

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 31

JULY 1981

NUMBER 7

A CONDENSED OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF ELDER BRO. S. H. FROELICH

This book is the first of four volumes of extracts of sermons by Samuel Heinrich Froehlich* (1803-1857) on the three Epistles of John. Taken from his diary, word for word. The sermons were preached regularly over a period of two years and five months (May 12, 1840-October 11, 1842) to the church at Zuerich, Switzerland.

In the early 1840's when the sermons on the Epistles of John were preached, the young congregations were assailed by dissension from within, in addition to the persecutions which they had been suffering from without. One leader gathered to himself those who fell away from sound teaching and wished to associate with such that had not a clear grasp of the baptismal truth, who were not even convinced of the necessity for baptism, and so they reverted to a laxity in church discipline. Another faction held that the promises of the covenant in baptism were wholly one-sided, that God gave promises but that no vow of obedience was necessary on man's part.

These false teachings attacked the very root. It was therefore necessary that strong and incisive teaching out of the Word of God be brought to overcome such fatal opposition and these sermons used the sword of the Word in this struggle to a successful end so that truth was maintained, and of their painful disenchantment, while the apostate many came back upon others remained excommunicated.

Brother Froehlich's activities fell in that time when freedom of faith and conscience dawned upon the nations of nominal Christendom (Revelation 3:8):

"I know thy works: behold, I

have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

which he believed was the "Then" in the Savior's parable, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins which . . . went forth to meet the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1 ff.)." The candlestick was re-established upon its place on the continent of Europe where the light had flickered out for the descendants of those who in previous centuries were true witnesses.

Froehlich knew whereof he spoke concerning the established state church for he had been an integral part of it in every sense of the word, and then by the grace of God saw the light of the truth. He appeared in the time of the beginning of freedom of religion and conscience, when so-called Christendom had fallen into degeneracy and the State Protestant and Catholic Churches dominated the governments of Europe, to teach anew the true Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was taught by the apostles. He had been planted, so to speak in the very soil of the Protestant state church and although his conversion in it was not brought about by it, yet thereafter he was still, though not of it, and thus it became the field of his missionary effort. In this encounter, the mission of bringing the Gospel into the field of the great false churches of false Christianity, which had already been elevated to the position of the state religion in the beginning of the fourth century, he was a pioneer of his time.

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATIONS ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

Meditations of Elder Bro. Samuel H. Froelich. Delivered in Zuerich in the Years 1840-1842

CHAPTER I

The Work of Enlightenment

May 12, 1840 (Tuesday)

I the evening meeting I began preaching from the First Epistle of John.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

"(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

This epistle (without apostolic greeting) was not written to beginners but to previously enlightened and anointed believers, to establish them in the truth and to further them in the knowledge of the Son of God, and it shall serve the same purpose for us.

The work of enlightenment is progressive and is wrought by the inner as well as by the outer witnessing of the Holy Ghost, in order that we may learn to know the entire will and counsel of God unto our salvation, until the full light of day, for the more we learn to know Christ, the more conformable we shall be to Him and the more greatly we shall be made willing and

Continued on page 3

A Condensed . . .

Continued from page 1

Early Life and Conversion

Samuel Heinrich Froehlich, the son of a sexton, descended from a Huguenot (French Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries) family, by the name of DeJoyeau, a French word meaning "the joyful", who lived in France. When Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes under which the Huguenots were allowed to live in France, and after St. Bartholomews Night (August 24, 1572) when many thousands of Protestants were massacred, the remaining families fled in all directions. The DeJoyeau family sought refuge in Switzerland where the name was later translated in "Froehlich" ("joyful").

In a letter to the English Continental Society of London, England, written in November 1831 (after his expulsion from the state church), making application for an assignment as an itinerant preacher in the Rhine Country, S. H. Froehlich gave a detailed account of his awakening and conversion. It is felt that since what Froehlich received from the Lord was by revelation, this account, besides being helpful to souls seeking God among us who heavily feel the burden of their sins and their separation from God, may enable souls outside the activities of our congregations, who are entirely unfamiliar with their teachings and to whom this would be a new message, to understand to the full extent what conversion by reconciliation & regeneration means. Further, it is hoped that this account may set aright those who confess having gone through conversion, as to any benefit to be expected from a so-called theological education, to better prepare them to work for the Lord. Also that it may clearly show that one must be accepted by Christ as well as to accept Him himself, and that there is no such acceptance without conversion and baptism. In the letter above mentioned, he wrote, in part:

"As to my outward circumstances, I was born July 4, 1803, in Brugg, a small municipal city of the Swiss Canton of Aargau. From my youth the idea of devoting myself to the ministry was made so

much a matter of course by my parents that I never considered anything else, although I did not in the slightest degree feel the great importance and responsibility of the vocation and still less did I realize what was required to fulfill the duties of the office which preaches reconciliation. Much rather was I to learn it in the way of a trade instead of a profession.

1820-1823

Accordingly, I was instructed in the necessary rudiments for this purpose in the school in my native city, up to my 17th year and was advanced to the extent that upon my removal at Zuerich on New Years Day 1820, I was not only at once taken into the Collegium Humanitatis, but also, contrary to custom, after a year's course, promoted to the Gymnasium Carolinum.

According to the practice there, in the following years I progressed class by class and pursued my studies mechanically, without spirit or life, indeed without any real interest, however not without absorbing the principles of theology and rationalism from the teachings of Dr. Schulthess and others, although quite unnoticed and unconscious thereof. When I came home on vacation with my head full of fancies, I caused my god-fearing mother, who is now dead, many tears and even paraded with bare-faced fluency the glories of the new teaching, "That there was no devil, no hell," etc.

In the four years of my stay at Zuerich I advanced thus far that I should enter the actual class of theology, but I preferred to go to Basel to study theology in the newly organized university under the still famous name of Dewette, and others. That was in the latter part of the year 1823.

In the meantime the might of SIN and the power of DEATH had grown up hand in hand with UNBELIEF, since it cannot fail that where the head of the old serpent rises, its members also rise and, of necessity, stir. I became enwrapped and entangled in such a horror of sin that I shudder now when I think of it, and the saddest of all was that in accordance with my very principles I could pass over it so lightly and so easily quiet and deceive myself, that I could

even formally say to myself, "That which I am doing is not sin."

O woe unto me, if God had been a man or had dealt with me as a man! He would have shattered me as a potter's vessel. Nevertheless, at one time during this period, I preached on Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God . . ." from which I now comprehend what all the so-called beautiful sermons of the Rationalists amount to! Fortunately, this was my first and last sermon in this state of ignorance.

Soon after, I went to Basel. However, the hour of my enlightenment and release from the dominion of darkness had not yet come. Even deeper was I destined to fall into the depths of Satan. For fully another year and a half I lived without God and without the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ and of myself. What Schulthess began in Zuerich was completed by DeWette in Basel. I became utterly carried away by the idealism with which he treated the scriptures. I thought that this was the true way and was only sorry that I did not have the wings to follow him in his flight. I honored him almost as a god. I felt no need of the LIVING God and had no thought of conversion from my sins.

During my stay in Zuerich I also entirely neglected prayer; even the mechanical prayer learned from childhood seemed ridiculous. In Basel, "Witschels Morning and Evening Sacrifice" appealed to my taste, not so much for the sake of prayer, but because it appealed to my idealism and—with all my sins—I wished to be pious. For that purpose those were the right "sacrifices" that cost nothing. My benighted spirit had by way of Basel the opportunity to cultivate and develop itself more. There were among the students some who belonged to the Community of Brethren. These were distasteful to me from their very name, without knowing any other cause. It was a blind zeal like that of Saul. I became a scoffer, a slanderer and a blasphemer.

On my transfer to Basel I was commended by the State Rector of my native city to the courtesy of one of his friends in Basel, Pastor P. He received me in a very friendly manner and introduced me into a society of long standing compos-

ed of young students who met every Thursday evening to read and discuss the Greek New Testament. Of these students the most were inclined toward the Community of Brethren. For this very reason I felt uncomfortable among them and in everything became an opponent. When they finally decided to begin and close the hour with song and prayer, I became angry and stayed away and also made others desert them, so that gradually the class almost disbanded, until after my conversion when it was again brought to renewed life and blessing.

Nevertheless, the true God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ was not alone in His exceeding patience and longsuffering in bearing with me in this time of my blindness, for this beloved Pastor P. was tireless in his endurance with me. As often as I visited with him (which was not very frequently) he greeted me with the question, "Well, how are things going in the most important matter of all?" What he meant by this and what the most important matter of all was, I could not imagine. Each time I became embarrassed and still did not wish to let him notice it.

(To be continued)

Meditations . . .

(Continued from page 1)

capable of obedience unto the will of God.

But the less we know Christ, the more the darkness of sin and death controls us, for the knowledge of Christ dispels the former darkness because He is the Light and Life of men, just as the darkness of the devil is the death of men; and although the darkness is so powerful that it has covered everything, the Light is still more powerful yet and overcomes the darkness in all those who become converted unto the light and let themselves be enlightened and made alive by Christ.

But the conversion of men must precede as a condition of the new life and whoever does not care to be converted by the call of God because he prefers darkness to the light, remains in death eternally. Therefore the Lord sent John in the wilderness before Him as a messenger of light calling men to repentance, that he witness of the

Light which was to come. But, instead of believing in the Light and being converted from darkness through him, men wished only to rejoice for a time over the appearance of a new prophet, although John was no prophet but the angel of the Lord Himself, who, with his baptism of water unto repentance, should prepare the way in order that they might be, later by Christ, baptized with the Holy Spirit unto the renewing of the divine nature (John 1).

On the whole, in the beginning of his first epistle, "That which was from the beginning . . . declare we unto you," John plainly refers to the beginning of his gospel. The old is ever again also the new (I John 2:7 ff.).

"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

"Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."

Where the knowledge of Christ and His will is concerned, we can never finish learning, according to which we shall walk like children of God. But in the beginning was the Word, the Son of God, and the same appeared in the flesh to take away our sins and to relinquish the control of the devil over us, if we receive Him in faith as the Word of Life and also become sealed by the Spirit of Truth, which He sends in His stead, to establish, in peace and joy, the righteous or the children of God, unto fellowship with the living and true God.

(To be continued)

LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SUGGESTIONS ON ATTENDING CHURCH Psalm 122:1

Bro. Robert Steffen - Bluffton

1. Go to church early. Not only punctual, but be in your place before the announced hour for the service to begin.

2. Go in a reverent spirit. On the way remember where you're going. Avoid lightness of manner and conversation on worldly topics and affairs.

3. Before you enter and as you

enter the church, breathe a silent prayer of invocation for the influence of the Holy Spirit.

4. As you take your place, bow your head reverently in prayer for yourself and for all others who enter the sanctuary and Sunday School.

5. As the ministers go to the pulpit, offer an earnest silent prayer in the ministers' behalf.

6. By faith, resolve that you will foster no thought, fix your eyes on no object, and utter no word that will tend to divert your mind from the holy purpose for which you have come into this place.

7. In all the service take an active part, as hearers, as worshippers, and in song.

8. At the close of the service, after a moment of prayerful silence, greet with cheerfulness, good will and love all whom you happen to meet, remembering that Christian fellowship is a part of Christian worship.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOME QUILT SALE

Summer is racing on. The 4th of July is already passed and the Quilt Sale is quickly approaching. Please plan to join us this year on August 29.

We are ever growing and developing the program as well as the grounds. With the help of our many appreciated volunteers, we

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz
Robert Cockburn
Albert Frautschi
David Bertsch

Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
R. #2, Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$5.00 per year. Send zip no. with address. Remember to send changes of addresses. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

have been able to make and continue these improvements. Please join us at the Quilt Sale and enjoy the fruit of your support with us.

Those interested in donating any handmade items, quilts or antiques, or volunteering their time on the day of the sale or the week before, please contact your local church's Children's Home representative. They will be receiving information from our office.

If any of you need overnight accommodations, please contact Bro. Bob Cockburn at our Children's Home address or telephone 219-627-5138. See you soon.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

Our summer is as fast moving as yours. We have activity to keep all busy. Yesterday, three staff members, two volunteers and seven children picked strawberries. At home, we cleaned and froze them, processed peas and chaffed wheat to grind for flour. Jay and one of the volunteers hoed the garden. Sue, Helen and I made plans for the reception of our new boy Greg, age 14.

Last week was hectic but a very productive one. Besides concluding our V.B.S. program, two former board members and two other brothers and their wives from Illinois, worked our garden, landscaped the East House and constructed a very suitable fence to enclose a play area for our younger children. Thank you to all who have volunteered and supported us in one way or another.

A number of our volunteers spend their vacation time here to help us. One brother stayed with us for a month, some stay a week and others stay throughout the summer. We really appreciate all of them. If this interest is indicative of the Lord's support, we would like to expand this work as the Lord opens the way; to be able to use these eager and very talented volunteers for the sake of more needy children.

Yesterday, Chuck (9) and I were alone. He rode with me to return a borrowed tractor. As we walked home together I asked him, "Chucky, if you had the choice for anything in the world, what would you choose?" He replied in this order: "Have God in my heart, have my mom in my heart, have a trailer and a dump truck." Those

were precious and yet typical choices. His first request for God did surprise me (I could understand why he wanted the last two); so, I asked him why. His reply was, "because He first loved us."

Chucky is a little boy who loves to work, tries hard to please, but has some difficulties. He is one of four Willis children who all have one thing in common. They need people to care. In that respect they are no different than any of us; and yet their circumstances are different than most of ours. Within the last year, the courts have terminated all parental rights of their natural mother. She is no longer eligible to make any contact with them whatsoever. Would you put yourself in their shoes for just a moment? They have a great need for someone to fulfill.

Their houseparents have been trying to fulfill that need for two years, but shortly they could be leaving us. Because their mother's parental rights have been terminated, they are eligible for adoption — by anyone with any belief.

These four brothers and sisters, Thelma 13, Bertha 12, John 11 and Chuch 9, have been receiving two years of structured and disciplined living habits with sound spiritual training from the Word of God. They have also attended more church services on Wednesdays and Sundays in the past two years than in all their lifetime. We would like that lifestyle to continue; for someone to adopt them with the same scriptural beliefs. Therefore we bring this opportunity to you, our brethren. If there are any couples in our fellowship of believers who are interested in adopting, would you prayerfully consider the Willis children. Last month, another family, with adoption intentions, took the Willis' for a week-end trial period. Their beliefs were far from what the children had been taught for the past two years.

Chucky's question on the night before this weekend visit was a heart touching illustration of the children's need for the right kind of parents. Bruce was explaining to the children that they were going to spend the weekend with this new family. With excitement and at the same time anxiety, Chucky asked, "But Dad, if we leave here who is going to pray with us?"

If there is any Christian family interested in adopting these child-

ren we would wholeheartedly welcome your inquiry to our administrator, Bro. Bob Cockburn, at P.O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765. Telephone 219-627-5138.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Feeding, clothing and housing is, of course, a necessary part of caring for our residents. However, these physical aspects of their care are not the most important part. The emotional needs of an individual must be met, so far as we are able.

While the Program Coordinator emphasizes the development of Activity-for-Daily-Living and Social skills, necessary for harmonious living, our activity department is meant to provide an educational program closely related to the individual's interest and capabilities. This is geared to help him to assume responsibility, which in turn gives him a sense of self-worth. Some of the activities used here, which teach facts and skills, as well as attitudes, include recreations as follows:

Therapeutic: Table games, movies (nature, etc.), singalongs, crafts

Religion: Weekly services at the Home, attendance at church for those who are able, Bible discussions, Bible crossword puzzles

Intellectual and Educational: Newspapers (Weekly Readers) and discussions, movies (historical, educational)

Service (at Home): Watering plants, dusting, making beds, etc.

Community service: Rolling cancer bandages, making scrapbooks for hospitals and nursing homes.

Field trips are also a part of the program for the Activity Department.

In future articles, we hope to go into detail about the various classes and activities. You may ask: "Is it worthwhile?" Though we may try, try and try again, the accomplishments which are experienced are worth a great deal as it gives residents the feeling of self-worth. What our situation is, is not so important as the direction in which we are going. In all of this we are fully aware that "we need the prayers of those we love." Please intercede in our behalf.

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; skill is in knowing how to do it; virtue is in doing it.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Dorthy Barnett

God's greatest gift is Jesus. Let us give praise to Christ for the love He showed and gave to us as He hung upon the cross and shed His precious blood for the remission of sins—yours and mine. Our loving Saviour died for us so that we may receive the wonderful gift of eternal life.

Our elder brother, Lavoyd Moore, is still having problems with his back. All Christians' prayers are requested for him.

Bro. Henry Perry still isn't feeling well and has requested that all Christians pray for him.

Two more of God's children have been called home—Satan cannot tempt them anymore. They gave their lives to God many years ago and our congregation has been saddened by their deaths. Sister Alma Haggemmaker was born Jan. 1, 1916 and passed away Apr. 6, 1981. Bro. Marvin Moss was born Dec. 27, 1914 and passed away June 4, 1981. "We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to our relatives, friends and neighbors who sent cards, food and flowers and helped in so many ways during the loss of our loved ones. (The Alma Haggemmaker and Marvin Moss families.)

Funeral services for both our loved ones were conducted by Bro. Lavoyd Moore. We express our gratitude to this humble servant of God. We also thank everyone for their prayers during our time of sorrow. It's such a comfort to know that God is only a prayer away. In times like these, we truly realize how mighty and powerful He is. How blessed and what a privilege to be His children.

One by one our loved ones leave us;
One by one they slip away
Down that dark and lonely valley
Where we too must walk some day.

If its mother's face we're missing,
'Twill be but a little while
When we shall see her face up
yonder,
Lighted with a heavenly smile.

If father is no longer with us,
We shall know he has only gone
On ahead to light the pathway
Which we soon must follow on.

If a child by fate has wandered
To that land of peace and love,

As little flowers when they have
faded. . .
Will bloom again in heaven above.

Some day we'll all be together
In that bright home over there.
There will be no tears, no heart-
aches,
No goodbyes, no vacant chairs.

