

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 31

AUGUST 1981

NUMBER 8

HOW MAN WAS CREATED

Submitted by Bro. Philip Sauder Cissna Park, IL

Do we understand or can we understand ourselves? Only if we find the answer in God's Word.

Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him. Male and female created he them.

Gen. 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

We are body, soul and spirit, and as James 3:9 also said, "are made after the similitude of God."

The soul contains the spirit which will continue to live, even after the death of the body.

Matt. 6:24 says we cannot serve two masters. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Let us say ye cannot serve the Spirit and mammon.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:5, 6

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

Now let us begin to understand ourselves by looking to Jesus.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. St. John 8:12

Now Jesus had a body like we have and a soul and the Spirit. Let us think of one at a time. He lived, died, and was resurrected. It is sown a natural body; is raised a spiritual body. I Cor. 15:44 The natural body from the dust of the earth desires or lusts after the things of the earth or of the flesh.

For all that is in the world, lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world (or earth). And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. I John 2:16-17

Let us think of the soul, the

moral or emotional nature of man, sensitivity or deepness of feeling. The spirit-filled soul desires the things of heaven, so there is a constant battle between the body and soul.

The spirit of a dead person is thought of as separate from the body and leading an existence of its own. The body sleeps until resurrection. The spirit is at either of the two places. According to St. Luke 16:22, 23, one was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom. The other found himself in hell where he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.

That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. St. Matt. 8:11, 12.

Let us look into Rev. 21 to read about Heaven, our desired destination of our spirit.

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

(Continued from July Issue)

April 6, 1824

Once, however, when he asked me again as to the most important matter of all, I could not help but ask him the counter-question, what he meant by this. The dear pastor almost laughed at this question, but he composed himself, grasped the opportunity and began to preach to me of repentance to God, knowledge of one's self, faith in Christ, etc. But he preached to deaf ears. I understood not a word of all he

said. His sermon seemed in part foolish to me, in part vexatious.

Yet I was honest enough to write down at home in my diary the main thought which had stayed with me and as it still stands there under date of April 6, 1824, namely: "Through the knowledge of God man comes to the knowledge of self; that is the truth which Christ taught us and to which we arrive only through re-

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATIONS ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

(Continued from July Issue)

May 14, 1840 (Thursday); Evening Meeting; I John 1:1 ff. (with light and power)

If John understands the Son of God by "That which was from the beginning," we must, by this "Beginning," think not of any definite time—for instance of Genesis 1:1—but of eternity, because our thoughts and ideas are still terminable and restricted (defined by

(Continued on page 3)

A Condensed . . .

(Continued from page 1)

penance." But that was all and besides I do not know whether I wrote it correctly or not, for the sinner does not attain to self-knowledge through knowledge of God, but much more the reverse: "Through the knowledge of self, one comes to the knowledge of God." (John 16:8)

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

From that day on however, a whole year passed before I felt the slightest trace of this knowledge of self, and from the above it is clear that if the grace of God wished to make something of me to His glory, it certainly had in me the greatest of all sinners, a fit object in whom to manifest, even in me, the greatest riches of the patience and pity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that I in turn should have pity towards my brethren in the flesh who still wander in error along the course of this world and after the prince of darkness. Finally, it pleased God well to awaken me from the sleep of death. He passed by me and saw me lying in my blood. He said to me as I thus lay in my blood, "Thou shalt live!" (Ezekiel 16:6)

April 1825

It was in the month of April 1825 when I was spending my Easter vacation in Brugg. All the circumstances are as fresh in my mind today as if it had happened yesterday. I cannot recall that there were many previous preparations or any special circumstances to work towards it. A very soft voice, which was neither terrifying nor depressing but nevertheless very convincing and penetrating, spoke in the depth of my soul, "It cannot remain thus with thee. Thou must change!" And at the same time it drew me irresistibly onward. I knelt for the first time before the hidden God and with uplifted hands solemnly gave the vow of fidelity, that from now on it must be different with me.

True, I did not as yet grasp and understand correctly what I said. Indeed I also did not as yet know the Lord Jesus Christ and the necessity for His atonement and redemption, for it was not yet the burden of my load of sin which had driven me to the Savior of Sinners, but merely the conviction, "Thou must change; other-

wise thou canst not become a minister."

From now on, with all earnestness and might I wished to shun sin, which I now recognized as sin, and knew not that it did not lie within my power to overcome a mastery which had for so long bound me with chains of darkness. But it was as if the Lord, to Whom I had made my vow, had taken me at my word, although it was really He Who had taken me by my hand and with all His goodness drawn me to Him.

Beginning with this day the whole scene changed. He never left me, I found rest and peace nowhere. My whole body, indeed the whole world, became too narrow for me. I sought for something which should fill the endless emptiness which had now arisen in my soul and I did not find it. I went into mountain and forest, knelt and prayed and cried out in lonely places. My whole being was longing, sorrowfulness and anxiety. I sought the Lord Jesus Christ with ardent fervor and many tears. That was the first period of my awakening.

The first piece of literature that fell into my hands was Fenelon's Religious Works, translated by Claudius. In it I found for the first time a name for my spiritual condition, for up to this time I had been an inexplicable riddle to myself and I did not know what was to become of me. Therefore it was, a consolation to see that others had experienced similar things. Especially did I believe to recognize myself in the 14th chapter of the first part, which bears the superscription, "Concerning the inner workings of God, to bring man back to the true end for which He created us." As yet I was far from seeking to be represented therein; it was Another Who did lead me and He led me into an extraordinarily difficult and dark path.

Now for the first time my suffering began. What I had to go through from now on, in a literal sense, is inexpressible. Everything that fire and water, hammer or sword may bring about, is as nothing compared with the unfathomable sea of trouble and misery wherein I thought I must sink. I wept night and day and writhed like a worm in the dust when it is trodden upon. Had I had authority over myself, I would often have

taken my life through anguish and despair. But the Lord held me in His hand in such a way that I could not move. The price that I paid was a higher one than this earthly life. Like Job I lay in the dust. In no human being, in no friend could I confide, nor could I reveal myself to anyone. All theological or rationalistic lectures became an abomination to me for I was now in another school.

All my letters of that time bear the stamp of my inner condition. My sisters feared that I was losing my mind because the tone of my letters was radically different from what it had previously been. They consisted for the most part of scriptural passages. For a long time I remained in this fiery furnace until at length faith in Jesus

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

Christ the Crucified brought me rest, peace and light, and made place within me for a new creation.

From then on Jesus Christ was the center of my whole life and sphere of activity. However I was kept constantly under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, for not until now did the struggle against my old nature and against the law of sin, which dwelt in my very members, become serious. But even with all my new transgressions, the faithfulness of the Lord did not forsake me. Both of these things, my sins and His grace, humbled me greatly.

October 1825

That was my last half year in Basel and the second period of my conversion from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. And so after a stay of two years in Basel, I was obliged to return to my home principally for economic reasons, in October 1825. Here in my father's house a new school or period of my life began, in which I was to be further trained, developed, strengthened, invigorated and grounded so that I should not enter as a novice into the important office which preaches atonement.

1826

Here I applied for the examination as a candidate for the Ministry, which was postponed to the following Spring 1826. At the request of my parents I preached for the first time in my native Brugg, the Sunday before Christmas, and met with such general approval that I should have become anxious and afraid if the honor of the Lord had not counted for more with me than all personal vainglory among men. I did not again preach here until Good Friday 1826, and that proved to be a veritable Good Friday for me. Instead of expressions of praise, I reaped only ridicule and reproach. It produced an entirely different effect from the praises I had received; it was necessary and wholesome for me.

Now for two entire years there came over me fiery tribulations that are beyond description. Only He Who knows the heart, knows what I suffered through it. I preached Christ here, there and everywhere in the country. But in every minister who allowed me to preach I gained a new opponent. With such preparation and fore-

bodings I approached my examination.

The principles which I brought to light in the compositions made such an unfavorable impression upon the members of the church council that I failed in the examination and was put back a year. The Lord had resolved upon this also for my further testing and purification.

In the course of this year, oppression and misery often rose to the extreme, both from within and from without. After a sermon which I was compelled to preach in September 1826, in a church of a member of the church council, among other things he wrote to my parents, who were already troubled and dissatisfied because of my set-back: "It is bad and dangerous (and this impressed the whole church council at the trial sermon) that your son is not on the right road with regard to his doctrine and teaching, and in all sincerity he should be advised to enter upon a better course, if he wishes to be accepted into the Ministry and is to make the proper success of his future calling. On this point I gave him my opinion in a friendly and earnest way. Now it depends upon whether he will give ear to good counsel. In any case he will do well if he will soon present new sermons composed in a different spirit." That was the occasion that also in my case the saying should be fulfilled: "A man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

From this quarter, too, they now began to vehemently urge upon me that I should preach in a different manner and indeed like others so that I be not excluded from the Ministry entirely. I however could not say a word in answer to this. In the midst of these blows and storms, I had to keep still like a lamb that is led to slaughter, like a sheep which is dumb before its shearer. The Lord however, amidst all these attacks of the foe, still gave me patience and courage to endure everything. Yes, even death rather than abandon the recognized and experienced truth.

With all this my body was not spared. In that very month of September 1826, I had a sudden attack of pain in my chest, so violent that I could hardly draw a breath and for many days seemed near death. That was followed, for

an entire year, by cramps in the chest and most difficult respiration. But never did I experience more vividly in my heart the unspeakable friendliness of the Lord Jesus than just at this time, toward the end of the year 1826. Without doubt it was to strengthen and prepare me for the ensuing darkness and the storms of opposition." (End of quotations from Froehlich's letter aforementioned, November 1831.)

(To be continued)

Meditations . . .

(Continued from page 1)

space and time); so we cannot yet comprehend what is beyond (the unending and eternal) and the Word of God therefore condescends to our limited knowledge and speaks of a beginning, and we must meanwhile satisfy ourselves therewith in this respect, for as long as we walk by faith the searching into the divine essence and perfection is not our concern or problem. We shall not speculate about the nature of God but shall believe His Word and become simple-minded and humble like children, or we shall eternally not attain unto the true knowledge nor enter into the kingdom of God. (Matthew 11:25 ff.; 18:3 ff.; I Corinthians 1 and 2)

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father; save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him."

