

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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### A D R E A M

Elder Bro. Willis R. Ehle

I had a dream in which everyone was called upon to believe in the world. The three cardinal facets of this faith were worldly possessions, carnal entertainment, and self. Since faith without works is dead (that is, if your faith is genuine it will be evident by the way you live) everyone was supposed to go "all out" to emphasize the three cardinal facets.

It really doesn't take much effort to emphasize worldly possessions. Basic drives cause you to seek food and water when your stomach is empty and your throat is dry. When such basic needs are met through hard work, it's only a short step to laying up extra for security in order not to be dependent upon others in your old age. How much you need for your old age, or how old

is old, has never been decided, so you can go on indefinitely seeking more and more. These are the kinds of works needed to show real faith in the world. A heart set on worldly possessions, or an above average standard of living, is one of the three facets needed to back up this faith.

Carnal entertainment is the second facet of this faith. There are so many entertaining things to do these days. To try all these is part of the works needed to show faith in the world. To deny ourselves such things might even give the impression of faith in Jesus Christ which is untenable from the standpoint of faith in the world.

Self is the third facet of faith in the world. The person is always to put himself first, to seek what is

to his own advantage at the expense of others. To criticize and despise others, insinuating that you yourself are far superior to them, is the mark of someone who has true faith in the world. It would be impermissible to be compassionate and self-sacrificing, out of love for others. Such conduct is incompatible with faith in the world.

There is, of course, another faith, faith in the risen Son of the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that I will never be guilty of saying I believe on Christ while living as though I believe in this world. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4.

### FAMILY WORSHIP TIME

In this age of rapid change and increasing exposure to the subtle but persistent influences of society, we must try to identify threatened features of our Christ-centered lives which may be lost unless a concerted effort is made to preserve them. One of these underpinnings which merits serious consideration is the maintenance of family worship time in our homes.

In Bible times and for many centuries thereafter, the growing and preparation of food required much of the time and energy of the entire family. Eating together was an inevitable culmination of this effort. How greatly this has changed for most of the people in our society today. For many, there are few incentives to eat together as a family and many factors which discourage it.

Let us reflect upon the spiritual

benefits of preserving in our Godly homes the sharing of at least the major meal of the day together as a family. In most cases, it is the evening meal that best lends itself to this. The call goes out that the meal is ready, and each family member leaves his work or play and assembles around the table to give thanks to God for all good gifts. Following is a time when children should be seen and heard. Each must be given opportunity to pour out the varied experiences of the day to that little group of people who should be his most understanding and supportive fellow human beings. This should be a relaxed, unhurried hour spent together around the table. Before adjourning to the various individual pursuits, the family is once again bound together in a few precious moments of worship and prayer.

If we do not make the positive effort of setting aside such times in our fleeting lives with consistent determination, how often will such family communion occur on a spontaneous basis?

There will always be justifiable exceptions which deter us temporarily from our family worship time. Unfortunately, if we are not on guard, exceptions become the rule. Innumerable after-school activities, the lure of television and other entertainments, multiple jobs, fast food outlets, and a host of other factors have made a quiet evening meal at home with the entire family virtually unknown to many households in America. This is but one small example of the success which the unrelenting enemy of our souls has had in seeking to destroy the Christian home. Like termites chewing away unnoticed, he

may have already gained some ground in our own homes.

Although few of us as children could appreciate the significance at the time, it seems that with the rare exception, no matter how far one strays, the memory of Father praying aloud at the table remains as a spiritually tender spot in the hardest of hearts. Our prayer for all is that the tender spot may be touched someday by God's finger of love as He gently calls to sin-sick souls. During that same hour of supping together as a family, we heard Dad read from the Holy Scriptures and sometimes from a Bible Story book. The specific words have long since faded from the memory, but the picture is as vivid as today.

Are we doing our best to preserve these sacred experiences for our children? Are we relenting to the peer pressure of neighboring children who grab a bite individually and in ten minutes are back at the door to play again? Or have we established a consistent pattern which is planned around ourselves and others about us because it is understood that this is an hour which we esteem as essential to the

God-fearing family? Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is temperance which is defined as habitual self-control or self-discipline. We can pray spontaneously at any time without depending upon a structured schedule. However, if we acknowledge our human frailty, we will agree that much grace is needed to help us lead balanced or temperate lives which include adequate time for worship on a regular basis. The Psalmist wrote, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." (Ps. 92:1,2) Numerous Scriptural teachings refer to daily communication with God and regular meditation upon His Word. Parents are instructed to teach their children the ways of the Lord, continuously. Abraham was commended by God, Gen. 18:19, "For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall

keep the ways of the Lord."

Family worship should include, in addition to faithful attendance at the assembly, sharing of that special meal-time together, review of the subjects of the Sunday School lessons and sermons heard on the Lord's Day, memorization of Scripture verses, and reading of the Word and prayer—all on a regular basis.

How can we find the time? More significantly, how can we dare to do otherwise? We need to put forth the time, energy, dedication, self-denial, and whatever is needed to meet our family responsibilities. By faithful obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, there will be generated in our own minds deep personal convictions based upon the Word of God regarding these responsibilities as Christian parents. As this occurs, the reallocation of our time becomes of itself a simple act. The resultant blessings will rest with our children and our children's children—should the Lord tarry.

(Written by a ministering brother, submitted by a counselling elder brother.)

## A TIMELY WARNING

### SPEAKING WITH TONGUES

(Charismatic Movement)

(Continued from the August issue)

In Ephesus, the Disciples of John the Baptist believed the further revelation of God in Christ, as explained by Paul. After they were baptized in water and had hands layed on them, they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. These accounts serve to introduce the Holy Spirit to different classes of people. The first introduction was to the Jews at Jerusalem and was evidence that the Holy Spirit had indeed come in fulfillment of Christ's promise and was truly a sign unto them. The second introduction was a sign to the Jewish Christians that Gentiles could be saved and that they were equal to the Jew before God. The third account involved the Disciples of John the Baptist who can be regarded as Old Testament Saints and who received the gift as evidence that Paul's message was truly from God. These accounts were unique and separate in themselves. They were never intended to become a permanent pattern for an

experience to be sought by Christians.

The Apostle Paul learned there were many things that worked to hinder the power and the progress of the Gospel in Corinth. He came to Corinth from Athens and remained there 18 months. He began his labors by preaching in the synagogue but was driven out of it, and was compelled to give instructions in the home of Justus. During this stay, he founded the Church at Corinth. It was later while he was in Ephesus that he received news of a distressing nature to the state of things in this church. It was divided by the party spirit, one faction adhering to Paul, another to Apollos, another to Cephas, and another party that gave itself the name of Christ. Immoralities of various kinds prevailed in the church. **There were those who would partake of the Lord's Supper and then eat meat offered to idols. There were irregularities in public worship and mistaken views of the**

**resurrection.** These were some of the things this Epistle to the Corinthians were designed to correct. In Chapter 12 of I Corinthians, Paul dealt with the general nature of spiritual gifts. Although spiritual gifts are discussed elsewhere, I Corinthians is the only Epistle that mentions the gift of tongues by name. **These gifts are enumerated in I Corinthians 12:8 through 10, and 28 through 30. In both of these lists, tongues and the interpretation of tongues are designated last. This may reveal the fact that they were regarded by Paul as the least of the gifts, but nevertheless they were still gifts and a function of the believers of that day. These gifts that are mentioned in I Corinthians are gifts that are imparted by God, for we can read where it says, "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit." These gifts cannot be gained**

through human initiative, and they are not dependent upon human prayer or faithfulness. They are given as God wills to give, not as man wills to receive. In regard to the phenomenon of speaking in tongues, to say that God must do today what He did yesterday, or in the apostolic era, is to put a limitation upon God. This is contrary to the character of God and the events of the Bible. Although God does not change in His person or nature, His dealings with men do change. His witness to the world changed from being centered in Israel to that in the church. He will deal with sin in the future as He never has done in the past. God is immutable, but He is not immobile. It is not the question as to whether God can give the gift of tongues today; He still has that power. The question is whether it is God's purpose to continue the same phenomena that the Apostolic Church experienced. The claim that God must do today what He did then is actually putting oneself into the position of telling God what He ought to do. After enumerating the spiritual gifts in Chapter 12, the Apostle Paul states, "And yet show I unto you a more excellent way." He follows this with Chapter 13, or the Chapter of Love. In this chapter, he specifically states that whether there be prophesies, they shall fail, whether ther be tongues, they shall cease, whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. It seems rather strange that today so much emphasis is placed upon the speaking with tongues by some and so little importance upon the gift of prophecy. Inasmuch as no mention is made of the gift of tongues after the I Corinthians, it seems rather apparent that these gifts ceased at that time. It is very possible that the gift of tongues was necessary to the infancy of the church. Paul saw little value in the gift of tongues if there was no interpretation. In fact, if there was no interpreter present, then the person who had the gift of tongues was to remain silent.

I think it can be concluded that throughout the history of the church, no spiritual gift has occasioned so much continual controversy as the gift of tongues. It is a known fact that the speaking in tongues to a large degree is today accomplished in unknown sounds. It seems as though there is conclusive evidence in the Bible that

speaking in unknown sounds is actually unscriptural, and, accordingly, the present day movement of speaking in tongues has not recovered the Biblical phenomenon of the early church. I don't believe these occurrences were ever intended to become a pattern for the reception of the Spirit into the lives of believers in our church today. It is clearly stated that the gift of tongues would cease, and church history has revealed that this has actually happened in the first century.

There are some who testify that they believe this is truly the work of the Spirit. In every believer's life, there should always be two witnesses—the Holy Spirit and the Word. This is why it is important that we search the Word to discern the Spirit. In the Bible, speaking with tongues was always for a reason. In addition, it was for a specific time and was always spoken so that others could understand. It was never a demonstration to test the Spirit. Inasmuch as the New Testament was written in the Greek language, translating from the original Greek, the word signifies a foreign language, not an unknown language that cannot be understood. God is not the author of confusion which this doctrine of speaking with tongues has caused in many churches. Our lives as Christians should be a life of faith. The Holy Spirit is received by faith and not by an outward manifestation. If we receive the Spirit in Faith, we walk by faith. If we need an outward manifestation, we walk by sight.

Our aim in researching this doctrine of speaking with tongues is not to discredit the doctrine, but rather to prove it according to God's Word. Further, it is not our desire to suppress anything that is good, but rather to avoid confusion, and to seek for the unity and harmony that should exist in God's Church and among His people.

The Apostle Paul made specific mention of this in his first epistle to Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

Peter also in 2 Peter, Chapter 2 stated: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even deny-

ing the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of:"

It is particularly disturbing to realize that none of us are immune to the tactics of the evil one, for Paul further exhorted in 2 Corinthians 11:2, "For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, thus by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your mind should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." And in verse 13: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works:"

There are those who are troubled and confused in heart, feeling that to attain spiritual maturity or as some teach, the second manifestation of grace, it is essential to speak with tongues, failing to recognize a number of very serious factors.

The gift of speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were given directly to the apostles and disci-

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ples in the time of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, as a sign to reveal the power of God. It is concluded in Mark 16:20, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, confirming the word with signs following:"

It is clearly evident in Acts 2, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come. . . and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," this was not to cause confusion, but rather to fulfill the prophecy of Joel 2:28-29 and the directive of Christ in Acts 1:8.

The Galileans that were assembled at Jerusalem along with the Cretes and Arabians were from at least **seventeen** different nations, and as we definitely read in Acts 2:6, ". . . they were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, . . . and how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Further, verse 11, ". . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." The purpose being that each clearly understood what was said and taught.

This parallels Paul's writing in I Corinthians 14:33: "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." Chapter 14 in I Corinthians should not be studied without reading the preceding chapters 12 and 13. The Apostle definitely mentions in 13:8, "Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; . . ." Obviously, he concludes that there would be a time when this scripture was fulfilled, that tongues would cease.

Does he not further exhort in Chapter 12:31, "But covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet I shew unto you a more excellent way." The Lord Jesus said the greatest gift of all was the gift of love. The Apostle Paul verifies this: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

We have no commandments of the Lord Jesus that one should speak with tongues; and we have no indication in His ministry that the Lord ever resorted to speaking in an unknown language.

Let us closely examine I Corin-

thians 14 for some definite guidelines. Apparently some do not fully understand that the apostle is not commending speaking in tongues, but rather quite clearly stating that next to love, the gift of prophecy was to be stressed and states: "for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."

We are directed also (verse 9), "So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air."

Nowhere does he encourage them to speak in tongues. Further, he distinguishes between speaking to brethren and speaking to the heathen. Ephesians 3, "For this cause, I Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, . . . which in other ages was not known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel; whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. . . that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ:"

One could conclude, by studying the apostle's life, that by birth and education, he could speak Hebrew. Perhaps because of the Roman influence that prevailed in Jerusalem at the time of the apostle's earthly pilgrimage, he could have spoken Italian or Latin. Did he not clearly state, "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all"? Emphasizing again, "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."

Scripture definitely informs us (Romans 10:18) that the word of God was preached throughout the entire world. "But I say, have they not heard? yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." Colossians 1:5-6, "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew

of it, and knew the grace of God in truth." In verse 23, "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

In Galatians 1, the apostle mentions how this was fulfilled. Verse 11: "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after men. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Further, verse 16, "To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood; neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia and returned again unto Damascus."

In 2 Corinthians 12, it reminds us, "truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds." In verse 2, "I knew a man in Christ about fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven: . . . how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not unlawful for a man to utter."

However, to keep him humble and to reveal the limits of the power of man, in spite of his deliverance and his ministry to the heathen, we find in verse 7, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me." The answer was: "My grace is sufficient of thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

It is evident the speaking with tongues is a sign for the unbeliever. So when it is exercised among so-called brethren, they are going contrary to the explicit instructions of St. Paul. He portrays a beautiful parallel (I Corinthians 14:7): "And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the

sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? . . . So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air." He concludes, "Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me."

They were never to speak in an unknown tongue unless there was an interpreter. This makes a great deal of sense for how else can there be understanding and how can we say "amen" unless we understand what is said?

We are cautioned not to be children in understanding, and he shamed them that, apparently in their confusion there were even those who were unlearned and believed they were mad. "But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth . . . Let all things be done unto edifying."

If there is no interpreter, they are to keep silent. We still follow the order of, "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge," or discern.

Perhaps the greatest folly or error of those who get carried away with the doctrine of speaking with tongues is the fact that they have never been known to speak in a language that is understood, even in a known language of any nation. Actually, it is "gibberish" that Webster defines as: "rampant or untelligible talk or gabble." This had its beginning in witchcraft which the Prophet Isaiah (8:19) cautioned long before Christ. "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

The so-called movement of speaking with tongues seems to find special favor among the women—which is again contrary to the Word, where the apostle had admonished the women to be silent in the church for it is not permitted

to them to speak—and also among the highly emotional. Even today, it can be associated with voodooism in many parts of the uncivilized world. These people are highly superstitious and easily overtaken in somewhat of an emotional stupor.

Those who get carried away with this gibberish fall into a type of hypnotic trance. It is an exotic form of ecstacy and conforms somewhat to the intoxication brought about by drugs or alcohol. Even people who have not been fully converted, according to the Word of God, seem to be able to speak in this gibberish. It would seem apparent this spirit would not be of God, but would have another source.

There is no question one can become so involved and emotional, that a form of hypnosis comes over them; and certainly the spirit of peace, contentment, sobriety, gentleness and meekness, which are the fruits of the spirit, would depart.

An obvious question could be raised: If speaking with tongues were necessary and essential to salvation, and also obtainable, why have not those souls who brought forth the fruits of repentance; unburdened their hearts of their sinful lives; confessed their peace with their God, Saviour, fellowman and selves; erected a covenant with their Lord in the waters of baptism and received the sealing of the Holy Spirit, (to my knowledge and our precious faith) ever once experienced so-called speaking with tongues? It comforts us to know we have made personal experience, in observing many of our forefathers fighting a good fight of faith and going to meet their Creator, and are confident that thru the tender mercies of God they had fought a good fight of faith.