Yes, someday we'll be together
On a fairer brighter shore,
And the circle reunited
Shall be broken nevermore.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

The weekend of May 23 and 24, the California and Tucson Bible classes and young members enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, hosted by our Phoenix congregation. The many young people enjoyed a picnic at Squaw Peak Park Monday morning before leaving for their homes. Truly this was an opportunity to enjoy God's handiwork—mountains against the blue sky, with warm bright sun capping His creation.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. Eph. 5:31.

On May 31, Sis. Leslie Eggleston and Bro. Gary Schmidgall became one as Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach joined them in marriage. A reception was held in the congregational room. We wish them God's blessings as they make their home with the Morris congregation.

"My Heav'nly mansion, so bright and fair, Home of my Saviour, Would I were there." Hymns of Zion #77. Anna (Ed) Dotterer was called to her heavenly home June 3. We trust the family may take comfort in the fact she no longer suffers from earthly afflictions, but can enjoy a new body, free of physical pain and suffering. Our sympathy is extended to her sister and brother, Sis. Ida Froelich and Bro. Paul Emch, and to her husband, Ed, and sons, Ken, Tim and Larry.

We are grateful for God's healing touch and physical strength bestowed on Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora Schrenk. They were able to assemble with us on June 14, for the first time since their auto accident. Sis. Ora still requires the use of a walker and Bro. Henry uses a cane to aid him. What a joy it is to have them among our assembly once

again. Bro. Alphi Fisher is still in the Intensive Care Unit at this time. We pray God may grant his dear wife, Sis. Gladys, and their sons the much needed faith and physical strength to endure these long hours of concern for their loved one. May they take comfort in the thoughts from Zion's Harp #46. "When burdened with care, When thou wouldst despair, Then call on thy loving Redeemer."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Rachel Bauman as she injured her leg and foot while vacationing in Illinois for the summer. We look forward to her return to Phoenix.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach was with our congregation for two days this month. We pray that God may bless him for sharing the Word with us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Rose Huetten

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Irene Bertschi and her family in the loss of her sister, Sis. Hannah Plattner from Morton, IL. We have many fond memories of her and we will all miss her. She was loved by us all. Sis. Hannah and her husband, Bro. Walt, came to visit us here in Tucson each winter and our prayers go out for them. We hope Bro. Walt will continue to visit us.

"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed! He in time of trouble sends, his grace to meet our every need." Hymns of Zion

Marty Thenhaus has been in the hospital for tests and then back surgery. He is doing much better and has been able to go home. We wish God's continued blessings of health and strength for him. He has been missed by all and we hope he will soon be as good as new.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Mary Witzig - Shirley Witzig

On June 7 Mary Beth Klotzle (Bro. John and Sis. Lois) and Wendy Locher (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine) gave their testimonies of their new found life in Christ and were baptized. It was a day of rejoicing in God's mercy and healing power. Oh, that more souls would turn from sinful life to the life of abundant joy and peace found only through the loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our feelings of sympathy and

prayers for God's comfort are extended to the family of Sis. Nathalia Messer. Sis. Nathalia passed from this life to meet her Savior on June 6. She leaves her husband, Paul, and sons, Paul, Jr. and Carol, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:9-10. We wish to thank the following ministers for coming to visit us: Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson), John and Corbin Bahler (Rockville), John Schmidgall (Oakville), Gene Marti (Lamar), Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Ben Maibach (Detroit), and Noah Herman (Tucson).

Our prayers for God's strength and comfort are with Bro. Bill Hecker as he is in and out of the hospital these last months. He has not been able to assemble with us for some time.

We also wish to thank our many visitors for remembering us and sharing their fellowship with us on their travels. May God bless them for this.

The family of Sis. Nathalia Messer wishes to express their appreciation to all who remembered them at this time of her passing.

Tiffany Maureen DeLay was born April 14, to parents David and Paula DeLay of Big Bear City. Tiffany is their first child. Maternal grandfather is Paul Messer, Jr. and great-grandparents are Paul E. and Nathalia Messer. Paternal grandparents are Gary and Betty Lou DeLay and great-grandparents are Tom and Lathie David. We wish them all much happiness.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, May 31, we had Bro. Jon Schmidgall of Oakville, IA serve us God's Word and direction.

On Sunday, June 7, we had Bro. Richard Schupbach of Phoenix, AZ.

We are so few in number and are always pleased to have visiting ministers with us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Greetings from Colorado! On June 10 we (the Tom Leman family) arrived in Colorado. We have rented a home here through Aug.

10. Our address is 2165 S. Nucla Way, Aurora, and our phone number is 303-751-2968. Anyone in the area is invited to call us or look us up.

May services were held by Bro. Lester Hartter of Berne, KS.

Beginning in June, services are being held every Sunday. The first Sunday, Bro. Elmer Hartter of Milford, IN, held services. The second Sunday Bro. Vernon Wettstein of Congerville, IL, was here when a goodly number were gathered together. Supper was served shortly after services for those who could stay. We plan to do this each Sunday and all are welcome.

We truly appreciate all who assemble with us and those who serve.

We meet at the Victory Grange Hall on Tower Road (Colo. Route 32) in Aurora, between I-70 and U.S. 40 (Colfax Ave.). Services start at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

WHY DO WE PRAY

Man, in his better moments, longs for goodness. He wants to be at peace with himself, and with others as well. He wishes to master life, but he needs God's aid. When we are puzzled, bewildered, seemingly defeated by circumstances, nothing clears our minds and gives us strength and courage like talking the matter over with another. Just the statement of our problems seems to clarify them. As children, we sought relief at the knees of our parents. How great our opportunity, then, to take our doubts, our stumblings, and our great needs to the Heavenly Parent, our Father in prayer.

By prayer, a person may gain forgiveness of sin, may replace doubts with assurance, his fear with courage, his weakness with strength, and fill his soul with peace. He can never appreciate this, however, or realize the full power of prayer until he has seriously tested it out. It's power is without limit. As Jesus emphasizes to us, "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7) Those who doubt the power of prayer are those who have never dared to try it out in full.

We lower our emotional pressures as we unburden our hearts.

Thus prayer should be soothing.

Quite important, our prayer is sharing with God, and with God alone. Even to address our plea to God, but without faith in Him, and without believing that He will hear and answer according to our true needs, is not prayer. Prayer is an act of faith. Without faith there can be no prayer. The mumbling or rapidly repeating of so many even carefully selected words, alone or in concert with others, is neither prayer, nor an acceptable substitute. Some of the most fervent and beautiful expressions of supplications are the prayers which have come down through the centuries in the ritual of the churches. But their repetition by the lips alone—when sentiment does not flow from the heart to the lips—is decidedly not prayer.

Even the repeating of the Lord's Prayer without complete entry into its spirit is hardly acceptable as well-pleasing to God. Prayer that is real is spontaneous and sincere.

Let us consider what we may have learned, and can learn from Jesus' great prayer and from other Bible teachings on prayer. True prayer is the communion of a believing heart (Ps. 27:8). We pray to God alone, and never to angels (Rev. 22:8-9), nor to departed saints (Matt. 4:10). When we pray, we stand in His presence (Dan. 9:18). It is the posture of the heart, rather than of the body, that is important (Ps. 24:3,4). Spoken words are not always necessary (Rom. 8:26,27). But they are effective (Rom. 16:25,26). Prayer for temporal blessings is conditional (Matt. 26:39); while for spiritual blessings we may consider there is no limitation (II Cor. 12:9).

Why do we pray? When the heart fills with emotion, we must share it, if we are to find relief and peace. Thus in prayer we seek relief through sharing, and in looking for guidance, strength, forgiveness, correction, or in seeking an outlet for affection, good will, and thankfulness. As a consequence every prayer is aimed at a need, and the more urgent the need, the more surely it should find expression in prayer to God.

The following may be a late reporting; still, the impressive event that took place centuries ago never grows old. The night of the Last Supper that the Lord and His disciples spent together is relived

from time to time here with reverence and in remembrance of Christ's suffering and agony on the cross. Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner, Croghan, and Robert Beyer, Naumberg, NY, were present to assist our Elder Bro. John Bahler.

Sis. Flora Feldman passed away May 1 at her home. Her death was sudden but she had been in failing health for some time. She is survived by three daughters, Sis. Arline (Kenneth) Bahler, Sis. Harriot (Clifford) Farney and Sis. Lois (Owen) Bahler, and a brother, Bro. John Moser, and a sister, Mrs. Otto Lanz. Burial was in Ellington Center Cemetery.

Sis. Marie (Isch) Lanz, 76, died at Rockville General Hospital Monday, June 15. Born in Ellington, she lived in Ellington all her life. She leaves her husband, Henry Lanz; two sons, Henry K. Lanz of New York City and Ralph N. Lanz of Litchfield, OH; a daughter, Phyllis Lanz of Ellington; four brothers, Nicholas Isch of Wethersfield, Fred Isch and Edward Isch, both of Ellington, and Howard Isch of Rockville; four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Sally Gress

We wish to thank Bros. Al Schneider of Rockville, CT, and Bob Pflederer of Morton, IL, for ministering to us this month.

Our annual elections were held this month. Bro. Roger Sauder and Sis. Sharon Lawson were reelected as Sunday School teachers. Bro. Rod Gress was elected trustee and Sis. Joyce Troxel, kitchen committee.

Our fellowship hall is now completely paid for and we wish to thank all those who contributed time and money. We hope this building will be used and enjoyed for many, many years.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Roche

We were privileged in being able to partake of holy communion on Sunday, May 17. We were served by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. This is so good and also a commandment of God. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til He comes." I Cor. 11:26

Other ministers visiting us were Bro. Ed Alt, Cissna Park, IL; Bro. Bob Walder, Congerville, IL; and

Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, MI. The latter spoke of the value of time, that our light should shine, gathering oil thru working for the Lord for eternal gain.

Perry Pohanka suffered a deep cut and loss of part of his thumb in an accident while at work.

Bro. Elmer Jacob has returned home after a stay in the hospital. We pray the Lord will give him new strength and we are happy to have him back in our midst.

We sympathize with Johanna Balok (who worshipped with us in the winter) in the passing of her husband, Mike Balok at the Manatee Hospital, Bradenton, FL. He was taken to Michigan for burial. May she be comforted by the Christian love of all their friends.

We welcome Rodomir and Denise Midjahov and their daughters, Daniela and Lillian, from West Akron, OH, as permanent residents. Denise is the daughter of Stan and Kata Katanic.

Other new residents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Audrey Foster from Oakville, IA. Their address is: 1806 Hibiscus Ct., South Oldsmar, FL 33557. We welcome them and may God bless their new home.

Sis. Helen Laparo had surprise visitors when her son, Bro. Ron, and his wife, Sis. Karen, of Columbus, OH (Rittman) brought their new son, Michael, to see his grandparents.

The congregation voted overwhelmingly to appropriate money to draw up plans for a fellowship hall to be constructed immediately to the rear of our existing church building. It will also be used for Sunday School and dining room when necessary. It was emphasized that before actual construction could proceed, it will be necessary to be brought before the congregation for approval. This will allow time to present a price for the project and determine size, etc. It is hoped that if we can proceed modestly we would have the project ready for construction this fall when northern brothers and friends arrive. It is our desire to utilize as much of our own help as possible in the construction. We are extremely grateful for the unity expressed by all in the vote to allow us to make this beginning so we can furnish more detail for final decision.

A midweek service was held again in the Tampa area at the

home of Gordon and Marilyn Bryant.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL Mary Huber - Jean O'Shea

The Lord has again blessed our congregation with a precious bundle from Heaven. Gretchen Lynn was born on June 9 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea. She is the sister of Casey and Aaron.

We appreciate the efforts of Bros. Marshall Heinold, Bruce Le-man, Eugene Bertsche, and Glenn Dill who shared the Word with us during Vacation Bible School. May God bless them for giving of their time and talents.

On June 14 a group of brothers and sisters from the Fairbury congregation spent the day with us. It is always a joy when we have visitors to share with us.

With Father's Day so close I think we should all take time out of our busy schedules to thank our fathers for everything they have done for us. But most of all we need to thank our Heavenly Father for what He's done for us; because of Him we can all have the hope of eternal life.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

Elder Bro. Dave Kieser and Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) were with us on the evening of June 6 when Don Knobloch gave his testimony of faith. The following day we witnessed Don's baptism and joyfully welcomed him as our newest brother-in-faith. He is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch.

We rejoice that Denise Duckworth (daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Delores) has turned to God in repentance. May she receive His wonderful peace in her heart.

Bro. Don Manz (Junction) spent a Sunday with us recently. We praise God for providing brothers willing to proclaim His precious Word.

We are thankful the health of Bro. Louie Rumbold has greatly improved. He wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness and prayers while he was in the hospital and since returning home. He asks God to bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" is a song which expresses a sentiment many of us would

like to achieve. A trip to the Holy Land, to Israel, to be on the paths that Jesus trod seems a special pilgrimage, not at all required, but if possible, how blessedly fraught with meaning. Much, much more importantly each of us needs to know individually that "I walked today how Jesus walked." Of course, it doesn't matter whether or not we wore sandals, too, but rather if we spoke kindly, looked as much as possible into each other person's heart with love, and used our talents completely in the framework of His will.

In a sermon we were reminded of the billboards of the city of Chicago, one more seductive than the next in advertising the delicious looking, sounding temptations of the world. Yet among them stands one which proclaims: "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. Likewise, amidst all the worldly activity, there are still godly men willing to proclaim the Gospel to those who will hear. We thank Bro. Lee Bahler, Rockville, CT, for his Wednesday evening ministry June 17.

Truly worry is a needless activity. If the Lord causes it to rain, there is a purpose. Sunshine, too, occurs in His own time. If we are always filled with Sonlight, we cannot despair, rather turn to prayer. Our Sunday School picnic June 14 was on one of those blessed days where the Lord provided far above our needlessly dismal expectations. The spiritual, emotional, and physical food supplied there were bounteous!

"I am Alpha . . . the beginning . . . , saith the Lord . . ." Revelation 1:8. Many have been involved in beginnings. Daniel Steven Lau, second son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene Lau, was born May 22. His older brother is Chris and grandparents are Ed and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner, Forrest, and Mrs. Kathleen Chu, Vancouver, British Columbia. Gail Metzger, daughter of Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger, graduated from high school and will be going to the University of Iowa, studying nursing. Three recently graduated also from the University of Illinois, Champaign. Alex Jankovich, grandson of Sis. Maria Benks, finished his work in December on his B.S. in accounting. He has worked for Consolidated Foods in Chicago since Jan-

uary. He went through the graduation ceremony with his class. Brett McNeill, son of Dorothy and Bro. Matt Strahm, finished his work-school sequence and graduated with a B.S. in engineering. He will be working with the Santa Fe Railroad, out of California. Bro. Jeff Leman, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman, newly graduated and newly married June 21 to Sis. Jaclyn Gramm, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola Gramm in Gridley, IL, will be working in Chicago in the field of accounting. Sis. Jaclyn will be continuing her college education at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. To all we wish God's richest blessings and extend congratulations and our love.

"I am . . . Omega, . . . the ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8. Sis. Alma Cordell lost a sister, Sophia, of Ft. Scott, KS. "... behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen . . ." Revelation 1:18. May she be comforted. Bro. Ray Young is still suffering and in terrible pain. He is once again in the hospital. Our hearts cry out to the Lord for his grace, deliverance, and if it be His will, his life without such painful anguish.

"All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." Ralph Waldo Emerson. A poster with that quote hangs in my classroom, and I hope that each one knows who is our Creator and Maker. Something I overheard makes me wonder, though. "A" had put together a dough for a batch of doughnuts and rolled them out. "B," helping out, took the rolled out doughnuts and holes, fried them in oil, and sugared them. "C" exclaimed in delight at the great doughnuts "B" had made. Now obviously "A" didn't need to get upset if that's all there was to the incident, but don't you suppose he/she wondered? Let's think of Him who created all mankind and gave every lovely and inspirational gift. How does mankind react? Generally, is God praised for the mountains and oceans He created? Sometimes, but not as a whole—they're just there. Generally, is God praised for the miracle of the Sears tower, the laser, computer technology? Not really—people consider that man's frying and sugar coating is

the making. Ironically enough, in the world, at Satan's behest, God is most often given credit instead for poverty, crime, famine, pestilence, disease. Yet we know: "Every good and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

P.S. Looking down at Chicago's buildings, people, and traffic from the observation deck of the Sears Tower gives one a different perspective on one's "bigness." Ever think about the long perspective God has as He takes in a view of the whole world? But He listens closely to each of our prayers, our tears, our very sighs.

We were asked in a sermon whether we are in the school of suffering or in the playground of prosperity. I am told that when we are full, we can only call our trust contentment. It is when we are hungry that it may shine forth as true faith.

Dear friends of ours are highly allergic to many substances you and I take for granted. Their house has inside walls of foil and is bare of synthetic carpeting and plush furniture. They maintain that those they love appreciate the people in their home and are coming to see them, not the place. And they are correct. Lord, we thank thee for the things we have as well as for those things we don't have to have. After all, who really wants one of everything? Why not have One and have everything?!

We were taught of the prodigal son whose father hurt and prayed and anxiously hoped for his son's return. However, it was to the son that the realization had to come that there was a better life available, it was the son who had to become disgusted and turn from his ways, the son whose journey (maybe longer, maybe shorter) back past previous influences and memories and temptations had to culminate in the arrival at his father's feet. Then the father could open his arms, restore his son to the fullness of life, and grant his fatherly peace and blessings. How like a father He is.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

Quite a number from our congregation have been hospitalized re-

cently. Medical patients have been: Sis. Ida Rocke, Sis. Anna Hari (Bro. Joe), Jim Baurer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta), Bro. Wm. Feller, and Bro. Joe Clauss. May the great Physician extend His healing power to all who have been ill.