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

(To be continued)

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Have you ever participated in the empathetic exercise of placing yourself in the role of a disabled person? How would it seem to be at the mercy of another for your complete care? Imagine how good a smile in passing would seem! Or the touch of a hand! How you would appreciate a minute taken to listen to a need. How did our Saviour react to the needs of the physically handicapped?

'Tis the human touch in this
world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the
fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine;
For the shelter is gone when the
night is over
And bread lasts only a day,
But the touch of the hand and the
sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul always.

—Spencer Michael Free

The year of 1981 has been declared the International Year of Disabled Persons. How comforting it is to know that the church has been sensitive to the special beauties, the tremendous struggles and the unique needs of the handicapped. In Christ's time, "great multitudes came to Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many others . . . and He healed them . . . Insomuch that . . . they glorified the God of Israel . . ." (Matthew 15:30-31) People who have the responsibility of caring for handicapped people realize that God has a special plan for each life. To ignore them and their needs would be to deny them the opportunity for God to work out that plan for their lives. How we appreciate the many who have helped in any way to shoulder the responsibility here at the Home for the Handicapped.

A volunteer appreciation dinner has been scheduled for the evening of Aug. 27. The monumental task of assembling the names and addresses will get our full attention; but if anyone who has volunteered does not receive an invitation by Aug. 20, please contact the Home. Our phone number is 309-266-9781. It is possible that your name and address were not listed on our volunteer sheets.

Looking further into what goes on inside the Home for the benefit of the residents, let us consider the Social Services Department. The Speech and Hearing Department and the Program Department, which have been previously discussed, are also a part of the Social Services Department. But what is a Social Services Department and why do we need one? Since we are a "home," it is important that we also be a "family." This department is responsible for coordinating ways to meet the social and emotional needs of our family. This includes counseling for staff and residents. All of us continue to go through changes in our lives. At the Home it is our responsibility to help residents adjust healthily to these changes. As in any family, there are sometimes conflicts and unacceptable behavior. We must help work out these problems with counseling, initiative, changes, and with behavior modification programs. Another phase of our work is to relate to and coordinate with other agencies. In this area we have the Peoria Area Retarded Citizens association and its adult day programs. There are also Community Workshops and Training Centers which carry on vocational adjustment programs.

It has been a beautiful summer. Some have and some will yet spend time at home with their families, which is a much-anticipated time for residents. The annual overnight outing at camp was again very much enjoyed. Though the Fourth of July brought an all-day rain, the potluck picnic for families of residents was much enjoyed. Summer activities will continue as long as weather permits.

Soon summer will be waning and our thoughts will turn to fall. Knowing that the annual Benefit Day, usually held in November, will arrive sooner than we expect, it is not too soon to plan what you would like to contribute. Because of the large facility available for that day, we can use many, many items.

Until we meet again, let us remember: "Kindness in words creates confidence; kindness in thinking creates profoundness; kindness in giving creates love."

Lao-Tse

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Doug Kellenberger

Time is flying. The summer is racing by. It is so easy to become too busy and neglect the things that really matter. Don't you find that we must take time to do those things that are important?

Both gardens need constant weeding but our children's nurturance is more important. Continual attention could be given to the maintenance of our grounds but we struggle to remember that our children need our time more. When we back up to view our earthly life from the Lord's perspective, it is His kingdom and our children's souls that will pay the longest and largest dividends. Thank you to those who give their prayers and support to these goals. Our children have benefited from them.

They continue to need your support. Two of our teenage girls have just begun their repentance toward God and faith in Christ Jesus. I have not included their names because it is not my intention that they receive glory; only that you are made aware of needs to pray for. Please pray for them (Colossians 1:9-11). They need the Lord's wisdom and His strength. In fact, the reason one started was because of the realization of her weakness and inadequacy without Him, during her recent stay of illness in the hospital. Upon visiting a church a brother once told me, that if we give the impression that we have no problems, there will not be the awareness in others that we need their help.

The Willis children are still up for adoption. They and we would appreciate a Christian home for them. If you have any questions please inquire of our administrator, Bro. Bob Cockburn, 219-627-5138.

The 5th Annual Quilt Sale

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us for this interesting and worthwhile event, Aug. 29.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Julie Hoerr

June 20, Lou Hawley was called from his earthly walk quite suddenly. His wife, Evelyn was visiting her parents in Girard at the

time. Bro. and Sis. Carl Gasser, Evelyn's parents, flew to Phoenix with her. The visitation and funeral services were held June 22, with internment in Rest Haven Mortuary, Phoenix. We pray Evelyn and her three sons may take comfort in the words of #138 in Hymns of Zion.

"All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you."

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Tillie Gerst in the death of her brother. Sis. Tillie was able to travel to Oakville for the funeral.

Bro. Gary Maibach, Rittman, was our guest minister. We thank him for sharing the many timely teachings with us. Bro. Gary reminded us—"We are the only Bible some people ever read." We trust Bro. Gary and family had a safe return to Rittman.

June 28 was the date of our last potluck until this fall. Each of us looks forward to the time we resume them, as it means cooler weather, lots of visitors, and good fellowship.

Many of our congregation are away on vacation, some for extended times—Bro. Clarence Beyer is helping with the Kansas City Church, Sis. Jody Knochel is helping at the Children's Home, as will Bro. John Kaufman in August.

Early in July, Bro. Alphi Fisher was moved from ICU to a semi-private room and was gradually improving. However, on July 15, it was reported he was not doing as well as he previously had been. We pray for Bro. Alphi and Sis. Gladys, as God knows their every need.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Rose Huette

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jay Bertsch and his family in the loss of his brother, Harve Bertsch of Bluffton, IN. May God comfort him in this time of sorrow.

On July 8 we were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Gary Maibach and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann from Rittman, OH, with us. We enjoyed them both and hope they will soon visit again.

We have been enjoying a rainy season which we really needed. It makes the desert look nice and

green. It is beautiful to see the clouds build up over the mountains.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

We are enjoying the weather and scenery out here this summer but the highlight of each week is the blessed fellowship on Sundays.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Walter Steffen of Milford, Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley, IL, Bro. Art Bahler of Fairbury and Bro. Al Lanhofer of Wichita. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Our friend Orville Romersberger of Meeker, CO is in the hospital here in Denver. He has had knee replacement surgery and is coming along nicely. We pray God will continue His healing power.

Know Each Other Better

Sis. Katherine Ries of Colorado Springs has been a wonderful asset to the church here.

Her parents, Andrew and Anna Stresneck came over from Yugoslavia in 1894 and settled in the Union City, N.J. area. There, her parents repented and were baptized by Elder Bro. Solomon Virkler of the Crogan church. He was a very young elder at the time and died at the age of 32.

Sis. Katherine was born during the time they lived in New Jersey—the youngest of 10 children. When she was about three or four years old, the family moved to Missouri. After staying there several years, they moved to the Peoria area. They lived there from 1912 to 1917 when they moved to Akron.

In October 1934 she married Larry Ries who was of the Catholic faith. In April, 1947, they were both baptized the same day that Bro. Ernest Graf was called into the ministry.

Sis. Katherine and Bro. Larry had two daughters, Mary Ann Mullet and Judy Moulton. Both now live in Colorado Springs.

In 1976, Bro. Larry died and in 1977 Sis. Katherine, on the advice of her doctors, moved to Colorado to be near her daughters.

Sis. Katherine's address is 2450 Lark Dr. Apt. 8, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Her phone is 303-633-7257. She enjoys hearing from old friends or anyone traveling through.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

We shall miss the presence of Bro. Charles Kieser who, with his wife and family, for two or more years, worshipped at Rockville here with us. Chuck, as we knew him, has now completed his term of study in radiology at Boston. He has gone from here to reside or practice in a lake region area in Cleveland, OH. He became a frequent visitor here on Sundays and was well acquainted at Rockville. We are safe to say, I believe, he could call anybody by their first name—his memory had that rating.

Bro. Daniel Bahler, son of Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia, and Sis. Carol Kloter, daughter of Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen, exchanged their sacred vows in the sight of God and in the presence of the Church. Conducting the service, Bro. Corbin informed and mildly admonished the couple as to their Christian duties in their home and lives. A prayer was then offered and the beautiful hymn #79 was sung by the entire congregation. A supper and reception was held in the LongView Village building. May God bless their homes and lives.

Here for Father's Day, Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois, having somewhat limited time, spent it with many of their relatives and friends. Their only grandchildren were born here; one reason for their visit. Yet Bro. John, in the ministry as he is, served our congregation with truly inspirational messages.

There were many who attended the annual Sunday School picnic. Food and cool drinks delighted the hearts of those who came.

Sis. Frieda Zutter has been a hospital patient off and on recently. She had been to Switzerland where she had visited relatives.

On a business seminar, heading for New Hampshire, Bro. Dale Eisenmann, elder at the Chicago church, and his wife, Sis. Judy, and family spent Saturday night and Sunday with us here at Rockville. His message from the pulpit was of inspirational origin and full of meaning. Brethren that come to us with these beautiful words enhance our fellowship and our lives.

Address Changed? Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Sally Gress

AS A MAN SOWETH

We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with
tears.

It is not just as we take it
This mystical world of ours.
Life's field will yield as we make
it,

A harvest of thorns or of
flowers.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker
of Morton, IL for ministering to
us this month.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Doris and Diane Rocke

What is it to be a Christian? It
is to have the glorified Christ in
us in actual presence and power.
It is to be DAILY transformed into
His image. It is to have Christ—
the life of our minds, hearts, and
wills, so that it is HE who thinks
through our minds, loves through
our hearts, and wills through our
wills. It is to have Christ the life
of our minds. Filling our life in an
ever-increasing measure until we
have no life apart from Him. May
each of us strive to fill our mind,
heart, and soul with Jesus Christ.

June 28 was the date for the
union of hearts between Sis. June
Eisenmann and Bro. David Sch-
midgall. We wish them all of God's
blessings for a lifetime together.
They will make their home in Mor-
ris, MN.

We extend our sympathy to Bro.
Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and
Sis. Lucille Maibach and all their
families in their time of sorrow,
due to the sudden passing away of
Bro. Harve Bertsch (Bluffton).
Bro. Harve's wife, Fran, is a sis-
ter to Bro. Ben and daughter of
Sis. Lucille. We pray they will be
comforted by the love of our al-
mighty Father.