The Pentecostal movement is relatively new, dating back approximately 100 years. When our forefathers were enlightened, they rejoiced in being reconciled to their Lord thru the simple faith that we now believe and teach. Many are the exhortations that parallel the Apostle Paul's: "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Titus 3 cautions us, "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." And concludes that: "A

man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself." Webster defines the heretic as one who holds beliefs or opinions contrary to the established doctrines of his religion. Spiritual adultery or fornication is a very serious offense. We see the conclusion of such in the life of King Saul of old, who, although he repented, perished by his own hand.

Let us all labor together in the blessed heritage that God has so graciously bestowed upon us. As the apostle spoke to his beloved son in the faith (I Timothy 4:16), "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." "But godliness with contentments is great gain."

Let us endeavor to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. . . Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:3, 13-15) (This is the conclusion of "A Timely Warning.")

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Doug Kellenberger

Since our last issue, we were without any full-time help but were trusting and believing that the Lord would see our needs and provide for them. He did. Two single sisters from Morton left their pursuit of careers and followed Him to assist us in our work of faith and labor of love. We thank and praise the Lord! Their names are Jane Kaiser and Helen Schuon. They are now with us on a full-time basis and are living in our newly cleaned and finished utility building apartment.

Our local Bro. Phil Bollier is helping us with activities and overseeing the boys at work and play in order to take some pressure off of the houseparents. We have ap-

preciated the load he has helped to lift.

For all practical purposes, the homes are filled. In fact, our administrator had to refuse some children. Our capacity for foster children is 20, and we have 17. But including the houseparents' own children, our hands are full.

With a limited staff, it is impossible to give each child the necessary daily personal time. Therefore, we want to express our thanks to the dedicated people who used their vacation time and volunteered their help this summer in order to meet those personal needs and help keep the houseparents' heads "above water."

We had many other good helpers through-out the summer. We thank one and all, old and young, for their help in canning, building, teaching, and child-care. We had volunteers from Roanoke, Cissna, Rittman, Junction, Latty, Bluffton, Milford, Phoenix, Mansfield, Morton, Remington, and Leo. Also, we especially thank our local couples who assisted us as substitute parents when "the going got tough."

I talked to some people who said that they pray for us every day. We thank them very much! "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. In addition to all of this, we appreciate the many generous contributions which help keep this project operational.

Since our last issue, we had another building erected for the storage of equipment and vehicles. Our summer-school program has been successfully completed, and a 5-day camping trip was enjoyed (with movies to prove it). Also, our school season has begun with a number of new children waking at six in the morning to start the new school year.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

James Cowan, who once penned these words, must have had the wisdom to realize that work, motivated by empathy with another's need and by love for our Saviour, becomes not only a joy but a product of gratitude for our blessings.

"Work is man's great function. He is nothing, he can do nothing, fulfill nothing without working.

If you are poor—work. If you are rich—continue working. If you are

burdened with seemingly unfair responsibilities—work. If you are happy—keep right on working.

Idleness gives room for doubt and fears. If disappointment comes — work. When dreams are shattered and faith seems dead—work. Work as if your life were in peril —it really is.

No matter what ails you—work. work faithfully—work with faith. Work is the greatest remedy available for both mental and physical afflictions."

And we might add that work is love made visible.

Sue Menold, R.N. who has been on the staff since its beginning, was married to David Chadwick in the Home's Biblical Garden on August 11. Elder Bro. Joe Braker performed the ceremony. We wish them God's blessings.

Among recent summer outings for the residents were an afternoon spent at a private swimming pool, a ride on a large house boat, an all-night camping trip, and a fishing trip. The enjoyment they express from these occasional excursions makes the effort worthwhile.

The weeks roll by so very swiftly. Soon we will need to think seriously about the Annual Day, held annually in November.

"Let us be the first to give a friendly sign, to nod first, smile first, speak first and—if such a thing is necessary—forgive first."

—Apples of Gold

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The date for our annual BENE-FIT DAY has been scheduled for November 16, 1979, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The LUNCHEON will begin at 1:00 a.m. and will be served until 1:30 p.m.

The cooperation we have received in previous years is so very much appreciated. Anyone wishing to help this year please call the Home for the Handicapped at Morton (phone 309-265-9781) by November 1.

The items which you wish to contribute for the sale may be brought any time, but it is to good advantage if they are brought in by No-price marked on them. If early delivery is not possible, we will still accept your items up to the day of the sale. Baked goods should be brought in on the morning of the sale.

Tours of the Home will be available during the day.

Again, here are the facts:

DATE: November 16, 1979  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
LUNCHEON: 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS TO BE DONATED: Bring by November 10, preferably.  
ANYONE WISHING TO HELP: Call the Home by November 1.

We look forward to seeing you again this year.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"Bless this house, O Lord we pray," and He did just that on July 22 at 2855 E. Jasmine, Mesa, AZ 85203, when Scott Edward was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger. The love this little brother receives from Cheri, Suize, Jenni, Todd and Jim is a delight. Sun City grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara Zollinger.

Sis. Marge and Bro. Gene Fehr were called to Illinois for her dad's illness; shortly thereafter he went to his heavenly home. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

On August 2, Bro. Ernest De Mille was taken to the hospital after a fall at home. He died later of a heart attack. His funeral services were Aug. 6, at our church. May Sis. Martha, his wife, sons Ernest, Ray, Bill, and daughter Ester Tension find comfort in knowing he is suffering no more in his heavenly rest.

Hospital patients for surgery or studies have been: retired Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Bro. Allen Freed, Bro. Harry Roth, Sis. Doris Kobanovich, Dorothy Kraft, Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Dorothy Zollinger, and Sis. Deanna Beery. We are thankful our loving Saviour cares for each of us.

At this writing, the time of the Brotherhood Conference is nearing. We all pray God's will and direction will be revealed through our dear elder brethren.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Mac Donald - Shirley Witzig

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5: 16-18) How convicting these words are! If we could only find ourselves continually calling upon the Lord with words of praise, prayer, and thankfulness—how the Lord would bless us! We know this continual

praying and honoring God with our lips pleases Him by the promise of peace he gives us. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6,7) Praise the Lord!

Visiting minister Bro. Jim Funk (Tucson, AZ) shared God's Word with us this month. We are thankful for the blessings received.

Although Sis. Naomi Schwarz is presently unable to gather with the congregation due to illness, we are with her in prayer and thought. What a blessing to lift our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer.

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE John & Caroline Hejja

Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which satisfieth not? harken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fitness. Isaiah 55:1,2.

God has promised to give us the spiritual food which we need if we abide in Him and His Word. Everyone has a hunger. The people who don't accept God's Word (His food for us) feed on the food which this world offers (which is not the true bread and does not satisfy). They are always hungry and searching for the truth.

In the Old Testament, God provided food in the wilderness for the Israelites. He gave them manna (Angel's food), but thy became discontent and, looking back on Egypt, desired the fleshpots and bread of that sinful land.

Likewise, God provides His people with the pure spiritual food. Let us gratefully feed upon God's Word daily and not look back upon the world, feeding on its vain philosophies. Choose God's good food and don't try to mix the two. . . "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" I Corinthians 5:6. A little of this world's philosophy mixed with the True Word is capable of corrupting the whole.

We are grateful for all who have come and visited in our area this summer. Visiting ministers were

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT).

We welcome back Bro. Dave Mueller who returned to Ft. Lauderdale to live. Bro. Dave had previously expected to stay in the Bluffton, IN, area.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Elda Martin

Because of our overflowing crowds in the winter months, much prayerful thought was given to an additional location for church services on Sunday. The location that was chosen is at Port Charlotte. It is approximately 50 miles south of Sarasota, 35 miles north of Ft. Meyer, and 60 miles north of Naples on Route 41. It was felt that a location further south would allow those living in the area, and those traveling, a place to assemble and grow in spirit. The date and time when services will begin will be announced in the October issue of the Silver Lining.

Bro. Randy Kegler is a student at Gainesville, FL, studying for a degree in Dairy Science. His address is 2310 91st St., Apt. 11-A, Gainesville, FL 32601.

We extend our sympathy to the George Siladie family for the loss of their dear mother and grandmother who many of us remember from her visits to the South.

God again has shown his wonderful miracles by bringing to life a new-born baby girl, Melissa Elizabeth, born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo. She has two brothers, Nathan and Jeff, waiting for her at home.

We welcome Bro. John and Sis. Ann Wagler to our congregation.

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

Sis. Martha Kay Kieser and Bro. Dana Regier (Princeville) were united in marriage on August 5 by Elder Bro. Dave Kieser. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser and Richard and Helen Regier. Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville) was also with us on this blessed day.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) and Don Manz (Junction).

We are happy to report that baby boys have joined two of our families. Scott Anthony was born Au-

gust 3 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress. Three-year-old Bruce is glad to have a little playmate. Their grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Schrock (Oakville) and Sis. Lois Endress. John Michael was born August 7 to Dick and Marilyn Tanner. His grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Mary Weigand (Goodfield) and Bro. John and Sis. Margaret Tanner. He is welcomed home by Wayne, Craig, and Jennifer.

Sis. Eunice Klumpp was hospitalized for a few days but is now home again and assembling with us. May we remember her in our prayers.

As a new year is beginning for the Sunday School, newly-elected teachers are Bros. Gary Ehle and Jim Knobloch and Sis. Bonnie Kieser. Bro. David Kieser will serve as superintendent.

#### O DEAR FRIEND, WON'T YOU COME IN?

(This poem was written by Bro. Dave Guinrich of the Bradford congregation after he witnessed a fatal accident.)

A poet I'm not, but this verse I do write—

With God's inspiration I pray.  
My sins were forgiven, by Christ's  
blood they were driven

To the sea of forgetfulness.  
Yet many they are who His love  
they do scorn

When deep in their hearts they are  
torn.

To sinners Christ calleth, so please  
lend an ear

To the events which have happened  
this day.

O dear friend, won't you come in?

The Lord's no respecter of persons  
we're told,

The Angel of Death's sword is un-  
sheathed;

Its mighty swing we cannot hold  
Was working away, when out on  
the road

A tragedy struck by the way.  
Three brothers they were and  
strangers to me,

So young and so tender in years.  
Was a horrible wreck, and I prayed  
for the grace

To lend help to any I could.

O dear friend, won't you come in?

It happened so fast, yet is death  
ever late?

Always on time it does come.

One cried out in pain, "Are my  
brothers okay?"

Oh, tell me the truth, oh, please  
say!"

"How can I tell you your two  
brothers are dying  
And into the valley of death they  
do travel?"

They were only in their teens, but  
their lives are in His hands  
supreme,  
He, only, knows of their fate.  
My thoughts they do wander to  
their mother and father  
When they hear of the news so  
harsh—  
To mourning, to weeping, to tender  
hearts aching. . . .  
O dear friend, won't you come in?

So all ye who know of the truth,  
Please heed the Saviour's gentle  
calling.  
Harken this hour, this minute—  
this moment  
While into hell's fire you're falling.  
For if your eyes could have seen,  
and ears could have heard  
The agony of death and the dying,  
Then surely you'd run to heaven's  
riches to be won  
While the door of grace is ajar.  
At the foot of the cross our burdens  
we cast;  
And, oh, please remember  
tomorrow is past,  
For these events, they are true,  
They happened just this June.  
So, dear friend, won't you please  
come in?

**ILLINOIS  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
Charlen Banwart**

"There are friendships that we  
cherish In our daily walk of life,  
Friends with whom we meet and  
labor In our earthly toil and strife,  
Friends among the aged and youth-  
ful, Friends that live from us  
apart—Friends of higher rank and  
station Find a place within my  
heart." (Hymns of Zion, No. 91)

We are forming Christian friend-  
ships with two families who have  
recently moved to our area. We wel-  
come Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry  
Fritz and their children, Bro. Mike,  
Bro. Jeff, Craig, and Stacy. They  
formerly attended the LaCrosse  
church. Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy  
Schrenk have moved here from  
Detroit. Their children are Nathan,  
Rachel, and Peter. We are thankful  
that these families have been led  
here and pray for "showers of bles-  
sing" upon them, as we do for Bro.  
Steve and Joyce (Schock) Fischer  
who were united in holy matrimony  
on July 15 at Elgin. They have like-

wise established a Christian home  
in our community.

We have appreciated the visits  
of the following ministers recently:  
Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (here  
for Vacation Bible School), Elder  
Bro. Ed Hohulin, Bro. LeRoy Hart-  
man, and Bro. Ken Schneider

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**

**Kathy Schlatter**

All of us are probably invited to  
one or more family gatherings or  
reunions each year. Seldom can  
everyone come. What about when  
we get to heaven? Will there be  
more individuals of our families  
there or fewer than the number  
who appear at reunions? We are all  
invited. If we refuse, we'll miss  
much more than a good meal.

The Lord was truly among us on  
Sunday, July 29. Elder Bros. Ezra  
Feller, Cissna Park, IL, and An-  
drew Virkler, Bay City, MI, were  
our ministering visitors and shared,  
with us, His wisdom. Each visitor  
adds to our joy and blessings as a  
congregation. By visiting us, they  
give us an extra measure of fellow-  
ship, of humble appreciation that  
they would even make the effort to  
come.

As we approach a new school  
year, our Sunday School classes al-  
so change. Bro. Boyd Metzger, who  
has been a Sunday School teacher  
for well over a decade and our  
superintendent also for a long time,  
will be able to listen again to both  
Sunday sermons. Boyd has always  
listened and tried to incorporate  
ideas for better order and class  
division, Christmas programs and  
other Sunday School singing into  
practice. Vacation Bible School was  
started three years ago. It is diffi-  
cult to know in what way to best  
express our thanks. A Sunday  
School teacher's influence, given  
the Lord's increase, is far-reaching  
and awe-inspiring. Many are the  
sacrifices, including not being able  
to listen to morning sermons. But  
many are the rewards, the bless-  
ings, highest of all being the con-  
version of a former student. Now  
that the sacrifices are over for a  
time, may the blessings continue.  
And, Boyd, many, many thanks.  
We'll miss seeing you upstairs. Bro.  
Norman Stahl will be taking Bro.  
Boyd's place as Sunday School  
teacher.

Sis. Gloria Stahl had surgery re-  
cently but is back on her feet and  
doing quite well. Praise be to the  
Lord. We wish to express our sym-

pathy and prayers to Bro. John and  
Sis. Martie Grivet and Bro. John  
and Sis. Pauline Schrenk on the  
death of Helen Storrer, Bro. John's  
and Sis. Martie's sister.

You can see it clearly: your child  
and a neighbor child at opposite  
ends of a toy truck, doll, or . . . it  
could be any two children, any one  
toy. If one child wants it, the other  
one does. Somehow another's desire  
or possession of any object makes  
it seem more prized. It's not only  
children. In adult lingo, material-  
istically speaking, it's called "keep-  
ing up with the Jones." And even  
spiritually, hasn't Satan used oth-  
ers' spiritual gifts, be they preach-  
ing, teaching, organizing, heading  
committees, or whatever, to get us  
to question our own worth, to covet  
others' talents? We must remember  
that the Lord looks on "being" with  
our talents as even more important  
than "doing" with them: being lov-  
ing, being obedient, being faithful,  
holy, patient, cheerful, steadfast,  
and prayerful. Through Him, each  
of us has a purpose and the means  
for attaining it.

Remember how the tares were  
left to grow with the wheat 'til the  
harvest time? (Matthew 13:24-30)  
I have heard that the reason the  
Lord chose not to pluck up the  
tares is that both the tares and the  
wheat look so much alike when the  
weed and the wheat are both newly  
sprouted. As each matures, its true  
nature is revealed. Does it not be-  
hoove us then to check on our  
growth that we will be sure, as we  
grow in the faith, to become differ-  
ent looking from the world physi-  
cally, mentally, emotionally, and  
spiritually? For if at maturity we  
resemble the tare rather than the  
wheat, shall our harvest be fruit-  
ful?