Bro. John Farney, 63, passed away on June 17. He is survived by 10 sisters: Sis. Anna Nuest, Lacroisse, Sis. Helen Lackey, Paxton, Sis. Louise Manz, Junction, OH, Sophia Peyer, Whitewater, WI, Sis. Caroline Leman, Eureka, Clara Bodager, Jeromesville, OH. Sis. Esther Steiner and Martha Farney, East Lynn, Sis. Marjorie Knapp, Congerville, Lucille Baker, Jeromesville, OH, and a brother, Ben, of Rankin. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Our condolences are also extended to Bro. John and Sis. Emma Wahl on the passing of their son-in-law, Ray Cleary, who was killed in a highway accident. We remember Sisters Dorothy Walder (Bro. Lester) and Helen Hoffman (Bro. Harry) in our prayers on the passing of their mother, Sis. Louise Baurer of Princeville.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Pam Walder (Bro. Lester and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Sam Furrer of Fairbury. A fall wedding is being planned.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who come to share God's Word with us. Bros. Raymond Roth, Kiowa, and Robert Beebe, South Bend, were with us this month.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Mardell Ott - Shirley Ifft

We extend our best wishes and God's richest blessings to Sis. Karen Knapp and Bro. Dennis Leman whose marriage was solemnized May 24 by Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke. Their parents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Roanoke). We also enjoyed Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard (Fairbury) and Bro. Gene Lehman's (Wolcott) presence with us that day.

Our annual Sundal School election was held. Bro. Byron Schrock and Bro. Kim Craig were elected to teach and instruct the dear children. May they feel God's grace and seek His wisdom.

Several homes have been blest

with precious little bundles. Bro. Jake and Sis. Marion Miller are enjoying two new grandchildren with the birth of Blake, born to Warren and Catherine Miller of Eureka, and Melinka, born to Linda and Rick Payne of Guthrie, OK. Other grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bartness and Mrs. Ruth Payne.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinckenberger were blessed with little Wendy who is also loved and enjoyed by Chet and Bonny. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke, Eureka, and Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha Rinckenberger.

Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen are enjoying the arrival of their first child, David. Grandparents are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach, Oakville, IA, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen.

Born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp is Heidi. She is welcomed home by Derek, Sara, John, Josh and Mari. Bro. and Sis. Bill Kemp, Eureka, and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp are grandparents.

Ruth Miller was hospitalized. We hope she is feeling better. Sis. Peninna Miller, who is home recuperating from surgery wishes to thank all who thought of her in prayers, with cards, gifts, visits and food. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh they may open unto him immediately. . ." and "Be ye therefore ready also: for the son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." (Luke 12:35, 36, 40) The Lord spoke of a state of readiness, and that readiness must be unconditional. We cannot say we will be ready if we are given this help or that. We strive to obtain and yet our striving is in vain unless we are striving for the perfection of Christ in our lives. Each day anew we have to consider our direction. Is it where the Lord would have us to be going? Has self will taken possession? In our recent vacation Bible school we sang a simple song that simply stated, "Which way

are you traveling, the broad or narrow way?"

Communion was served to us on May 31 by our beloved elders. What a blessed way the Lord has provided for His children to help us to keep our loins girded about us and our lights burning. He has not left us as orphans and we can be so thankful.

A new little son, Adam Wayne, was born to Ron and Karen Freed May 25. Little Joshua completes their family. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Freed and Bro. Delbert and Sis. Jeanette Schmidt are the grandparents.

Bro. Ronald Schambach has been called into the ministry, and it is with grateful hearts that we say we could feel the presence of the Lord among us in selecting this brother. We feel a great responsibility toward him and his family in supporting him in his efforts as he seeks the Lord for direction.

Bro. Les Schambach has been selected to serve as a teacher in the Sunday School. This also is a solemn charge not to be taken lightly. We pray that Bro. Les will have the needed grace to point out the scriptures to the young and tender hearts at a time in their lives when they are often torn between doing that which they know to be right and following after the attractions of the world.

Illness and suffering has again been the lot of several of our dear ones. It is so important that we remember to commit these people to the Lord in prayer for we know often when the body is weakened, Satan, who is totally void of mercy, likes to take the opportunity to bring his hordes to discourage and tempt the brethren. Bro. Edward Schambach, Sis. Marilyn Steffen, Bro. Don Schambach, and Bro. Herman Braun have undergone surgery and are recuperating. Also hospitalized were William and Alvina Schuman (father and mother of Sis. Jeanette Schmidt), Ed Schifferer and Bro. Stan Schambach. Sis. Gertude Sauder has been laid up in her home with a painful back condition.

We appreciate it when ministering brothers from various congregations assemble with us from time to time and bring us the Word of God. Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) taught us in the ways of the Lord when they

visited and we wish to say thank you.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch of Girard, OH, spent the weekend of May 24 with us. We thank Bro. Harold for ministering to us.

Bro. Lee Blunier is slowly recovering his strength from injuries suffered in an auto accident. His car rolled over him, pinning him underneath, as he was cleaning out a drainage tile at the edge of the church parking lot. Although he still suffers pain in his arm and between the shoulders, he is thankful his injuries were not more serious and feels God was with him and sent help to free him.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein have a new baby boy, Edward Lee, born on May 28. He has a little sister, Cynthia, and a brother, Samuel. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Denna Wettstein and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman of Goodfield. The parents of another baby boy are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle. Douglass Todd was born on May 29. Their other children are Daniel, Nathan and Becky. His grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Bradle of Roanoke and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber.

On Sunday, May 30, two more lambs were added to the flock. Our new brothers in faith are Larry and Lloyd, sons of Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna Wettstein. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Walter Anliker shared in this important work.

Sunday, June 7, we heard the wedding vows of Bro. Ron Hartter and Sis. Janet Schmidgall as they were united as husband and wife in the Lord. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin life together. Elder Bro. Leroy performed the ceremony. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Hartter.

Bro. Ed Knecht and his family from Portland have been visiting his family in this area. We thank him for bringing us God's Word on Sunday, June 14.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

Our high school graduates this year were Sis. Jean Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Viola); Ben Bolliger

(Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn); Susan Broquard (Ken and Ruth); Jim Farley (Charles and Arlene); Bro. Nathan Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma); Sis. Gwen Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge); Patti Moser (Keith and Nita); Sis. Lou Ann Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice); Bro. Jeff Thames (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kay); and Bro. Quinn Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores). Some of them plan to go to college this fall. May they always look to God for their guidance and help.

We miss Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and their family from our congregation as they have moved to the Silverton, OR, area. May God be near them as they establish their new home.

On May 16, Tina Hobart (daughter of Larry and Sharon and granddaughter of Sis. Shirley Aberle) and Leon Ifft (Gilbert and Mary) were united in marriage. On June 7, the engagement of Sis. Diane Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) and Bro. Jim Koehl (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys) of Forrest was announced. On June 14, the engagement of Bro. Sam Furrer (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Pam Walder (Bro. Lester and Sis. Dorothy) of Cissna Park was announced. We wish each of these couples God's blessings in their undertakings.

Bro. Joe Slagel, who had a stroke after open heart surgery, is now in Wheaton, IL, receiving therapy. He expects to be back at his home on July 14. Bro. Silas Claus is in a Champaign hospital recovering from a broken hip. May God's healing power and strength be felt by all who are ill.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month and appreciate their efforts in bringing us God's Word. They were Bros. Paul Gasser, Akron; Carl Wyss, Washington; Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park; John Steiner, Oakville; William Hodel, Roanoke; Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka; and Earl Kilgus, Remington.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Fachtold - Kathy Leman

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.

Psalm 28:7

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the dear ones who have been in the hospital recently. They are Kristen

Kupferschmid (Bro. Alf and Sis. Wanda), Sis. Sarah Koehl, Sis. Louise Zimmerman, Andy Metz, Sis. Bernice Cox, Sis. Esther Honegger, and Bro. Meredith Ricketts

A little bundle of joy was welcomed into the hearts and home of Ed and Sis. Renae Wenger. Rachel Marie has a sister, Sara, to help care for her. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia Wenger.

It was a beautiful day in June when our Bible class students hosted the Bible class students from Cissna Park. May the friendships that were formed lead to lasting friendships of Christian love.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Jim Koehl (Bro. Virg and Sis. Gladys) to Sis. Diane Walters (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) of Fairbury. May God be their Guide as they make plans for their wedding.

The sands of time
Are shifting and deep,
A wearisome trudge
For the traveler's feet.
But the Master puts stones
On which to stand—
To be, as it were
A helping hand!

Unknown

May we seek out the "Master's stones" as we continue onward on the path of life.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Pam Wiegand

We were very happy to add three new members to our congregation. They are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish (Grimm) Gerber and Sis. Evelyn (Debolt) Hofmann. We thank God for them.

Phillip Jason is the new son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss. He was born June 4, and his grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Shirley Wyss and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arlene Huette of Tremont.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda Hinrichson are the proud parents of a baby boy, Robert James, born June 9. Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichson and Vance Moore of Mackinaw are the grandparents.

June 14 was a beautiful Sunday. We held our church Open House and were happy to have so many visitors.

We always enjoy having visiting ministers. We thank Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana), Elder Bro.

Don Sauder (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissa Park), Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton).

We express our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Joy Hohulin in the loss of her mother, Sis. Hanna Plattner of Peoria.

Sis. Clara Zobrist has had eye surgery. Also hospitalized were Sis. Ruth Grimm and little Joan Wiegand, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose. All our loved ones are back home, for which we are thankful.

Sis. Laura Steffen wishes to thank all those who aided her on the day she became ill and also those who expressed their love and kindness during her hospital stay.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him."

D. W. Whittle

The conversion of a life from the darkness of sin into the light of the gospel of Christ and the freedom that His righteousness will provide for the humble heart, is indeed a miracle that is beyond our comprehension. When we witness this wonderful change in loved ones around us, we have to marvel as we concur with the profound truth that states: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." 2 Cor. 6:17. We are happy for Mike Zimmerman and his parents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen, since he has made this experience and has felt the peace of God in his heart. Lord willing, he will give his testimony and be baptized on June 28.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Curtis Witzig, son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie, to Sis. Norma Zimmerman, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen, all of Gridley, was announced.

Sis. Jackie Gramm, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola of Gridley, was united in marriage to Bro. Jeff Leman, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie of Chicago, on June 21. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago and Bro. Harold Gramm of Morris here for the occasion.

We also appreciated the visits

of ministering brothers Kent Heimer and Gerald Sutter of Taylor. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville and ministering Bro. Ken Hoerr of Peoria were here on two week nights following Vacation Bible School to talk to the Bible Class and others who wished to attend.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Ray Meiss, Sis. Mary Stoller, Sis. Rosie Gramm (Mrs. Don) and Whitney Maurer, 8 yr. old son of Bro. J. D. and Sis. Sandy.

Kim Ringger, daughter of Jake and Barbara of Gridley, was married to Tim Brookhart of Macomb, IL on May 24.

ILLINOIS ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Sandy Gramm

How good it is to feel the warm summer sun on our faces, to see the green grass, trees, and beautiful flowers, to hear the birds singing, and to know that every blade of grass, every leaf, flower, and every bird was created by God, our Heavenly Father. The wonder and power of His might is more than our minds can fathom, and yet, He knows the number of hairs on our heads.

It seems so often when problems occur, especially the small ones, we in our weakness, try to solve them and find the answers ourselves. Often, even when we do take it to Him in prayer, if we don't receive an answer right away, we try to take it into our own hands. David has some excellent advice for us. In Psalm 27:14, he said, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." So, whenever we find ourselves running ahead of the Lord, trying to find our own answers, we must remember David's words, "Wait on the Lord."

ILLINOIS, MORTON

JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Joseph Stieglitz was called Home very suddenly. He was sick for a short time. May God comfort his wife, Lena, his family and friends. His funeral was May 19.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Getz welcome into their hearts and home their first child, Casey Phillip. Casey was born on June 6 and his happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Getz and Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm, all of Morton.

Lloyd Belsley was called Home to be forever with the Lord. His funeral was June 8. May God comfort his family and friends.

The Morton congregation wishes to thank Bro. Henry Grimm for keeping the Charity Fund for our church for so many years. Bro. Henry felt it was time now for one of the other ministering brothers to have charge of our Charity Fund. We want to wish Bro. Joe Zimmerman God's blessings and grace as this duty has now fallen upon him.

Vacation Bible School was held on June 1 through June 5. It was good to see so many of our children and young people interested in learning more about Jesus. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will bless His Word which has been planted into these young and tender hearts.

The Sunday School picnic was held at the Morton Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, June 14. There was blessed fellowship and a delicious dinner enjoyed by all.

We wish to congratulate our high school graduates of 1981. We wish them God's blessings and grace as they will now seek employment or go on to schools of higher learning. Our graduates are Brent Braker, Sandy Byrd, Sis. Diane Fischer, Leslie Hicks, Sis. Lisa Kaiser, Sis. Mary Kaiser, Sis. Chris Knoblock, Rick Miller, Mark Nelson, Kim Schmidgall, Sis. Sue Schrock, Bro. Phil Witzig, and Bro. Marten Zimmerman.

We gathered together in God's house on Saturday evening to hear the testimonies of two dear souls, Andy Pflederer, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor Pflederer and Steve Galbraith, son of Wayne and Marlene (Springer) Galbraith. We witnessed their baptisms on Sunday, June 14. May our Heavenly Father richly bless our two new brothers as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

We were pleased to have the following visiting ministers with us the past month: Bros. Floyd Wieland, Detroit, MI; Glenn Dill, Tremont, IL; Walt Anliker, Eureka, IL, and Ron Heiniger, Bloomington-Normal, IL. We thank each of them for their labors of love. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them.

The following loved ones have spent some time in the hospital recently. They are Sis. Katie Bels-

ley, Sis. Lavina Kilgus, Sis. Verena Heiniger, Sis. Anna Yentes, Janet Simpson, Sis. Sylvia Schmidgall, and Bro. Leo Funk. May God continue to be with them and all who would be sick or shut-in. May we all continue to remember all of them in our prayers.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner

We were happy to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Judy Hemmer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian) to Bro. Stan Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella) of Mansfield, OH. The couple is planning a September wedding.

Also, the engagement of Sis. Jenny Waibel (Bill and Sis. Joyce) to Bro. Craig Wieland (Bro. Don and Sis. LuAnn) of Bay City, MI, was announced.

May God give unto each of these dear couples lots of joy and happiness as they plan their future together.

The wedding of Laversa Streitmatter to Joe Sabo of Mansfield, OH, was on June 5 at our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder's home. Laversa will be making her new home in Mansfield. May God bless their new life together.

Our congregation has been blessed with two dear little souls. Samuel Lee was born to Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody Hoerr. His brother Wesley welcomes him home with open arms. Grandparents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr.

Mark David welcomes home his new brother, Brian Edward. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Nanette David. Grandparents are Wade and Marjorie Fehr and Mrs. Nina David. May God watch over and bless His little children.

Sis. Louise Baurer was a hospital patient this month.

Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion, With our dear loved ones who've gone before; In that fair home-land we'll know no parting, Beyond the sunset forever more.

Hymns of Zion Pg. 172

June 2 was the funeral of Bro. Ben Hanscher. Surviving are his daughter, Betty, grandchildren and brothers and sisters.

June 7 was the funeral of Sis. Hannah Plattner. She is survived by her husband, Walter Plattner, and children, Sis. Joy Hohulin of Morton, Jay of Oswego, OR, and foster daughter, Mary Catherine

Getz of Peoria. Brothers, sisters and grandchildren also survive.

Sis. Louise Baurer of our Apostolic Christian Home was called to rest and her funeral was June 9. She is survived by her husband, John F. Baurer, and children: John of Peoria, Bro. Arthur and Bro. Edwin of Princeville, Willis of Des Moines, IA, Sis. Helen (Harry) Hoffman and Sis. Dorothy (Lester) Walder of Hoopston (Cissna Park), and Sis. Evalyn (Noah) Hermann of Williamsfield (Princeville).

Our sympathy and prayers are shared with each of these families out of which the Lord has taken their loved ones to rest. May God comfort their hearts and homes with His presence.

We want to thank Bro. Rodney and Sis. Judy Getz for the time they spent out at our Fellowship Hall as our administrators.

We welcome our new administrators, Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner of Winthrop, MN. We pray that they will find much comfort and love as they make their new home here with us in our Peoria congregation. May God bless them.

Goodfield and Roanoke Bible Classes spent the day in Peoria May 17. We enjoyed having them.

On May 17 we were blessed to have combined choirs of Roanoke, Morton, Goodfield, and Peoria for our monthly hymn sing.

The high school graduates of our Senior Bible Class had a breakfast at the Fellowship Hall and were presented with Bibles on May 31.

Vacation Bible Classes were held the week of June 8.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The Lord reminded Moses of at least eight of His characteristics in Exodus 34:6,7. Many times we are encouraged to spend more time thinking about who God is. Visiting ministers who gave us this encouragement have been Bros. Edwin Ringger of Gridley, Simon Wagenbach of Tremont, Nate Stoller of Bradford, and Kenneth Dietz of Bradford.

We rejoiced Sunday, June 14, when we witnessed the baptisms of five dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are Brent Stoller, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller; Marvin Herrmann, son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Lou

Herrmann; Jane Leuthold, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold; Pam Wagenbach, daughter of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach; and Renee Baurer, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer.

Trent Michael Regier was born on June 2. He is the first child of Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier. His grandparents are Richard and Helen Regier of Princeville and Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser of Bradford.

On May 24 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Dennis Aupperle to Sis. Cindy Knobloch. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy are from our congregation. Their parents are Elias and Greta Aupperle of Fairbury and Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch of Princeville.

Our high school graduates were honored at a breakfast on May 17 at our Fellowship Hall. Our graduates and their parents are Deonne Baurer (Bro. Art and Sis. Joy), Sis. Renee Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Mary Beth Berchtold (Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan), Kurt Christ (Bro. Walt and Sis. Doris), Annette Gerst (Bro. Dick and Cleo), Jaron Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou), Dean Herrmann (Bro. Noah and Sis. Evie), Doug Herrmann (Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Lou), Kevin Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), Keith Knobloch (Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys), Ed Martin (Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna), Marsha Rumbold (Russ and Sis. Roma), David Streitmatter (Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce), Scott Streitmatter (Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny), Karen Wagenbach (Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty), and Sis. Pam Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine).