Jeff Streitmatter III had a mis-
fortune at work. He cut his hand,
requiring surgery and a cast. He
will be unable to attend work for
a couple of weeks.

Bro. Elmer Jacob wishes to
thank everyone for the nice cards,
gifts, visits and prayers while he
was at the hospital and at home.
He deeply appreciates everything

and asks that God bless you all
richly.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Alfred Bahler

This is the first item in the Sil-
ver Lining concerning the breth-
ren, friends, and worship services
in Atlanta. We are hopeful that
the future will see many loved
ones spending their weekends here
when services are scheduled. We
extend a sincere invitation to any-
one driving through our area or on
business to worship with us. Serv-
ices are held on the second and
fourth Sunday of each month, at
10:30 A.M. and 12:15 P.M. at the
Ramada Inn of Marietta, GA,
which is on the northwest edge of
Atlanta on Interstate 75.

Occupations and training schools
have brought a number of people
of our faith's background to our
area. We thank the Lord that He
has created in the hearts of the
local friends the desire to come to-
gether around the Word with us
and to enjoy the fellowship as we
have known it to be such a bles-
sing to us all.

Throughout the past winter and
spring months, services were held
at the above mentioned location
only when ministering brothers in-
formed us of their intent to be
here. They were appreciated very
much. Now, since there has been
a schedule of ministers established
from the Midwest and Eastern
churches, we look forward to hav-
ing you visit us.

Anyone desiring further infor-
mation, please contact Bro. Linn
and Sis. Brenda Stoller, 8419 N.
Pond Ct., Riverdale, GA 30274.
Telephone: 404-471-0349

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

"As we start a new day
untouched and unmarred,
Unblemished and flawless,
unscathed and unscarred,
May we try to do better
and accomplish much more
And be kinder and wiser
than in the day gone before—
Let us wipe our slates clean
and start over again,
For God gives this privilege
to all sincere men
Who will humbly admit
they have failed many ways,
But are willing to try
and improve these "new days"

By asking God's Help
in all that they do
And counting on HIM
to refresh and renew
Their COURAGE and FAITH
when things go wrong
And the way seems dark
and the road rough and long—
WHAT WILL YOU DO
WITH THIS DAY THAT'S SO
NEW?

The choice is yours—
GOD leaves that to YOU!"

Helen Steiner Rice

As the angels rejoice over one
sinner that repents, they are sure-
ly rejoicing with our friends Bill
and Shirley Denick and Clyde and
Charlene Knobloch who have giv-
en their lives to the Lord. Many
prayers are with them as they
start their new journey.

On July 12, Bro. Joe Stoller
from the Princeville congregation
spent the day with us and taught
us God's Word. We appreciate the
effort put forth by Bro. Joe to be
with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Evelyn Endress

In our selection of Sunday
School teachers, Bros. Marvin Le-
man and Greg Stoller, and Sis.
Martha Kieser were chosen to as-
sist in the teaching of our chil-
dren. The superintendent for the
coming year will be Bro. Duane
Elsasser. We also approved the
selection of Bro. Loris Stisser as
our new World Relief representa-
tive. Special thanks go to Bro. Roy
Ehnle who has held this position
for the past several years.

Visiting ministers have been
Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit)
and Elder Bro. Dave Kieser. We
are grateful for their timely warn-
ings.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Ehnle
wish to thank everyone who has
remembered them with prayers,
cards, and gifts of love throughout
Mark's illness. We are pleased he
is feeling good and is able to go
about his normal duties at this
time. Bro. Marvin Knobloch is also
home from the hospital after being
a patient for several days.

Sis. Julia Ehnle's family would
like to thank all of you for remem-
bering their mother with cards,
flowers, and gifts on her 91st
birthday.

ADDRESS CHANGED?

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Summer is a time of family reunions and get-togethers. Sometimes reunions, involving long trips perhaps and the transporting of potluck goodies, don't seem to be quite worth the trouble. But how can that be? Are we not exhorted to be ambassadors for Christ? Where can we be more of a witness by example than in family and extended-family gatherings? Often it is those who are older who anticipate the reunions eagerly. Couldn't we who are younger attend and give them a small gift of time and a listening ear? How much better to spend time now with them than only to attend their funerals and/or send condolences later. We may even find ourselves enjoying Uncle Jake's stories, along with Mary Ann's brownies, and inhaling the flavor of our grandparents' existence. And truly there, as surely as anywhere, we can radiate love.

From some of our family experiences, I was taught two lessons on July 4. A friend happened to join our family on that rainy holiday. It was a joy to have her with us, and though the sky was grim, the company was shiny. After a sumptuous breakfast, 'twas time to go to other gatherings and close this one down. This dear friend was helpful, of course, but she even offered to take our trash with her. She said there was no reason for us to have to take the garbage, that she could take care of it for us. So we gratefully said OK. What a friend. . . Christ took upon Himself the blackness and filth of each of our sins that we might not be forever stained, for all were a burden we could not carry. What a friend we have in Jesus! Another point: Often on our country's birthday the fireworks displays are dazzling and spectacular. But how short one firecracker lasts. Its brief "lifespan" is but an instant. That's how short, though often as mystifying and enticing are the world's pleasures.

Bro. Gene Lehman, Wolcott, IN, shared a blessed Sunday with us July 5. Words cannot express the gratitude of our spiritual man when a brother will come a distance to be spent to bring us the Word. I'm not sure that our time in church on Sunday can be considered a tenth of our time, but this verse, I believe, is fitting:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10 Surely the windows of heaven opened to send the punishing but cleansing rain in Noah's time, as well as the rainbow. From the heavens came the manna, Elijah's ravens, and the tongues of fire at Pentecost. Just as amazingly we are still recipients of those opened casements: guardian angels hovering as we grow up, sent by a Lord who took care of us long before we knew Him; overwhelming realization of one's guilt and shame; that glowing, soothing peace that passes all understandings; everyday grace in fullest measure; balm in toughest trials and sorrows; godly power to do battle. Oh, my Lord, may Thou keep Thy windows ever open, for without such precipitation this earth would be more desolate than any have heretofore known.

We share exciting news with Bro. Matt and Dorothy Strahm. Their first grandchild, Douglas Allen, was born July 2 to their daughter, Jeannine and Steve Wolf, who live in Ft. Wayne, IN. We wish Steve, Jeannine, and little Doug every blessing of a rich and loving family life. We welcome Bro. Bud and Sis. Kay Descarpentrie and their children Leigh (12) and Jeremy (9) back (after ten years) to our Chicago congregation. Bro. Bud is the new business manager of the DeKalb schools. We look forward to their fellowship and pray the Lord will continue to provide for them bountifully in all their needs.

Bro. Earl Feller and Sis. Christina Fuhrmann were hospitalized. May the Lord guide their recovery as He holds them in His mighty hands. With this month's news, I had also planned to welcome Jim Waibel, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waibel, Peoria, IL, to his studies at DeVries Institute. Instead, as he died suddenly, within days of his arrival, we must extend our deepest wordless sympathy to his parents and family. Christ must be their ALL, for humanly it seems an impossible load of sorrow to bear.

When we are shaded by the trees, the heat may still seem un-

bearable. But think what the heat would have been like were we not protected from the sun! So are we o'ershadowed by His presence and protected from that which we could not bear.

When one is driving along the expressway, one tends to try to blend in and match the "flow of the traffic." Yet the speed limit is 55 m.p.h., and we must keep an eye on our speedometer, so that we are not given tickets. In our spiritual life, we must watch more and more closely the temptation to attach ourselves to the quickly moving world's pace, its path. We must always have our eyes on the straight and true needle of our spiritual speedometer, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we don't go too fast (nor yet too slowly).

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psalm 145:18 One recently testified that the death of his father, difficult as it was, brought him to a deeper trust in God, a stronger prayer life, for he now depended more specifically on faith in his Heavenly Father's wisdom.

Faith, it has been said, is the act of kneeling and then drinking from a golden stream. Without taking both actions, some die of thirst.

There is a statue of Christopher Columbus in front of a building. The way it was constructed formed a tiny niche of protection from the elements. According to the story, during a snowstorm, a sparrow found refuge there. And while there, he preened himself, musing that Christopher Columbus discovered America just so that in this city the people would erect this building and statue so that he, during this storm, could have rest in that place. Now that sounds somewhat far-fetched and quite a little arrogant on the sparrow's part: but would he not have been stupid indeed if he had stayed out in the storm and not taken advantage of the refuge?

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

We are happy to announce the engagements of our young people: Sis. Lisa Young (Sis. Kate and Harvey Young) to Bro. Wesley Kaufman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldine Kaufman). A fall wedding is being planned. Guy Winger (Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Winger)

and Sarah Reutter (Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Reutter) are planning an Aug. 1 wedding. Also Kay Bauer (Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bauer) and Keith Eisenmann (Bro. Ray and Sis. Emily Eisenmann) are planning an Aug. 29 wedding. We wish them God's blessings as they walk the path of life together.

A little bundle of joy has come to the home of Darlen and Ron Knapp. Their little boy arrived June 15 and has been named Daniel Alan. Grandparents are Alvin and Dorothy Rudin and Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp.

Hospital patients this month have been Danelle Stock (Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock) who fell off a swing and broke her arm. She was treated and released. Medical patients were Gordon Winger and Sis. Ida Rocke. Both are home again. Bro. Lester Rocke has been admitted as a medical patient while Bro. John Brenner, who has been confined to his home, has suffered another stroke and is back in the hospital. We pray the Lord will grant His healing power to all who are sick. Sis. Helen Kuebler has also been in a hospital in Indiana, recovering from injuries received in a car accident.

In the twilight hours of her life, we rejoiced with Kate Enz as she brought her testimony before the congregation, was baptized, and became our dear sister in faith.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We rejoice when our dear brothers come to visit and bring such inspiring messages which help each and every one to feel closer to the Lord.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Mardell Ott - Shirley Ifft

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." What a great responsibility we have in teaching our children about our heavenly Father! It's so important we take time, all the time, to teach them and not let our daily work prevent us from planting those good seeds in their tender hearts. Good seeds were sown during our Summer Bible School which was held on five consecutive Wednesday evenings. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 28.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp

were blessed with a baby boy, Luke Roger. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knobloch (Lester) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Elsie Knapp.