A copy of a copy of a copy . . . is  
never the same as the original. The  
first copy can be the closest. So  
should we look only unto Christ as  
our example. Others' spiritual tri-  
umphs may inspire us, but only  
Jesus is our pattern and guide.

A young Chinese who wanted to  
learn about jade went to study with  
a talented old teacher. The gentle-  
man put a piece of the stone into  
the boy's hands and told him to  
hold it tightly. Then he began to  
talk of philosophy, men, women, the  
sun and about almost everything  
under it. After an hour, he took  
back the stone and sent the boy



home. The procedure was repeated for weeks. The boy became frustrated—when would he be told about jade?—but he was too polite to interrupt his venerable teacher.

Then one day when the old man put a stone into his hands, the boy cried out instantly, "That's not jade!"

Jean Mercier in Public Weekly  
If we read and meditate on the Master's words and hold close His teachings, worshipping and listening to Him and fellowshiping with His saints, we are better prepared to recognize the black in the gray areas and know His way.

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

#### Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson

Sisters Laura Hodel and Esther Hodel have been hospital patients. Sis. Isabelle Bauer had eye surgery, and Sis. Nettie Otto has broken her hip. She is in St. Francis Hospital in Peoria.

Bro. Sam Hari is now a resident of Fairview Haven in Fairbury. Our prayers go with him. We are sure he would appreciate mail and visits.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Helen (Farney) Lackey at the passing of her husband, Bro. John. He was born August 25, 1913, and was married July 18, 1937. He is survived by nine daughters, two sons, eleven sisters, thirty-three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. The family wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy.

Paul Schladenhauffen, 84, passed away August 7. He was married to Hannah Kaufmann who preceded him in death on January 3, 1962. Surviving are: two daughters, Eunice Schladenhauffen of Phoenix and Sis. Ann Reber of Elgin; five sons, Eugene of Forrest, Raymond and Glenn of Watseka, Earl of Elko, NV, and Eldon of Coal City; twenty-four grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

We are often reminded that anything we do should be done well, just as if we were doing it for the Lord. This should apply to our daily chores or work as well as to the things we do specifically for the Lord. As we work in our house, farm, office, school, or business, or spend time with our friends, if we keep this thought in the back of our minds, even what we do is a way of worshipping our God.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Gay Knapp - Pat Rinkenberger

As our Elder Bros. and ministering Brothers met at the conference this year, we trust they could feel many prayers that God would grant them wisdom to do His will. To know is not enough; we must act on our convictions, or God will not know us.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Eugene Marti, Lamar, Bro. Clarence Yackley, Phoenix, and our Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard with us recently. We were reminded that the Bible is an instruction book on the way to get to heaven. It wouldn't do us any good to know what heaven is like if we did not have the directions to reach it.

The engagement of Sis. Sue Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) to Bro. Rick Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla) of Goodfield was made known to us. They are planning an October wedding.

Kent and Jane Studebaker welcomed their first child on August 10. Benjamin Alan's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Studebaker, Eureka.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger were blest by the birth of Bonny Jo on August 11. She has a brother, Chet, 2, and her grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Marge Rocke, Eureka, and Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger.

Sis. Katheryn Miller was a surgical patient this month. Sis. Penina Miller was also hospitalized.

### LIKE LITTLE SHIPS

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

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

Jean Kyler McManus

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

#### Ruth Ann Getz

Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper was the result of many hours of meditation and searching of the Scriptures for details. Upon completion of the

work, da Vinci invited several friends to review the painting. One particular critic praised the chalice on the table and exclaimed that it was the most beautiful thing in the picture. Upon hearing this, da Vinci picked up his brush and smeared black paint all over the masterpiece. "If," he said, "what you tell me is true, then my picture is a failure. For I meant my Master's face to be the chief and most beautiful object."

Several of our friends in Elgin have come to the realization that without Christ as the chief of their lives, they are failures. Nine souls have found the grace to turn to their Saviour in repentance. They are: Lloyd Kellenberger, Carole Steffen, Julie Schrock, Christine Schock, Art and Marlene Mueller, Bob and DeAnne Cox, and Edward Moser.

Edward Moser, who started his repentance shortly after he realized he had a terminal illness, was able to make his peace with God before he was called home by our merciful Master on August 10 at the age of 81. It fills our hearts with wonder at the tender, gracious mercy of our God who heard the penitent cries of a lost soul, even in his final hours. With Sis. Mary, his widow, we share her sorrow, and yet joy, of her loved one's death. She deeply appreciated the love bestowed on both of them during Ed's illness and death and wishes to extend heartfelt thanks.

Sis. Ann Reber has our sympathy in the death of her father, Paul Schladenhauffen (Watsseka).

Bro. Gary and Sis. Edith Anliker have moved to Elgin from Iowa City with their young family, Brian, Renee, Karen, Janice, and Greg. We look forward to blessed fellowship with these loved ones.

Our new brother and sister in faith, Edward, Jr., and Gayle Schambach, brought their testimonies of faith in the redemptive blood of our Lord on August 11. They told of the peace they now enjoy with their Saviour after crying out to Him in repentance and bringing forth confession of sin before God and man. The work was finished with baptism and the laying on of hands of the presbytery on August 12. We rejoice with them.

Also, our new brother, Keith Leman, was able to bring his testimony before his home congregation (Remington) on August 5. He, too, cried out to this same Lord and

found his peace with Him.

Edward Eurich is home again after being hospitalized for a diagnostic test.

Sis. Emma Wewetzer wishes to express her sincere thanks and appreciation for prayers, cards, and gifts during her hospitalization and recuperation.

Several brothers from afar visited us and ministered the Word to us this past month. They were: Bro. Rod Huber (Valpariso), Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron), and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

Apostolic Christian Resthaven (a shelter care facility) will have need of an administrator by Nov. 1. Anyone feeling led in this direction is invited to contact Bro. Arthur Schmidt at 312-741-1412.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

July 22 was the wedding day of Sis. Jane Anliker (Bro. Walter and Sis. Mina) and Bro. Jim Stoller (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Stoller Huber). Having chosen to walk hand in hand through life, they were united in marriage by Bro. Walter. Also with us that day were Bros. Nathan Stoller, Bradford, and Bob Walder, Congerville.

We welcome Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper and her daughter Sis. Marcia who have moved to Eureka from Valpariso. They are both employed at the Home. We hope they will be happy here.

Bro. Gerry Kuntz of Oakville and Bro. Bruce Leman of Roanoke spent Sunday Aug. 5 with us. Many good teachings and timely warnings were given to us. We thank them for their labors of love.

Sis. Elsie (Bro. Earl) Zimmerman had the misfortune of having her hand and wrist burned quite badly when a skillet of grease caught on fire. She has been in the hospital several weeks; we hope she will soon be able to come home. Bro. Roger Bradle has had surgery and is in the hospital. He is recovering, too. Bro. Dave Leman has been in for tests.

Sis. Karen Hodel and Bro. Doug Martin repeated their marriage vows on Aug. 12. Bro. Walter Anliker performed the ceremony. We hope they will be permitted to have many happy years together. Bro. Harold and Sis. Mildred Hodel and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin are their parents.

The following poem is from "Wings of Silver" compiled by Jo Petty:

If the whole world followed you,  
Followed to the letter,  
Tell me, if it followed you,  
Would the world be better?

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

Bro. Ernest Gerber, 81, passed away at Fairview Haven where he had been a resident six weeks. He lived and ministered in Connecticut and moved to the Fairbury area in 1970 after his wife, Sis. Mathilda Wanner, passed away. In 1973, he married Sis. Kathryn Kaisner, who survives. Also surviving are four sons: Bro. Emmanuel, Bro. Melvin, Bro. Everett, and Bro. Earl; three daughters, Sis. Rosetta Stoller, Sis. Margaret Fehr, and Betty Bauman; 28 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen were blessed with a new baby girl they named Jodi Lynn. Other children are Jennifer Jane, Bryan Chris, and Clinton Alph. The grandparents are Bro. Alph and Fannie Steffen and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger. Great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Paul Honegger and Sis. Ruth Walter.

Sis. Elsie Peters reached her four-score years as she was 80 years old on July 21.

Bro. Sam Hari of Cissna Park, 91, is now making his home at Fairview Haven.

We rejoice that Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fehr have given their testimonies of their faith for salvation in Jesus Christ.

Sis. Perceda Moser had surgery; Sis. Anna Roth had the misfortune of falling and breaking her hip; Sis. Sarah Steffen broke her arm; and Martha Roth had knee surgery. Others hospitalized were: Bro. Ben Zehr, Bro. Emanuel Steffen, Sis. Rose Tyler, Sis. Marguerite Lorch, Bro. Roger Bachtold, Sis. Rachel Saathoff, Lyle Honegger, Genevieve Gerber, and John Broquard.

We enjoyed having the Ft. Sam Reunion here and enjoyed the visiting ministers: Bro. John Steiner, Bro. Phil Stettner, Bro. Don Gude-man, Bro. Duane Metzger, and Bro. Max Reimschisel.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Lester Hartter and Bro. John Lehman.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Beverly Eisenmann - Jan Bachtold

We thank God for the blessings of visiting ministers this past month. Fulfilling God's will by bringing the Living Word to us were Bros. Steve Rinkenberger and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park), Carl Westfall (Francisville), and Art Bahler (Fairbury).

We are happy to report that all our hospital patients have returned home except Sis. Bernice Kyburz. They are Bro. Sam Zimmerman, Bro. Frank Honegger, Bro. Meredith Ricketts (surgery), Alisa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene), and Sara Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill, surgery). Sis. Percida Huber has been at the Peoria Home since breaking her leg.

The engagement of Sis. Connie Steffen and Bro. Norman Hoerr has been announced. They plan an Oct. 7 wedding. We wish them the blessings of God in their life together. Their parents are Ray and Sis. Doris Steffen and August and Marie Hoerr of Peoria.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller wish to thank each one for their help and for the deeds of kindness shown their family during the illness and death of their father. Bro. Ernie Gerber, who served us in the ministry at Forrest for several years, passed away at Fairview Haven. After visitation here, he was taken to Rockville, CT, for funeral services and burial.

We appreciate the love and concern of our elders and ministering brethren who travel many miles to gather together to seek God's guidance in leading their flocks. Do we really stop to realize fully that these many efforts are on OUR behalf—to help US bring our "Ship of Faith" to a good and blessed end? Without the kindly warnings and admonitions these brethren relay to their congregations after the brother meeting, we may run our "Ship of Faith" aground or be unable to guide it into that Heavenly Harbor because we, of ourselves, may be unable to see the dangers. It is for our own good to obey their conclusions. Coming for this meeting at Fairbury, and having services for us this Wednesday evening were Bros. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We are looking forward to more visitors and services on Friday evening.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

Come souls that are longing for  
pleasure,  
Our Saviour has pleasure to give;  
Come find in His love the rare  
treasure,  
That makes every true pleasure  
live.  
Come now saith the Lord,  
let us reason,  
Come now and your purpose  
declare;  
Is it pleasures of sin for a season,  
Or pleasures the glorified share?  
Hymns of Zion, No. 145

It is refreshing to see that three dear souls have answered the Lord's call to come. They are Jake and Kris Bauman and Jane Huetten. The Lord willing, they will be given the opportunity to give their testimonies and be baptized in the near future.

The marriage engagement has been made known of Sis. Sue Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline), Congerville, to Bro. Rick Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla). May God bless them both.

A new little boy, Kurt Alan, was born on July 22 to Duane and Vermeda Friedinger. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Friedinger, Pekin, and Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Rokey of this congregation.

Marci Schieler (Bob) was hospitalized for foot surgery, but we are happy to see her assembling with us.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

The evening after the Brotherhood Conference, we were privileged to have church services and were blessed by the visits of Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and ministering Bro. Ben Hartzler of Rittman, OH, and Elder Bro. Rudy Graf of Akron, OH.

Bro. Joe meditated on the parable of the sower and mentioned the need to cultivate the soil of our heart so the good seed can take root and grow. The seed is faultless, and if it doesn't produce, it is because of the place where it lands. Bro. Joe told us of a man who was trying to explain to natives in South America how to grow corn. He told them that first they must prepare the land by clearing it of the thick foliage that is prevalent in that region's moist, warm climate. The natives laughed and didn't believe

him. They just sprinkled the seed corn right on top of the existing plants, and, naturally, it wouldn't grow.

Are there some who are likewise ignorant enough to believe they can receive the Saviour into their heart without first making preparation? The good seed cannot penetrate and take root within us if we still allow the rampant undergrowth of worldly pleasures and sinful habits to remain. Our hearts need to be uprooted and ploughed under through the Godly sorrow that worketh repentance and is followed by confession and restitution. After the good seed has taken root and is well nourished with believers, it still requires periodic cultivation to eliminate the thorns and weeds that could choke it.

Jesus has given us good seed to sow. If we provide the good soil, it will produce and bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some a hundred. As the elder brother mentioned, let us be careful now that the seed is growing in our hearts, that we do not let the "... cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Mark 4:19

Our other visiting ministers were Bro. Albert Wuthrich from Pulaski, IA, and Bro. Al Langhofer, Bro. Max Reimschisel and Bro. Glenn Funk, all from Wichita, KS.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller have been blessed with the birth of their son, Brad Michael, who was born July 27. His sister, Rachel, 1½, had been hospitalized for a few weeks, and the two children and their mother returned home together and are now doing quite well. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller of Gridley and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm of Taylor, MO.

Bro. Richard Schlipf of Gridley was united in holy matrimony with Sis. Kathy Beer of Milford, IN, on July 29.

Bro. Ezra Stoller was in the hospital and has returned home.

We welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer and their sons, Mark and John, who have moved to Gridley from Elgin, IA.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Doris Bachtold

Room 130 contains hard, wooden seats in a harshly lit and cold room. As each one of us comes into the

room on Thursday night, the harshness softens and the room becomes warm with love. The glow of joy is reflected upon the faces of believers as we seat ourselves around the Word of God. The room has become a holy place. . . This occurs because each believer contains a portion of the Spirit of God within him. As one by one we step inside the room, the power of God enlarges because the Spirit has been united and strengthened.

Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) explained this phenomenon to us one night as we enjoyed His love. Thank God, the Spirit's inspiration never runs out! We thank Bros. Virg Metzger (Champaign), Joe Schrock (Congerville), and Ron Heining (Bloomington) for bringing God's messages to us.

How should we, as Christians, really live? "The secret of living is fruit-bearing; the secret of fruit-bearing is abiding; the secret of abiding is obeying; the secret of obeying is loving; the secret of loving is knowing God." Author Unknown. And the secret of having this happen in your life is to start, right now, by opening the Bible.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Once again we approach a new season with children returning to school rooms and harvest soon at hand. Summer seems to have slipped away so quickly. It has been said, as children, time seems forever, but with age, we realize how quickly time flies. It is best to be ever careful and watchful, using our time wisely.

Sometime ago, our Elder Bro. Joe Braker quoted a story related by someone to him. I often thought of that story and found how very true it was. Each of us in our daily walk have experienced some "valleys." So I felt inclined to include the following article.

#### "I Carried You"

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him and one to the Lord.

When the last scene had flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that this happened during the

lowest and saddest times of his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why. When I needed you most, You deserted me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then I CARRIED YOU."

Author Unknown

Little Erin Elizabeth Mott was born July 16 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth. Sandra and Laura also welcome Erin into their family. The grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Mott.

Bro. Dan Kaufman was called Home to his eternal rest. His funeral was July 20. May our Heavenly Father comfort his beloved wife, Sis. Marie, as well as the family and many friends.

Their first son, Brad Ervin, was born on July 20 to Roger and Connie Kahler. Stacy and Paige are very excited about having a little brother. The grandparents are Sis. Edna Kahler and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorraine Maibach, Detroit, MI.