Shut-ins have been Bro. Erik Givens; Kent Streitmatter, son of Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla; and Sis. Mary Musselman, wife of Bro. Phillip. All are on the road to recovery and are back in church with us again.

Sis. Louise Miller Baurer, wife of Bro. John, passed away June 7 at the St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. Bro. John and Sis. Louise were married June 8, 1924, in Princeville and lived in our area until they moved to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home a few years ago. We extend our sympathy to Bro. John and his children, John Baurer of Peoria; Bro. Art Baurer, Bro. Ed Baurer, and

Sis. Evalyn Herrmann of our congregation; Sis. Dorothy Walder and Sis. Helen Hoffman of Cissna Park; and Willis Baurer of Des Moines, IA. Sis. Louise is also survived by 21 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel - Carol Rumbold

Romans 12:15 tells us to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." This month in Roanoke we have again rejoiced together and wept together.

On May 24 many of our congregation worshipped in Congerville as we rejoiced together in the marriage of Bro. Dennis Leman and Sis. Karen Knapp. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Marge Knapp, and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman. We welcome Sis. Karen to our congregation.

May 31 was the beautiful wedding day of Bro. Steve Pfister and Sis. Linda Zimmerman. They are the children of the Gene Zimmermans of Eureka and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister. We rejoice that they are establishing a new Christian home.

We were saddened by the sudden passing of our Bro. Joe Rocke, 72, on May 28. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Agnes (Stoller), a daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Elgin, a sister, Sis. Emma Blunier, and a brother, Bro. Melvin. Bro. Joe and Sis. Agnes would have celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in just a few days, but we were reminded that they can do that in Heaven. We shall fondly remember Bro. Joe's quiet and peaceable lifestyle. May we likewise strive to live Godly and contented lives.

As we enjoyed a blessed weekend of provings and baptisms, we were reminded of both God's might and His gentleness as He works differently in the conversions of each of us. We look forward to walking the path of life now with our new Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam (Bro. Les and Sis. Lucy Fischer) Isaia, Sis. Lynette Moser (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa), and Bro. Herb Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra).

At this writing we are in the midst of Summer Bible School. It is heartwarming to see young people spend their free time in this way. We appreciate so much the time Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Glenn Dill (Tremont), Don S a u d e r (Roanoke),

Edwin Ringger (Gridley), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign) have given in teaching our Bible Class students. May God's name be glorified.

Our Sis. Martha Martin has been dismissed from the hospital and is residing in our church home. She appreciates our visiting her there. We should remember Sis. Minnie Leman in our prayers. Harvey Fischer (Fred and Sis. Wilma) hurt his arm badly in a recent explosion. We pray that he may regain use of his arm, the Lord willing.

We thank Bros. David Bertsch (Leo), Edwin Ringger (Gridley), and Raymond Roth (Kiowa) for giving of themselves for our benefit.

As many of us will be traveling this summer, let us remember not to take a vacation from God. Let us include another of our congregations in our travel plans. Could we not say that the Bible is to the Christian what a road map is to the traveler? Let us take both with us.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang

"Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow . . ."

Zion's Harp #37

Cindy Dill and Gregg Sauder were united in holy matrimony on May 30. Parents of the couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna Sauder. We wish them many blessings as they start their life together.

Visiting us this month were Bros. Edwin Hohulin (Goodfield), Joe Schrock (Congerville), Joe Braker (Morton), and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We sincerely thank these brothers for their labor of love.

On May 30 we were privileged to hear the testimonies of six converts and then witness their baptisms the following day. Our new sisters in faith are Cherie Schweigert (Willard and Della), Barbara Huette (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn), Teresa Huette (Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene), Jennifer Lang (Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis), Cathy Baer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris), and Shiela Bolliger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn). We extend to them a hearty welcome into our brotherhood.

We congratulate our graduates and wish them much success in the future. Eighth Grade graduates

are: Marla Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn), Susan Frank (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam), Janet and Joyce Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene), Troy Martin (Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy), Keith Michel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen), Ted Pflederer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee), Anna Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann), John Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), Jay Schmidgall (George and Grace), and Robbie Schweigert (Willard and Della).

High School graduates are: Andy Aberle (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda), Debbie Beukas (AFS student staying with Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner), Curt Bolliger (Sis. Alma), David Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn), Beth Frank (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosemary), Doug Frank (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam), Gail Glueck (Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda), Elizabeth Gschwind (Aaron and Iris), Virgil Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene), Mark Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene), Judy Koch (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna), Greg Martin (Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy), Brad Schweigert (Clifford and Roberta), Paul Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann), and Ruth Sinn (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen).

We are sorry that Sis. Lillian Schmid is in the hospital at this time. Our prayers are that she will soon be able to assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Charlen Banwart

VACATION PRAYER

"Loving Father, who didst make this earth so fair, open our eyes to see its wonders and our hearts to feel its beauty. In our days of refreshment and recreation, draw us nearer to Thee through the things which Thou hast made. May the joy of Thy sunshine, the quiet of Thy forests, the murmur of Thy streams, and the steadfast strength of Thine everlasting hills teach us the deep secret of Thy peace."

"Renew in us faith and courage, physical strength and spiritual vision, that we may know ourselves to be safely held in Thy strong hands."

"From this life, so near to Nature's heart, may we drink in new strength to help us reach the restless hearts of men. May we go back to the world and its duties, stronger, simpler, sweeter, and thus become more worthy messen-

gers of Him who saw His Father's goodness in the sparrow's flight and His Father's love in the beauty which clothes the lilies of the field."

H. L. Burleson

Vacation Bible School was held June 15-20. Visiting ministers who spoke to the Bible Class were Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), Bro. Bill Kupferschmidt (Bloomington), and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton). We thank them as well as Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville). Both of them visited us on recent Sundays.

Sis. Beth Alt was graduated from nurses' training and has moved to the home of her parents in Cissna. Rita Richardson's name was omitted in an earlier article which reported high school graduates from our congregation. She is the daughter of Sis. Lucille of Sibley.

Our congregation is losing one couple and gaining another. Bro. Bud and Sis. Kay DesCarpentrie and their children, Leigh and Jem, are moving to the DeKalb area. We have enjoyed having them with us for the past year and wish them the Lord's continued blessings in their new home. Our new couple will be Bro. Sam Furrer and Sis. Pam Walder, whose engagement was announced recently. Both are students here. May God bless them as they join hand and heart.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Mary and Joan Schick

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1. As we celebrate Independence Day, we are thankful for all our blessings. God has been so good to us to grant freedom in our land. Those who are children of God have a special freedom—the freedom God has given us from sin and this world. It takes constant effort to keep our eyes on Jesus so we don't become entangled in this busy world and forget Him.

Our high school graduates this year are Mark Wagenbach, Mike Wagenbach, Doug Schumacher, Sis. Evie Heinold, and Curt Heinold. We pray that God will watch over them and direct each of their lives.

Vacation Bible School was held June 8-12. We're thankful to each one who attended, and hope that

the word which was taught will stay in each heart and bring forth a love for God and a desire to serve Him.

A special thanks to Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) who visited us and shared God's Word with us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Tammy Gerber

Gayla Baumgartner

"For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16. Sis. Becky Meyer and Bro. Gene Gerber were united as one in the Lord on May 31. Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer are Sis. Becky's parents. Bro. Gene's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Evelyn Gerber.

Sis. Sherri Frauhiger and Bro. Mark Longenberger were united in holy matrimony on June 7. Their parents are Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longenberger.

By God's love and guidance, Sis. Karen Gerber (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille) and Bro. Duane Steffen (Bro. Robert) have announced their engagement. They are planning an Aug. 16 wedding.

Believing it is the Lord's will Sis. Peggy Gerber and Bro. Darryl Aschliman announced their engagement. They are planning a Sept. 13 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Rosemary Gerber and Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman.

The engagement of Pat Meyer and Kathleen Seiss has been made known. We wish them a happy life together. Pat's parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol.

Among the hospital patients this month were: Sis. Mary Moser, Bro. Herman Gerber, Sis. Sue Harris, Bro. Noah Aschliman, Bro. Joseph Meyer, Bro. Brian Fiechter, Sis. Sandy Kipfer, Sis. Irene Neuenchwander, Sis. Mahilda Dubach, Sis. Justine Aschliman, and Bro. Sam Kaehr. They are in our prayers.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Lavon Gerber are the parents of a son, Blare Michael, born June 16. "Big" sister, Audra, welcomes her new brother.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU!

"Love one another as I have loved you"

May seem impossible to do—

But if you will try to trust and believe

Great are the joys that you will receive . . .

For love makes us patient, understanding and kind,

And we judge with our hearts and not with our minds. . .

For as soon as love enters the heart's open door,

The faults we once saw are not there anymore,

And the things that seemed wrong begin to look right

When viewed in the softness of love's gentle light. . .

For love works in ways that are wondrous and strange

And there is nothing in life that love cannot change,

And all that God promised will some day come true

When you love one another the way He loves you.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jackie Huber

"There shall be showers of blessing. This is the promise of love; There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Saviour above. Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need: Mercy—drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead."

Melodies of Praise #8

We have certainly felt "Showers of Blessing" this past month. On one Wednesday, Holy Communion services were held for the residents of Parkview Haven Retirement Home. Elder Bros. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) assisted. Then in the evening, we were blessed by having these brothers along with Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) with us for church services.

On another blessed weekend, we listened to the testimonies of nine precious souls, and witnessed their baptisms. Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) assisted with the testimonies. On Sunday, Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) were here, ministering God's Word. We thank them for coming.

The nine souls baptized were Randy Gudeman (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella), Donna Gudeman (Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret), Carleen Westfall (Bro. Karl and Sis. Mary), Jodi Getz

(Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris), Susie Gutwein (Bro. Fred and Sis. Madeline), Todd Denton (Jim and Sharon), and Tami, Trudie and Tricia Gudeman (all daughters of Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann).

Our thanks go to Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris), as he shared God's Word with us this past month. He and his wife, Sis. Ila, rejoice as the grandparents of a new little boy here in Francesville. Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg (Gramm) Gudeman welcome their second child, Grant Alan, born June 4. Andrea is the happy "big" sister, and Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman are also happy grandparents.

Rick and Judy Wuethrich are joyous parents of a little boy, Chance Kerwin, born June 14. One brother, Brandon, and one sister, Chariti, welcome him home. Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola Wuethrich and Mr. and Mrs. Ora Hughes are the grandparents.

Fellowship of true Christians is so precious! We were again shown this when several couples from Latty spent the weekend here. Ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) and his father-in-law, Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse), shared the Word with us. We sincerely thank them for taking time to be here.

One more blessing was showered down on us. Bro. Bob and Sis. Mildred Clauss have moved to Francesville and are making Francesville their home church. We are so happy to have them here.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Bobbi Erb

Cheri Cress, daughter of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuen-schwander, stepped into baptismal waters Sunday, June 14, after sharing her testimony. We welcome her into the body of Christ and pray that many more will make this decision to serve the Lord.

We thank ministering Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and Jack Bollier (Leo) for visiting our congregation.

Our dear friend Margie Getz was hospitalized this past month. Our prayers are with her as she is experiencing some difficulties with illness and also in the recent loss of her husband.

John and Sis. Vicki Bellis have a new baby girl, Melissa Sue. Melissa has two sisters, Anna and

Tami. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette (Forrest), and Andy and Mary Bellis (Dwight).

"Jesus, Your Word Lives In Me" was the theme for our Vacation Bible School. Forty-nine children gathered each morning for a week to learn about Jesus and His beautiful attitudes. At the program on Friday evening, the 7th grade girls left us with an inspiring thought: "How are you going to know how to serve the Savior if you don't read your Bible?"

INDIANA, La CROSSE

Pearl Nuest - LuAnn Feller

We rejoice that the Lord has awakened souls that were bound by chains of sin. Dawn Ailes (John and Carol) and Victor and Cheryl Heinoold (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Ruth) are seeking the Lord through repentance. Also the bonds have been released for Sandra Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet) after a time of repentance and she is now waiting to give her testimony and be baptized.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Marshall Heinoold (Washington) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Urbana). May God reward them for their service of love.

'Oh Jesus Christ, Thy bitter death
Shall strengthen us in our last
breath!

Our soul, Lord, we commit to Thee,
And joyful may our ending be!"

Zion's Harp

We express our sympathy to the family of Anna (Ezra) Meiss. May they find comfort that their dear mother has gone to rest.

Sis. Henrietta Heiniger (Parkview Haven) was a surgical patient. Kenneth Pfeiffer (Toledo, OH) son of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Emma also had surgery. May God restore them to good health again according to His will.

Bro. Douglas Germann has brought joy into our congregation as in recent months he found his salvation. Now we bid him farewell as he has found employment at Phoenix, AZ. May our loss be their gain. We wish him success and that he can find the same love wherever he may go.

Glenn and Becky Minich welcome a daughter, Lindsay Marie,

born May 14. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Minich and Bro. Phil and Sis. Mary Troxel.

INDIANA, LEO
Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

THIS MORNING . . .

Did you meet your Lord this
morning
E'er you saw a human face?
Did you look upon His beauty
Through His all-abounding grace?

Did you bow in prayer before Him
E'er you went upon your way?
Did you ask for strength to carry
All the burdens of the day?

How He waits to give His blessing
On our lives another day.
Christian, never start without Him,
Let Him speak, and then, obey.

LaVon Doherty

Daily Vacation Bible School closed with a program which was both a delight and a challenge to the listening adults. Only eternity will reveal the yield from the seed of His Word sown in the children's hearts.

Bible topics continue to be presented to the congregation on several Monday evenings. Bro. Rod Huber, Valparaiso, spoke on "Jesus, Your Word Lives In Me." Bro. John Bollier's topic was "The Beautiful Attitudes." These discussions are a blessing to receptive hearts.

Also a blessing to the congregation was the ministry of visiting minister, Bro. Roy Wieland, Bay City.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Elizabeth Pulfer and Rhonda Krugh. May prayers and messages of cheer continue for those who suffer.

A happy note is the announcement of the birth of Daisha Joy to Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland, May 28. She is also welcomed by her brother, Jaret, and grandparents, Bro. Edwin and Sis. Geroline Ringger and Bro. Roy and Sis. Margaret Wieland, besides the children in the home where Brace and Brenda are houseparents.

Another reason for rejoicing is the freedom we still enjoy in the U.S.A. on Independence Day, 1981. It's a blessing we tend to take for granted, a blessing denied many peoples across the face of the earth.

"Three colors has the nation's
flag;

Our hearts delight to see
The Red, and White, and starry
Blue—

Our pledge of liberty."

(selected)

INDIANA, MILFORD
Connie Beer - Marcy Haab

Life is a highway
on which the years go by,
Sometimes the road is level,
sometimes the hills are high
But as we travel onward
to a future that's unknown
We can make each mile we travel
a heavenly "stepping stone."

Helen Steiner Rice

Our sympathy is extended to
Elder Bro. Jesse Beer, Shirley, and
family. The death of Shirley's mother
followed an extended illness. Bro. John
Martin, Sr., Gwen Weisser, and Bro. Oscar
Graff have been hospital patients. Bro. Oscar
has returned to the hospital for surgery
and is reportedly doing well. Andy Haab
(Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) injured his arm
in a farm accident. Faith in God and
knowing that our help "cometh from the
Lord" (Psalm 121) can be so comforting
when one needs to cope with the afflictions
of the flesh.

The Sunday School promotion program
was enjoyed on June 7. How thankful we
must be for brothers and sisters who so
willingly help us parents to plant the seeds
of faith in these tender young hearts;
that the word of God can reach them
pure, clear, and true. God's Word charges
us to take His commandments and "thou
shalt teach them diligently unto thy
children . . . Deuteronomy 6:7.

Vacation Bible School allowed us to
have Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City); Bro.
Carroll Gerber (Bluffton); Bro. Chris
Huber (Francesville); and Bro. Jim Byrd
(Roanoke) teach us from the word of
God. We are thankful for the spiritual
feeding we could so freely enjoy. A
special thank you to the dear ministering
brothers, their families, the special
singing groups, and others who visited
with them.

Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) and Sis.
Kathryn were with us on a Wednesday
evening. Thank you,

Bro. Harold, for proclaiming God's
Word to us.

Bro. Michael A. Zimmerman, Sr. 80,
died June 12 in Mayo Clinic where he
had been a patient for two weeks. Bro.
Mike is survived by his wife, Madalene;
his daughter, Mrs. Jack (Mary) Gerber
of Latty; four sons, Melvin, Virgil,
and Michael, Jr., of Milford and
Raymond of Parkerburg, WV; 21
grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren;
two sisters, Rose Shuder of Grace
Retirement Village of Winoona Lake
and Anna Stieglitz of Milford; and one
brother, Elmer of Arizona. Funeral
services were held on June 18 with
Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Theo Beer
conducting the services. When God calls
a child of His home it is what we are,
not what we are able to leave behind
us that is of importance to Him. We
share with the family in their sorrow,
as we have truly lost a kind and
faithful brother.

Lord, let me wake to a dawn
Alight with blue skies.

Let the soft touch of sunrise
Bring warmth to my eyes.

Let me wake on a path
That sparkles with dew

And feel the assurance
That you walk here, too!

Let me share with a friend
The blessings I find.

Lord, make my day joyful!
Lord, make my heart kind!

Virginia Copling

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

"As Jesus died for all our sins;
So all His own new life begin;
Through baptism we renewed shall
be,
And clothed in immortality.

Thus by this spirit birth may we,
Lord Jesus, have a part in Thee
And show ourselves obedient Lord,
In love and Faith unto Thy word.
Hallelujah!"

Zion's Harp, No. 8

We were privileged to hear the
testimonies of faith of Bro. Andy
and Sis. Mary Zickmund and witness
their baptisms on June 6 and 7. It
was a blessing for all of us.