The engagement of Sis. Lisa Knapp (Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Clark Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marjorie), Roanoke, was announced July 5. We wish them God's blessings and direction in their future together.

July 12 was the wedding day of Sis. Janet Knapp (Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice) and Bro. Ben Leman (Bro. Sam and Sis. Ann), Roanoke. We are thankful Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Eugene Bertschi and Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield) could be with us on that day. We are also thankful to Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) for visiting and bringing the Word to us this month.

Our hospital patients this past month were Ruth Miller (Elmer), Sis. Annette Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula), Amity Whales (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol), and Sis. Margaret Ott (Clayton).

Our sympathy goes out to Dave Zimmerman and his family in the loss of his daughter, Joyce Morrison.

God's Love

God's love is like an island
In life's ocean vast and wide—
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the restless, rising tide . . .

God's love is like an anchor
When the angry billows roll—
A mooring in the storms of life,
A stronghold for the soul. . .

God's love is like a fortress
And we seek protection there
When waves of tribulation
Seem to drown us in despair. . .

God's love is like a harbor
Where our souls can find sweet
rest
From the struggles and the
tension
Of life's fast and futile quest . . .

God's love is like a beacon
Burning bright with faith and
prayer
And through the changing scenes
of life
We can find a haven there!

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

With the time approaching when beloved brethren will be gathering together for the brotherhood conference, we feel an urgency to commend them to the Father. How vital to the spiritual health of the church in exceeding perplexing times, that the church be founded on the Word of God alone. Satan would have us overwhelmed with the problems at hand to the point that our vision of the distant shore would be obscure or possibly not in sight at all if it were not for the refuge in the truth of the Word. May the Lord go before the brethren and manifest Himself mightily among them.

Paul Moser (son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeannette) and Kim VanLunt (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace VanLunt) were united in marriage June 13 in Florida. May they seek the Lord to direct their life together.

Bro. Art Mueller has been a patient at the Mayo Clinic for several weeks with a rare affliction (Blastomycosis). He is home again and is making progress with his recovery, however, he will require treatment for six more weeks (as an outpatient) in their local hospital (Beloit, WI).

Sis. Anna Haas, who presently lives in California near her daughter, has suffered a stroke which has required extended hospitalization. Others who have required hospitalization and have been in our prayers have been Sis. Sue Braun, Bro. Dale Schock, Walter Schambach, Anna Ottinger, Lydia Conrad, Martha Lohbauer, and Arnold Lohbauer.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Jeannette Schmidt in the death of her mother, Alvina Schuman. We trust in the promise that the Lord does not leave us comfortless, and we sincerely pray for the comfort of the Lord for our dear sister in faith now in her bereavement.

Several family reunions have brought many visitors to fellowship with us. Among those visitors have been several ministering brothers who have blessed us with teachings from God's Word. They were: Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford), Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton), and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana).

Recently the Elgin congregation purchased land on Highland Ave., just west of the Elgin city

limits, in anticipation of future growth needs. On Sunday, July 19, immediately following our afternoon service, we gathered on this property for a dedication service.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

The weekend of June 21 was a most blessed one; six new souls were added to the fold. They are Sis. Tina and Bro. Bruce Martin, children of Bro. Louis and Sis. Arletta; Sis. Jeannine and Bro. Jon Wettstein, children of Harold and Loretta; and Bros. Eldon and Greg Wiegand, husband and son of Sis. Loretta, who is so happy and thankful. With us that weekend were many visitors. We especially thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer of Milford who assisted Bros. Leroy and Walter in this important work. Also here were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton), Simon Wagenbach (Tremont), and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

We also thank Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Glenn Dill (Tremont), and Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO), who were here Sunday, July 5, willing to be spent in our behalf.

On June 27, Bro. Dan and Janet Beutel welcomed a new baby girl, Andrea Lynn. Happy to have a little sister is Heather. Her grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel of Tremont and Harold and Loretta Wettstein.

Lonnie and Kandy Kupferschmid are the parents of a little girl, Katie Lynn, who was born July 6. She has three sisters, Kimberly, Kalene, and Kylee and one brother, Brent. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Laura Kupferschmid and Mrs. Caesar Klaus, Jr. of Eureka.

We were pleasantly surprised Wednesday evening, July 8 when Bro. Noah and Sis. Lorraine Herman of Tucson visited us. We thank Bro. Noah for bringing us the Word.

"The size of a seed does not determine the greatness of a plant or a tree. The determination of greatness is the capacity for growth contained in a seed and environmental factors. The greatness of human life, likewise, does not depend on material size but rather on its capacity to draw into itself those spiritual forces which are in God's universe and to use them for its development. Many

lives have been richly endowed physically, but have failed because of a lack of inner resources, and likewise many, limited physically, have attained great heights because of their capacity to grasp and use spiritual power."

Sunshine magazine

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

July 5 was the wedding day of our Sis. Christa Huber to Bro. Verle Sauder of Morris, MN. May their lives continue to be guided and directed by our Heavenly Father. Their parents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber and Virgil and Mildred Sauder of Hancock, MN.

The engagement has been made known of Sis. LuAnn Steidinger and Bro. Larry Hartzler, Rittman, OH. Parents of the couple are Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler of Rittman. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they make their future plans together.

We have two new arrivals in our congregation this month. Janelle Anne is the new daughter of Nancy (Moser) and Kevin Friedman. Grandparents are Keith and Nita Moser and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Friedman. A new little son, Mark Dennis, has joined the family of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. To welcome him home is a sister, Joy, and four brothers, Michael, Phillip, Matthew, and Timothy. Grandparents are Urban and Ollie Steidinger and Bro. Reuben and Sis. Caroline Fehr.

We heard many good teachings from our visiting Bro. Elmer Witzig of Gridley.

Bro. Joe Slagel wishes to thank everyone for remembering him with their prayers, gifts, cards, and flowers while he was in the hospital and since returning home. He is receiving therapy on an outpatient basis at this time and is showing improvement.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

We thank Bros. Ed Aeschleman, Philadelphia, PA, Kenneth Schneider, Remington, IN, and Loren Knapp, Tucson, AZ, for bringing God's precious Word to us.

In the hospital and back home again were Sis. Luella Sohn, Bro. LeRoy Koehl, and Sis. Leah Honegger. The Lord can be our strength in times of need.

The congregation welcomes Elsie Hoffman (Bob) as our sister in faith. May God be with her and stand by her side.

Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts wish to thank everyone for all the prayers and kind deeds done in their behalf during Bro. Meredith's recent surgery and recuperation at home. It has been a great comfort to them. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

June 28 was a very important day to our Goodfield congregation, as it was the day of the Dedication of the recent addition to, and remodeling of, our church to God.

"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." Psalm 84:1, 2

Jesus Christ is the foundation of our building, as it was increased in the hope that lost sinners may come and find salvation for their souls. We must dedicate ourselves unto His service and unto His Holy Name with true brotherly love. We must strive to keep the Love of God ever present in our building in order to truly have beauty herein.

These and many good teachings and admonitions were brought to us by the following: Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, KS; Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, IN; Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka; Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago; Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville; Bro. Dan Koch, Tremont; and Bro. Joe Braker, Morton. Also, retired ministers—Bro. Silas Leuthold and Bro. George Wagenbach, both of Princeville, and Bro. Henry Grimm, Morton—were with us on this very memorable day. Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest, visited us the previous Sunday. May they be richly blessed for their many labors of love!

We ask God's blessings upon the families to whom precious little ones have been added: Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm have a little daughter, Jennifer Marie, born July 5. She has a brother, Mike, and her grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm. Luke Edward is the new little son of Ed and Joanne Wiegand. He was born June 20, has a brother,

Matt, and his grandparents are the Glenn Pyles of Deer Creek and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand of Eureka. Chuck and Jill Knapp have a little daughter, Amanda Nicole, born July 11. Her grandparents are the Rob Bellvilles of Goodfield, and Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildren Knapp.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Doug Bauman (Don and Ginny) who became ill while traveling near St. Louis. He was hospitalized in St. Louis several weeks, and was recently moved to a Peoria hospital. It appears that improvement is very slow.

Sis. Helen Streit submitted to surgery July 13, and we also pray that she may feel the wonderful Love of God and the Hand of the Almighty Healer.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold in the death of their dear daughter, Linda Melton of Lincoln. Linda passed away July 10. Surviving are her husband, Jack, and two daughters, Holly and Terri, three brothers, Scott, David, and Bro. Mike, and two sisters, Patricia Kuntz, and Sis. Terri Bjork.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

Sunday, June 28 was a blessed occasion when we were privileged to witness the vows and baptism of Mike Zimmerman, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen. Ministering Bro. Albert Aberle of Tremont was able to be with us that day.

We also appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Alpha Moser of Morris, Noah Gerber of West Bend, and John Lehman of Bern.

Our hospital patients were Pam Gramm, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie, Sis. Rozella Knapp, Sis. Vi McKinley, Sis. Martha Schlipf, Bro. Ray Meiss and Karin Kiefer, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb.

BLESSED EVENT

by Perry Tanksley

It's properly called
A blessed event
When almost miracle-like
A baby is sent.
For a child's arrival
Is God's invasion,
And Love's renewal,
And a joy celebration.

Trees clap their hands
When a baby is born,

And night sorrow exits

On the wings of the morn.
Hope and Gladness betrothed,
Go dancing through the earth,
And Faith and Love embrace
When a mother gives birth.

The birth of Maria Natasha Klopfenstein was a blessed event for her parents, Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol. She was born July 3 and is the sister of Elizabeth, Charity and Perry II. Maria's grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller of Portland, OR, and Sis. Anna Klopfenstein of Gridley.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana Schifferer are the happy parents of Katie Jean who was born July 12. She has two brothers, William, Jr. and Gary. Katie's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schifferer and Mr. and Mrs. Louie DiPirro, all of Marengo, IL.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Bro. Jon and Sis. Christi Lou Zeller welcome into their home and hearts their third son, Brian Joseph, who was born on June 26. Andy and Jesse helped to welcome Brian home. The happy grandparents are Henry and Sis. Norma Zeller and Ralph Meyering.

Sis. Sylvia Schmidgall was called Home to be forever with the Lord. Her funeral was held on July 1. May God comfort her husband, Bro. Mike, her family and friends.