Sis. Barb Landes and Bro. Dave Schwind, Roanoke, IL, were united in holy matrimony on July 22. May God richly bless them as they start their home together.

The Lord again has blessed us by permitting the following visiting ministering brothers to be in our presence: Don Sauder and Jim Leman, Roanoke, IL; Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN; Raymond Banwart and Charles Sinn, Ft. Scott, KS; and Bill Dotterer, Phoenix, AZ. May the Lord richly bless them for bringing forth His Holy Word.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Louise Kaiser's family. Her funeral was on July 31. May God comfort her family. It is always hard to say farewell to our dear loved ones.

Bro. Frank Bauman wishes to extend his thanks and sincere gratitude for prayers, cards, and gifts received on his 80th birthday. He prays that God will bless each of you.

First-time parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sara Getz. April Lei was born on August 9. The grandpar-

ents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm, and, for the first time, Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Getz.

Our dear ones, Susan Menold and David Chadwick, were married on August 11. The parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chadwick. May God bless them as they walk life's pathway together. Susan will be missed by the loved ones at the Home for the Handicapped.

Kathryn Rother and Philip King were united in marriage on August 11. May they be blessed by God and may God be the third person in their marriage. The parents are Bro. Frances and Sis. Verna Rother and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer King.

Lucille Farley was called suddenly out of this life into eternity. Her funeral was August 14. May God comfort her mother, Sis. Kate Pfleiderer, and her sisters, Sis. Marie and Sis. Margaret Ricketts.

Let us remember in prayer our dear loved ones who are shut-in and sick. May God bless and heal according to his will.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diana Hohulin

What a precious word is love!  
Who can understand the fullness  
Of its meaning so divine,  
Of its truth and blessed pureness.

For our God, Himself, is love,  
Love eternal (who can measure  
All the fullness and the depth  
of this world?), divinest treasure.

Blessed light and holy love  
From the Saviour's face is  
gleaming.

Love so gentle, love so pure,  
In each ransomed heart is  
streaming.

Only ransomed souls can know  
How this love can bring communion  
With God's children here below,  
Binding them in holy union.

Henry Beer

Through God's love you share love with one another. On July 29, Bro. Brad Hoerr, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Velma, became engaged to Sis. Jean Lang of Tremont, daughter of Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis. Two engagements were announced on August 5. Bro. Wilbur Triplett is engaged to Sis. Louise Hoerr, daughter of Sis. Mabel Hoerr. Bro. Norman Hoerr, son of August and Marie is engaged to Sis. Connie Steffen from Forrest.

I often think of childhood days  
When 'round the table, there,  
Our father oft would read God's  
Word  
And lead in earnest prayer.

Henry Beer

Bro. Noah Herman from Tucson and Bro. Harry Sutter from Ft. Lauderdale visited our congregation and brought forth the Word of God.

On July 21, Rich and Bonnie Hodel had a precious baby girl. Jeanna Rene was welcomed home by Ricky, Matt, and Jill. The grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hodel and Sis. Lillian Koehl.

Hospitalized were Sis. Mary Lawless. Don Geef, Sis. JoAnn Rieker, Sis. Eunice Kammerer, Hollis Robbie, and Sis. Nettie Otto. May God heal all their infirmities according to His will.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice." John 5:28. On July 25, Bro. Henry Leman passed away. We wish to express our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Emma Leman, and his family. On July 27, Sis. Emma Leman, sister of Bro. Henry, passed away. We extend our sympathy to her brothers and sisters. The families of Bro. Henry and Sis. Emma Leman wish to express their deep appreciation and thanks for the untold acts of love and kindness and the many prayers offered during the illness and passing of their loved ones. May God's blessings rest upon every one.

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. St. Mark 10:7-9

Bro. David Schwind (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Barbara Landes (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat), Morton, were united in holy matrimony on July 22.

Allen Fischer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat) and Jan Gralak were married August 4. May God bless these dear young couples as they establish their homes.

Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand are the happy parents of a little daughter, Bethany Jayne.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Frank Sauder (Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma) and Brent and Brad Hodel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty) this past weekend. We are happy for them and wish them much grace in the future. Elder Bros. Ed Hohulin, Joe Braker, and Perry Zimmerman assisted Bro. Don in this important work. Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), Francis Rother (Morton), and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) were our visiting ministers this month, also.

Sis. Naomi Moser is hospitalized at this time.

### Prayer

The day begins in prayer for me.  
I turn to God on bended knee  
And ask Him for my daily bread  
And to prepare the path I'll tread.

As I walk throughout the day,  
A whispered prayer I often say  
That God would call more to the  
fold  
To feel His blessings, manifold.

The Christian has a hope, you see,  
To be with Christ eternally.  
And if he prays in fervent prayer,  
Christ will help him to get there.

Upon the earthly path I trod.  
Continually, I call on God  
To keep my feet from going astray,  
And to thank Him, I do pray.

My head at mealtimes I do bow  
To thank the Lord and Saviour  
now,  
And ask Him once again for grace  
To help me in this earthly race.

And when the day is done, you see,  
I turn to God on bended knee  
And thank Him for all He's done  
For sending Jesus Christ His son.

Tim A. Hohulin

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Ruth Ricketts

Pause a minute—you will find  
you have the time to help mankind;  
A cheerful word, a friendly smile  
makes their life, and yours, worthwhile.

We have been most blessed with visitors the past few weeks, and among them were some who proclaimed the Word of God. One Wednesday evening, Bros. Don Manz, Junction, OH, and Kennie Dietz, Bradford, brought forth the message in simplicity and truth. Solo-

mon was blessed by God when he prayed for wisdom rather than riches; he was blessed with both. When he let other things come between him and God, he suffered. John lived a very modest life, was very humble, brought the message to the people, and told of the light to come, which was Jesus Christ.

Bro. Bob Meyer, Bluffton, IN, was our guest minister on a Sunday, and many words of inspiration flowed freely from his lips. Many important duties were laid out in I Cor. 11. If we follow the instructions, we will not suffer shipwreck. We must examine ourselves and not look for faults in our brothers, but rather give them a helping hand.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our elders and ministers as they counsel together for the edification of our faith. May it be carried out in unity and love, and may all be strengthened by this meeting.

Bros. Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, KS, Phil Emsch, Lamont, KS, and Don Manz, Junction, OH, were our guest ministers the Wednesday evening prior to the conference. Teachings from Mark 16 were graciously received by all those present. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." v. 15. We can be a witness every day to those with whom we associate, and we should strive to be good witnesses.

We look forward to other ministers being in our midst after the conference and sincerely thank all those who have been with us the past few weeks.

Sis. Mabel Schafer was able to worship Sunday afternoon after an absence of several weeks because of surgery. Her recovery has been slow, and it takes much patience on Sis. Mabel's part. She said how much she missed everyone and worshipping with us. She wishes to thank everyone who remembered her during her confinement. Cards and visits mean so much when one is shut in.

Bro. Jerry Endress is recovering after knee surgery, which was performed several weeks ago.

Chuck Streitmatter, son of Andrew and Bernice, is in the hospital in traction with a broken leg as the result of an accident. He must be in traction for eight weeks, yet he is enjoying visitors that help pass the time.

Sis. Elsa Christ is making satisfactory recovery from recent surgery. After much suffering, Bro. Joe Stoller has found he has a rup-

tured disc between two vertebrae and must submit to surgery. We trust he will find his comfort and strength from our merciful Lord, as did the others who also had to be hospitalized.

Bro. Rod Wagenbach is making satisfactory, but slow, recovery from bone marrow transplant which he submitted to in Seattle, WA, six weeks ago. His mother, Sis. Betty, and sister, Sis. Raylene Zimmerman, have been with him since giving plaitlets. Other family members have been with him from time to time. They have said how much it means to have the support of your family and friends when you are so far from home. You can feel the power of prayer. We are thankful that he is making progress and sincerely hope he will improve more rapidly from now on.

On July 29, a daughter, Kristal Lynn, was born to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach. Cheryl, Pamela, Gail, Kevin, and Troy welcomed their sister, as did grandparents, Bro. Geo. Wagenbach, Eureka, and Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman, Goodfield, and great-grandmother, Sis. Carrie Hodel, Roanoke. This was her 50th great-grandchild.

Brian Rolland was born August 2 to Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda Joos. He has a little sister, Denise, and brother, Byron, to welcome him. Bro. Walter and Sis. Caroline Joos and Otto and Eleanor Baer are the grandparents and Sis. Lena Joos, Peoria, and Bro. Albert and Sis. Anna Grusey, Gridley, the great-grandparents.

It is time for school to start again—where has the summer gone? So is our life, as a vapor, and so quickly it is over. Have we made each day count and done our very best for our fellow-man, and especially God? There is already a tinge of fall in the air, and some of the leaves have begun to color a bit. Some of the birds have started their flight south, and we miss hearing them sing. It will soon be harvest time when farmers will begin to gather in the promising rewards of their summer efforts. It is our earnest prayer that there will also be a bountiful spiritual harvest with souls turning to the Lord.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

The Lord abundantly blesses us.  
We are so thankful for the many

good teachings brought to us by His servants. Visitors this month were: Bros. Noah Herman, Steve Rinkenberger, Vernon Wettstein, Harold Zeltwanger, Dale Moore, Noah Gerber, and Akito Inoue, Japan.

We welcome Sis. Sally Beutel back home after teaching for two years in Japan. We welcome Sis. Reiko Furuya, Japan, who is visiting for a month. Bro. Dean Martin and Bro. Dale Kaufmann were chosen to be our new Sunday School teachers. Bro. Joe Steiner will be our new trustee. May the Lord lead and guide them in their new responsibilities.

A sweet baby girl, Barbara Ruth, came to live with Bob and Monna Hall, July 16. To welcome her is brother Bobby. Sis. Betty and Gene Yergler, and Clara and Ray Hall, Delavan, are her grandparents.

Duane and Cynthia Miller rejoice with son Joseph Alan, born July 28. To welcome him home is sister, Sarah Jane. His grandparents are Ed and Doris Miller and Mr. and Mrs. James Bernier.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and family. Bro. Melvin's mother, Sis. Louise Kaiser, was taken out of this life to her eternal reward. She also leaves three daughters and two other sons.

Our thoughts and sympathy are also with Elmer Brandt and Sisters Bernice Gade and Violet Barney in the loss of their father, Joseph Brandt, 93.

Hospital patients this month were Ron Rowell, Brad Kaufmann, and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Bill) Huette. Our prayer is that God will give each one renewed health and courage for each new day.

Sis. Hanna Koch is worshipping with us again and wishes to thank all the dear ones for their prayers, cards of encouragement, the many gifts of food, the visits, and those who came and sang for her. May the Lord be their rewarder.

We wish Sis. Jean Lang (daughter of Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Brad Hoerr (son of Bro. Don and Sis. Velm) the Lord's richest blessings on the announcement of their engagement. They are planning an Oct. 28 wedding.

Elaine Miller, daughter of Ed and Doris, was married to Randy Staff, son of Floyd and Patricia Staff, Springfield, August 18. We wish the Lord's blessings upon them in their home at Bloomington, IL.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

### Shari Kaehr - Peggy Gerber

Believing it to be the Lord's perfect will, Bro. Jim Schwartz took Sis. Jan Yergler as his helpmate on July 22.

On July 28, Joan Pfister (Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb) became the wife of John Schauss.

Phil Fahl took as his bride Lu-Ann Frauhiger (Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris) on August 11.

Sis. Laura Isch and Bro. Brad Compton became one in the Lord on August 12. We wish all these couples God's richest blessings in their new lives together.

Bro. Steve Fiechter (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Fonda Geisel (Bro. Everett and Sis. Alice) announced their engagement wishes to our congregation and are planning an October 28 wedding. Also planning to be married in October, Lord willing, are Sis. Maureen Gerber (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Roger Reinhard (Sis. Sarah).

On the weekend of August 4 and 5, we felt privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. Added to the family of God were Bro. Kedric Ringger, Sis. Sharon Imel, Sis. Joan Schwartz, and Sis. Kathy Gerber. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) for assisting Bro. Orville. Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo), and Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto). May God's richest blessings flow upon these brothers for their services to our congregation.

Hospitalized this month were: Sis. Esther Geisel, Sis. Hulda Steffen, Bro. Bill Moser, Lincoln Rinkenberger (son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne), Jonathon Heyerly (son of Bro. Von and Sis. Diane), and William Gene Gerber (infant son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn).

Five precious new bundles from heaven were added to families in our congregation. Brandy Marie was born to Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger. "Big brother" Jeremy was pleased.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber and family were happy to add little William Gene to their family circle.

Mindy Jo was the heavenly gift sent to Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg Reinhard. Nicole was very pleased with her new playmate.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lela Leman

and Rachel welcomed a second girl into their family, whom they named Jessica Lea. We rejoice with these families with new babies, as this is God's way of adding laughter and tears to each family circle.

We also rejoice to hear of the news that three more souls are seeking to walk the narrow and heavenly way. These souls now in repentance are Rodney Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn), Lori Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise), and Kathy Gerber (Bro. Keith's wife). May they all find that God's grace is sufficient to fill all of their needs.

We are sad to see a few in our congregation moving, but we rejoice to think they'll have the same loving fellowship with brothers and sisters of like mind and faith as we have here. Bro. Rocky Giltner, Bro. Roger Reimchisel, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Christy Meyer are all making their homes in Wichita, KS. Bro. Keith Schladenhauffen will be added to the Francesville congregation, and Bro. Dave Mueller will be going back to Florida for awhile for further schooling.

May God be with each of these souls in their respective new congregations.

## INDIANA, BREMEN

### Norma Lehman

July 20-22 was our annual retreat. The closeness of God was felt by all who attended. Ministering Bros. Ken Hoerr from Peoria and Wayne Huber from Francesville shared with us this year. We received many blessings from their messages.

The weekend of July 28, 29, ministering Bro. Bob Pflerter and a few from their youth group in Morton were our guests. The weekend was a blessing as we made new friendships and strengthened old ones.

Robert and Arlene Kaehr wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Martha, to Bill Evans of South Bend. A June wedding has been planned.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Mattie Clauss and Sis. Hazel Clauss. Both are home and recovering quickly. We are looking forward to having them back in our congregation.

We must all have our quota, Our portion and share Of "Crosses to carry" And "burdens to bear"—

And no one knows God Through joy alone; It takes pain and suffer-To make us His own. Helen Steiner Rice.

#### INDIANA, FRANCISVILLE

Linda Gutwein—Sharon Neihouser

“... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us.” Romans 5:5. We have been richly blest this past month with many visiting ministers. Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman), Don Gudeman (La Crosse), Sam Schlatter (Junction), Ken Schneider (Remington), Sam Anliker (Lamont), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), and Akito Inoue (Tokyo) were willing to be spent and share with us, lovingly, the good news of salvation.

“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28. We are happy for another convert, and we pray for many more.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” I Corinthians 13:13. Love has drawn these hearts together: Bro. Jerry Overmyer (Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol) is engaged to Sis. Tianne Nussbaum (Sis. Tillie and the late Bro. Alden) of Bloomington, and Sis. Kris Leman (Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern) is engaged to Bro. Neal Widmer (Ed and Sis. Gladys) of Wolcott. We wish both couples God’s richest blessings.

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 19:14. Love has come into the home of Allen and Becky Berger with the birth of their first child, Joshua Howat. Fred and Sis. Carol Howat are the grandparents.

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14. Our thoughts and prayers are with the brethren this week as they gather together for the welfare of our church.

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

If it's small enough to worry about,

It's small enough to pray about.

Do we really enjoy the fellowship and communion with God through prayer, or do we abuse this privilege, taking prayer

for granted? Recently, during our mid-week service, we were reminded how important our prayer-life should be. In a world where the race for time continues, it seems stress and the problems of everyday living only increase. Prayer is only one of many avenues to God, but we should use it first.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristel Novotny became first-time parents of little Jann Elizabeth on May 24. The grandparents reside in Francisville.

