasons with us. We certainly welcome her and wish her God's richest blessing.

Bro. John and Sis. Vi Perdelwitz's daughter, Alice, from Oakville has moved to Kingsville where she is attending college. Bro. John and Sis. Vi have spent a big share of their summer here.

We are again looking forward to our winter residents' returning.

A TIMELY WARNING . . . (Continued from Page 6)

The Book of Acts is a record of the early life of the church. It relates the advance of the Gospel message from Jerusalem to Rome primarily through the ministries of Peter and Paul. The Book of Acts contains three clear accounts of

speaking in tongues, 2:1 to 13, 10:44 to 48, 19:1 to 7. The first account of speaking in tongues took place on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1. The day of Pentecost was so called because it was celebrated on the 50th day after the presentation of the first harvested sheaf of the barley harvest. It was the 50th day from the first Sunday after Passover. It was also known as the Feast of Weeks and as the Day of the First Fruits, because it was the day when the first fruits of the wheat harvest were presented to God. This particular day of Pentecost was significant because it was 50 days after Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection, and 10 days after His ascension into Heaven. This great event occurred in the City of Jerusalem. The Disciples were told by Christ who tarried in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit, Luke 24:49. This they did. Those who witnessed the phenomenon of speaking in tongues and to whom Peter preached his sermon were dwelling in Jerusalem at this time. It is rather difficult to say with absolute certainty just where the Disciples were, however it is certain that they were together in one place in Jerusalem. The promise of the Spirit was given to the Apostles when Christ said, "I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high." Further, He predicted, "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence," also, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses." It is quite evident that the Apostles were not praying at the time the Holy Spirit descended. Kneeling or standing was the normal posture for prayer, and the Bible indicates that they were sitting when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They were just simply waiting for the fulfillment of Christ's promise. It does not indicate that the Apostles prayed for themselves to receive the experience, nor that they prayed for one another, neither did they lay hands upon any one. They simply waited for Jesus to do what He had promised to do. The descent of the Holy Spirit would come, not in prayer, but when signs—the sound of wind, cloven tongues as of fire, and speaking with other tongues. It must be countless multitudes to gather. The cluded that the sound from Heaven,

not the wind, filled all the house where they were sitting, so they were completely enveloped, immersed or baptized in it. Since the sound indicated the presence of the Holy Spirit, they were truly baptized in the Holy Spirit. This sound was heard everywhere and caused speaking of tongues on the day of Pentecost was in known languages as they were understood without an interpreter. This speaking in known languages was evidence of Christ's promise. The Spirit of God did not come as an answer to apostolic prayer or the laying on of hands, but at the sovereignly appointed time of the Father. This makes this event unique and separate, from other Scripture. In regard to the event at Caesarea, involving Cornelius and his household, they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues at the very moment of Salvation. They were simply listening to Peter's sermon when the Spirit came upon them. There was no prayer, either personal or apostolic, and no laying on of hands. They were subsequently baptized in water.

(To be continued)

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

ed and set back in their spiritual lives, take heart; be of good courage. God sent His people another time, and they took the city.

But, after their defeat, they certainly were discouraged. God told Joshua that Israel had sinned. Then the Lord told Joshua to call the tribe of Judah, and to take the men of each household of each family and speak to them. They were brought forward one by one to stand before Joshua. Finally Achan, the head of one household, stood there. Joshua said, "My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me." Joshua 7:19. The sin was confessed and a penalty paid. Then they went up once more against Ai and they took the city.

I believe that each one of us will confirm that there is joy and there are blessings in obedience.

We have also read today in the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John about a Man who said He was the Son of God. The Bible tells us that He was truly the Son of God, born of a virgin; and He said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the

husbandman." John 15:1.

We know that this Teacher was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He taught in such a way that anyone who is not spiritually minded cannot comprehend and receive a blessing from what He said. "I am the true vine." That indicates that there are false vines, false prophets, false teachings, false doctrines around us.

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." John 15:2. Who are the branches? Remember when Jesus healed the blind man and then asked him, "What do you see?" He said, "I see men as trees, walking." Mark 8:24. He had vision. He could see.

"Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. We don't understand this. I've never been able to understand how vines in the vineyard can be cut so severely, and yet have abundant fruit. It would be my nature to let the branch grow freely, hoping for fruit. Every branch that does not bear fruit, He cuts off; "He taketh away."

Here, the Lord is speaking spiritually. He is the Vine, the True Vine. We who are gentiles do not belong to the Jewish race. We are aliens. But, as you know, the Jewish people rejected Jesus. They rejected the Prophet of God, the Son of God, the Messiah. So they were cut off, and the gentiles were grafted into the True Vine.