Visiting ministers this month
were Elder Bros. Wendell Gude-
man (Francesville) and Joe Brake-
mer (Morton), and Bro. Gary Mai-

bach (Rittman). May God bless
them for their efforts in richly
bringing forth God's precious
Word of truth to us.

"Every mother has the breath-
taking privilege of sharing with
God in the creation of a new life.
She helps bring into existence a
soul that will endure for all eter-
nity . . ." James Keller. It is a
sobering, challenging thought that
we have such a big part in direct-
ing a child for eternity. We wish
God's guidance for the new par-
ents. Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl
Knobloch have a new son, Jay
Quintin, born May 16, and wel-
comed home by his sisters, Cherise
and Shalome. Bro. Roger and Sis.
Vicki Steffen were also blessed
with a new son, Jarod Alan, born
June 11 and welcomed home by
his sisters, Heather and Sara.
Jeff and Jean Beckley are the
first time parents of a boy, James
Donald, who arrived on June 3.

Our dear Sis. Marie (Marv)
Schieler has passed away and gone
home for her reward. She was a
resident of Parkview Haven for
the past three years. Three chil-
dren preceded her in death: Sis.
Nina Beyer, Sis. Lorene Schine,
and Bro. Robert Schieler. There
are four surviving children: Sis.
Eda Jones, Sis. Carolyn Virkler,
Bro. Harold Schieler, and Bro.
Herb Schieler.

Graduates from high school this
year are: Sis. Lou Ann Schneider
(Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta), Sis.
Charleen Bahler (Bro. Edwin and
Sis. Lois), Susan Beckley (Elmer
and Nancy), and John Clauss
(Paul and Wilma). We pray each
one would seek God's direction
for their life's vocation.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Gayle Bucher

For kindness is indeed sublime
and worth the trouble anytime.
Sincerity is all we need to help
us do a friendly deed. Unknown

Recently with the help of many
volunteers, we planted trees,
shrubs, and sod to enhance our
new church home. We spent a
blessed day of fellowship and
hard work together. This task
would have been impossible for
us to accomplish without the
help of our brethren and friends.
We are extremely indebted to
all who have so willingly helped
us and donated their gifts. We
are having services in our

church now, and welcome everyone to come for a visit. It is very heart-warming to have so many visitors. We are located at the corner of State Road 331 and Madison Road, approximately nine miles north of Bremen.

We heartily welcome Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman and their children, Erica, Shannon, and Jason to our fellowship. They have moved here from Milford. May the Lord richly bless them in their new home.

Our Sunday School elections were held recently. Those elected to start teaching in September were Bro. Marty Langhofer, Sis. Shirley Lehman, and Sis. Gayle Bucher.

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Leroy Huber and Dale Eisenmann, and Bros. Al Langhofer and Rod Huber minister to us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

Our friend, Monica (Mrs. Tim) Steffen, was hospitalized this month. We pray for her speedy recovery.

CHOOSE THOU FOR ME

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
 However dark it be:
 Lead me by thine own hand;
 Choose out my path for me.
 I dare not choose my lot:
 I would not, if I might;
 Choose Thou for me, my God,
 So shall I walk aright . . .
 The kingdom that I seek is Thine:
 so let the way
 That leads to it be Thine.
 Else I must surely stray.
 Take Thou my cup, and it,
 With joy or sorrow fill,
 As best to Thee may seem;
 Choose Thou my good and ill.
 Choose Thou for me my friends,
 My sickness, or my health;
 Choose Thou my cares for me,
 My poverty, or wealth.
 Not mine, not mine the choice,
 In things both great and small;
 Be Thou my Guide, and Strength,
 My Wisdom, and my all.

H. Bonar

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas

Summer is here. School is out and our children are home in a sheltered environment once again. It's a time to revive their souls.

HANDS OF THE FUTURE

"When your son or daughter

thrusts his or her hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream or grimy from petting a dog and there may be a wart under the right thumb and a bandage around the little finger—but the important thing about his hands is that they are the hands of the future!

These are hands that some day may hold a Bible—or a colt revolver; play a church piano—or spin a gambling wheel; gently dress a lepers wound on the mission field—or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by an alcoholic mind.

Right now the hand is in yours! It asks for help and guidance. It represents a full-fledged personality in miniature to be respected as a separate individual whose day-to-day growth into Christian adulthood is your responsibility. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." "

—Selected

In April we were revived when we partook of communion. Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse) served us. Bros. Art Gudeman, Don Gudeman (LaCrosse), and Ken Schneider (Remington) helped us this past month.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Suzanne Lehman

Laurel and Kris Widmer

Vacation Bible School for the Wolcott and Remington Sunday Schools was held the week of June 8. Visiting ministers were Bro. Art Ringger, Bro. Bob Meyer, and Bro. Ed Alt. We appreciate these brothers for taking the time from their schedules to spend the evening with us.

Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) came to share the Word with us on June 14.

Father's Day was special for our congregation as we welcomed into our family of faith Sis. Donita Turner (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita), Sisters Melinda and Sandra Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla), and Bro. Steven Hofstetter (Bro. Theo and Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter). We are thankful Elder Bro. Art Bahler was able to be with us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

Two seniors graduated the first week in June. Tonya Taeger

(Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy) and Jim Jones (Bro. Blaine and Sis. Margaret). May God direct both of their lives in the days to come.

Wednesday evening, Bro. Jerry Kuntz (Oakville) brought us the Word of Life. May God richly bless Bro. Jerry and his wife.

Sunday evening was our annual Sunday School picnic. It was well attended and the singing was beautiful. The children were really singing from their hearts. Bro. Harvey reminded us through his prayer that these children will be our future church someday.

Father's Day will be this coming Sunday and we think of how the church has been preserved up to this time and hour reminding us of the words "faith of our fathers living faith, we will be true to Thee till death." Can the fathers of our children and of our church take this stand and abide with it?

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

Spring time is advancing; the trees are now quite well clothed in various shades of green; meadows and hay fields are growing lush and the wild roses along our road sides are already lending their beauty and fragrance for our benefit. Must tell you about two pairs of bluebirds. They are both living in two houses we put up for their use on two wooden fence posts. In one there is already a nest of young birds which keeps the parents really busy providing food for the fledglings. The coloring of these is so very pretty and their warbling is so lovely that we consider ourselves fortunate to have them so close to our dwelling.

Speaking of birds, we spied our first kingbird of the season last evening; he was in our garden. Since our mulberry tree is loaded with fruit, we expect to see many varieties of birds fly in and out for these are an especially sought out fruit for our feathered friends. Praise God for His creations.

We received word that our Aunt Ruth, Uncle Robert Gehring's wife, passed away at Kenmore, ND. We extend our sympathy to the family. Uncle Robert, who is someone special to me, was born here at Elgin and is a brother of the late Uncle Lawrence and Uncle Jake Gehring.

"It takes a heap of living to make a house a home." So wrote Edgar Guest, an American family poet. It takes both sun and shadow, giving and taking, as well as praying to make a life complete.

The Schupbach and the Grimm families are currently enjoying a visit with some of their relatives from Switzerland.

We thank Bro. Uriel Gehring for his sermon. He reminisced about when he was a lad growing up here at Elgin. His parents, Uncle Jake and Aunt Bertha, moved here from Elgin, IL, when he was only a mere child. Uriel was our guest minister during the past month.

Sis. Bertha Gehring, who was a resident of the nursing home at West Union, IA, discovered that she could enter one located at Wapello, IA. Since this would be real close to her daughter, Sis. Phyllis Knobloch, and not far from her son, Bro. Uriel Gehring, she moved there. We had a potluck at church for her. She was faithful in church attendance and we will miss her. May God ever bless her.

Sis. Janet Mogler organized our Vacation Bible School and is to be commended for her excellent work. She had helpers each day, mostly consisting of mothers of the children in attendance. Besides their Bible lessons, the children enjoyed making craft items. A big vote of thanks to both Janet and the helpers.

Being members of the family of God, we realize that love for one another strengthens the family. A boy was seen going along the road, carrying another boy who was crippled. A man going the opposite direction asked the lad, "Isn't that boy too heavy for you to carry?" The boy replied, "Nah, he ain't heavy; he's my brother."

Now I have come to the hardest part of the column to write. It is that my husband, Bro. George's health has failed of late and this makes me feel sad. I must try to comprehend what we find in Romans 8:28.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharolyn Metzger

As another year is added to the age of our country, may our prayers ever rise with thankfulness for the freedoms that have been afforded to us throughout the time gone by. May our freedom of worship and opportunity to assemble with those of like-mind and faith,

without fear of persecution, be most precious in our sight. We must always be careful to not become too caught up in the cares of this world that we do not take advantage of what we have been given. And may we remember, the more we are given the more is required of us.

We are thankful once again for the visiting ministers who have given of themselves and their time to allow the Holy Spirit to share His message. They are Bros. Jon Schmidgall and Jerry Kuntz of Oakville and Elmer Harter of Milford, IN.

We bid God's blessings to Sis. Cindy Knobloch and Bro. Dennis Aupperle as He has directed their paths to become one. Cindy has been going to school in our area for the past two years and is the daughter of Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys of Princeville, IL. Dennis is the son of Eli and Greta Aupperle of Fairbury, IL.

We rejoice with Sis. Barb Virkler and her family as her condition has improved. The Lord truly had His hand in it.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bro. Art Nohl (Morris), and many other visitors were among us the weekend of June 7 to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. They are thankful for the overwhelming peace that is theirs since forsaking the world of sin and putting their lives in God's hands. Now brothers and sister in Christ are Brian Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Dean Feucht (Bro. Carl and Sis. Emma), and Delores Feucht (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge).

Our Sunday School hosted the Bible classes from the churches at Morris, Winthrop, and West Bend the weekend of June 14. Visiting ministers were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop).

Bro. Jon Schmidgall expounded on the Word in a recent visit. We are thankful for all who find time to spend a day or two with us.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch welcome Erin Dawn into their family. She was born May 23. Her grandparents are Bro. Emil and Sis. Frieda Knobloch and Sis. Hattie Schrock. On June 5, Andrew

Henry was born to Leroy and Louella Kellenberger. His grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Wika. Diane and Tedd Larson became first time parents on June 16. Hana Mae's grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Del Larson.

Sis. Sue Knobloch is a recent graduate of Augustana College with a degree in business. Sis. Beth Mogler was graduated from Kirkwood Community College and Kent Mogler is a graduate of Iowa St. University. We wish them God's nearness as they pursue their careers.

Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry) is a surgical patient and we pray for a speedy recovery for her.

We regret having Sis. Donna Teubel leave us as she has moved back to Pulaski.

Bro. Emil Knobloch extends heartfelt thanks and blessings to all who helped observe his 80th birthday.

IOWA, PULASKI

Ginny Wuthrich - Mary Wiegand

As each Lord's Day ends, we can surely say, "I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

Bros. Wayne Fehr and Duane Metzger and their families from West Bend were with us one weekend. Wayne made two very important points: We have to put forth effort toward our salvation; and also, while we aren't to judge anyone, we can be "fruit inspectors." Duane also had some encouraging thoughts. When we get discouraged in our salvation, we can always go back to the time we received peace from God and be uplifted once more.

How nice it was one Wednesday evening to take a few hours out of our busy lives to gather and hear Bro. Bob Grimm from Goodfield, IL, proclaim God's word. He gave us so much food for thought that we cannot help but rejoice in our salvation and strive onward with enthusiasm toward our heavenly goal. Only then will we find true happiness.

We had another blessed weekend recently when Elder Bro. Ed Lanz from Oakville came to us. On Saturday evening we were reminded of the Lord's death and suffering as we were served holy commun-

ion. On Sunday also we were given many teachings and admonitions, one of which was despire not the chastening of the Lord. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11

We are so pleased that Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger from Lester have bought some land here and are worshipping with us now. We surely welcome them and their family.

Bro. Ben Metzger had to undergo some tests in Texas and is very thankful he does not need surgery.

I have been unable to locate my sweater which was mistakenly taken while visiting Tucson church on Wednesday evening, Feb. 18. It was off-white color—belted—pockets—large oblong buttons. If anyone has found it, please contact: Mrs. Russell Wuthrich
R. R. 4 Bloomfield, IA 52537
Phone 515-664-2950

IOWA, WEST BEND

Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

Many dear ones were here for a weekend of blessed fellowship on May 30-31 and among them were ministering Bros. Art Nohl (Morris), Don Wagenbach (Washington), and Dennis Warner (Lester). The messages brought forth were truly edifying and we are grateful to these brethren for their labor in our behalf.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. . ." Phil 5: 23. This would be our prayer always for five dear souls who were announced as having peace. They are Dick Schmidt (Sis. Sid), Jim and Joan (Bruellman) Wirtz, Beth Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn), and Lonnie Metzger (Bro. Silas and Sis. Della). We hope to witness their testimonies and baptisms on July 11 and 12.

Dave and Diane Gerber are first-time parents of Carl David born June 4. Grandparents are ministering Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Montag. Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart became the parents of Twyla Ann on June 10. Grandparents are Ministering Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger. May the Lord be with us all as we strive to rear those entrusted to our care—

a most serious undertaking in the world today.

We've recently learned of the engagement of Lynn Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille) to Craig Anderson of Humboldt. We certainly wish them God's love and guidance.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. George Sauder, Jerry Metzger and Fred Traub, Jr., who had major surgery in Rochester. Sis. Florence Banwart will be confined to her home for some time, and Sue Murphy, daughter of Jim and Sherry Schmidt) was hurt badly when cut by glass from a door. We trust the Lord will grant full recovery to each one.

KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Sis. Rosa Christen Zaugg was born Jan. 11, 1887 at Switzerland. She, along with her parents, three half brothers, two half sisters, three sisters and one brother came to the United States when she was two years old. She doesn't remember much about the trip except she became very sick while crossing the ocean. Her parents told her that the ship they came across in was an old leaking one and it was the last trip it made across the ocean. Everyone who was able to help had to take turns throwing buckets of water overboard to keep the ship from sinking. It took three weeks on the water coming over.

They came to Elgin, IA, to make their home on a farm where eight more children were born. Coming from a large family, Sis. Rosa learned at a young age that toil and labor are part of this earthly span.

She remembers walking by herself to town and back, about eight miles, with a basket of eggs to trade for supplies. She also remembers the whole family running outdoors to see the first car go by their place.

Her formal education ended after the third reader and at the young age of eleven years she began working for other people. Although her parents weren't members of our church, she enjoyed attending even though she had to walk to get there.

In 1902, she came to West Bend to work for her sister and family. She told how she yearned for the hills of Elgin because it was so different here.

In 1905, she married William

Zaugg at West Bend. It was four years later that they felt the need of repentance and both turned their hearts to the Lord. Together on their farm, they learned the joys and sorrows of tilling the sod. She told how at the end of the day they would sing Hymn 49 from the Zion's Harp, filling their hearts with peace and love.

They spent many years working side by side to provide for their family of thirteen children, of which twelve are still living. They include: Louisa Zaugg, Walter Zaugg, Bro. Ed Zaugg (Sis. Helen), Bro. Oscar Zaugg (Sis. Frances), Leah Franck (Ken), Eva Banwart (Arlie), Sis. Elma Mogler (Bro. Ervin), Richard Zaugg (Dorothy), Bro. Clarence Zaugg, Sis. Betty Banwart (Albert), Donald Zaugg, and Ruby Besch (Bob). All are residents in this area except one.

Sis. Rosa often talked about the sorrow of losing a five month old daughter. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" is still her favorite hymn, which has helped her through the trials of life.

In 1950 they retired from the farm and moved to West Bend. Sis. Rosa lost her helpmate after a lingering illness in 1960. It left an empty spot in her home but she remained occupied and happy crocheting around hankies, wash cloths and baby blankets. Many a baby has been cuddled in blankets she has given them. She has a special love for little ones and they always seem to cheer her heart.

Even though she doesn't enjoy life as she once did, Sis. Rosa is spending her sunset years of life at the West Bend Care Center. The frailties of life at the high age of 94 have taken their toll. We know the Lord always provides for those who put their trust in Him. Her longing and desire is to reach the Heavenly Home soon. Then her trials will all be over.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Evie Blunier

Again we were blessed to have a visitor from the States. Sis. Karen Lehman from South Bend, IN, was our special guest the weekend of May 31. She was staying with a Japanese family in Yokohama for two months so we were glad she could come to Yamanashi prefecture to visit us.

We all extend our congratulations to Tom Ehnle who graduated

from the Christian Academy in Japan on June 5. He will be entering Kansas State University in September. Joy Ehnle from Chicago, IL, arrived in Japan on June 4 to visit her family and attend Tom's graduation. Of course it was a joy for us all to welcome Joy for a two-week visit since it is almost two years since she was here.

On Sunday, June 7, some of our Shioda brethren and friends went to Tokyo for a special gathering with the Tokyo congregation to congratulate Tom. We enjoyed a potluck supper at the Tokyo church and later, sitting in a big circle, joined our voices in praise and honor to our God.

The following Sunday here in Shioda the young members and friends enjoyed a picnic at Ehnles to congratulate several graduates. They are Yoko Horie, from elementary school; Thomas Ehnle, son of Bro. and Sis. Willis Ehnle, from high school; and Yoshimi Ito, daughter of Sis. Yachiyo Ito, from college. That day we were glad to have Sis. Hiroko Utsuki and our friend Chieko Takeuchi from Tokyo with us. We thank them for their visit.

Two of our sisters have had weddings in their families. Sis. Eiko Nozawa welcomes a new brother-in-law and Sis. Reiko Furuya a new sister-in-law. We're also happy to report that Sis. Asakawa, although still in the hospital, is much improved and was very talkative during Joy Ehnle's visit with her.

"If Jesus goes with me,
I'll go anywhere!
'Tis Heaven to me, where'er I may
be, If He is there!
I count it a privilege here,
His cross to bear,
If Jesus goes with me I'll go . . .
Anywhere!"

"It is not mine to question the
judgments of my Lord.
It is but mine to follow the leader-
ship of His Word;
But if to go or stay,
or whether here or there,
I'll be with my Savior,
Content Anywhere!"