Daniel Lee was welcomed home by his brothers, Tony, Ryan, and Michael soon after July 29. His parents, Bro. Artie and Sis. LeAnn Bucher, recently moved to Indianapolis.

Bro. Dee Neuenswander is currently working and living in Bluffton.

We greatly appreciated our many visitors throughout the summer months.

#### INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuest

Bro. Harvey Banwart was hospitalized with injuries due to a fall. As of this writing, he is making good progress. Little Mindy Heinold is at home recovering from pneumonia.

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Gene Lehman, Fritz Knapp, Gary Maibach, and Marshall Heinold. Again we want to thank these brothers for sharing, with us, God’s teachings.

We welcome Sis. Cheryl Bucher, wife of Bro. Tom, to our LaCrosse congregation. We wish them God’s richest blessings in their new walk together.

Our hearts are saddened to see Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz leave for the Champaign-Urbana area. They will be sorely missed both at church and in the community. What is our loss is certainly a gain to Champaign-Urbana. May God encourage them and bless this move for them.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn Massner welcome their first born, Jennifer Lynn. She was born August 10. The grandparents are Bro. Lyn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller, LaCrosse, and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner, Oakville.

#### INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

By this time, kindergartners to collegians are back in school. Chris-

tian parents have provided not only the new shoes, the books, the tuition, and other things needful; but, more importantly, they have sent these children on their way embraced with daily prayer. They’ve remembered to pray for the teachers, too. A word for the students: “American young people tend to live as if adolescence were a last fling at life rather than a preparation for it.” (J.C. Peters) May you use your time to prepare for life here and hereafter! Do not be caught up in the new morality thinking; there’s nothing new about it, and nothing moral about about it!

Visiting ministers are always welcome. Those brothers who came this month were Lavoyd Moore, Athens, AL, and Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL.

An open house was held for Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz in observance of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean Stieglitz have returned safely after several weeks in Europe. They have a new granddaughter, Renita Michelle, born Aug. 9 to Jeff and Betty Stieglitz.

Hospital surgical patients were Bro. David Bertsch and Tim Stoller. A good recovery is wished for both.

Has this been a hard day? Then think on this: “If a care is too small to be turned into prayer, it is too small to be made into a burden.” (Source unknown) Talking with people oft troubles increase; but talking with Jesus brings quiet and peace.

#### BUT YOU WERE IN A HURRY

Author Unknown

I attended your church this morning. You should know me. I see you almost every day during the week. It may be at the gas station, at the bank or the store, or as you pass the school playground. You probably didn’t notice me today, but I was there, desperately searching for something; and I believe I would have found it, if you hadn’t been in such a hurry.

The congregation sang beautiful hymns about such a loving Lord that it brought new hope to my heart. I felt a choking sensation in my throat as I heard your minister describe the condition of a lost person.

“I’m lost,” I thought. “He’s talking about me. From the way he speaks, this being ‘saved’ must be

very important."

I looked about me in the benches. You were listening very carefully. You seemed to think that the minister's words were very important. "All of these people are so concerned. They want me to be saved, too."

As your minister finished, he asked you to sing another of those beautiful songs you knew so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and was wishing I knew the joy of which you were singing. Just then I looked beside me and saw you putting your little girl's coat on her and telling her to get her things. Glancing in front of me, I saw you frown at your watch as though time were running out.

You really didn't care. This salvation the minister had been talking about wasn't important. It didn't matter to you that I was lost. You only wanted to get away. Well, I wanted to get away, too. I wanted to run. But I didn't. I walked out among you . . . alone . . . lost!

Could this have happened in your congregation?

**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Sandy Beer - Connie Beer**

Thus united and in concord let us  
walk the path of life;  
Hand in hand, O may love bind us  
for each other's welfare strive.

With the love of God inspired,  
there is joy for us on earth;  
May the Spirit we've acquired,  
Grant us blessings, peace and  
mirth.

(Zion's Harp, No. 237)

Bro. Jesse Beer had the joy of uniting his youngest daughter in holy matrimony. Sis. Kathy (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Richard Schlipf (Carl and Lola), Gridley, became one-in-the-Lord on July 29. We certainly will miss Sis. Kathy and wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together in Gridley.

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) participated in the ceremony. Also present for the special occasion were ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and two uncles of the bride, Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Harold Emsch (Girard).

We've enjoyed many visitors this summer and encourage everyone to return. On August 12, Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo) visited us and taught us from the Word of God.

Bro. Andy Kammerer has returned home since his surgery. We wish

him and Sis. Laura God's nearness and blessings as he faces recuperation and future surgery.

May we always remember to pray for one another, for we need the prayers of those we love.

Our annual Camp Mack Youth Fellowship day is planned for August 19. This provides a day of sweet fellowship where lasting friendships are made and renewed.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss**

There is never a day so dreary  
But God can make it bright;  
And unto the soul that trusts Him  
He giveth songs in the night.  
There is never a path so hidden  
But God will show the way,  
If we seek the Spirit's guidance  
And patiently watch and pray.  
Author unknown

Bro. Ray Sinn was our guest minister the last Sunday in July. We thank him and all those who came with him from Latty for their visit.

Elder Bros. Josh Broquard and Herman Kellenberger assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler the weekend of Aug. 5 when three souls brought their testimonies of faith. Rex Clauss and his wife, Tammy, and Keith Leman are now our brothers and sister in Jesus.

**INDIANA, VALPARISO**  
**Susan and Marie Heinold**

Have you thanked God for His  
Word,  
For His messengers from whom  
you heard  
Of the Christ, who is the Truth,  
the Life, the Way?  
For all the wonders God hath  
wrought,  
And countless gifts His love hath  
brought,  
May our hearts o'erflow with  
thanks this very day!  
Martha Reading

Our hearts do o'erflow with thanks for God's messengers this past month, namely, Bros. Jim Rinkenberger, Merle Bucher, and Elder Bro. Edward Frank. We also thank their loving companions. The fellowship with all our visitors is wonderful. What a joy they are.

Sunday School will resume Aug. 26 after a three week vacation.

Claudia Thomas is home after surgery. Our prayers are with her for a speedy and complete recovery.

A tree must send it's roots down  
deep  
Into good soil if it's to keep  
It's balance as it sways and bends  
When buffeted by changing winds;

A soul with roots in love will be  
Strong and fruitful as a tree,  
And when by tempter's winds it's  
tossed  
Its balance is not quickly lost;  
And earth shall come, its fruits to  
know,  
As ever upward it shall grow.  
Rose Merrill

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Laurel Widmer**

. . . faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.  
I Corinthians 13:13. The Lord has again led two lives into one. July 29, Bro. Neal Widmer and Sis. Kris Leman (Francesville) announced their engagement.

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Champaign) spent Sunday, Aug. 5, with us. We appreciate the time he shared.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Yvonne Lehman are the parents of a baby girl, Natalie Renee, born Aug. 10. Andy and Steve are very happy with their new little sister.

**OUR PEACE**

"Thou hast beset me behind  
(past) and before (future), and  
laid thine hand upon me" (Psalm  
139:5).

If you belong to Christ:

The past, however sinful it has been, is cancelled, and you may safely forget it (Isaiah 44:22). The apprehension of this in living power will lead you anew to extol "the riches of his grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

The present, however full of sorrow it may be, is under your Saviour's watchful care, and there you may confidently leave it. As day by day you do this in obedience to divine command (I Peter 5:7), you will abidingly and increasingly experience "the riches of his goodness." (Romans 2:4)

The eternal future, unknown and yet well known is radiantly glorious, and you can rejoice in the hope of it. (Romans 5:2) —Selected.

**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Eleanor Butikofer**

As it is again time to pen a few paragraphs for the Silver Lining, I would like to share these verses by William Stidger:



**I Saw God Wash the World**  
 I saw God wash the world last night  
 with His sweet showers on high,  
 And then when morning came I saw  
 Him hang it out to dry.  
 He washed each tiny blade of grass  
 And every trembling tree;  
 He flung his showers against the  
 hill,  
 And swept the billowing sea.  
 The white rose is a cleaner white,  
 The red rose is more red,  
 Since God washed every fragrant  
 face  
 And put them all to bed.  
 There's not a bird, not a bee,  
 That wings along the way  
 But is a cleaner bird and bee  
 Than it was yesterday.  
 I saw God wash the world last night  
 Oh! would He had washed me  
 As clean of all dust and dirt  
 As that old white birch tree.

Writing about time passing swiftly by, we are reminded, as we travel along the roadsides and view the already blooming goldenrods, Queen Ann's lace, and purple wort, that our summer is truly almost spent and that God has been very generous to us in every way. Some things are immeasurable: the blessings from the crops and the gardens, the abundant pleasures our songbirds and flowers give us, and the hope of a heaven hereafter.

Our thanks go to our visiting ministers, namely, Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend, Uriel Gehring, Burlington, and Garth Steffen, Portland, OR, for their efforts in explaining the Scriptures to us. It is always a blessing for us to meet these folks and their families. We thank them very kindly for coming and hope that they will come again.

Bro. Jacob Gehring is feeling somewhat stronger than he was at our last writing. Bro. Gottlieb Puffer, who is now residing in a care-center, is doing quite well and is able to attend our church services from time to time.

We were delighted to have Sis. Lena Schupbach come to our home one evening. She enjoys going on short drives to survey the countryside and to visit friends and relatives, if only for a very brief period. She is not strong enough to attend our church services. She is being well cared for by her niece, Sis. Ruth Schupbach. Sis. Lena has seen many changes in life-styles. God has given her many years in this world, having reached her 100th birthday last March.

Death is not the enemy of life, but its friend, for it is the knowledge that our years are limited which makes them so precious. It is the truth that time is but lent to us, which makes us, at its best, look upon our years as a trust handed into our temporary keeping.

I would like to mention the birds that have recently been giving us pleasure. We have bluebirds, barn swallows, brown thrashers, wrens, a cuckoo, and a pileated woodpecker.

#### IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance. Myron Knobloch, son of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, has answered that call and is seeking his salvation plus a much better life here on earth. Our church has been richly blest as we have had 47 converts within the past year.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Clifford Grimm, West Bend, Roy Luginbuhl, Rockford, John Steiner, Oakville, Ben Wysong, Sabetha, and Carl Wyss, Washington. We are grateful to each one for the messages they brought forth.

The betrothal of Sis. June Mogler, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler, to Bro. Roger Schultz, Oakville, was announced.

We welcome Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger and their two small daughters to our congregation. They moved here from the Bern, KS, area.

Several girls have recently graduated from LPN training. They are Sis. Jane Metzger, Sis. Beth Feucht, Delores Feucht, Lola Knobloch Deragisch, and Tammy Knobloch. We pray that God will bless them as they pursue their chosen careers.

Bro. Ed Gerber is hospitalized and very ill. He also suffered a broken hip while in the hospital. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Frieda.

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE Phyllis Siegle

The children of God must remain little children as far as they themselves are concerned and in respect to evil, even if they have grown ever so much as far as Christ and the good is concerned. They are always in school and have never finished learning the wisdom from above that they could say,

"Now we are ready and perfect," for as man so also must we continually grow in the time of grace until we have attained unto full growth and are ripe for the harvest. (Writings of S.H. Froehlich, *MEDITATIONS ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN*, Volume I, Chapter XXVIII)

The annual Sunday School picnic was held July 29. It was enjoyed by young and old, as parents and grandparents, too, were invited to partake of our food for soul as well as body.

The announcement has been made of the engagement of Bro. Roger Schulz and Sis. June Mogler. The parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz and Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lydia Mogler, Lester, IA. We wish them both God's blessings in their future life together.

The price for the redemption of sin was so great that no man could pay the price. Christ, then willing to drink the bitter cup, gave His life and blood for us, that we need not perish, but have everlasting life. Psalms 39:7: "And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee." These words were expressed clearly as our new brother and sister in faith gave their testimonies and were baptized (Aug. 11 and 12). These dear ones are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marion Pflum. Their parents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Bernice Frank and Eunice and the late Edward Pflum, Mediapolis. We trust they will find much joy in their new walk of life, and we welcome them into our brotherhood of faith. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm was present to help in this work.

Our new Sunday School teachers are as follows: Bro. Bob Kiefer, Bro. Bob Schrock, Bro. Gary Schulz, Sis. Elizabeth Grimm, and Sis. Doris Kuntz.

Visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Ron Steiner, Rittman; Bro. Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski; Bro. Alphis Strahm, Jr., Bern; Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor; Bro. Leland Plattner, Zapata; Bro. Clarence Yackley, Phoenix; Bro. Vernon Wettstein, Congerville; and Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago. We are always thankful for the inspiring messages.

Cindy Massner and Billy Marshall were married Aug. 11. Our best wishes are extended to them. The parents of the couple are Sis. Phyllis and the late Bro. Bill Massner and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marshall, Wapello.

The inspiring words of the hymn "Blest Be The Tie" expressed our heartfelt feelings as we sang it for Sis. Phyllis Massner and children. Sis. Phyllis is planning to move to Sarasota. We will certainly miss this dear family and wish, for them, God's protection and blessing.

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
Mary Jane Knapp  
Ginny Wuthrich

#### MY DAILY NEEDS

Within me is this precious aim  
To heaven gain.  
Lord, I always want to follow Thee  
And happy be.  
Lay Thou the strength upon my  
heart  
To do my part.  
And grant the virtues that I need  
To sow good seed—  
Faith to never unbelieving be  
Would be my plea,  
Hope filling me with mirth and  
song  
As I journey on,  
Love for Jesus and everyone  
And hating none,  
Humility of body and soul  
To keep me whole,  
Contentment ever with my lot  
And murmuring not,  
Blessings that will strengthen me  
To faithful be,  
Happiness that Jesus lives,  
And promise gives,  
Patience for trials to life's end  
Oh, Lord, do send.  
I am thankful that I can, in death,  
Find Heaven's rest.  
Bro. Henry Kipfer

We are thankful to have ministering Bro. Roy Ehnle with us on Sunday, August 12. He brought us the good Word and reminded us of how important charity is. He left us with the thought—May God grant us grace, love, and patience toward one another. May we ever strive to do this, as we do need one another.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
Mrs. Raymond Anliker  
Mrs. Dennis Fehr

We rejoice as do the angels in heaven when souls turn to the Lord in repentance. Our new converts are Larry and Teresa (Frazee) Bruellman. The happy parents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Russell and Barbara Frazee. We wish them God's rich blessings and grace as they begin this

most important step in life together.

The engagement of Bro. Manuel Gerber, son of Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma, to Sis. Mary Mogler, daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma, was made known to the congregation on August 12. We wish them God's richest blessings and nearness as they begin their lives together.

Words of truth and sincerity were brought to us from loving hearts, and we give thanks to Bros. Uriel Gehring and Joe Gerst who rendered their services to us this month. We pray that God will always grant them the grace to stand firm to speak the true Word, and may we always find it a great privilege to sit as in heavenly places to hear God's Word spoken to us.

Bundles of joy were sent to the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart on July 24—a baby girl, LaRae Lynn. The grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger. A baby girl, Kathryn Ann, was born to Bill and Connie Zaugg on July 25. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg.

We pray God's healing power will always be with the many sick and afflicted people. Our hospital patients were Sis. Florence Banwart, Sis. Nima Fehr, Heidi Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Sharon), and Sis. Lily Mogler.

This year finds two Y.F.U. exchange students in our congregation's homes. Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart will host a Belgium boy, Farid Lakdar of Brussels, and Conrad and Sis. Christine Schmidt will host a German boy, Walter Wilderhaus of West Germany. We pray God will bless them richly for sharing their homes and great love to those students for almost a year.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
Sally Gramm

Summer has flown by so rapidly here in Shioda. It seems only yesterday that I was helping Sis. Haruko wrap each tiny green peach in newspaper, clamoring up and down the ladders with that joyous abandon that only those of us who rarely have the chance to escape from our "indoors" jobs can really understand. Now, those hard green balls have developed into beautiful, juicy, grape fruit-sized peaches, and autumn's colors of gold and rust will soon be replacing summer's lush green.