However, we cannot be grafted in without pain or some kind of anguish and this refers to our repentance and conversion. We suffered pain; we suffered anguish. There were tears, even a little bit of "hell" here on earth. Then, finally, we become a part of the body of Christ.

"Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it." John 15:2. If we speak with our older brothers and older sisters, we can learn a lot about how they have suffered. But the purging brings out the purity, and the quality of the fruits of the Spirit. The pruning and the purging is the separating from this world. Naturally there is pain. But it is a mystery.

Recently, I read an interesting account of two sisters (I'm sure many of you have read it) who were political prisoners from Holland during World War II. They were devout Christians. The older sister seemed to have more faith

than the younger sister, for when she suffered, she blessed the hands that caused the suffering. Think of it!

They were cast into dirty places, into barracks filled with filth and disease, fleas and lice. The older sister said, "Give thanks to God, even for the fleas." This impressed me. I can't get over it. Her sister couldn't get over it. How can you thank God for fleas? But later on in her life, the purging came and she understood.

The two women endured many trials and severe punishments from the guards who literally hated the people who had helped the Jews. They were political prisoners. One sister died and the other, except for a clerical error, would have been exterminated.

When they entered the concentration camp, the guards did not find the Bible that hung upon the younger sister's neck, although it was very noticeable because of the cord around her neck and the bulge in her dress. God covered the precious Book from which they drew spiritual strength.

During the day the prisoners were taken to work details, and were returned again in the evening to the flea-infested barracks. Immediately after returning, a large number of prisoners assembled in the rear of the barracks under the protection of God's creation, the fleas. Because of the fleas, the guards did not enter the barracks.

The little Bible was taken out and read in Dutch; then, quickly and quietly, it was translated by some of the hearers for others who stood in the circle. Many people knew four or five languages. Thus, they gave God honor, praise, and glory—thanking God even for the fleas.

Returning to the fifteenth chapter of John, the third verse says, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." The Word is cleansing. When we seriously read and apply the Word, it penetrates our hearts; it convicts us and it cleanses us.

But the Lord did not stop there; He said, "Abide in me, and I (will abide) in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself . . ." John 15:4. We cannot get along without Jesus. We cannot get along without a Saviour. And we cannot get along without one another. When we get discouraged, let us never separate ourselves from the body

of Christ, the body of Believers.

There is power and unity from the Spirit, and that power and unity can flow into our hearts; it is called the love of God.

Not long ago, we were in Remington, Indiana, and I visited the Sunday School in the forenoon. A young lady in the Sunday School class said, "A question came up in civics and one person asked, 'Is it more noble to give your life for your country or to refuse to go into the service?'" We considered the question. It seemed to us that it was more noble for a person to be willing to lay down his life for his country, not taking another life but rendering service.

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. This is the very zenith of love. This is how much God loved us. This love is in you; it is in every one of us.

"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is the world." I John 4:4. We can feel this. We have experienced it. We have been born again out of water and of Spirit and to have this Spirit is precious. We have found the precious pearl, and have no need to seek further; we only need to read the Word of God. "Abide in Me." John 15:4. Stay with me and I will stay with you, He told us.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. I believe that this is clear. I believe that we can understand this. I believe that if we are filled with the Spirit of the love of God, we will love one another. That is a commandment.

One of the apostles said, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar." I John 4:20. How can you love God whom you have not seen if you cannot love someone whom you see?

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:6. This is a great message in a few words. If we reject His love, if we reject the pardon which He offers, the pardoning grace, He will reject us.

The blessings of obedience mentioned in Moses' song, are evident in the teachings of Jesus.

"If ye abide in me, and my words

abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. We are not going to ask for anything more than His grace, His help, His courage, and our daily bread; for that is how we have been taught in the Lord's prayer.

"Herein is my Father glorified . . ." John 15:8. There is joy in heaven when the Lord sees His creation, the top of His creation—His children, living a life which brings forth the fruits of the Spirit. That gives praise and glory to God, the Creator.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:9-11.

In a another place in the Scripture, we read about the singing of the song of Moses. I believe it is in the fifteenth chapter of the book of Revelation where John describes a scene in heaven. He said that those who were victorious over the beast were standing on a sea that was crystal clear, and they were singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. Victory! That is what we are all looking for.

When I think of victory, I remember again the account of the two women in the concentration camp. The older one, who was in her fifties, became ill because of malnutrition, disease, lice, fleas, what have you. As she weakened, her captors were cruel. They even struck her; they drew blood. Her younger sister could hardly contain herself.