#36 Tabernacle Hymns

The tune was so familiar, although the words were in Japanese. The meaning of the song rang clearly in my heart and tears came to my eyes, as I looked around the room at my sisters and brothers

together in the Tamahata church for a singing on May 24. Following the song, I had to share with them the special blessing it was for me to again sing that song which meant so much to me when in America, facing leaving home for a then "unknown" life in Japan. Now as we sang in Japanese, again God comforted me through this song as I thought of telling them farewell and returning to the States.

With a deeply touched heart. I humbly thank each of you dear sisters and brothers in America for your prayers, letters, tapes, and gifts during my two years here. With gratefulness to God for this precious bond of love between His children, I sincerely thank you dear brethren and friends in Japan for your love and hospitality. I pray that our God, the author of such love, will reward each one with spiritual richness.

"All the needs of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee." Psalms 22:27

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki & Marie Inoue

We enjoyed a very blessed evening on June 7 when we gathered to honor Thomas Ehnle, a recent high school graduate, with a supper and singing at our church. His high school was located in Tokyo (one and a half hours by train from us), and even though he was busy with many school activities, he often spent his Sundays with us. It was especially nice to have a goodly number of our Shioda brethren with us. It took effort as a distance separates us. The beautiful singing was surely a foretaste of the joys of Heaven. Prov. 2, which reminds us to incline our ears to wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding, was read at the close of the evening.

Other visitors we welcomed with great joy in our midst were Faith and Melody Klaus who are spending the summer months with their parents, Bro. John and Sis. Betty, and family. Also Joy Ehnle was with us as she is spending her vacation time here with her family. Joy and Thomas are children of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. May God bless the family ties of these dear ones and ever watch over and care for them.

KANSAS, BERN
Esther and Stella Moser

MY HOUSE

The people think I am old,
But me they do not see;
It's my old house they're looking
at,

And they mistake it for me.
Within the walls of my old house

There is a living soul;
It's been there several years
And it never has grown old.

I know my home will soon decay
Beneath the earthly sod;

The spirit that's dwelling there
Will then return to God.

So I'll be moving very soon

Because my house is old;

Up to a house not small within,

Where the streets are pure with
gold.

And there I'll be forevermore,

Through all eternity;

So I'm not as old as you may
think—

It is my old house you see.

Mrs. V. Harris

* We extend our thanks to several visiting ministers: Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), Dale Wulf (Lester) and Elmer Hartter (Milford). While we do enjoy our visitors, we still appreciate our home ministers who so faithfully labor each Lord's Day.

Bro. Noah Edelman is hospitalized with several broken ribs caused in a farm mishap. Reuben Bauman was hospitalized for a time and is now able to be home again. Sis. Joan Edelman (Bro. Fred) had foot surgery and gets around with a cast. Our prayers and get-well wishes are with each one.

The engagement of Bro. Edwin Strahm to Sis. Ramona Meyer was made known to us. We wish them many blessings as they plan their future life together. Parents are Bro. Alphie and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer (Sabetha).

I checked with Sis. Diane Kaeb (Bro. Jim) on the progress of their little girl, Jody Lynn, born Apr. 25. She now weighs four pounds, four ounces and they hope to bring her home in a few days. Jim and Diane also wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to each one who helped in any way at the food sales at Fairbury and Cissna Park and for prayers and loving concern. All was greatly appreciated.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Teresa Bahr

We held Vacation Bible School Classes June 1-5 as a special time for the children to learn more of God's love and teachings.

A daughter, Sara Elizabeth, born May 28 is God's gift to Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn. Sara's sisters and brothers are Tammy, Rebecca, Chuckie, and Timothy. Grandparents are Sis. Mabel Roeschley, Morton, IL, and Bro. Danny and Sis. Dorothy Sinn.

Our dear friend, Sophia Marie (Cordill) Sinn passed suddenly from this life June 7. She was 75 years old and preceded in death by her husband, George, in 1966. May God comfort the family of four sons: George, Richard, Kenneth, and Delbert; and two daughters, Sis. Carol (Carter) and Joyce.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

Harvest! In our area it seems like it's here and gone in such a short time anymore, but God taught me another lesson through nature in the short time it was here. I enjoy riding the combine with Dad and Mom, and take special interest in the wheat as it is garnered into the machine. The difference in the wheat is amazing. One spot is so rich and abundant that it'll choke a combine if the ground speed is not decreased. The next spot may be so burned out and shriveled that speed is increased and there's no chance of choking for there's no substance there. The lesson? The rich abundant wheat reminded me of the life of a child of God. No matter what material standing they enjoy, their lives are full and abundantly rich in peace, love, and spiritual joy through Christ. On the other hand, that burned out, shriveled wheat reminded me of those who know not the Lord as their Savior and friend. In their search for substance and true happiness, they forget Christ, and thus become so bitter and hardened, that they burn themselves out on the cares and pleasures of this life. The way to Christ is so simple, but human nature can't accept that simplicity and thus becomes lost in a maze of confusion. May God grant that we, who know the joy of a life in Christ, may every day let our Christian light so shine that

others may see Christ living in us and come to know the joy of living for Him.

Vacation Bible School was held here the second week in June, and attendance this year was very good. The nursery classes averaged 16-17 every day, and the junior and high school classes averaged 11-12. To everyone who gave of their time, and gifts of love, we extend a deep and fervent thanks. Without the prayers, backing and support, it couldn't all be done.

Sis. Esther and Sis. Kathryn Miller were both hospital patients this month. Sis. Kathryn is home again as she suffered a fall and broke her right wrist. We hope Esther will be home again soon.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, Fort Scott, for lending himself to teach us more precious truths from God's Word. He was in our midst one Sunday this month. We truly appreciate the sacrifice our brethren make to bring the flock the "Scriptural Truth," and thank the Lord daily for our blessings.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

Anew, Lord, we are bound to thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we partook,
That joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Lord, lead us then by Thy strong
hand
As pilgrims through this desert
land;
We are pursued by many foes;
Deliver us from all our woes.
For we are Thine.

Zion's Harp #200

We were again renewed in heart and spirit when we partook of Holy Communion. We need to look daily to the old rugged cross and remember the suffering of our precious Saviour, realizing our unworthiness. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, was here to assist our beloved Elder Bro. Sam Anliker in this most impressive service.

Sis. Matilda Emch, who has been in the hospital several weeks, was moved to the Flint Hills Manor Nursing Home at Emporia. May our great God be her constant companion and make her life pleasant there.

Not to Seek, Lord, But to Share

Dear God, much too often we seek
you in prayer
Because we are wallowing in our
own self-despair.
We make every word we
lamentingly speak
An imperative plea for whatever
we seek.
We pray for ourselves and so
seldom for others.
We're concerned with our problems
and not with our brothers'.
We seem to forget, Lord, that the
"sweet hour of prayer"
Is not for self-seeking but to place
in your care
All the lost souls unloved and
unknown
And to keep praying for them until
they're your own.
For it's never enough to seek God
in prayer
With no thought for others who
are lost in despair.
So teach us, dear God, that the
power of prayer
Is made stronger by placing the
world in your care!

Helen Steiner Rice

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Vernon Wettstein, Congerville, IL; Bro. Lloyd Kraft, Bro. Tim Zimmerman, and Bro. Loren Strahm, Gridley, KS.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter
Sis. Ramona Meyer (Sabetha)
and Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern)
had their engagement announced recently. They are planning an August wedding. The parents of the couple are Sis. Florence and Bro. Harlan Meyer (Sabetha) and Sis. Mamie and Bro. Alpha Strahm, Jr. (Bern).

Hospitalized this month are Sis. Lydia Wenger, Bro. Gerald Grimm, and Bro. Rodney Grimm.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Bro. Aaron Moser. Memorial services were held in Sabetha on May 30 for Bro. Aaron.

KANSAS, WICHITA Priscilla Frank

St. John states, "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of child, she remembereth no more the anguish for joy that a man is born into the world." Jn. 10:21. Truly it is with great joy we announce the arrival of Matthew Scott Long. He

was born May 28 to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Phyllis.

We were also privileged to recently break the bread of communion. It was served to us by Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker and Elder Bro. Ron Nelson. We were reminded to once again remember the love and anguish Christ experienced for us. Bro. Ron also admonished us that we should more often express an appreciative spirit. This cord really struck home with me and I have often pondered that statement since it was addressed. Thoughts of my home, my country, my Lord, and my God indeed bring many precious memories for which I am so thankful. With Bro. Ron's statement he expanded it to include that if our thoughts are focused on the brightness of Christ, the good He has done for us, then the dismal becomes clear and we cannot help but spread joy to others.

As Father's Day and Independence Day approaches, we should indeed have an appreciative spirit. To our many fathers who have stood as a firm strong example we express our heartfelt thanks. Thanks for the love and the time you each took to share with your children your faith and your God.

Also, as the Fourth of July approaches, I'm reminded of our forefathers who fought for freedom of religion. I feel we are so fortunate to have the privilege to live in a nation that affords us the right to worship freely. May we ever appreciate this liberty. A liberty which in turn enables us to experience another liberty—the liberty of Christ. We thank you, Lord.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Jane Grawburg

"What a blessing! What a wonderful experience, to be lead out of darkness into light! To be lead by God's goodness into repentance; in repentance to be lead to faith in the Son of God; by Him to be freed from the power of sin; by Him to be washed and cleansed of our sins that are past, to receive forgiveness of sins and peace with God; to be clothed with the white garment of justification through Jesus Christ; to receive baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; by the laying on of hands to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; to have the love

of God richly poured into our hearts."

...from "Ye Must Be Born Again"
Our prayers are with Bro. Terry Steffen now that he has taken on a new life through the waters of baptism. Bro. Terry is the son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen. Visiting for this occasion were Elder Bros. Joe Waibel and Andy Virkler from Bay City. May they be richly rewarded for their labors of love.

We extend our wish for special blessings to all our graduates this month: Carol Schlatter, daughter of Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat Schlatter; Bro. Terry Steffen, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen; Chuck Schrenk, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk; and Gordon Blough, son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Eloise Blough.

"Give what you can, and then give more
Of the love you've held back in store.
Lovingly share all you possess,
Your reward will be labeled happiness.
For the love that you give,
comes back twofold,
And what you receive
is more precious than gold."

Marjorie McGowin

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer

"And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord . . . ; and his anger was kindled." Numbers 11:1. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that dissatisfaction with one's lot is a grievous sin, for it amounts to rebellion against God. In Numbers 11 we read about the ugly mood of the Israelites, who had become fatigued and disgusted by their difficult wanderings in the wilderness. In spite of their marvelous deliverance from the slavery of Egypt, the ungrateful and faithless multitude still continued to murmur. The result was severe chastening, for suddenly "the fire of the Lord burned among them." (Num. 11:1) One writer, commenting on this text says, "When heavenly things begin to lose their savor, when our first love declines and Christ ceases to be satisfying to the soul, when the Word of God and prayer lose their charm and become dull and mechanical—then the lustful eye wanders back toward the world, and we forget what toil and

slavery was ours in the service of sin and Satan." Yes, it's tragic when someone sets out to follow the Lord, but grows weary of His provision and spends precious time complaining instead of counting God's blessings. Dr. M. R. DeHann told of a boy named Johnny who had a dog called "Uncle Joe." When asked why he had given his pet such an odd name, he replied, "'Cause he's just like that uncle of mine—he growls at everything he eats and wants to fight everyone he sees!" Determined by His Grace, move from "Grumble Corner" to "Thanksgiving Street."
—H. G. B.

With a joyous and thankful spirit, Sis. Jeny Waibel (Peoria) has accepted the proposal of marriage from Bro. Craig Wieland. They plan a Fall wedding. We know God's will is perfect, so each step we take, may we look to Him for guidance.

Visiting ministering Bros. William Schlatter (Junction) and Ernest Graf (Akron) were with us recently as we assembled together.

Sisters Anna Magyer and Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) were both hospitalized for surgery. We trust the Lord will bless their recovery.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Helen and Bonnie Popp

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Our Detroit family welcomes Von Ringger from Biuffton. We are glad to have him in this area and wish Von God's blessings as he makes his home here.

Just as we welcome one, we have to see a young family leave. Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland will make Bay City their home. This may be a temporary situation, but we will miss them and their children. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo) were our visiting ministers this month. We are always glad to have them here.

Sis. Mary, Sis. Anna, Sis. Suzanne, Pauline and Mike Sabados will tour their native European homeland for several weeks. We bid them God's traveling mercies.

Bro. Hartzell Kaisner had a home gardening accident which

injured his leg. He was hospitalized but is home now and doing well. George Popp had foot surgery and is home now from the hospital and showing good improvement. We are thankful for God's healing grace.

May 21 was the wedding date of Brian Barton and Kathy Baker. We wish them many blessings from this day forward.

Best wishes to Bill and Sis. Helen Shaw on their 50th wedding anniversary June 8. May the Lord continue to grant them good health and happiness.

We offer a prayer for our graduates: Bro. Dana Knochel, Sis. Terri Martin and Sis. Nella Varga. May it be the Lord's guidance and light which will lead them as a new chapter in their lives begin.

"A lighted candle in the dark
Can bring a bit of day,
Its radiant and shining spark
Will chase the dark away.

A friendly word, a cheerful smile
Will chase away the gloom
From someone's weary heart
awhile

And cause a joy to bloom."

From "Shield of Faith"
by Roy Z. Kemp

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

Congratulations are extended to our high school graduate, Greg Larson, son of Gary and Maxine. May the Lord guide and direct him as he plans his future.

We wish to thank the Lester congregation for hosting the Junior and Senior Bible classes for the annual Youth Fellowship Day. May they be richly blessed for all their love and hospitality.

Our congregation welcomes Kent Mogler from Lester, IA, to our fellowship. Kent has found employment in the "twin cities."

A MESSAGE OF FAITH

"Consider the Lilies"
As the Lilies of the field are
clothed
and cared for from above,
Arrayed in all the beauty
of God's ever-bounteous love;
Just so can every one of us
Dwell safely in His care
As we lift our hearts to our dear
Lord
In thankfulness and prayer.
Patricia Waite

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

TOWARD MORNING

"Sometimes when I wake up early in the morning before it is light, I hear my baby talking in his crib. If I rise upon my elbow very gently so that he will not see me, I can see him there in the dim light, dark eyes with his fat hands clasped together or patting one another. All the while he makes those tender, inarticulate sounds in his own language.

"To whom is he speaking in the dark, toward morning? He is still so near heaven, this little one—is he talking in the language of the angels to some visitor invisible to me, but seen by his pure eyes? Is he making a report of his days events, his own progress, or asking the welfare of others he loves in the land he left so short a time ago?"

"Perhaps the angel who cared for him comes in that holy hour, to sit with him and love him yet awhile . . . toward morning."

Author Unknown

A sweet little daughter was born to Ken and Jackie Nohl—her name is Karla Rae. Aaron Jon is the new son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Jan Schock. To both of these families we wish special moments of joy with their new babies.

Brian Moser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene) and Jodi Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi) have found the peace that the world knows not of. We wish them God's continued grace as they await baptism.

Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) spent a Wednesday evening with us recently. We thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

The engagement of Sis. Kayla Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi) and Bro. Dan Hoerr (David and Sis. Harriet) of Peoria, IL, was announced on June 14. May God bless their lives together with His nearness.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Psalm 37:23-24

"Disappointment — His appointment."

Lord, I take it then as such;
Like the clay the potter fashions—
Yielding wholly to His touch.

Anonymous

We want to extend a hearty thank-you to the Lester congregation and Bible Class, for their efforts in making the Youth Fellowship gathering enjoyable and worthwhile.

Now that summer is here and we all take vacations, let us always remember to put our priorities in order. The Lord should still come first! We should always try to take vacations near another church. It is always a blessing to go to other churches and feel the love that flows from heart to heart. This gives us the opportunity for love and fellowship. May we always cherish these wonderful blessings!

Bro. Tim and Elizabeth Schmidt are the proud parents of their first precious baby girl. Two little brothers, Joshua and Adam, welcome little Katherine Ann home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt.

Sis. Hazel (Elmer) Schmidt again wishes to convey her thanks to all who remembered her with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers while hospitalized. May the Lord bless each and every one of you for thinking of her.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Vera Marie Frieden Vera Mae Frieden

As another chapter in the book of life closes for the graduates, may they seek God's wisdom and assistance in recording the next chapters. Our college graduate was Sis. Jamie Marti (Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary). High school graduates were Trela Marti (Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary) and Bill Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn).

Words cannot express the brotherly love we can feel as we greet brothers and sisters whom we have never met before. This mutual love through Christ is surely felt as we have been fortunate to have vacationers stop for church. May we continue to do our best to keep this precious fellowship and to appreciate it. Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton) and his family were

here to visit his brother. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and his family were here the same Sunday. Also this month, we appreciated Bro. Wayne Fehr, (West Bend) meditating on God's Word for us. Surely God blesses the ministers and all the company for taking time out of their busy life to spend a day in His house with His family.

Many prayers have been uttered for Ella Waldbuesser as she was hospitalized for a few days. We hope and pray He will be near her and her family.

As we are writing, the farmers are busy harvesting wheat. How often have we heard God will separate the wheat and chaff. Chaff appears much like wheat, but it has no substance, is light and blown away with only a small puff of air. We heard a sermon a few months ago that God also decides when the harvest time is here. He will wait until the grain is ripe but will also consider that if it gets overripe, it drops and falls. Surely He will harvest when the yield is the greatest.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Linda Hodel

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel they are joined for life—to strengthen each other in all labor—to rest on each other in all sorrow, to care for each other in all pain, and to be with each other in silent unspoken memories. G. Elliott

Our Sis. Lena Haerr and Bro. Noah Steiner, Sabetha, KS, were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm on Sunday, May 31. We will really miss Lena in our church and community, but know she will find a special place with the Sabetha congregation. May God shower this couple with His blessings throughout their "sunset" years.

Visiting ministers and their families were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL, and Bro. Joe Aberle Sabetha, KS. We thank all those who minister the Word and may our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors.

Congratulations to Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter on the arrival of a little grandson born to their daughter and son-in-law, the Roger Steffens of Remington, IN. Jarod Alan has two little sisters to welcome him.