Looking back over the summer, we can see that it has been a busy, but productive one. Our "shuyokai" (fellowship meeting) this year was held in a small lake resort near Mt. Fuji. It was a quiet, lovely three days, spent in learning more about our dear Saviour and enjoying the love and fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The paths of our lives wind so far apart from each other during the rest of the year, as we each move on in the way God has directed us. How refreshing it is to gather together and enjoy the sweet communion of our kinship in God's family during "shuyokai" each year.

We miss Sis. Jane Weiss and Sis. Sally Buetel, our kindergarten teachers for the past two years, as their service for God and for others here in Japan is greatly appreciated, and we pray that they will each be rewarded richly, both here and in eternity. We are looking forward to Sis. Jane's return shortly, with our new teacher, Sis. Evelyn Blumier. We are so grateful for those sisters and brothers in our midst who are able to look beyond the pleasures of the present and are willing to invest a part of their lives in God's future kingdom.

We also have been enjoying the visit of Joy Ehnle, oldest daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. She will return to college in September, but her presence here has been a real pleasure for all of us. We invite any of our brothers, sisters, or friends to visit us here in Japan. We value and appreciate each new face and the sweet refreshment that new ideas, inspirations, and insights can always give us.

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

It is awfully hot this summer and temperature is already 34.5 C degrees at noon-time. According to the newspapers, nearly hundred people are killed by accident in the water in couple of days.

Last Sunday afternoon, we had a farewell party for Sis. Sally Beutel who was staying in Japan for two years here at Tokyo church. Sis. Sally is a wonderful sister and did great example toward us here past two years. We really are going to miss her and really appreciate her help very much. She is always remember in our daily prayers.

We had invited a fellowship meeting in 26, 27, and 28 July near

the Mt. Fuji, same as last year. It was not clear, the sky those days, and unfortunate that we couldn't see Mt. Fuji. However, we had real blessed fellowship meeting there. About 30 members and friends attended there. Coming next year is our Tokyo church turn, so we should try to find good theme and places for next summer from now on.

Our Sunday School is much blessed by God's hands, and nearly 30 children are coming every Sunday and enjoy to listen to the Words of God. We are really concern about such beautiful young souls for the Lord. We wish and pray you brethren are praying for us.

#### KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

We have a precious little joy-bundle to report. Steven James arrived Aug. 11 to make his home with Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller and little sister Marla. Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl and Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester) are his happy grandparents.

Aug. 5 was a special day for Emma Hanni. She was baptized and taken into the fold of God. May the Lord ever bless and keep her in His care.

Our guest ministers were Bro. John Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury).

A farewell potluck supper and singing was held on July 28 at the Fellowship Center for Bro. Leland, Sis. Patsy, Fawn, and Robin Esslinger. The little family will be missed, as they moved to Lester to make their future home. May the Lord add His blessing.

A wedding reception was held at the Fellowship Center on July 22 in honor of Ron and Diane Smith. Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger are Diane's parents. They are at home in Bloomington, IL, where both plan to attend college.

Several have been on the sick-list and hospitalized: Mary Strahm and Kathleen Osterhaus (Bro. Edw. and Sis. Leola Lehman's daughters), Frieda Bauman (Reuben), surgical, and Gail Hartter, four-year-old daughter of Bro. Stephen. Sis. Lois was hospitalized due to an eye injury when a piece of wood flung from a power-saw and hit her eye.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Fred Edelman and family in the sudden passing of his mother, Lena (Lehman) Edelman, Fair-

bury. Lena was born and lived in this area most of her life. We also sympathize with her sister, Frieda Bauman, and her brother, Ed Lehman.

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

##### Where He Leads I'll Follow

Sweet are the promises, Kind is the word; Dearer far than any message man ever heard; Pure was the mind of Christ, Sinless, I see; He the great example is, and pattern for me.

Sweet is the tender love Jesus hath shown, Sweeter far than any love that mortals have known; Kind to the erring one, Faithful is He; He the great example is, and pattern for me.

List to His loving words, "Come unto me!" Weary, heavy laden, there is sweet rest for thee; Trust in His promises, Faithful and sure; Lean upon the Saviour, and thy soul is secure.

Gospel Hymns, No. 788

We are sorry to see Sis. Brenda Tucker move to Kiowa. We miss her, but knowing that she is letting God be her guide and following Him, we are happy for her.

Jeff Fischer (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lil) has turned his life over to the Lord. We are thankful that he, too, has found the light.

United in marriage on July 28 were Terry Grote and Janet Sinn (Lester and Shirley). May they use God as their guide in their married life together.

The choir enjoyed a weekend of love and fellowship with Gridley, IL, on July 21 and 22. When such joy and love is felt, it makes us wonder what heaven will be like.

Hospitalized this month for surgery was Craig Colegrove, grandson of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith. We are glad to see him at home, smiling again.

Our thanks go to Bro. John Lehman for ministering to us this month.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the loved ones of our dear friend, Charles Knapp, who was taken from life July 26. His dear wife, Esther, remains and assembles here with us. May God com-

fort and bless the family in this time of need.

A precious baby girl, Melissa Jo, was born August 5 to Vickie and Randy Paxson. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer from Gridley.

Many thanks to our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, for visiting us and sharing God's Word with us.

We were saddened in heart to hear of the death of Lena Edelman, Fairbury, the mother of Bro. Albert Edelman from Gridley. It is our prayer that God will comfort her family.

We give best wishes to Dana, Mary, and daughter, Krystal, Burdick as they are leaving for a 3-year "Service" duty assignment in Frankfurt, Germany. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft.

#### KANSAS, KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

There's a story told of a boy who lived in the backwoods of America in the old pioneer days. A little school had been opened, quite a long way from the boy's home. Part of the way led through dense forest. The boy's father was a brave, strong woodsman. He wanted his son to grow up brave and strong, too. So he told him he must go to school by himself. The boy didn't like it at all. All the time he was expecting a big bear or a lot of Indians to leap out on him. But he went alone. One afternoon coming home he saw a great bear standing in the middle of the track, growling at him. He gave himself up for lost. Then a shot rang out, and the bear fell dead. Out from the bushes came his father. "It's all right!" he said. "I've been with you all the time. Every morning I have followed you to school, and every afternoon I've been to fetch you, but I kept myself hidden because I wanted you to learn to be brave." God is with us all the time, even though we cannot see Him.—From Sunday School Times.

We give special thanks to Bro. Sam Anliker and those who came with him when he lent himself to lead us in God's praise.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful.  
The Lord God made them all.

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

The purple headed mountain,  
The river flowing by,  
The sunset and the morning  
Which brighten up the sky.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well.  
—Hymns of Zion, No. 207

Recently, we awoke to such a beautiful Lord's Day morning that my Sunday School class and I decided to have our lesson outdoors. We read the above hymn, "Creation," and studied the first chapter of Genesis which tells of the six days God spent creating this beautiful world we live in. The more we studied and discussed the creation week and all the glories we enjoy each day through God's great gift, the more awed I became. Why? Because everything God created was perfect: the order, the beauty, the magnificance, everything—perfect, and all for us, the crowning glory of His creation. No matter how many years God grants us to live upon this earth, we will never be able to fully thank Him for all He has blessed us with. But if we strive every day to walk close to Him, to live for Him, and to praise His Holy Name, someday, by His grace, we will walk with Him forever in the home He has prepared for those who love Him!

Several from Kiowa traveled with the Wichita and Ft. Scott choir recently to Gridley, IL, for an uplifting weekend of Christian fellowship and singing of hymns in praise of our Lord. Everyone in Gridley worked so hard and was so wonderful to us that it truly touched us. And, as all of us joyously raised our voices in singing, I had to think that, if that seemed so gloriously lovely, how impossible to fathom what it will be like when all of heaven joins together at that great and wonderful day when all of God's children are called home.

Sis. Hulda Prather was a hospital patient this month, but we are thankful she is home again. We are also thankful that Sis. Eliza-

beth Otti is again out of the hospital and convalescing at the Kiowa Manor. We were sorry to hear of the passing of Sis. Elizabeth's brother, Henry Walter, of Rio-Lina, CA, though, and pray that God's comforting Word will be a help at this time of loss.

Sis. Lucy Hoffman is convalescing at the Alva Share Memorial Manor, and is doing well.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

How unspeakably great and wonderful is this early time with God before each day begins.

Lord, I love thy morning  
When the sun breaks through:  
When the birds are glad with singing,

And the grass is wet with dew:  
When all the world is fully living,  
And all nature seems to pray,  
"Thou hast kept us through the darkness,

Father, guide us through the day!"

For it always will remind me  
It was morning in my soul  
On the day I met my Saviour,  
When He touched and made me whole.

Barbara E. Cornet

A baby boy, Justin Lee, was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch on July 27. He was transferred to Wesley Medical Hospital in Wichita for a week and then back to Emporia for two weeks where he still remains at this writing. Justin Lee is being eagerly awaited at home by three sisters, Jody, Jenny, and Jill.

It is time for our young folks to be returning to college after summer vacation when they were occupied in various jobs. Those going to Manhattan will be: Bro. John, Sis. Mary Lynn, and James, all children of Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty Wernli, and Stephen Schrader, son of Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy.

Sis. Jeri Luthi (Bro. Lloyd and Joann) will return to school in Kansas City after spending the summer as a Vet Assistant at Emporia Vet Clinic.

Bro. Duane Kilgus, Fairbury, and his family spent a recent Sunday with us. May God richly bless them for their visit and labor of love.

Jim Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) was recently hospitalized for an appendectomy.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA

##### Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

David Hartter and Rodney Eelman were given the opportunity to bring their testimonies before the church. We welcome them as brothers in faith. Elder Bros. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Lester Hartter, Bern, were here to assist Bro. Sam Huber in hearing their testimonies and performing the rite of baptism.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Marie Hartter, Sis. Beth Hartter, and Colleen Hartter (daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene).

Our Sunday School is having vacation for the month of August. It will begin again the Sunday after Labor Day.

Next week will be the beginning of the school year in our community. It hardly seems possible the summer is almost gone. But, times and seasons wait for no man. Our hope is to be ready for when "our time" shall come.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA

##### Judy Langhofer

Traveling through Kansas, Illinois, and Indiana, we witnessed continual beauty, rather unusual for August. The countryside was alive with a rich green. From the lush pasture lands of mid-Kansas to the cornfields of Indiana and Illinois, it was evident that some had been planting and some watering and that God was giving the increase. By divine plan, a farmer knows the right time to plant, water, feed, and weed his crops. No farmer would plant corn in the dead of winter, water or weed on a stormy day, or certainly would not gather grain before it was ripe.

As it is with the natural, so it is with the spiritual. In a large congregation, if the Word is going forth (seed is being sown), the laborers are working under the right condition or climate, and the ground is kept sweet and in workable condition, there seems to be a continual spiritual harvest. We just have to sit back and look at the yield.

In a small church, we have to be a little more patient and sometimes wonder whether there will be a harvest. It is then, oftentimes, though patiently waiting, that we can see the Lord of the harvest bringing in transplants for future growth. The transplants could be in the form of sowers, tenders of the fields, or maybe bearers of good tidings for a hopeful harvest.

Our church feels blessed that God

has seen fit to bring to our community from Bluffton, IN, Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristen Meyer, who have recently established residence here in Wichita and joined the number of our brethren who are employed at Cessna Aircraft. We welcome them into our congregation, along with Bro. Roger Reimschisel and Bro. Rocky Giltner, also from the Bluffton church. By the time this letter is published, Lynn and Sis. Priscilla Frank from Oakville, IA, will also have joined us here, which will add two small children to our Sunday School.

Also a newcomer and oft times referred to as a "bundle from heaven" is Bret William Plattner, son of Bro. Howard Plattner and Sis. Kristen Plattner. He has already won our affection. The grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Gussie Wullschleger of Wichita, and Bro. John and Sis. Marie Plattner of Sabetha, KS.

A December wedding is planned by Bro. Rocky Giltner and Sis. Melinda Langhofer who are both from the Wichita congregation. Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer of Bluffton, IN, and their converted children, Jerry, Dennis, Herman, and Dona, have been Rocky's family since his conversion. Melinda is the daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer.

Our church recently rejoiced in the testimony and baptism of Wyanetta Mahaffey, furnishing sunshine and hope for future growth. Shortly thereafter, Wyanetta met with a near fatal accident, as she was hit by another car and was forced into a cement culvert that prevented her from falling to her death. She sustained bruises and abrasions and was nursed back to health by a loving sister in the church.

Bro. Arthur Wullschleger is back with us again after a six-week stay in the hospital. Also, we are happy to have Sis. Ruth Yackley among us again after an extended stay with her sister in Fairbury.

Our newspaper reports a lucrative field for employment in the Wichita area. Our brothers are willing to assist any brother, sister, or friend of the church who might enjoy the atmosphere of a small church and would be willing to be a transplant. Perhaps the Lord is specking to YOU.

The years teach much that the days can never know.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

#### Patsy Bragiel

We are pleased to have the following ministers visit our congregation this month: Bro. Floyd Weiland (Detroit), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman), and Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo).

It has been announced that Bonnie Schlatter has peace.

A few words to share with those who have been ill and hospitalized recently:

... God's presence is ever beside you,  
As near as the reach of your hand,  
You have but to tell Him your troubles,  
There is nothing He won't understand . . .

Helen S. Rice

Those who are ill are Sis. Anna Magyar, Sis. Louis Lambert, and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam).

... There God shall e'er abide  
With us our truest friend,  
Our hearts in Him unite. . . .  
No. 79, Zions Harp

On August 5, two hearts were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler: myself, Sis. Patsy Knochel (Bro. Norman and Sis. Leanore) and Bro. Robert Bragiel (Frank and Sis. Irma).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Darla Williams are first-time parents with a baby girl, Karen Lynn, born Aug. 8. The grandparents are Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edith Weiland. May God's blessings be with them in their new portion of joy.

Our Sis. Elsie Pashak suddenly lost her husband, George Pashak, in death. We want to express our sympathy to her and the family.

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

#### Bonnie Popp

We wish abundant blessings on the marriage of Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn (Weiland) Bahr. As they settle into their home in Detroit, we welcome this newly married couple and wish them God's blessings.

We pray for all who have found that the Lord is good and have made a beginning to walk close with Him throughout life's journey. As Bill Shaw (husband of Sis. Helen Shaw) and Pat Allen (husband of Sis. Jeanne Allen) have such a de-

sire, we pray they may feel God's nearness, direction, and grace.

#### Reassurance

"The Lord is with me. He will ever shield and comfort me, supply my every need. No good thing will the Lord withhold, but yield the best to me. He clothes me; He will feed and nourish me. His words have grace and power and they sustain me each and every hour."

Shield of Faith, Roy Z. Kemp

We are grateful for God's traveling mercies. The entire Varga family returned from a six-week journey to Hungary and Yugoslavia. They stayed with relatives, and we are grateful to have Bro. Steve, Sis. Joan, and their children back home with us.

### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

#### Carol Virkler

We felt privileged to have a number of visiting ministers this past month. We enjoyed their fellowship and that of their families. Those visiting were Bro. Joe Stoller, Princeville; Elder Bro. Harold Messner, Winthrop; Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest; and Bro. Virgil Metzger of Champaign-Urbana. We thank all these brothers for coming and sharing the Word of God with us.

Delores Sauder was baptized at Morris on Aug. 5. We wish her God's blessings in her new walk of life.

Kelly and Jean Ishaug have been blessed with a baby boy. Their first child, Ryan Lee, was born on Aug. 10. The grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Jewel Ishaug of Pelican Rapids, MN.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held after church, Aug. 12. A potluck supper and cook-out was enjoyed by all.

Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller and their family wish to say "thank you" to everyone for the prayers, visits, cards, gifts, help, and concern during Sis. Bernadine's stay in the hospital and since returning home. They ask God to bless each one of you.

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Martha Blessman with a back injury and Beatrice Miller for tests.

Everett Olson, age 65, passed away on August 16 after undergoing heart surgery. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Alphi

Moser of Morris and Bro. Ken Lawson. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sis. Kathryn and her family.

The Everett Olson family wishes to thank the many who offered prayers and acts of love during the illness and loss of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Words cannot express their heartfelt thanks to each of you who shared with them at this time. These memories will always remain with them. They pray that God will bless all of you.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl**

The Lord has really blessed our congregation by adding eight more to His fold. They are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi, Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl, Bro. Stan Schaefer (Bro. Anton, Sis. Verna), Sis. Delores Sauder (Virgil and (Gary)), and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Bro. Gene). Our hearts rejoice each time we greet a new member of our precious faith.

We are thankful that another dear young soul has turned to the Lord in repentance. Dave Schmidgall (Bro. Gene, Sis. Dorothy) has answered His loving call.

"Molly Jo" was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf. Big sister Mindy welcomes her home. The grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf and Lloyd and Dorothy Durkee,

We are happy to announce that Bro. Art Nohl was chosen to share the ministry. We trust that God will bless Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra as we know this is not of their choosing; but may they feel it is God's will.

We give special thanks to our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Leo Moser, Lester, IA; Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Tremont, IL; Elder Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, IL; Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago, IL; Bro. Bob Grimm, Goodfield, IL; Bro. Todd Feller, LaCrosse, IN; Bro. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Carl Weiss, Washington, IL; Bro. Tom Leman, Elgin, IL; and Bro. Ken Lawson, Minneapolis.

August 11 was the wedding day of Mary Schmidgall and Roger Evink. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine, and Roger is the son of the Conrad Evinks.

Be such a man and live such a life, that if every man were such as you and every life a life like yours, this earth would be a paradise. — Phillips Brooks

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem**

Prayers were spoken, asking for grace and courage to sort out our priorities and put our daily labor and cares aside—grace from God, the unlimited source of help. Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) shared this past weekend with the Winthrop church. We witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Shelly Messner and Barbara Mattis. Bro. Leo and our Elder Bro. Harold performed these sacred duties.

Angels see in joyous rapture  
God's own Word indeed fulfilled;  
And amid our glad embraces  
Is this Child of God revealed.

Zions Harp, No. 34

One last plea: Strengthen those things that remain; keep our Church pure and holy for those who enter in repentance and conversion, the password to the door out of the prison of the enemy of our soul into the courtyard of Christ.

Ministering Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) shared God's Word with us the weekend of July 15, and Bro. Tom Lehman of Elgin, IL, came for Wednesday evening services. He told us faith is a feeling strong enough to cause action. This could be in the form of prayer—prayer for our beloved elder body who will soon be meeting to discuss the problems that beset the church. Is our faith strong enough to believe our prayers for them will be answered? We then must heed their deliberations.

Vernon and Vickie Messner have a new bundle from heaven: Jeremiah Jay, born July 14. Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Geraldine are the paternal grandparents.

Sis. Florence Messner (Walter) wishes to say thanks for all kindnesses shown while she was recovering from a recent fall.

We enjoyed a farewell singing for Sis. Jill Nelson. Sis. Donnabell and Alvin are her parents. May she be an asset to the Iowa City congregation while she lives and works in that area.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber**

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Lenny Meyer, Chicago, IL; Bro. Joe Zimmerman, Morton, IL; Bro. Garth Steffen, Portland,

OR; Bro. Art Bauer, Princeville, IL; and Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS. We thank them, and may God bless them for their efforts in proclaiming His Word.

We offer congratulations to our Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm on the arrival of a new grandson, Brad Michael, born to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller, Gridley, IL. We are so thankful that the Stoller's little daughter, Rachel, who was seriously ill during this time, has improved and is on the road to complete recovery.

Hospital patients were Rosella Kolthoff (mother of Sis. Linda Heimer), who was at the Mayo Clinic, and Bro. Adolph Gerst who had surgery in Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

"Trials and crosses are often the greatest blessings in disguise, for it is only through such processes that the character is perfected."  
(Streams in the Desert)

Jeff Fischer, Fort Scott, KS, and Shelly Massner, Detroit, MI, are new converts. We wish them God's grace, help, and strength. May they experience that there is no obstacle so great that it can't be moved or overcome with God's help.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Louanne Knapp celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of Bro. Jon, Sis. Trudie Yackley, Sis. Susan, and Jamie.

"This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus: We walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart."

No. 79, Zions Harp

All of us remember the tragedy that struck one year ago when the son of our ministering Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis was killed in an accident. The following memorial was submitted by the family.

### In Loving Memory of Adair

How blessed we were for twenty years. We never fully realized the consequences until there was a vacant chair which will never be filled here on earth again. But we have the faith and confidence that someday we will join him in that home above. As we wait 'til that day comes, we have these loving memories which will never be taken

away. As the song has been sung, "Sometime We'll Understand," we leave it all in the Lord's hands and pray that sometime we will understand. We miss him so much.

"Thou, who hast showed us many and sore troubles, wilt quicken us again." Psalms 71:20.

Ed. Note: The writer of "Special Report from Taylor" in the June issue was Bro. Norman Haerr, not Bro. Herman Hoerr. We apologize for the misprint.

#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY (See Kansas, Kansas City)

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

May the Lord bless Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger of Pulaski, IA, for his labor of love which he shared with us on July 29.

#### Soldiers of the Lord

I've enlisted for life in the army of the Lord,  
Tho' the fight may be long and the struggle fierce and hard;  
With the armor of God and the Spirit's trusty sword  
At the front of the battle you will find me.

With the banner of love and of holiness unfurled,  
Full salvation proclaim to a sinful, dying world;  
Tho' the darts thick and fast from the enemy be hurled,  
At the front of the battle you will find me.

Is your name, friend, enrolled with the loyal ones and true?  
Will you dare now to stand with the Saviour's faithful few?  
There is room yet for you in His covenant so true;  
At the front of the battle you will find me.

Gospel Hymns, No. 183

On the weekend of August 4 and 5 the soldiers from Camp Crowder gathered at Lamar for a reunion. With the many visitors were Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger from Gridley, IL, along with ministering Bro. Wally Ramsier from Mansfield, OH, and Bro. Russell Wuthrich from Pulaski, IA. It was truly a blessed weekend for all.

God does not only comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

#### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bros. John Klotzle and his family from Altedena, CA, and Corbin Bahler from Rockville visited the Union City church on July 22. The true Word of God went forth as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Bro. John spent some time in the Union City area when in the service many years ago, and his thoughtful visits are always appreciated.

Other visitors to the Union City and Philadelphia churches during the month came from Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, and Connecticut. Being somewhat isolated here in the East, we are grateful for the good fellowship we enjoy with visiting brethren. We are always encouraged by the faith of our brethren.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

God calling yet! I cannot stay;  
My heart I yield with out delay:  
Vain world, farewell, from thee I part;  
The voice of God has reached my heart.

No. 375, Gospel Hymns

We are so thankful that God is still "calling" today and that there are those willing to bid the world "farewell" and turn to God in their need. Our loved ones, Arthur and Lucy Wooschlager, have been unable to assemble with us for some time because of failing health. Art has been hospitalized for several weeks again. During their illness they have heard the call of the Lord and have answered His call. They have called upon Him in their need, and He has now found a place in each of their hearts. Upon their confession and statements of faith, they were baptized in the hospital by our Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer. Several brethren and members of their family were present for the joyful occasion. We now welcome them as a dear brother and sister in faith.

Others who have been hospitalized this month were Bro. Lowell Virkler and Sis. Barbara Virkler. Sis. Lois Virkler (Bro. Clyde) was a surgical patient and Matthew and Amber Herzig, children of Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor, were hospitalized

for tonsillectomies. We are glad they have all again been able to assemble with us and with the Sunday School.

Our annual meeting was held on July 31. May God grant strength, grace, and wisdom to those who have been elected to offices for the following year.

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by young and old on Saturday, August 11, at Happy Hollow Campgrounds. Although the weather was cold and somewhat cloudy, the occasion was sunny and enjoyable.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to three young couples as they begin their married lives together. Mike Purvines and Susan Hornig were married on June 30. Mike is the son of Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and Susan's parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Hornig, Sr. August 4 was the wedding day chosen by the other two couples. They are Loren Virkler and Gloria Farney and Gary Widrick and Jodelle Mihalyi. Loren and Gloria's parents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Farney, Jr. Gilbert and Betty Widrick and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mihalyi are Gary and Jody's parents.

#### OHIO, AKRON

Lynell Palitto

We were richly blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Ezra Feller, John Bahler, and Joseph Ramsier brought forth spiritual food in plentiful measure. Also ministering to us were Bros. Aaron Steffen, Ken Weertz, and Roy Luginbuhl.

... "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace. . ." Romans 10:15

David Heneco, son of Greg and Sarah, was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy.

Funeral services were held on July 18 for Bro. Elmer Graf, Sr. We surely miss his presence, and our prayers are for his family who is left behind, namely, his wife, Sis. Juliet, daughter, Sis. Marjorie Laukhuf, and sons, Elmer, Bro. Robert, Donald. Bro. Leon, William, and Bro. Carl. The family wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts, food, and support during their trying times of the sickness and death of their loved one. Sis. Juliet and family ask that God will richly bless each one who helped.

"At Home, 'tis well! Then let us hasten thither  
Through pain and death on to our homeland shore!  
On boldly on! When this short life is o'er,  
New life will bloom for us and never wither."

Zions Harp, No. 170

### OHIO, JUNCTION

Lester Manz

This month, our Sunday School teachers and the two older classes traveled to Mansfield to attend the Youth Fellowship Day. We trust God's blessings will be upon the good seed sown there.

We were privileged to have God's Word proclaimed to us by Bro. Ken Indermule from Sardis and Bros. Loren Stoller from Latty.

Hospitalized were Sis. Kate Manz (Bro. Adam) and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben). At the time of this writing, both are at home again.

### OHIO, LATTY

Susie Sinn

July 28 was the wedding of Beverly Plummer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann) and Mike Ackerman. May they enjoy a happy life together.

Our only hospital patient this month was Duane Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann). We are thankful he is home and can attend Sunday School again.

Visiting us was Bro. Arthur Gudeman on Aug. 12. It is surely strengthening and encouraging to know that we still have faithful brethren who will stand and speak the truth. Let us continue to remember them in fervent prayer.

Bringing happiness to the home of Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen Steffen is little Amanda Jay. May they ever receive the grace to raise her to love Jesus.

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways." Psalms 128:1.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

Lord, Thou Creator, glorious is Thy kingdom!  
In All the world we sing of Thy great fame.  
The hosts of heaven with all the true and faithful  
Eternally shall praise Thy holy name.  
Thou art exalted there in heaven's splendor

And kings and powers shall to Thee surrender.

Zion's Harp, No. 118

Most of this summer, we were awakened early by the happy song of the house wren who made her nest just outside our back door. Her happy song filled the air each morning as she praised her Creator. When we heard her happy song, it seemed to be contagious, and we kneeled beside our bed at break of day and also thanked the Lord for another night of rest and begged for guidance and help for the day. How wonderful are His promises to us. He knows each of our needs.

Friends of ours who live down on the farm some miles from us were delighted when several pair of wrens moved into their area. The one pair must have decided the best house they could find was in the U.S. mail box, so they took up housekeeping there, reaching the inside through a little hole in the side of the box. All season, the wrens were busy attending to their business, sharing their song to all who would stop to listen. Sometimes, they would fly very near to a human, just as if to say, "listen." The mailman was instructed to leave the mail at the next-door neighbors and not disturb this young family. Truly, the Lord watches over His children as well. If we trust Him and praise Him for His leading, and if we, too, share His joy with others, it surely will be contagious and others will want to share in His love, also, just as the song of the wren lifts our spirits and thanks to its and our creator.

We rejoiced with Bro. Ron Ruefner and Sis. Kaye Beery (Rittman) as they shared with us their joy and announced their engagement on August 5. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina are Ron's parents and Bro. Carl and Sis. Ruth are Kay's parents.

Scott and Julie Morganstern were married on July 21. We wish them much happiness as they pledge their lives to each other.

Leonard Dolce and Patricia Brannon have also announced their engagement. An October wedding is planned. Mildred Sauder Dolce and the late Bro. Gabe Dolce are Leonard's parents and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Brannon are Patricia's parents.

Ohio Youth Day was held July

22. It was truly a wonderful day for rejoicing as our youth shared the wonderful story of love with us. This year's theme was "My kingdom is not of this World." The estimated evening attendance was over 700. We wish to thank each and everyone who helped to make this day possible. Elder brothers Rudolph Graf, Joseph Ramsier, Ben Maibach, and Loren Stoller were present as well as ministering brothers Aaron Steffen and Kenneth Indermele who also shared God's Word with us. As Bro. Aaron Steffen so rightly said, "Take the World, but give me Jesus," we can all say we truly need no more if we have Jesus.

We give special thanks to Sis. Marcella Sauder for her untiring effort in managing both meals of the day. It takes a lot of work, and she has so willingly done this each year since Ohio Youth Day began.

July 30 was the 68th wedding anniversary of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Sauder. We rejoice with them and wish them God's continuing blessings as they walk the sunset hours together.

Loved ones in need of our prayers and who have been ill and hospitalized are as follows: Bro. Dave Beer, Sis. Catherine Bocka, Sis. Amelia Mattes, Susan Weiss, Hazel Beer, and Noah Sauder. Sis. Martha Fuhrer had a bad fall but is feeling better again. Jerry Roberts was in a severe automobile accident which required hospital attention, but he has been released. We are thankful for the Lord's protecting arm.

Our congregation was saddened at the passing of Sis. Catherine Wise Tooker. Her funeral was July 25. For a number of years she lived in Akron and in the last years lived in a rest home here.

Thou wilt again exalt him in high measure,  
When he the battle of the faith has fought;  
And once again Thou wilt in him find pleasure,  
When thou has him unto Thy glory brought.  
O Lord, our Ruler, may Thy praise forever  
Be sung by choirs of all Thy children ever!

Zion's Harp, No. 118

Words are the soul's ambassadors.



**OHIO, RITTMAN****Florence Hartzler**

What joy I feel, what peace is mine as I my All to Thee resign! Such beautiful words could be spoken by our dear friend Debbie Rufener, as she has found peace with God and man and is now awaiting baptism. As often as I bear in mind that God to me His son assigned! . . . In faith my heart for Thee prepare since Thou to me Thy grace dost share. This Grace, the undeserved favor or love from God, can also be given to those that ask. He is still calling today; why not come to him now?

Love divine, all love excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down! This love from God was shown to two hearts as Sis. Kay Beery and Bro. Ron Rufener of Mansfield have announced their engagement. We pray that this love will continue as they make their plans for the future. The parents of these two are Bro. Karl and Sis. Ruth Beery, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener. Also engaged are Deanna Zollinger and Robert Arnold. The parents of Deanna and Bob are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger, and Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Arnold of Rittman.

Love divine, coming down from heaven in the form of a little babe, has brightened the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener. The little girl has been named Sarah Jane and has a sister, Rebecca, to also welcome her home. The grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Pauline Luginbuhl, Rockville, and Bro. Chet and Sis. Roma Rufener.

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow. . . Holy love, bright flame from heaven, only to pure hearts revealed. . . Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life; hand in hand, O may love bind us for each other's welfare strive. . . This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus. We walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart.

The words of the above songs, found in our Zions Harps, can all be applied to our dear ones who have been united in marriage. August 5 was the day for the wedding of our dear Sis. Marian Walder and Bro. Joe Stoller. We pray that the Lord will be their constant companion as they travel this way

together as husband and wife. The parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, and Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller.