But the victim, even in her last whispering breath, told her sister, "Pray for them; they are helping me to overcome, to be victorious." Think of it! They were helping her to become victorious so that she could stand beside the crystal sea in the streets of heaven.

Every one of us is hoping to achieve that goal. We hope that we won't have to thank someone for helping us in such a cruel way, for taking our lives. But, if it would happen, if persecution would come, then we, too, should be able to say, "Thank you, Lord, for these people." We too, should pray for their deliverance, for they would have helped us to overcome.

SERMON BY BRO. MERRIL L. LAUKHUF OF LATTY, OHIO

Text: Joshua 7:16-26 and St. John 15:1-18

In the forereading, we read from the book of Joshua. In one of the first chapters in this book we are told how to become successful. We are interested in our children, in one another, and in being successful in our earthly ventures. We are taught here that if we fear God and keep His commandments, we will achieve success. I believe that it is worthwhile to remember this.

As we meet and council with converts, we sometimes turn to the seventh chapter of Joshua. Occasionally we are confronted with someone who is not convinced that it is necessary to make a confession. We read today of an example of that necessity

When we come in repentance with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, we bring forth those things which are putrid and sinful, those things which condemn us. Every soul that has gone through such an experience can say, "It certainly is worthwhile."

We know the history of the Israelites and the first chapters of the book of Joshua. After leaving Egypt, the Israelites walked forty years through the wilderness and finally came to their destination; a land flowing with milk and honey, a land with vineyards already planted. These things were precious to those people. They were life sustaining. They were eager to receive their inheritance.

The journey of the Israelites was a foreshadow of the travelers we sang about today, the pilgrims in a strange land. We must be able to go through strange lands and not become defiled or become partakers of the evils therein.

Jesus, in His great intercessory prayer, prayed to His Father in heaven: "Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me . . ." John 17:11. And He said, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep

them from the evil." John 17:15. This is important for we are pilgrims.

When we celebrate Thanksgiving, we think of our own country's history and of the God-fearing people who were interested in being separated from the "world." They even acquired the name Separatist. They went to a new land where they sought freedom to worship in the way that they believed was right, and a place where the "world" could be kept away. But we can't build a fence around ourselves. Jesus prayed that we be kept from the evil of the world.

The Israelites traveled for forty years and many of them lost loved ones. All of those who were more than twenty years of age when they left Egypt died before the journey was finished. Those of whom we read today were young at the beginning. During the journey they grew up and had children of their own, and they remembered their many experiences in the wilderness.

Before they could possess the promised land, the Israelites had to cross the River Jordan. The River Jordan flows from the mountains into the Dead Sea, about thirteen hundred feet below sea level—the lowest point on earth. It flows fast and they arrived at harvest time when the river always overflowed its banks. There the people stood. Did they faint? Did they turn around? Did they say, "God, why did you lead us here?" "Why did this happen to us?"

They listened to the song of Moses, a long dissertation about the blessings of obedience and the sorrows brought on by disobedience. Deut. 32. Then Moses told the people to remember all his words and pass them on to their children. He said to Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the (promised) land . . ." for God would not let Moses go further. Deut. 31, 7.

As the feet of the priests bear-

ing the Ark of the Covenant touched the water, the waters stood in a heap and the people walked across on dry land.

Twelve men, one from each tribe, were designated to pick up one stone each as they walked across. The Lord had told Joshua to leave the stones where they lodged that night. Joshua told the people that their children would ask in years to come, "What happened here? What meaneth these stones?" They would be able to tell them, "God has delivered us." That was a great deliverance!

Many stones have been laid down by you brothers and sisters. Each one of us laid down a stone when we picked up the cross. We remember, don't we? We are not ashamed to talk about it. We hope that this will be a continual process, and that those who follow after will, by the grace of God, be instructed as to the meaning of those stones. Stones are rock and our faith is built upon the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

There are blessings in obedience.

Joshua was instructed to lead this great number of people, a multitude of people, into the promised land. First they went up against Jericho. Oh, what a beautiful story. Faith exemplified! The seven priests blowing rams horns, quietly followed by the people, walked around the city each day for six days. Then, suddenly, on the seventh day the trumpet sounded. Everyone shouted and the walls tumbled down!

They took the city. Oh, what encouragement! God was with them. Could anyone in that group have thought that God would not be with them in their next venture?

Beloved ones, a moral follows. The Israelites went against Ai very confidently, but I believe that the fear of the Lord had slipped away from some. They went against that city and were defeated. What a set back. What a discouragement.

If any here have been discouraged
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