Our congregation has recently selected Sunday School teachers. We want to wish our three loved ones the Lord's blessings in teaching our children and young people God's Holy Word. The three new teachers are Sis. Mary Staker, Bro. Mark Grimm, and Bro. Jim Metzger.

It was with sadness that we bid "Farewell" to Bro. Bill, Sis. Gail, Erin, Maci and Michael Mayo. Bro. Bill was transferred to a Caterpillar plant near Altadena, CA, and they will be going to the church there. May God richly bless them in their new home. We will surely miss them, but will be together in Spirit.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Jane Martin's son, William E. Martin, has an address change. He is in the Air Force. His new address is:
A.I.R. William E. Martin
PSC-Box 81074
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Tucson, AZ 85707

The month of August will find our Sunday School teachers, children and young people assembling with us for morning church services. It will be a blessing to have them with us for both church services.

Summer is quickly passing by. School bells will soon be calling our children and young people back to classes. Some will be starting grade school, junior high, high school or schools of higher learning. May the Lord richly bless and keep them.

Our Brotherhood Conference is to be held in Roanoke, IL, with Elder meetings on Aug. 19 and 20 and the General Conference on Aug. 21. May our Heavenly Father richly bless our beloved Elder Brothers with Heavenly Wisdom. May the Holy Spirit lead, guide and direct all three days of the meetings. May each one of us strive to uphold our most precious faith.

Bryce Aaron Spangler was born on July 14 to Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn Spangler. Adam is happy to have a baby brother. The happy grandparents are Gordon and Joyce Spangler and Bro. Warren and Sis. Till Kaiser.

First-time parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall. Matthew Michael was born on July 16. The happy grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf, Morris, MN, and Ken Schmidgall, Morton, IL, and Jean Schmidgall, Peoria, IL.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital. They are: Sis. Alma Glaser, Sis. Mary Baum, Sis. Lorene Schieber and Bro. Vernon Kaiser. May God continue to be with them and all who are sick or shut-in. May we all continue to remember them in our prayers.

We are thankful that Bro. Mark Bahr, Detroit, MI, ministered God's Holy Word unto us. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in a better land.
We'll read the meaning of our
tears,
And there, sometime, we'll
understand.
Then trust in God thro' all the
days,

Fear not, for He doth hold thy
hand;
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and
praise,
Sometime, sometime we'll
understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

We were saddened to hear of the tragic drowning of our dear friend Jim Waibel. He is the son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Ethel (Hodel) Waibel. Also surviving are his brother Jeff and his sister, Sis. Pam Ober and brother-in-law Bro. Ken Ober. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to this dear family that they may feel God's comfort and strength through the days that lie ahead.

We extend our prayers to Sis. Martha and Frieda Christ who lost their mother in June.

To me is given boundless mercy,
A gift that I did not deserve,
Such wondrous love, It is so
marv'lous

That such for me should be
reserved.

But since I know, I will rejoice,
And praise thy mercy with my
voice,
And praise thy mercy with my
voice.

Zion's Harp #220

Three dear souls were brought into the fold of Christ on the weekend of July 4. They were Dave and Rita Sauder and Frank Ferrero, husband of Sis. Donna. We were reminded of this special time in our lives as we listened to their testimonies.

We were blessed to have in our midst many visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bros. Andrew Virkler, Bay City, MI, Don Sauder and Eugene Bertschi, Roanoke, and Ed Hohulin, Goodfield. Also Bros. Don Wagenbach from Washington, Jim Leman from Roanoke, Roy Ehnle from Bradford and Noah Herman from Tucson, AZ, assembled with us. May the Lord richly reward them for their labors of love.

Hand in hand, two dear couples will walk life's pathway together, as they have been joined in holy matrimony. On June 14 Bro. Dennis Virkler and Sis. Gayle Stickling were united in heart. Parents are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Maxine of Bay City, MI, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon Stickling.

June 21 was the wedding day of our Sis. Linda Unsicker (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Carolee) and Bro. Tim Martin (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen) of Roanoke.

We wish each of these couples God's richest blessings.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Dan Hoerr (Dave and Sis. Harriet) to Sis. Kayla Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi) of Morris, MN.

Our congregation has been blessed with two dear little souls. Rachel Leigh was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel. Renee welcomes her new little sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz and Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

Tina welcomes home her new brother, Heath Robert. His parents are Robert and Michelle Coburn. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lorette Eisenmann and Mr. and Mrs. Cilford Coburn.

Among the hospital patients this month were Sis. Norma Rieker, Sis. Elsie Hess, Sis. Marie Hoerr (Otto), Sis. Katherine Hoerr (Max), Sis. Mary Lawless, Bro. Rudy Hoerr, Ed Powers, August Hoerr, Evelyn Thomas, and Mrs. Ben Langjahr. May God heal and restore new strength to each of them according to His will.

The Bible Class students had the opportunity to visit the historical church sites again during Vacation Bible School. These included the original assembly in Peoria at the John Freiderich Hartman home on Monroe Street, the former Apostolic Christian Home on Monroe Street, and the old Green Street church building. The interest was high and many questions were asked.

Youth Fellowship Day was held on July 12 at ISU. Our Bible Class, eighth graders, and their teachers heard many wonderful teachings and enjoyed the blessings of the fellowship there.

Sis. Anna Hoerr wishes to express her sincere thanks and appreciation unto the young married couples who had a fund raising project on her behalf. God bless each and all who gave of their time, love and kindness.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The Bible tells us that the whole world could hardly contain the things that Jesus did. Yet, we never read that He was in a hurry.

Our visiting minister who told us about putting spiritual things first was Bro. Kenneth Dietz of Bradford.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Mike Menold, Bro. Harold Steiner, Sis. Carol Baurer, and Sis. Teresa Martin. They will replace Bro. Florian Streitmatter, Bro. Bob Wieland, Sis. Evalyn Herrmann, and Sis. Janice Herrmann.

On July 5, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Larry Baer to Sis. Vera Frieden of Lamar, MO. Parents are Otto and Eleanor Baer of our congregation and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice Frieden of Lamar.

Congratulations to Jim and Sherrie Gerst. They were married July 12 in Bradford. Parents are Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst of our congregation and Robert and Ellie Hanning of Bradford.

Jeff Martin, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin, injured his hand July 11. He had surgery July 12. He has recovered and is feeling fine again.

Also, Bro. John Joos is recovering from surgery. He and his family sincerely thank everyone for all tokens of love and kindness bestowed on him during his illness. May God bless you.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. Erik and Sis. Debbie Givens. Bro. Erik's father, Al Givens, passed away June 30.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel - Carol Rumbold

We welcome little Kristin Leigh to the world. She is the second daughter born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and Bro. Walt and Sis. Velma Leman.

On June 24, Amy Marie Bates arrived and now is home with Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates. Amy's grandparents are Sim and Virginia Bates and Bro. John and Sis. Ester Sauder.

A third little girl will be with Kristin and Amy in Sunday School someday when they are old enough! Emily Marie was the name given to the new daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand. Sis. Lena Wiegand and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney are the lucky grandpas and grandmas.

The "Real Joy" to all the parents will be when their children

are "born again" someday, we pray!

June 6 was the wedding day of Dennis Zimmerman (Gene Zimmermans) and Mary Beth Leman (Bill Lemans). We are thankful that they will worship with us on the prairie. Laurel Brown (Don Browns) and Mike Santi (Eugene Santis) exchanged vows on Friday evening, June 26. May their new home be filled with happiness. On June 28, we witnessed the vows of Bro. Brad Hodel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Patti Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell). Lord, bind their hearts together with Thy Love in these times when marriage is taken so lightly and lived so loosely.

We were blessed abundantly as we enjoyed three visiting ministers one Sunday. They were Bro. Ed Aeschleman of Union City, Bro. Merle Kaisner from Fairbury, and Bro. Everett Harri of Bloomington-Normal.

Bro. Bob Luginbuhl is now home and recuperating from open-heart surgery. Many prayers were offered in his behalf and surely God answered swiftly.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang

We are very thankful that our prayers for a deacon have been answered. This duty has been laid upon our dear Bro. Charles Sauder. We pray the Lord will grant him and his family grace sufficient to carry out his new duties.

It is a real joy to report that on June 20, we heard the testimonies of six dear souls and witnessed their baptisms on Sunday, June 21. They were Sis. Beth and Sis. Diane Frank (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie), Bro. Mike Stickling (Sis. Millie), Bro. Mark Kaiser (Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene), Bro. Chuck Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice), and Bro. Jim Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn). This was truly a day of rejoicing for us all. We wish them much needed grace to walk this new path they have begun.

A blessed evening of fellowship was ours on June 28, as we had our annual Sunday School picnic at our local park.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers Bro. Ed Frank, Bro. Roy Sauder and Bro. Harold Schmidgall with us this month.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Mary and Joan Schick

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2

The weekend of June 27 and 28 was an uplifting one as we welcomed two new sisters, Sis. Lynette Heinold and Sis. Ida Pfaffman into the fold. We were privileged to hear their testimony on Saturday evening as they expressed the peace they now feel that only Jesus our Saviour can give. God has blessed us so much to give us the rich heritage we have. Sometimes it's easy to take it all for granted and forget those who have never known God. We must continue to pray for people everywhere and let God use our lives to His glory.

Several from our congregation traveled to Bluffton for the wedding July 12 of our Bro. Gordon Gerber to Sis. Kathy Dotterer from Bluffton. We welcome Sis. Kathy to our congregation and look forward to having her here.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Roy Sauder, Sam Anliker, and Joe Braker, and also Bros. Joe Schrock, Bill Schlatter, and Walt Anliker. We sincerely thank each one for their efforts and for spending some time with us.

Bro. Bill Wiegand was in the hospital recently, and we are glad to see him back with us again and doing fine.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Gayla Baumgartner

Tammy Gerber

"I place myself in Jesus' hands and there abide forever; no griefs, no joys, shall loose the bands, nor yet our union sever! In these dread days when earth decays, who stays in Him and thus obeys shall be preserved forever."

Zion's Harp #177

Sis. Kathy Dotterer and Bro. Gordon Gerber were united in marriage on the 12th of July. Their parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl Dotterer and Bro. Fred and Sis. Margaret Gerber.