"As a rainbow brings beauty to our lives, So our love brings the promise of joy." Elder Bro. Roy performed the evening ceremony uniting Lori Anne Hoerr (Bro. Donald and Sis. Elaine) to David Marquart (Joe and Marion) of Palmyra, MO. We are happy to have Lori and David living in our community and may God's love direct them as they travel down life's pathway together.

On this "4th of July", we thank God for our nation and its freedom. Let us remember the cross and the one who suffered thereon to give us our "liberty" in all its fullness by dying for our sins.

Freedom is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you ought. Daily Bread

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

The word of truth and rich blessings of good Christian fellowship were ours through the visit of ministering Bro. Roy Lugenbuhl from Rockville on May 31. We thank God for hearing our prayers for help and we welcome our brothers who come to minister to us.

Sis. Bertha Weisert, who has been confined to her home for many weeks, has entered the hospital. Our prayers for God's grace and healing power go with her.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

On Saturday evening, May 30, we assembled with the Naumburg congregation to hear the testimony of our friend Anne Schulz. On Sunday we were able to witness her baptism and welcome her as a new sister-in-faith. Elder Bro. Orville Ringger of the Bluffton church was with us for this very blessed weekend. We are happy for Anne and are so thankful that the door of grace is still ajar for those who are willing to answer this "all important" call.

The report of the memorandum was read to us at this time and may we all heed the advice and warnings so lovingly given by our elder brothers.

Bro. Jerome Farney was called from this life on May 27, after several months of illness. Bro. Jerome will be missed by our congregation as he faithfully served us on various committees and also was a trustee. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Cora. His funeral

service was on Saturday, May 30, and was conducted by Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. Floyd Graves.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Ted Virkler and Sis. Pam Herzig. Sis. Huldah Farney is a medical patient at this time in the Lowville Hospital. We are happy to report that after many weeks in intensive care, Sis. Barb Virkler has improved to a measure of health so she could be moved into another room at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who cannot go in and out as freely as we can.

Congratulations are extended to Gwen Herzig (Brad and Sis. Regina) and Mary Widrick (Gilbert and Betty Widrick) who are our high school graduates this month. Gwen has also completed a course at the local BOCES and will be taking her state boards as a licensed practical nurse.

August is collection month for Silver Lining for the Croghan church. It can be paid to your reporter.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

We could surely feel the blessings of the Lord with us as we gathered to hear the testimony given by Ann Schulz, Saturday evening, May 3. She is the daughter of Norman and Mary and granddaughter of Sis. Rosella Schulz. On Sunday, we could witness her baptism and enjoy the dinner that followed. We're so thankful that Bro. Orville Ringger could spend the weekend with us, as he gave such wonderful teachings and help to Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner with this work. Also they read and explained the Memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference on Saturday evening.

Sis. Natalie Herzig has had to spend a few days in the hospital again and is now home. May God be with her and give her strength. She graduates this June as Kristina and Rebecca Hirschey (Bro. Leland and Sis. Berneice) and Timothy Nortz (Jack and Barbara Nortz). May the Lord be with each one as they choose their life's work and may they ever look to Him for guidance.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bro. John Rufener graduated from the University of Akron, having majored in electrical engineering, and has accepted a position at the Ohio Power Company in Canton. Bro. John and Sis. Emily and Mary Beth moved to 8581 Westspring Circle, Canal Fulton, OH. We wish him success in his new position.

We wish to remember the Francis' in prayer. Stanley was able to leave the Americana and return to his home, but he needs help. His wife, Ann, and brother, Walter, lovingly care for him. Ann is scheduled for surgery. Our prayers are with them at this time.

We enjoyed visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Don Manz of Junction and Bro. Delbert Indermuhle of Sardis.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Our graduates from high school this year were Sis. Sharon Schlatter (Sis. Esther) and Judy Manz. (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn). May they seek the Lord's guidance in their future plans.

The funeral of Sis. Minnie Dotterer was Sunday, June 14. Bros. Loren Stoller, Sam Schlatter, and Henry Dotterer (Rittman) had the services. Sis. Minnie had been living in the Rittman Home for some time.

The engagement of Sis. Alice Manz to Bro. Darrel Widmer (Rittman) was made known in June. May the Lord bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

Bro. Robert Meyer and Bro. Wendel Gerber brought us the true and living Word. May they be blessed for their efforts.

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

Rustin Alan is the newborn son of Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Welcoming him are his brothers, Neil, Trent, Ross and Blane and grandparents, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller.

The angels in Heaven must surely be rejoicing again as another soul, Ruth Stoller (Convert Ralph Stoller) has made Jesus her choice. May the grace and strength from our Lord continue to abide with her.

Our loved ones in the hospital

were Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn), Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Gus), Sis. Tami Stoller, and Bro. George Sinn. We hope it won't be long before they can all assemble with us again.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

Til He Come! Yes, He is coming
Coming midway first to air
Then, Oh then, how blest the
rapture

Which His blood-bought saints
shall share!

In a brief, a twinkling moment
Loved ones, parted long, shall
meet

In that sweet and blessed reunion
Round the dear Redeemer's feet.

Loving sympathy is extended to Sis. Clara Wahl in the recent loss and death of her sister, Sis. Minnie Dotterer (Junction). Also our sympathy goes to Sis. Mary Stanoyevic in the loss of her son. May God comfort these dear ones.

On May 27, little Heidi Marie Domka was born to Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka. Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler are the new grandparents.

On May 24, the engagement of Bro. Stanley Sauder and Sis. Judy Hemmer was announced. Bro. Charles and Sis. Marian Hemmer are Judy's parents and Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella Sauder are Stanley's parents. We all wish them God's richest blessing and guidance as they take this important step in life.

June 5 was the wedding day for Joe Sabo and LaVersa Streitmater (Peoria). We welcome LaVersa into our fellowship and wish them much happiness.

June 14, our graduates were honored with a reception. Bro. Melvin Sauder was the speaker and Bibles were presented to Laura Beer, Stephanie Bocka, Vicki Finley, Scott Gabor and Jerry Roberts.

We regret to report that a number of our loved ones have been hospitalized. They are: Sis. Alma Beer (Surgery), Bro. Robert Beer, Bro. Ted Schauwecker, Sis. Naomi Cordrey and Sis. Wilma Sauder. We pray that God will restore each one to good health again.

June 8-12 was Vacation Bible

School. We want to thank all who gave of their time and talents. Speakers for the Adult Bible Class were: Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron), Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Bro. Charles Sauder (Mansfield), and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis). The last night of VBS some discussion was held on the King of Salem, Melchizedek. Some months prior to VBS, Bro. Pete Baltic, our minister, made a research on this subject and the following is submitted for your edification:

MELCHIZEDEK — Hebrew meaning (King of Righteousness). He was a priest and king of Salem; which place is identified with Jerusalem. Reference in Genesis 14: 18-20 is the first mention of this city in the Old Testament. Josephus (a Jewish historian) says that Jewish writers generally regarded it as a synonym of "JERUSALEM". It is so regarded in Psalm 76:2.

Melchizedek went out to meet Abram after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him in the Vale of Siddim. He presented Abram with bread and wine and blessed him in the name of "God Most High", possessor of heaven and earth. "Abram gave him "a tenth of all". The Hebrew word for "God" in this instance is the same as in such phrases as "God Almighty (Gen. 17:1) "the everlasting God" (Gen. 21:33) "God," the God of Israel" (Gen. 33:20) and God at Bethel: (Gen. 35:7) and is the oldest Semitic designation for God. Melchizedek was thus a monothiest and worshipped essentially the same God as Abram, who recognized him as priest.

He appears the next time in Psalm 110:4. "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek". This psalm is of special interest because Jesus referred to it (Matt. 22:41, Mark 12:35, Luke 20:41) and it is regarded as one of the Messianic psalms. The ideal ruler of the Hebrew nation would be one who combined in his person the role of both priest and king.

The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews uses Melchizedek (Heb. 5:7) in his great argument where he shows forth Jesus Christ as the final and perfect revelation of God because in his person, He is Son, and in His work, He is Priest

(Heb. 1:2-10:18). The author cites Psalm 110:4 indicating that Jesus' priesthood is of a different order from the Levitical "after the order of Melchizedek".

The author of Hebrews, looking back upon the history of God's people, comes to the conclusion that the Levitical priesthood proved to be a failure in that it was incapable of securing victory over sin and full communion with God.

And so the author cites Psalm 11. The ideal priest must belong to "the order of Melchizedek". To the author, Christ was the fulfillment of this prophecy, for He came out of Judah, a tribe with no connection with the Levitical priesthood. While the claims of the old priesthood were based on genealogy, Christ's were displayed in His power of an endless life. The claim of Jesus to be the real fulfillment of the psalmist's prophecy rested upon the fact of His resurrection and the proof which it afforded that His life was indestructible. The psalmist had declared that the ideal high priest would be forever and the only one whose life could not be destroyed by death and could be said to answer to the psalmist's ideal, a priest after "the order of Melchizedek."

OHIO, RITTMAN
Florence Hartzler
Janette Blough

We were privileged to have Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis), visit us in the month of June. We received many good teachings from the Word of God, brought to us through His chosen men. We thank them for their deeds of love.

Some of our loved ones have had to have hospital care, and we are glad when they can feel the healing strength, and can be home again, as was the case for Bro. Ed Trent, Shirley (Maibach) Smith, and for Kellie Riggenbach (Art and Lynn). We thank the Lord for hearing prayers of loved ones.

Dennis and Kris Hartzler are first-time parents with the birth of a son, Eric. Also first-time grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler. A daughter, Rachel Beth, was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach, their first child. The grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach. Jeffrey David is the

name given to the new son of Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery. At home to welcome a new brother are Lynne, Rob, Diane, Matthew, and Bradley. The grandmother is Sis. Martha Beery. Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic have a new daughter, Rachel Ann. Little Rachel is welcomed home by Stephanie, Denise, Milan, Tom, Dan, Matthew, Aaron, Audrey and Elaine. The grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggenbach and Bro. Mitchel and Sis. Violet Baltic. May the Lord bless these families with their precious bundles.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Anna (Emch) Dotterer who passed away following a long illness in Phoenix, AZ. We received word that the mother of Bro. Ralph Lanz passed away in Rockville, CT. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ralph, Sis. Diane, and the children at the passing away of a mother and grandmother. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for

those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This Thirty-Fifth chapter of Isaiah is a beautiful picture of the joyful flourishing of Christ's kingdom, and the weak are encouraged by the virtues and privileges of the gospel. In a song we sing out of the Heavenly Highways hymn book, it says: "Won't it be wonderful there, having no burdens to bear? Joyously singing with heart-bells all ringing, won't it be wonderful there?" What must we do to go to this place? We must be born again, out of water and of spirit, and then stay true to Him until life's end, then we too can say "Won't it be wonderful there"!

Sis. Minnie Dotterer and Sis. Elizabeth Dotterer passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home. Their funerals were in Junction and Mansfield.

We want to welcome Sis. Esther Saylor who has moved to the Apostolic Christian Home apartments. She has come here to live from Girard, and we hope she will feel at home in Rittman. May the Lord bless her in her new home.

One Wednesday evening we said farewell to Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Farney, as they moved back to Croghan - Naumburg, NY area. May the Lord bless them and their family.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau

THE NEW BIRTH FROM ABOVE

Glory be to God in heaven,
 Praise to Christ our Saviour great!
 By the power of Thy Spirit
 A new man Thou didst create.
 Angels see in joyous rapture
 God's own Word in deed fulfilled;
 And amid our glad embraces
 Is this child of God revealed.

This new being now arises,
 Having died with Christ before;
 What in Adam's fall had perished
 Christ the Saviour did restore.
 Dearest child, we bid thee welcome

In our blessed brotherhood;
From the wild tree thou art
grafted
On this holy tree and root.

Zion's Harp

God, again, has showered His blessing upon us over the weekend of June 13-14. It was at this time that we heard the testimony of Gail Bradford. It is amazing how God still works in the hearts and lives of those who seek to prepare for eternity. We rejoice as do the angels in heaven that Sis. Gail has her name written in the Lamb's book of life.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach was with us for this holy rite. Bro. Hartzell Kaisner shared the Word with us on Sunday. Other visitors were from Phoenix, Roanoke, Detroit and Latty.

Sis. Karen Breitwieser (John) was a hospital patient. We are happy that she is now at home recuperating from surgery.

Sis. Lois Newman is again able to assemble with us. She is making a satisfactory recovery from her surgery for a hip replacement.

Sis. Minnie Schick has had surgery. We wish her a good recovery.

Bro. Douglas Harmon has completed his course of study at the University of Toledo. We wish him God's blessings in his future endeavors.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Lydia Schlatter celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. May the blessings of our Heavenly Father be with them.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

A joyous time was experienced recently as many of the Silverton congregation journeyed together to Corvallis, OR, for a surprise housewarming and singing. Our destination was the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones, who recovered from their surprise and welcomed us in for a blessed evening of singing praises to the Lord. For the 45 minute trip, we carpooled and enjoyed the warm spring weather and the drive through the well-kept O.S.U. campus grounds. It is beautiful and its flowering shrubs and spacious green lawns made us think that Bro. Ron indeed has a lovely setting for his place of work.

Our grade school and high school graduates were honored May 31 at an open house and singing at Bro.

Ed and Sis. Julie Knecht's home; with both the Portland and Silverton congregations gathered together. Our high school graduates were Teresa Knecht, Brian Kuenzi, and Sis. Lisa Moser. Amy Metz, Richelle Kuenzi, and Nathan Steffen graduated from the eighth grade and are looking ahead to high school next year.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Robt. Miller and Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland). We welcome them and their families. We were also happy to welcome visiting brethren and friends this past month from Lester, IA, Junction, Latty, Rittman, and Toledo, OH, Fairbury, IL, and Portland, OR. Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of a small flock like ours is the opportunity to meet and greet each visitor and to get to know each one as an individual.

Our little flock was recently increased by the arrival of the Ben Bolliger family, formerly of Fairbury, IL. We heartily welcome Bro. Ben, Sis. Carolyn, and their sons Ben, Barry, Andy, and Alex. We are happy to have them with us and wish them the Lord's blessings as they get settled into their new home and become "Oregonized."

PENNSYLVANIA,

PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

May 24 brought Bro. Carroll Gerber and other visitors to Philadelphia from Bluffton and Detroit. On May 27 Bro. Joe Waibel was with us for Wednesday evening services and on June 7 Bro. Paul Gasser came to be with us. We feel richly blessed having received so many visiting ministers in the Philadelphia church. The true Word of God was reward in itself. But, in addition, many hours of good fellowship were enjoyed, both at the church and in our homes.

Matthew, son of Ed and Nancy Aeschleman, was able to spend a week at home on vacation from his work in Denver, CO.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

Paul Oeschle's many friends in the Zapata area are saddened by his death, which came unexpectedly. Our sympathy is with his daughter and her family.

Sis. Esther Beer was a patient in a Laredo hospital before returning to her home in Roanoke. We

are happy to hear she is much improved.

Greetings to all our Winter Texans; we miss you.

SILVER THREADS

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride.
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble, free,
Thy name I love.
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brother-
hood,
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country
loved,
And mercy more than life!

America! America!
 May God thy gold refine,
 'Til all success be nobleness,
 And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
 That sees beyond the years
 Thine alabaster cities gleam,
 Undimmed by human tears!
 America! America!
 God shed His grace on thee,
 And crown thy good with brother-
 hood,
 From sea to shining sea.

JULY

The days are hot, the weather
 dry—
 It is the month we call July.
 The grain is threshed and
 gathered in,
 What a thrill to see it fill the bin!
 And nature with a bounteous
 hand
 Pours out her blessings on the
 land.
 A fairer sight is rarely seen
 Than the waving corn in fields
 of green.
 July displays its beauties, too,
 With bergamot in shades of blue.
 The bouncing Bet along the way
 And Queen Anne's lace their
 blooms display.
 July the Fourth we celebrate—
 It is our Independence date.
 For underneath each day, and
 scene,
 There rules a wondrous Power
 Supreme
 Which, if you know, you will
 acclaim,
 He's worthy of the highest name!

LIBERTY'S PRAYER

Lord God of low tides and high
 hopes,
 who has brought millions to our
 shores,
 grant that each of them shall find
 the freedom he sailed for,
 in this land which honors
 all who honor it.

Lord God of willing hands and
 opportunity,
 of past failures, present mistakes
 and future successes,
 who has brought man from wagon
 train to space capsule
 and filled this great country,
 imperfect though it may be called
 by some,
 give equal dignity to all

and send word back to Thomas
 Jefferson
 that we do try to fulfill the
 promises
 he filed under the Declaration of
 Independence.

Lord God of foreign ancestors and
 homegrown Americans,
 who taught strangers to live
 together,
 do as much now for friends.
 Remind fiery young hearts
 that passion works best when
 tempered with reason
 and that nothing was ever built up
 and torn down at the same time.

Lord God of broken promises and
 hungry hearts
 remind us constantly the land we
 call home wasn't built in a day,
 bear with our failures, forgive us
 our trespasses.
 As you once trained lightning and
 fireflies to live together,
 teach us now that good intentions
 are a beginning not an end,
 that doing is still better than
 hoping and wishing,
 that today holds the cure of
 yesterday
 and the torch I hold high
 is Liberty's nightlight welcoming
 tomorrow
 with a rainbow of freedom
 rising from the thunder of despair.

Paul W. Keyes

Originally appeared in Reader's
 Digest, Oct. 1971. Copyright 1971
 by the Reader's Digest Assn., Inc.

AMERICA, OUR HERITAGE

High towering mountains, fields
 gold with grain,
 Rich, fertile farmlands, flocks on
 the plain,
 Homes blest with peace and love,
 without fears:
 This is the heritage we've kept
 through the years.

Wide rolling prairies, lakes deep
 and broad,
 Canyons majestic, fashioned by
 God,
 Life lived in peace, contented and
 free:
 This is the heritage forever to be.
 Stout hearts and true, hold fast
 what is ours,
 God give us courage through
 darkest hours,
 God give us strength and guide
 with Thy hand

America, our heritage, our home-
 land.