Though troubles assail, and dangers affright, yet one thing secures us whatever betide, this promise assures us: "The Lord will provide . . ." We know the Lord hears as those in affliction pray to Him for solace, or where loved ones pray for those who cannot pray, as is experienced by Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha Indermuhle. Their 18 year old son, Allen, is in a coma following an auto accident. Our dear Bro. Robert Beery is again home following a stay in the hospital, and we pray that he and his family can feel the Lord's nearness in this time of sickness. When Satan appears, obstructing our path and faith; He cannot take from us, though oft he has tried, the heart-cheering promise: "The Lord will provide!" Also in the hospital was Bradley Hartzler, son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen. There are others that have met with accidents but are again attending church. Why should I complain of want or distress, Temptation or pain? He told me no less: the heirs of salvation, I know from His word, through much tribulation must follow their Lord. These phrases are also from the Zions Harp. Let's not forget to pray for all our dear ones in need.

Bro. John Hartzler, Sr., wishes to thank all for their prayers, gifts, and cards he received while in the hospital and at home. The kindness will always be remembered.

Knocking, Knocking, who is there?

Waiting, waiting, oh, how fair!  
'Tis a Pilgrim, strange and kingly,  
never such was seen before;  
Ah! My soul, for such a wonder wilt  
thou not undo the door?

Knocking, Knocking, still He's  
there.

Waiting, waiting, wondrous fair!  
But the door is hard to open, for  
the weeds and ivy-vine,  
With their dark and clinging tendrils,  
even round the hinges  
twine.

Knocking, Knocking,—what! still  
there?

Waiting, waiting, grand and fair!  
Yes, the pierced hand still knocketh,  
and beneath the crowned-  
hair

Beam the patient eyes, so tender,  
of thy Saviour, waiting there.

George F. Root

**OHIO, TOLEDO****Josephine Rehklau**

Holy communion was instituted by our Lord Jesus just prior to His crucifixion when He was assembled with His disciples.

As they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat, this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. St. Matthew 26:26-28.

Partaking of this holy sacrament binds us anew to our Lord that, joined in heart and hand, we can journey on to Zion's realm.

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Rudolph Graf (Akron) conduct our communion service. Our heartfelt thanks to them for being with us the Sunday of Aug. 5.

The assembling of the many brethren at the Brotherhood Conference gives us a renewed feeling of the great concern which they have that God's will can be carried out until the return of our beloved Saviour.

We rejoice that Sis. Lydia Fetter is able to worship with us again following the recovery of a hip injury.

We enjoy having Sis. Margaret Bradford (Arizona) among us while she is visiting her son, Bill, his wife, Gail, and their children, Jane and Bill.

Ula Kaepler, daughter of Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena, left on July 30 for Honolulu, Hawaii, to receive training as a flight attendant for Pan American World Airways. After a five-week period of training, she will probably be based in London or New York City.

**OREGON, PORTLAND****Connie Steffen**

We have been richly blessed by the visits of many dear ones. We feel so fortunate to have fellowship with brothers and sisters from many areas of the United States. What a joy it is when we meet and greet and feel this common bond of love. A brother mentioned how he once asked some of the older Sunday School children what they thought some of the joys of heaven would be. and one of them said, "Fellowship." Among the visitors we have had the past few months were Bro.

Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and his family; Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Lorraine; and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and his family. We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

It seems the "Armor of God" has been mentioned quite frequently lately, and it is good for us to be reminded of what God would have us do. One of the ministers mentioned that the Scriptures exhort us to "Stand therefore. . ." (Eph. 6:14), not sit or sleep, but stand, for only then can we be ready for the battle. We never know when Satan will hurl his fiery darts at us. Another brother mentioned (at a different time) that our feet should be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, for that is the way Jesus withstood the Devil, by using Scripture. We, too, must run the race always being mindful that heaven is our goal.

Bros. Steve Miller and Dennis Martin were recently elected to teach Sunday School. May they feel the Lord's blessing as they go about this serious work.

We welcome Bro. Dennis and Sis. Lori (Corrine) Martin home from their wedding. We wish them the Lord's rich blessing in their home and life.

#### OREGON SILVERTON Mary Jane Winkler

This month, we were privileged to have ministers among us. They were Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Garth Steffen and Robert Miller (Portland). We truly received a blessing and pray that the Lord will bless them for their deeds of love in serving us with the holy Word.

#### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

#### WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

The annual all-day meeting was held at the country church on June 24 with a large number present, many coming from distant points. The weather was very rainy, but we managed to make every one as comfortable as possible. The day was a profitable one for all. Edwin Ringer of Gridley, IL, was the main sepeaker, with several others present who also had a part in the

service. We wish to thank all for coming and for their donations of food and money. We look forward to seeing them all again next year.

A vinyl jacket, blue in color with white lining, was left hanging in the church. We brought it home. If the person who owns it will drop me a card, I will mail it to them. (Minnie Weltz, 812 Fifth Street, New Martinsville, WV 26155).

Ephriam Wells, husband of Ruth Froelich Wells, passed away in April after a long illness. He leaves two sisters and several nieces and nephews. Ruth is selling her home and moving back to the home of her parents, John and Mollie Froelich. We welcome her back to our neighborhood.

Mrs. William Riggerbach of Paden City has been quite ill for many weeks and has been hospitalized. She is back home with little hopes for her recovery. She is past 91 and the mother of eleven children, four having preceded her in death.

On July 22, Allbert Hassig was bit by a small copperhead snake. He did not know what bit him for it was only eight inches long. By evening his finger and hand were badly swollen and very painful. He was brought into the hospital, given shots and serum, and kept for a day or two. In talking with him by phone, he said he was coming along fine and will soon be well. His son came in and looked for the snake, found it, and destroyed it.

#### FROM AN OLD TRACT

This eighty-year old tract may give you some extra Bible reading, provided you do not resist the impulse to look up the references:

"Dear Reader:

"I once resided with II Timothy 3:4 and walked in Ephesians 2:2, and my continued conversation at that time is still recorded in Ephesians 2:3.

"I heard one day that an inheritance had been purchased for me, and a description of it reached me; you will find it at I Peter 1:4. One who resides in Hebrew 4:14 had purchased it and paid an extraordinary price for it; but, to say the truth, I did not believe this report, as I was entirely unacquainted with the man, and long experience had convinced me that strangers never gave favors through love alone, and friends seldom gave any favors that cost much.

"However, I called at I Timothy 3:16, as my own prospects at Ephesians 2:12 were as bad as they could be. I found the house I sought for at II Corinthians 4:1, and the invitations to it, which you will see put up at Isaiah 55:1 and by John at 7:37, are wonderfully inviting to the poor and needy. The house has only one door, and it was some time before I saw the door at John 10:9.

"My permanent address will be Galatians 5:1, but call any day at Hebrews 4:16; you will meet me and many others—we are daily in the habit of meeting there. If you call, attend to what the servant says at Luke 14:22, and you may depend upon what that servant says."

From p. 143, *The Sword Scrapbook*, compiled by editor, John R. Rice.

#### A Prayer for Those Who Live Alone

I live alone, dear Lord,  
Stay by my side.  
In all my daily needs,  
Be Thou my guide.

Grant me good health,  
For that indeed, I pray  
To carry on my work  
From day to day.

Keep pure my mind,  
My thoughts, my every deed.  
Let me be kind, unselfish  
In my neighbor's need.

Spare me from fire, from flood,  
Malicious tongues;  
From thieves, from fear,  
And evil ones.

If sickness or  
An accident befall,  
Then humbly, Lord, I pray,  
Hear thou my call.

And when I'm feeling low,  
Or in despair,  
Lift up my heart,  
And help me in my prayer.

I live alone, dear Lord,  
Yet have no fear,  
Because I feel Your presence  
Ever near.

—Author unknown

"And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight,

to keep my statutes and my commandments, . . . that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house.  
 . . . I Kings 11:28

Surely some craftsman has builded  
 The pillar as well as the spire;

The cross that the painter has  
 guilded  
 Was fashioned in somebody's  
 fire.

Surely men dug in the ditches,  
 Preparing a place for the wall;

And some have made with their  
 stitches  
 The canopies draping the hall.

Someone has blended the plaster,  
 And someone has carried the  
 stone;

Neither the man nor the master  
 Ever has builded alone.

Making a roof for the weather,  
 Erecting a house for the King,

Only by working together  
 Has man accomplished a thing.

All have a share in the beauty;  
 All have a part in the plan—

What does it matter what duty  
 Falls to the lot of a man.

All have a hand in the building;  
 No one has builded alone,

Whether a plan he was making,  
 Or whether he carried a stone.

—Author unknown

### The Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

don't realize it so fully. For in the vitality of youth, we do not think so often of our dying day and of the day of the Lord, the day of judgement. But, as the time comes when we see ourselves "going down hill" with our bodies becoming more frail, we note that those whom we had regarded as pillars in the church are no more with us; they have gone to their rest.

We see changes all around us; the inevitable evolution of things is taking place right before our eyes. Then a still small voice tells us that some day it will come to us, and we begin to think serious-

ly about how much depends upon our living and how we have served our God. Have we been faithful in our calling? While we are absent from our Lord, may we also look forward to being present some day with Him.

In the eleventh verse Paul mentions "the terror of the Lord." Let no one misunderstand. God is love and His Son was sent as the perfect example of God's love for man. He was the offering brought, but God is not to be mocked. "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Cor. 5:10.

This terror of the Lord only reminds us that He stands firmly according to His Word. Today He is merciful; today He offers salvation to every one who will come to Him. But, He has said that when we have finished our lives, there will be no more opportunity to find salvation. God made a plan and offers it to man, but on judgement day, the Lord will be a terror in the hearts of those who do not believe.

The love of Jesus Christ constrains us who are ministers of the Gospel to speak the truth concerning the Word. The Apostle Paul said, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." II Cor. 5:14,15.

We must preach that today. There was One who died; there was One who loved man; there was One who loved such unworthy ones as I so much that He gave His own life for our salvation. The price was His own precious blood. Now we need not be lost eternally. He died for our sins, and today that is still the only hope of repentant souls. That is the only way to restore man, whose body is as moth-eaten, blighted by sin, with no hope for eternity.

When we think of appearing before the judgement seat of Christ, we begin to understand and are glad that He died for us; and that He not only died but arose again, as it says here, that we may also arise with Him in newness of life.

The working out of the salvation of our souls is entirely a matter which each one has with his Saviour. It is not possible that I may repent for my son or my daughter. It was not possible that my parents could repent for me. Each one must come to the Saviour individually. Each one must make that experience with Him. It cost so much to save our souls that we must come humbly, kneeling at His feet and bringing Him our hearts. He will accept and receive us.

We have read together here, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." II Cor. 5:17. We cannot be the same anymore. If we poor sinners kneel and pray at Jesus feet, beg Him for mercy, and then receive His gifts, we should no longer live for ourselves. We have now pledged ourselves to our Lord and Saviour. It is wonderful that God is willing to help poor sinners, to lift them up and make them children of His (saints).

Dear ones, it is a blessed condition to be "new." The old has passed away, as we have read, and all things have become new. We would not want to live that old life again. After knowing the Lord, loving and serving Him, who wants to go back again to sin? No one who stands in the light of His Word! We remember our calling, remember what it cost the Lord. We remember the vows and promises that we made in the day of our salvation.

Those who go back have forgotten the cleansing of their former sins; their vows stand no more before them as a word to be kept; they have come into confusion and they sleep away.

Let us live in newness of life. Let us be aware of our calling and give heed to the word of God and to the reconcillation wrought by Jesus Christ our Lord. Through the understanding and the enlightenment of His Word, let us also tell others, "Today is the day of grace and now is the time of salvation."

Do not let another day go by, dear friends, without working out your soul's salvation; lest you appear before the Lord without the assurance that when this earthly house (tabernacle) is dissolved you may go to a house "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Today the Lord still calls, and sends ambassadors in His stead to say, "Be ye reconciled to God."

## SERMON BY BRO. RUDOLPH GRAF OF AKRON, OH

Text: II Corinthians, Chapter 5

Dear ones, the hearts and souls of men seek comfort and solace in the word of God. After we have matured, we should have learned that true comfort and values for the souls of men are only to be found in God.

While we are children, we are innocent; but as we mature, our conscience, our inner man, our soul speaks to us. God breathed into the nostrils of the first man, making mankind different from the dumb animals which He created. He made them living, breathing souls. All those born to the human family since that time have had that spirit of God. He has set us over His creation, to His name's honor, praise, and glory.

Man, with the gift especially given from God to be able to weigh and consider things, finds that within us is the inclination to sin and to transgress. The Apostle Paul said that there was no transgression without the law. Also, when it was said to him, "thou shalt" or "thou shalt not," there was then temptation to transgress.

Sometimes we don't fully perceive this, but upon reflection and with understanding from the Lord, which is given if we are humble and ask for it, it is evident that this is true. Although we want to honor God, within this flesh lies that inherent desire to sin, and we transgress many times without thinking. Many who bring us the burden of their hearts say that they had not wished to be vile in the sight of God; but, in the weakness of the flesh, the spirit of the evil one had come upon them and they had sinned and were separated from God. If this had continued from past generations through our present time, if we all had been troubled with this and there would be no help—how sad it would be. But God in His great love beheld the need and prepared a way for man to be reconciled with Him.

As we read, the Prophet Isaiah saw that man would come again to Mount Zion and be cleansed. Those who would serve God and those who would be interested in hearing and receiving the Word of Truth would all know Him and come to the holy hill.

Where is the holy hill of God? God lives omnipotent in the heavens, and, when we look up to Him, we lift our hearts and fold our hands in prayer. Within our hearts we know where He is, or where He may be found, and that He will hear our prayers. That gift is given to us for one purpose, to cause us to stop, consider, and give our hearts to the Lord. Those who have come to this "holy hill" have found that God has prepared a way of salvation through His only begotten Son, a way for the sins of man to be washed away. It was accomplished at Calvary, and the way is still effective today for everyone who believes, and stays true in service to God.

Man cannot understand how God begins this, but we know that it is as Jesus said. The husbandman sows seed in the ground. He labors, and, while he is sleeping, there is action; there is growth and finally a plant comes forth, at first only evident in a blade as grass.

We who toil in the field and sow the seed into the ground go out almost every morning to see whether the sowing has come forth. At this time of year we see farmers looking for the first evidence of life from seed that was sown. It is not known to us how this comes about. It's somewhat of a secret, and yet it isn't a secret. It lies within the hand of God to cause good seed to sprout and grow. Thinking about the things of the field helps us to understand the working of God's plan in the heart of man. The Lord reserves that for Himself. He knows when souls are humble, willing, and obedient, and He makes the seed grow.

The spirit which God breathed into man in the beginning, and

which is in every person born thereafter, finally returns to God for judgement and the body to the dust from whence it came. Then the question is: Where will I spend eternity? What will become of me in that day? Let us think, Let us stop and consider. Paul, and perhaps many of his brethren, had wondered about such things. For in that day people didn't have the writings and teachings that we have; they scarcely had copies and samples of the gospels. The inspiration of the Spirit moved men to preach the Gospel of salvation.

The men who went out in the name of the Saviour, the Son of God, did not have Bibles as we do, but talked about spiritual things. "They that loved the Lord sat together," said the Prophet, and the Lord visited them and gave them full understanding. Those who are faithful in the ways of the Lord will be remembered. "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels . . ." Mal. 3:17

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1. This chapter is read often, especially when we lay our beloved ones to rest. It is evidence that when those who die in the Lord are taken from us, they have gone to a better home and place.

The Apostle Paul was confident that while "we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord." I believe that every one of us ought to feel that way. We are here today, enjoying good fellowship, the privileges, and the blessings that the children of God and those who love the word of God may enjoy; but we feel that we are absent from the Lord.

Not one of us has realized his full redemption. We look forward to it. We think about it. As we said before, when we are young, we

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