Our congregation was blessed with many bundles of joy this month. Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz welcomed into their hearts and home their first child,

April Ann.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner have a new baby girl, Cara Lyn. Joel and Chris welcome their little sister.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia Geisel welcome their first precious bundle, Christen Marie.

Lynn and Vicki Heyerly welcome the arrival of their little boy, Landon Neil. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Amelia Heyerly.

Brandon Robert is the new son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Meyer. Little sister Aimee welcomes her baby brother.

Kyle Bradley is the name given to the first child of Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti Schwartz.

Bill and Melinda Leamon are the happy parents of Joseph William. Jason and Jennifer welcome their brother. His grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger.

"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed! He in the time of trouble sends, his grace to meet our every need." Hymns of Zion #4. May this comfort each one who spent time in the hospital: Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry), Sis. Dorothy Frank, Klint Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Saloma Fiechter, Sis. Sue Chaney, Mark Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn), Dave Baumgartner (Bro. Paul and Sis. Justine), Bro. Richard Clark, Sis. Sophia Gerber, Bro. Glen Barger, Bro. Ted Kipfer, Jill Ringger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Scott Gerber, and Bro. Leroy Steffen.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. After 58 years here on this earth, Bro. Harve Bertsch went to meet his Lord on June 29. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Francis, and children, Sue DesJean, Jack, Bro. Dave, Charlie and Jeff. We pray that they can look to the same Lord of Bro. Harve to find their strength and comfort.

We gathered together in God's house on Saturday evening, July 18, to hear the testimonies of five dear souls: Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy Schorb (Wallace and Sis. Marilyn Leman), Sis. Laura Gerber (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Devona), Bro. Bob Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys), and Sis. Cheryl Lesh. We witnessed their baptisms on July 19. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them as they walk the nar-

row path of life. Elder Bro. Ed Frank, LaCrosse, was here to share this joyous occasion with us.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Homer Reinich (Toledo), Bro. Ernie Graf (Akron), Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo), and Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington). We wish to thank these brothers for bringing us God's precious Word.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Wendy Gutwein

THE HAVEN OF REST

My soul in sad exile was out on
life's sea,
So burdened with sin and distress,
Till I heard a sweet voice saying,
"Make me your choice";
And I entered the "Haven of
Rest"!

I yielded myself to His tender
embrace,
And faith taking hold of the
Word,
My fetters fell off and I anchored
my soul,
The "Haven of Rest" is my Lord.

The song of my soul, since the
Lord made me whole,
Has been the old story so blest,
Of Jesus, who'll save who-so-ever
will have,
A home in the "Haven of Rest"!

How precious the thought that we
all may recline,
Like John the beloved and blest,
On Jesus' strong arm, where no
tempest can harm,
Secure in the Haven of Rest"!

O come to the Saviour, He
patiently waits,
To save by His power divine,
Come, anchor your soul in the
"Haven of Rest"
And say, "My Beloved is Mine"!

I've anchored my soul in the
Haven of Rest",
I'll sail the wide seas no more;
The tempest may sweep o'er the
wild stormy deep,
In Jesus I'm safe evermore!

H. L. Gilmour

This year the theme of our Vacation Bible School was "The Ship of Faith." It was such a blessing to gather each night in the presence of God, and I know all who were "hungry" received much

"manna" for their souls. We want to thank all of our visiting ministers who came and spent a night with us, trusting in the Lord to fill them with His Spirit to speak to the needs of each of us. These were: Bro. Dave Wiegand, Champaign; Elder Bro. Steve Rinckenberger, Cissna Park; Bro. Gene Lehman, Wolcott; Bro. Len Meyer, Chicago; and Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City.

The Sunday evening following Vacation Bible School, we had our program, with our children telling us what they learned throughout the week. Once again it makes us "count our blessings" that our children can learn about our dear Lord at such young ages and grow up to love and fear Him.

The same Sunday, "The Joyful Life," from Peoria was here and we enjoyed their ministry in song, and thank them for spending the weekend here with us.

Our church is once again rejoicing that we have so many who have "come to the Saviour to anchor their soul in the Haven of Rest." We pray they can anchor their soul firmly in the Haven of Rest and humbly look to their Saviour and seek His will in all they do. We know that then joy and peace can follow.

As a church, we also rejoice with Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford in the birth of their first child, a boy, Rustin Lee. We pray they may feel God's presence as they train up little Rustin in the way he should go.

The assembly room was filled Sunday morning, July 12, with young people here from the Indiana churches for Christian Endeavor. It was a joy to see so many boys and girls. We pray they all learned a little more of God's love from the weekend they spent together.

Thought: "It isn't how much we have, but how much of us God has." Unknown

INDIANA, La CROSSE Pearl Nuestr

How blessed 'tis when we as
lambs,
Are gathered 'round our Lord;
In youthful years with tender
hearts,
To hear the Master's words.
We love to hear the words of
truth,
We'll do our best in days of youth,

That we might sit in realms above,
To share in Jesus' love.

Hymns of Zion

Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by young and old. Each topic was of great importance and very timely. They were as follows: Signs of the times—Bro. Larry Wenninger, Latty, OH

Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof—

Bro. Wayne Anliker, Forrest, IL
Doctrine and Tradition—Bro. John Lehman, Bern, KS

Satan's Entanglements—Bro. Bob Beebe, South Bend, IN

Pleasures of Sin for a season or Pleasures the Glorified share—
Bro. Merle Bucher

The children from the lower grades presented a program in verse and song.

Karen (Mrs. Paul) Heiniger was in the hospital for observation. May she put her trust in God.

INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

"Real faith never goes home with an empty basket.

Faith is the key that unlocks the cabinet of God's promises and empties out their treasures into the soul.

Faith either moves mountains or tunnels through them.

Little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul.

The steps of faith fall on the seeming void and find the rock beneath." (Whittier)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of real faith is the end of anxiety.

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.

Why pull tomorrow's cloud over today's sunshine?

Turn all your cares over to God in prayers.

Don't worry about tomorrow. You may never get to tomorrow. TODAY is the DAY of salvation!

Thanks be to Him for healing

and the continued strengthening of hospitalized patients, Sis. Elizabeth Pulfer, Bro. David Bertsch, and Bro. Levi Pfister, all of whom have been released from the hospital.

Rich blessings have been shared with this congregation through the ministry of Bros. Rod Huber, Valparaiso, Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, and Edwin Ringger, Gridley.

NATURE

I like to stroll with nature
Among the clover fields,
And watch the flitting butterflies
In creation that God yields.

Near to God is nature
Everywhere you go.
Would that men should know
Him, properly to grow.

(Composed by Sis. Sylvia Steiner, Leo)

INDIANA, MILFORD Connie Beer - Marcy Haab

Those who put their faith
In things beyond the strength
of man,
Wait with quiet confidence
The working of His plan.

—Patience Strong

A few of our loved ones underwent surgery this past month. They are: Bro. Carlton Beer, Steve Price (Bro. Tom and Becky), and Cris Troup (Bill and Sis. Anne). We trust the Lord will grant full recovery to each one.

Bro. Andy Kammerer had some tests taken at a hospital in Minnesota. We are thankful he is back with us once again and pray God will keep him in good health.

We received many blessings from the Prairie Choristers as they ministered to us in song on a Saturday evening. We certainly enjoyed the fellowship we had with them and may God richly bless them for their kind efforts.

We want to thank Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton) and Uriel Gehring (Burlington, IA) for sharing their ministry with us this month.

A Sure Way To A Happy Day
Happiness is something
we create in our mind.
It's not something you search for
and so seldom find.

It's just waking up
and beginning the day
By counting our blessings
and kneeling to pray.
It's giving up thoughts
that breed discontent
And accepting what comes
as a "gift heaven-sent."

It's giving up wishing
for things we have not
And making the best of
whatever we've got.
It's knowing that life
is determined for us
And pursuing our tasks
without fret, fume or fuss.
For it's by completing
what God gives us to do
That we find real contentment
and happiness, too.

—Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, REMINGTON Annette Bahler - Beth Virkler

Chuck and Pat Lehman are the happy parents of Rachel Leigh, born June 16. Grandparents are the late Elder Bro. Irvin Lehman and Sis. Dorothy, who survives.

The descendants of the late Bro. Robert, Sr., and Sis. Matilda Wai-bel Bahler held their annual reunion on June 21 at the rural home of Rodger and Peg Bahler Amsler near Rensselaer. Mrs. Howard (Tillie Bahler) Schaibley is the lone surviving child of the Robert Bahler family. Present were family members of the late Sis. Mary Bahler Nussbaum as well as of the late William H., Robert, Jr., Chris R., and Harry F. Bahler families.

On June 28, our congregation was blessed with the spirit-filled truth of Bro. Larry Wenninger of Latty, OH. Bro. Larry warned us to evaluate the various movements and ministries that we are being exposed to through the mail, radio, and news media. There are many false prophets in our day who are claiming the divine leading of God but they do not live and profess the whole truth of the scriptures. We are witnessing the spirit of error and deceit.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Gayle Bucher

Therefore with joy shall ye
draw water out of the wells of
salvation. Isa. 12:3

We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our dear friend, Nancy

Lehman on Father's Day weekend. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Steve Rinkenberger shared this blessed weekend with us. Our hearts were filled with joy as our new sanctuary echoed the sounds of "Whiter Than Snow."

The last week of June we held our annual Bible School. The children enjoyed learning of the love of Jesus, singing, and playing together. On Friday evening, Bro. Ed Bahler spoke to us on "The Latter Days." We spent a very precious evening together and thank Bro. Ed for a most informative talk. It behooves us all to be aware of the times and share our faith with others.

We thank Bro. Walt Rager and his family for sharing a Sunday service with us recently. May the Lord richly bless him for ministering the Word to us.

Recently, we spent a Wednesday evening at the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Hazel Clauss sharing God's Word together. Sis. Hazel has not been able to attend services regularly because of her health. It is our prayer that she will be feeling better soon.

Whenever I am troubled and lost
in deep despair
I bundle all my troubles up and
go to God in prayer. . .
I tell Him I am heartsick and lost
and lonely, too,
That my mind is deeply burdened
and I don't know what to do.
But I know He stilled the tempest
and calmed the angry sea
And I humbly ask if in His love
He'll do the same for me . . .
And then I just keep quiet and
think only thoughts of Peace
And if I abide in stillness my
restless murmurings cease.