AMERICANA

This great broad land of ours; its
 sweeping plains,
 Its rivers deep and long, its
 mountain chains,
 Enchant my enraptured heart with
 joy and pride
 And set me roving free from
 tide to tide.

I love its snow-clad peaks, its lakes
 of blue,
 Its golden dawns, and its
 morning dew.
 I cherish every road that leads me
 far
 Toward crimson sunset and bright
 evening star.

I've known its summer heat, its
 winter cold,
 As through its length and breadth
 I've gaily strolled.
 I've seen it stretched below as
 from the air;
 I've watched it, like a map, unroll
 down there.

Its flowering desert sands, its
 mighty trees,
 I've taken to my heart as one who
 sees
 Them as his gifts from God, whose
 lavish hand
 Has decked with living gems this
 lovely land.

Oh, would that all who live within
 its bounds
 Could realize that they're on holy
 ground,
 And that our lives would then as
 comely be
 As is America . . . land of the free.

Lewis Parker Miller

GOD TOUCHED THIS LAND

A Salute to the Hostages

America, we see you stand
 A vibrant, awe-inspiring land.
 Your zeal inspires; your dreams
 uplift,
 But freedom is your greatest gift.
 On, on they come from land and
 shore
 To see the lamp, the open door.
 With words eternal, man decreed
 That Freedom's rights are guaran-
 teed.

Sermon . . .

Continued from page 32

God-fearing men with virtuous
wives

Soon read the weather in the skies.
Strung their fences, plowed their
lands,
Held the future in their hands.

Time moves along, a transient
dream,
As leafy vessels ford a stream.
Other interests cast their spell
Till Freedom sounds a warning bell.

Our countrymen were boldly seized
To bring this nation to its knees.
As hearts were touched, they chose
to share,
And knees were bent in common
prayer.

United—We, the People—learned
When fifty-two at last returned
That Freedom shared will stand
the strain.
We SHALL NOT be misused again!

God touched this land—a spirit,
free—
With yellow ribbons on each tree,
Smiles and tears, a sounding bell.
Who honors Freedom, guards it
well!

Copyright 1981 Alice Leedy Mason

IN GOD'S GREAT
OUT-OF-DOORS

Out in the sunny pastures,
The herds of cattle graze.
Up in the highest treetops,
The birds sing songs of praise.
Far over cliffs so rocky,
The kingly eagle soars,
And all are joyous, living
In God's great out-of doors.

In dense and shady forests,
Wild creatures work and play,
And there the little squirrel
Is busy all the day.
Deep in the hollow tree trunks,
A pile of nuts, he stores,
For he must live all winter
In God's great out-of-doors.

How wonderful is nature!
How promising the thought
That everything created,
By God's own hand was
wrought;
And not just here about us,
But far on distant shores,
His vigilance encircles
All His out-of-doors.

Agnes Davenport Bond

is that?" They told him whose it was; it belonged to one of his former servants on earth. He thought, "Surely, if that servant has a mansion such as that, mine must be even more glorious."

They walked on down the street and when they came to his mansion, it was just a little bungalow, not too much to look at. He said, "Why is it that my former servant who had nothing in the world should have such a beautiful mansion, and I've got such a little home as this?" The angel said, "We build the mansions with the materials that you send while your walking upon earth."

That story made quite an impression upon me, beloved. We should be aware every day of our lives that we are building our mansions in heaven. Our faith, love, and work for the Lord are the materials that we are sending on before.

Now, let us consider what we have read this morning. The apostle Paul said, "Wherefore when we thought it good to be left at Athens alone." I Thess. 3:1. Paul and the other apostles and prophets gave their whole lives into the service of the Lord.

The apostle Paul was originally a Pharisee and highly regarded among his people. He was a ruler of the Jews. He was on a mission, we know, to stamp out the Christian faith when the Lord called him. The human element within us seeks honor, prestige and glory. I believe that Paul had all that in the position that he held within the Jewish religion.

But when Jesus called, beloved, Paul left it all and gave his whole life into the service of the Lord. This is what is so important. Regardless of our position in life when Jesus calls us and we have the grace to repent, we must leave all the wrong things that we have aspired to and serve the Lord.

The apostle Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. We read that in the Word. He went from city to city, often through great adversities, trials and tribulations to preach the Word of God. He did it for others. While in Corinth, he

wrote this letter to the Thessalonians. He said, When we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone. And sent Timotheous, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith." I Thes. 3:1, 2. There was a band of believers and ministers who traveled from this place to that place to preach the Word of God. That continues today, beloved.

Ministers who have been chosen by God preach as a work of faith. They are not a group of people who formulate a policy to tell others how to live. That is not what it is at all. They try to interpret the Word of God as God would have it known. It is a work of faith. This Word was inspired by God.

An old sister said to me recently, "When I read in Genesis and Exodus and those first books of the Bible, I wonder who wrote them; and I wonder how they knew what to write and how we know that it is true." Satan was putting some doubts into her mind. Doubts can come to our minds also.

Beloved, according to my understanding, the first five books of the Bible were written by Moses, and God told him what to write. Could there be any greater authority? Could anything be more accurate than what God Himself has set before us? Moses spent many, many hours speaking with the Lord.

The word says that the Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. (Ex. 33:11) You know how you speak with your friends. You spend hours speaking with them. We know that Moses went up to the top of the mountain and for forty days and forty nights he spoke with the Lord. He ate nothing and drank nothing during these forty days. He spent his entire time in speaking with the Lord and possibly writing down the things that God wanted him to record.

We know that the Word is true and accurate. Nothing that is written in this Bible has been proven to be wrong. Never have I heard of anything that is in this Word

that has had to be changed. It is true and it is accurate.

On the other hand, people who are trying to discover how man originated come up with many ideas. They have theories and they say, "This is the way man began his life here upon this earth." Then they write what they think are facts concerning things that have happened in the heavens, stars, and galaxies. But as man gains more knowledge, he has to change his thinking because he is wrong. How much confidence can we put into what men try to teach us?

Maybe you read the same article that I did about a man who was a professor in a college in California. He was teaching his students in college in a science course that the cosmos, or the heavens and the heavenly bodies, were created from nothing. He was called "on the carpet" for teaching this to his students. It didn't go along with what science had been teaching in the past. But that professor said that he has come to realize that the theory of evolution is full of holes. Those were his words. But he said that in the Bible there are no errors.

Wisdom was given to that man, not by his teachings, or by all the courses that he took in college, but by God Himself. That wisdom is what he wanted to teach.

Beloved, we have a great God. How great is our God? He has created the heavens. Men look into the heavens with powerful telescopes, and they find no end. They see billions upon billions of stars. We can read in the creation story that God made many stars. Dear ones, He made every grain of sand upon the seashore, every little pebble of sand. He is a great God, but He is also a tender and loving God.

Paul continues ". . . no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." I Thes. 3:3. I believe that Paul is speaking here of the terrible afflictions that he had to go through to preach the Word of God. How discouraged many of us would have become! We might have thrown up our hands and said, "It is worth it all? Do I have to go through this?"

The apostle Paul was beaten many times with thirty-nine

stripes. As I understand it, the limit that could be given at that time was thirty-nine stripes with a whip. Beloved, that is a terrible, terrible punishment to go through. Paul was stoned and left for dead. He was shipwrecked. He continued through so much because God was leading him, and he was willing to do it. He had to be willing or he would have quit.

What are you and I called upon to do, beloved? Nothing is asked of us to compare with what our forefathers have gone through to preserve the faith. Should we take it lightly? Or should we put forth all our effort and give our whole lives into the hands of the Lord saying, "Lord, here am I; use me in any way that Thou canst?"

"For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know." I Thes. 3:4. These Thessalonians were acquainted with the trials and tribulations that Paul and his fellow laborers had to go through to bring them the Word of God. How precious it must have been to them.

We know that this Word also had to be brought to this land of ours. It had to be carried across the oceans by those who had faith. They also gave their time and suffered many persecutions. Many times they were put into jail, suffering for their faith. They believed, and God gave them the inspiration to go forth and proclaim His Word.

You and I are the benefactors of this today, beloved. God has preserved His Word for you and me, and we ought to appreciate it. Let us try with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds to preserve it for our children and our grandchildren. We want them to come to God's house of worship and say, "This is my church. This is my faith. This is where my father and my grandfather worshipped, and I'm so glad and thankful." We do not want them to drive by the church house and say, "That's where granddad went to church. They are a little funny over there, and I don't have anything to do with that anymore."

Let us teach our children the true way of life, beloved. In the Word of God we can read that we

should teach our children the ways of the Lord.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deut. 6:6, 7.

"Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith." I Thes. 3:7. Isn't it a comfort to us, beloved, when we hear of the faith of others? How glad and how thankful we are for our brothers and sisters with whom we worship from week to week in our own congregations. How glad and thankful we are to hear also of our loved ones from this place or that place who so faithfully serve the Lord.

It gives us courage and strength, and brings joy to our hearts when we hear that loved ones have found the Lord. Oh, what joy it brings even among the angels in heaven. We can read: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

Think, beloved, of the time of Jesus' birth when the shepherds were in the fields, and the angels came to them. They saw a band of heavenly angels. I think often about how the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. Even today when one sinner turns to the Lord, the heavenly angels are rejoicing just as when they looked down upon the baby Jesus.

The angels who appeared to the shepherds were saying "Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:14. It doesn't say that they were singing; it says that they were saying it. Have you ever thought of that?

There must have been great concern among the host of heaven when Jesus was sent down to the earth, for they knew that He was going into a world where mankind was full of sin and hatred. They could probably foresee what He would have to experience. They were concerned for this Son of God whom they knew and whom they had oft rejoiced with in heaven. Now He was going to go down to earth to bring the message of salvation to lost mankind.

That same message is being

preached today, beloved. It is no different. It should be no different. It is the message that Jesus Christ came into the world to save lost mankind. If there is anyone here today who feels lost, Jesus came for you. He came for me. How thankful I was that when I needed Him and reached out and called, He was there and answered.

Dear ones, He is still sitting upon the mercy seat. God is upon the mercy seat today. But, how long shall it last? How long shall it be that God will be there?

We see the signs of the times, beloved. When Jesus preached, He told us what we could expect to happen in the days that are going to come. We see that many of these things have come to pass in our lifetime. Can we lightly pass it by, and say, "Well, it's going to be a long time yet 'till the Lord returns"?

There finally will come a time when God will send His angels to announce "To here and no further." An angel will stand upon the land and upon the sea and proclaim that there should be time no longer." Rev. 10:6. Then it will be too late. We read in the Word that they shall cry for the hills to cover them (Luke 23:30) and the rocks to cover them so that the Lord cannot see them. But it will be too late. Just one day too late will be too late. One hour too late will be too late. Let us give it serious thought, beloved.

As we grow up and are taught about the truth of life, we can read many books and magazines, but all the answers of life are given between these two covers of this Book. From the beginning to the end, it tells us how and why we were created. We don't have to have any doubt in our minds. It tells us what is going to happen to us in the end, and that is going to be as sure and exact as what has happened in the past.

The Word of God says, "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." I Thes. 3:8. Dear ones, we who have found the Lord rejoiced when we turned to Him who brought peace to our hearts. There is no greater feeling in this world than having God's peace in our hearts. There is just nothing like it. We can only receive this from the Lord, and we are so thankful.

Sometimes we become (what

shall we say?) a bit apathetic. We go along and we don't take it as seriously as we did in our first love when we found the Lord. It becomes important to be reminded as the Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians "Now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." I Thes. 3:8. We must hold fast to our faith all of our days here upon this earth. Dear ones, we could lose it again.

Being a member of a certain church here or there is not going to save us. It is only how we live in the Lord and by staying true and faithful that we can be with Him throughout eternity.

"For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?" I Thes. 3:9, 10. Can't we just see the love of this dear apostle? How he prayed for his people! He prayed day and night for them.

We can read in another place, I believe in Paul's letter to the Philippians, that every remembrance of them brought joy to his heart. Isn't that the way it is? When we think of each other, when we think of you loved ones here at Forrest and the love you have so often showed us, it brings joy to our hearts. Just remembering brings joy even though we aren't together many times.

"Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you." I Thes. 3:11. Paul longed to see them. He wanted to be with them once again, and he prayed that God would provide the opportunity to visit those whom he had established in the faith.

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God . . ." I Thes. 3:12, 13.

Dear ones, our desire is to establish and to encourage one another. No matter what comes over us in this life, we want to remember that. It would help us on through the day. Maybe we'll have a hard trial today; but if we can just make it through this day,

perhaps tomorrow will be a little better if we hold fast to our faith.

It is so hard sometimes for us to understand why God sent His Son, Jesus, into this world to save lost mankind. Some people would count that even as foolishness.

I once heard a story of a man who had been taught the faith when he was young, but, when he became older, he began to question it. He thought that it was rather foolish to think that God would send His Son to the earth from the beautiful portals of heaven to suffer as He suffered. He couldn't understand that.

The man in the story was married. His wife went to church and she believed. She tried to get him to believe, but he said, "It seems like foolishness to me." Finally he didn't even go to church anymore, but his wife continued to go.

One Christmas eve she went to church and he was home alone. A terrible winter storm came up. He heard a noise and looked out the window to see what was there. A flock of ducks had been heading south for the winter and the storm caused them to settle in his barnyard. He looked out upon them and he felt sorry for them. He knew that if they stayed out in the storm, they would perish. He had compassion on the ducks.

The man went out and opened the barn door, thinking that he would let them go inside. But they wouldn't go into the barn; they just huddled together. He tried to chase them into the barn but they wouldn't go. They didn't trust him and they were afraid.

Then he thought, "I'll try to lead them into the barn." He got some grain and sprinkled it on the ground up to the barn door, but they still would not go into the barn. He couldn't understand. "Oh," he said, "if they only knew what I am trying to do for them. I am trying to save them from the storm and if they don't go into the barn, they will perish." He had great compassion for that flock of ducks.

Then he thought, "If only I could become like one of them, they would follow me. If only I could become like one of them. I could lead them to safety."

Then he heard the church bells ring; and then he understood.

SERMON BY BRO. WILLIAM HODEL OF ROANOKE, IL

Text: I Thess. 3

Beloved, we realize that what we have read together this morning is only a very small portion of the Word of God and we must consider the entire Word or we may be led astray. It has been said that we can find Scripture that will justify anything that we want to believe if we take just a sentence here or there. But, when we take the whole Word of God, that will not be so.

By taking only a small portion we can quote, "There is no God." But, if we read the preceding words, it says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Ps. 14:1, and Ps. 53:1. Therefore, it is important to consider the whole Word of God.

Dear ones, we are born into a never-ending existence. Have you ever really considered that? Every baby will live forever. Even though its life may be only a few short hours and it will not grow to maturity, it will live forever.

It is the same for us, dear ones. We shall live forever. Eternity has already begun in the eyes of God. It is only for us poor mortals who live upon this earth that time as we know it shall come to an end.

There is a reason why we have been placed upon this earth and it is up to us to seek that reason and to understand why God has put us here. We should try to learn what it is that He expects of His children in general and of us at this particular point in history.

If we are going to consider the whole Word of God, we can go back to the beginning in Genesis where God created the heavens and the earth. He made a beautiful place and had a plan for man.

God created the world, as we know, in six days. He created light. He separated the waters and said that dry land should appear, and the dry land appeared.

Yes, God was making a place for the creature whom he was going to create. The land was barren and

cold and it was not beautiful. God brought forth grass and trees and flowers. Can you imagine how He must have cared to create all these beautiful things for us to enjoy? They were not always here, beloved. God made them for us!

God knew that He was going to create Adam on the sixth day and He was getting things ready for him. He was preparing a beautiful place for him.

It is amazing when we consider the many different kinds of flowers, so many that we cannot name them all. Each one has its own special beauty that God gave it for man to enjoy.

God brought forth the fish in the sea and the birds of the air. On the sixth day He created the animals, and on that same day He created Adam.

When creating the fish, birds, and animals, God spoke and they came forth. But when the time came to make man, He had a different plan. We can read in Psalm 139 that God has a book in which the "members" of all mankind were written before they were born. Think of how much thought and effort He put into this. God didn't just say, "Let him be." He formed man out of the dust of the earth; He put him together, and then He breathed into him the breath of life.

Man became a living soul and ever since that time, beloved, man has been a living soul that shall never die. Therefore, we need to prepare ourselves so that when we pass from this life into eternity, we'll be ready to live with God.

The world became dominated by sin when Satan through his subtilty brought the downfall of man. God had put man to the test when He requested that he not partake of one thing. We all know what that was. It was the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

God put many desirable and good trees into the garden of Eden,

but He said, "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it." Gen. 2:17. Satan by his cunning and craftiness tempted Eve to desire the forbidden fruit and she fell into sin. She disobeyed God.

The concern of God, beloved, has always been that all mankind would be obedient to Him. We can read in Rev. 4:11 that He created all things for His own pleasure. And so, as we live, we should bring pleasure to God.

The most important aspect of our lives is that we would glorify God in the way we live. We should glorify God in the things that we do and in the things that we say to one another, beloved. We need to glorify God and bring pleasure to His heart.

Because of the downfall of man, because of the sin that was in the world, God had to send a Redeemer. We know that Jesus Christ was sent into this world for that purpose. (We have just recently commemorated His birth.) Now Jesus has gone on before and He is preparing another beautiful place. Because this world has become contaminated by sin, Jesus is preparing mansions in the heavens for you and for me. Think of it!

Are we going to live in mansions? That's the important question for us today, beloved. It is our faith and following of our Lord that will determine our mansions in the heavens.

I once heard a story which I will tell to bring across a point. A rich man lived upon this earth sumptuously. He had servants, a beautiful home, and owned much land. When he died, he went to heaven. An angel was assigned to show him his mansion.

As they walked down the street, he saw a beautiful mansion, he thought, "Surely that must be mine." But they walked right on by, and he said, "Whose mansion

Continued on page 29