H. Steiner Rice

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas

We've been refreshed and revived. Those of us in Valpo have had the opportunity to spend the last two weeks of June at V.B.S. in LaCrosse and Francesville. Our children had been anxiously awaiting the time to learn, sing, and make something special to bring home and always remember. The adults didn't have the crafts to make, but we certainly enjoyed the singing and teaching. The many new converts attest to the fact of God's presence and blessings.

Bill and Debby Meyer have received a blessing from heaven in the form of a baby boy. This big man has two sisters waiting at home to see him. How sobering it is when we realized our children are not just babies and little kids but eternal souls that we as parents brought into this world and for which we are responsible. How it behooves us to train and teach them those things of value and eternal worth.

WHAT MATTERS

My Mother says she does not care
About the color of my hair,
Nor if my eyes be blue or brown
Nor if my nose turns up or down—
It really does not matter.

And Mother says she does not care
If I am dark or if I'm fair,
Or if I'm thin, or if I'm fat;
She does not fret o'er things like
that—
It really does not matter.

But if I cheat or tell a lie
Or say mean things to make folks
cry,
Or if I'm rude or impolite;
And do not try to do the right,
Then that does really matter!

It isn't looks that make one great,
But character that seals your fate.
It's what's within your heart, you
see,
That makes or mars your destiny,
And that does really matter!

With one accord, we thank our
visiting ministers of this past
month, Bros. Chris Huber and
Steve Gutwein of Francesville, and
Bob Beebe of South Bend gave us
food for thought.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Suzanne Lehman
Laurel and Kris Widmer

In a baby's eyes the wonder of
creation shines—the miracle of a
new life fresh from heaven, of a
new soul God has blessed.

G. W. Douglas

Gary and Debbie Royer gladly
welcome into their home their new
little son, Benjamin Richard. Ma-
ternal grandparents are Bro. Rich-
ard and Sis. Viola Stoller; Pater-
nal grandparents are Glenn and
Kathy Royer. A daughter, Beth-
any Lynn, has come to share the
home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann
Gerber. Grandparents are Bro.
Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler

and Bro. Robert and Sis. Evelyn
Gerber (Bluffton). Mark Vernon
has blest the home of Bro. Brian
and Sis. Lorene Furrer. Bro. Ver-
non and Sis. Jan Furrer and Bro.
Robert and Sis. Norma Pfladderer
(Francesville) also rejoice over
their new grandchild.

On Sunday, July 5, we held our
annual Sunday School picnic. Kel-
ley Oberlander and Sharon Furrer
received Bibles and were promot-
ed to the Junior High class.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

It seems we have had a lot of
company this past month. With
family reunions, vacations and vis-
its we have many opportunities
to visit other churches and fellow-
ship with our brethren. It really
is a blessed privilege that our
church affords. No matter where
we happen to be traveling, even in
a city where the congregation is
unknown personally to us, we can
visit and find a beautiful fellow-
ship. We can feel a special oneness
with our brethren that reside
there. This is the love that Christ
spoke about so often, that the
world knows nothing of. Let us
cherish and nourish that love that
it will always be abounding, not
just living in us but continually
growing.

Our visiting ministers this
month have been Bro. Bill Gerst,
Alto, and Bro. Jerry Kuntz, Oak-
ville. The Word is often brought
to us by these willing servants.
May God bless them richly that
they may continue in His service.

One of our ministers recently
meditated on I Corinthians 1.
Verse 8 of that chapter reads,
"Who shall also confirm you unto
the end, that ye may be blameless
in the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ." What hope that affords!
Though not through our own ef-
forts; it is Christ, our Saviour and
Redeemer who shall confirm us to
that end. We who are called by
Him and who wait on Him shall
not be disappointed in Him. God
is always faithful and will keep us
until that day. The thought that
struck me was that it is possible
to be blameless, through Christ
and not on our own. Only by His
grace and love is this possible. We
often try so hard to be and do
better but we forget that so often
we're trying to be and do on our
own. We only need to leave it in
His hands, to give our cares over

to Him. We only need to rely on
His help and grace, totally, and
we will be victorious and He will
confirm us "blameless in the day
of our Lord. . ."

Our dear friend and loved one,
Tonya Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis.
Dorothy) was announced as hav-
ing found peace in her heart and
now awaits baptism. We rejoice
with Tonya and her family that
one more lamb has been found.
Whenever a young sister or broth-
er is taken into the fold I think of
the hymn "Tarry Not." (No. 168,
Zion's Harp). Verse 3 reads, "Ten-
derly Jesus embraces the lambs
as His treasure. Youth thou shalt
furnish the Shepherd his favorite
pleasure. Blessing and glee show-
ers the Father on thee, PRIZE OF
HIS FLOCK, WITHOUT MEA-
SURE." To know that they are
truly pleasing their Heavenly
Father in the best way possible,
by surrendering their youthful
lives to His pleasure, "Prize of
His flock, without measure." We
all have a high calling to walk as
He wills and do His pleasure. Let
us ever strive to that end.

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

Usually we associated the ap-
pearance of Queen Ann's lace flow-
er with autumn so we were quite
surprised to behold it already
blooming quite rampart along our
road sides. Also the sumac is fast
developing its pretty red clusters.
The farmers are getting their
equipment ready to do oats com-
bining, the fields of which are a
beautiful sight. Speaking of lovely
sights, the corn fields in this area
are truly just that. Their color is
a verdant green and already the
tassels are visible.

God has again been blessing our
crops for which we are grateful.

By way of an open window and
an open door I will report to you
what feathered friends are close
by. A bush of ripe currants is at-
tracting some brown thrashers. I
see a cardinal also, and hear the
warbling of a bluebird, the song
of a field and song sparrow, that
of the mourning dove, some house
wrens, and a red headed woodpeck-
er; and just now the notes of some
quail and that of a black billed
cuckoo came across the air bring-
ing pleasure.

By the way, the young blue-
birds hve grown to where they left
their house but I am very happy

that we still see and hear quite a number of them as they fly among our trees and rest, warbling sweetly.

SUNSETS FOR SALE

Suppose that people had to pay
To see a sunset's crimson play
And the magic stars of the Milky Way.

Suppose it was fifty cents a night
To watch the pale moon's silvery light.

Or watch a gull in graceful flight

Suppose God charged us for all
the rain

Or put a price on a songbird's strain

Of music—the dawn mist on the plain!

How much, I wonder, would it be worth

To smell the good brown fragrant earth

In spring—the miracle of birth?
How much do you suppose, folks
would pay

For a baby's laugh at the close
of day?

Suppose God charged us for them,
I say!

Suppose we paid to look at the hills,

For the rippling mountain rills,
Or the mating song of whippoorwills

Or curving breakers of the sea;
For grace and beauty and majesty
And all these things He gives so free!

Oh what poor return we give for these!

We yield at night on bended knees
Without thanksgiving mumbled pleas,

Ignoring the moonlight 'cross the floor,

The voice of a friend at the open door—

We ask the Master for more and more!

LOVE THE LORD

There is a time for all things
But one thing for all times
Love the Lord and one another.

Gloeggler

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Messner family of Winthrop, MN, where Bro. Jim Messner passed away very suddenly, leaving his wife, Sis. Julia, and seven children. May they all feel the nearness of our dear Lord. Sis. Janet Mogler of this area attended the funeral.

Plans have been made for our annual Sunday School picnic. Bro.

Paul and Sis. Mildred Butikofer are hosting this event at their home.

Repair work is being done on the roofs of both the foyer and car ports at our church.

HE CARES FOR YOU

Whatever life shall bring your way

Through each and every fleeting day

Throughout the months and years too

God in His heaven shall care for you

So with this knowledge may you go

Serenely and content to know
Whatever comes your whole life through

God in His heaven shall care for you.

Casting all your care upon Him
for He careth for you.

I Peter 5:7

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharolyn Metzger

We are thankful for the summer months and the better traveling conditions it affords our visitors. Bro. Jim Byrd and Bro. Bill Hodel of Roanoke, Bro. Bill Gerst of Alto, and Bro. John Steiner and our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville were those visiting and serving us with the Lord's manna which fed our spiritual beings.

In one teaching we heard of the three types of foundations a house can be built on—sand, partially rock and solid rock. When the house is finished with landscaping, no one knows what foundation lies beneath. However, time will reveal it. So it is with our spiritual life. Those who have not repented, that are self-righteous, have nothing to ground on through the storms of life. And in the end, eternal death is the result. Those who are partially grounded, who try to be a part of the world and a child of God, will meet the same ending as the one who is not grounded at all. For just like the house on the sand that will fall, so will the house that is only partially on the rock. When the ground begins to settle and the walls crack, it soon is not fit to live in. Only those who are fully grounded in Christ, the solid rock, will endure the test of time and be granted life everlasting. May His call be heeded by those who are not converted. And once

converted, may we not be cumbered with the things of the world so that there is not enough room for our Saviour to live within us.

Our prayers arise for Sis. Barb Virkler and Audrey Plotz who are surgical patients hospitalized in our area. May His healing powers restore their beings, if it be His will.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

We appreciate the many visitors who travel this way during the summer months. Among our visitors were ministers who so graciously shared the Word with us. Those who recently occupied the pulpit were Bros. Virgil Metzger, Carl Wyss, Russell Wuthrich, Roger Aberle, and Noah Miller.

Several have spent time in the hospital recently. We are happy to report Sis. Mary Jane Metzger, Sis. Martha Feucht, Sis. Mardi Leuthold and Sis. Elizabeth Nester are again assembling with us and doing fine.

Bro. Eli and I have a new little grandson to report. Adam Keith was born June 27 to Jack and Sue Ellen Metzger, Cedar Falls. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Keith Stratton.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jeryllyn Wagenbach

June 9 was a special day for Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank, as their new daughter, Christy Jo, was born. Her brother, Ryan, and grandparents, Bro. Ernest and Sis. Bernice Frank, and Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Joan Lanz, are also very happy with her arrival.

Visiting ministers recently have been Bros. Harvey Heiniger, Burlington; Arnie Gerst, Chicago; Bill Gerst, Alto, MI; Noah Gerber, West Bend; and Elmer Witzig, Gridley, IL. We appreciate the efforts all our ministers make to bring us God's Holy Word.

We were saddened by the passing of David Gerst, Sr. on June 22. He was born Aug. 18, 1902, near Oakville, to Otto and Elizabeth Mauer Gerst. He married Hattie Hardin Nov. 4, 1926, in Burlington. She preceded him in death May 20, 1967. Surviving are seven sons: Richard, Springfield, MO; David, Lomax, IL; James, Hedrick; Raymond, Mediapolis; John, Burlington; and Donald and Roger, both of Oakville; six daughters: Ruth Ann Humiston, West

Des Moines; Elizabeth Street and Kathryn Fletcher, both of Wapello; Carol Hartman, Fairfield; and Janet Shipman and Mary Lynn Grooms, both of Oakville; one brother, Bro. Paul, Oakville; a sister, Sis. Tillie Gerst, Phoenix, AZ; 43 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

We also sympathize with the loved ones of Bro. Philip Moser, Gridley, IL, who left this life on July 16. He was born Feb. 12, 1897, in West Bend, to Jacob and Rosina Banwart Moser. He married Sis. Bertha Massner Mar. 28, 1920, in Minnesota. They later moved to Oakville where they farmed and raised their family until 1961, at which time they moved to Gridley, IL. Surviving are his wife; two sons, Bro. Roger, Wapello, and Arnold, Taylors, SC; five daughters, Sis. Buelah Ehnle, Princeville, IL; Sis. Verl Funk, Garden Grove; Sis. Ruth Gramm, Gridley, IL; Sis. Marvel Knobloch, Morton, IL; and Sis. Gelene Haerr, Bloomington, IL; 33 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. We trust that the Lord will comfort each one, even as we rejoice in the hope that we have through His sacrifice.

New Sunday School teachers for next term are Bros. Jack Larson, Galen Metzger, Ervin Marti, and Sis. Marian Pflum. Outgoing teachers were Bros. Joe Wiegand, Bob Kuntz, Dale Frank, and Sis. Doris Kuntz. What a responsibility these brethren have, in teaching the children of God's ways and His plan of salvation. We must give them our support and prayers that the Lord will grant them the needed strength and wisdom.

IOWA, WEST BEND Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

It was truly a blessed weekend on July 11 and 12, when Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Eugene Marti (Lamar), and Paul Butikof-fer (Elgin) were here and we heard the testimonies of four dear souls. With the baptism of these souls, we welcome into the fold Sis. Lonnie Metzger (Bro. Silas and Sis. Della), Sis. Beth Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn), and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan (Bruellman) Wirtz. We certainly rejoice with each of them as they begin a new life in Him. Sunday evening we were served Holy Communion. We rejoice that we can enjoy such a blessed and solemn event.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) with us recently. May he be blessed for his efforts in preaching the Word.

Jeff Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole) and Beth Anderson exchanged vows on June 27. We pray that the Lord will always direct them as they walk through life together.

God has seen fit to bless two homes with precious "bundles from Heaven." Louis and Joni Schneider welcomed Julia Marie on July 1. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider. Also, Warren and Moira Kellenberger became the parents of John Chris on July 9. Paternal grandparents are Ernest and Sis. Edith Kellenberger. We trust that the Lord will continue to bless these little ones and their families as they grow together in love.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and children have come from Chicago to live in nearby Emmetsburg. Bro. Rick is a medical doctor and has gone into practice at a clinic there. We welcome them into the West Bend congregation and pray that the Lord will bless them as they become established in our area.

Sis. Katie Dogotch fell and was hospitalized. She is home now and getting along fairly well. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who must suffer, in whatever way, the infirmities of life.

JAPAN, SHIODA Kathy Klotzle

"We have a hospital across the road that fixes bodies, now we have a church to fix the soul."

This statement was made one Sunday evening twenty-five years ago by the head of our town's Education Department. It was the fourth Sunday of July at the dedication program for our Shioda church. Today the hospital is long gone, but our church still stands at the very same place. Bro. Willis Ehnle spoke on sowing the seed that evening, and his message was interpreted by a member of the Japan Bible Society. Looking back over the years, the truth of that scripture can be seen . . . the Word has gone forth, and we give thanks to God for the brethren that have heard it, received it, and brought forth fruit. We pray that the ob-

stacles that the sower faced (the fowls, the stony ground, and the scorching sun) can be overcome by the hearts of still more unsaved souls.

After the church was built, some people came in to see it. They looked around and when they didn't see any idols, asked where they were. When Sis. Lois Ehnle told them that there was none and that we serve the living God, they didn't believe her and even looked behind the curtain on the wall behind the pulpit for the idols that they were sure would be there.

About thirty years ago, men in Japan had a trade of kamishibai—telling stories using a series of pictures. They would come around on a bicycle, and children in the neighborhood would gather to listen to their stories. Since that time, this Japanese form of storytelling has been adopted for the telling of Bible stories. On July 12 at our Sunday School picnic, sitting in a meadow with a view of green wooded mountains, we listened as Sis. Reiko-san told the story of Zacchaeus using kamishibai. Picture after picture showed the miracle of the change in Zacchaeus' life. The message in the story was impressive, and it was the next day that we realized how deep an impression it made on one little boy. At story time in kindergarten, Sis. Evie read the story of Zacchaeus to her children, this time in English. Then they sang the familiar song we've sung many times: "Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he . . ." When they finished, one little boy looked up and said, "Ah! Ima wakatta!"—"Now I understand."

KANSAS, BERN Esther & Stella Moser

We often feel discouraged
When evening shadows fall;
We often feel we haven't
Done our best at all.

We look back with regret
Over hours that slipped away
And vow a new tomorrow
Will bring a better day.

No day is lost my friend,
If you have tried your best;
So put forth every effort
And let God do the rest.

H. K. Evans

We have a new little joy bundle to report. Rick Alan was born June 26 to Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller. A sister, Marla, and brother, Steven, are pleased to welcome the baby home. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester).

June 27 was the wedding date chosen by Daniel Esslinger and Juanita Slack. Daniel's parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene. Our best wishes go to them.

The Bern and Sabetha churches are hosting the 14th Annual Fort Sam reunion this weekend (July 18-19).

Sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Gerty and Bro. Dennis Esslinger in the sudden passing of Gerty's father, Bro. Jim Messner (Winthrop). Though we cannot understand, we know God makes no mistakes, that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

Reuben Bauman is again a hospital patient at this time. Sis. Lydia Hanni is also hospitalized.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

We have a group of kittens at our house right now, and as I watch them, I see a sermon walking. The kittens are not completely tame as we are away so much, but the more we talk to them and gently hold them, the less they fear us, and trust us enough to know we won't hurt them. Therefore, when they hear our voices as we talk to them they come running. But just let strangers come, and they wildly scatter to hiding because they just don't know the voice of strangers, nor do they trust them. Jesus once said in St. John 10:4, 5, And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers.

Like the sheep, like the kittens, once we, as God's own children listen to "His" voice and become enfolded by "His" gentle hands of love and guidance, we learn more and more to trust "Him". Thus when false doctrines and worldly pleasures call to us to follow them, we flee, for they are the voice of strangers, not the voice of our

Lord and Shepherd whom we have come to know, and trust, and love.

As a nation, we have been so blessed and enjoy so many freedoms that if we're not watchful, Satan will assuredly use our freedom as a snare to lead us away from our first and most perfect love, our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, we give thanks to God for our ministering brethren who set a watch to warn us away from unseen snares laid to trap us. This past month we had the added privilege of Bro. George Lambert, Wichita, sharing the Gospel with us, and warning us about the days in which we are living. May we ever watch and pray and always remember to say fervently "Thank You Lord!" No matter where we are or what we're doing, for all "He's" given us surely we can just say "For all these wonderful blessings—Thank You Lord! ! !

Our hospital patients this month included Bro. Reuben Farney, Sis. Bea Diel and Diane Stucky. We are truly happy Bro. Reuben is again able to be in our midst, and only hope prayerfully that Sis. Bea will be up and around again soon.

Diane Farney Stucky, daughter of Bro. Ulysses and Sis. Mildred Farney, and her husband Lowell and two daughters just recently moved to our area to live. We are so happy to have them in our midst, along with the new little addition born to them just after they moved here. We had a shock, though, for just a few days after Rachele Lee was born, Diane underwent surgery to remove a malignant tumor. The surgery went well, and Diane has been released from the hospital now, but she will have to undergo a series of treatments in the near future. It is our fervent prayer that God, who sees our need and feels our pain, will be ever near this precious family as they face the future, uncertain though it seems. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

KANSAS, SABETHA Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

We had a blessed weekend as many of the brethren and their families gathered here for the Ft. Sam reunion. Among them were ministering Bros. Glenn Price, Jr., Sarasota, FL, Gary Maibach, Rittman, OH, and William Emch, La-

mont. We thank them for sharing with us the Word of Life. May the Lord see them all safely to their homes.

The waters have again been stirred as Kevin Grimm and Kim Beach have made a beginning on their journey to Zion. May the Lord grant them much grace.

Sis. Arleta and Bro. Harvey Wenger announce the engagement of their daughter, Valerie, to Curtis Keim. They are planning an Aug. 1 wedding.

Sherry Reinhart and Walter Snodgrass, Jr. were married June 27 in Bluffton. They are living at Wathena, KS. Janet Pupkes and Clark Strahm were married July 11 and are living in Sabetha. May the Lord richly bless them as they begin their new homes together.

Bro. Andy Lehman wishes to thank all for their many prayers and get-well-wishes. He is home and doing well. May God bless each and every one of you.

We extend our sympathy to Bros. Joe, Alpha, and Ben, and Sis. Alma Aberle on the death of their brother, Henry Aberle, of Wichita.

On our Sunday School election, Bro. John Aberle, Sis. Marcel Meyer and Sis. Cheryl Metzger were selected for teachers in this coming year. Bro. Doug Grimm, Bro. Rodney Edelman, Sis. Mary Wenger and Sis. Ruby Grimm were selected for substitutes. May the Lord guide them in this important work.

Bro. Harlan Meyer was re-elected for a two year term on the board of the Apostolic Christian Home.

KANSAS, WICHITA Priscilla Frank

The Lord has blessed us with rain this year and many of us are reaping the rewards in our gardens. It's a time of preserving our efforts and making sure the seals are tight and secure. My brother has an original 1858 Mason jar of canned tomatoes. The seal has never been broken and it's still clear enough to see the seeds. It brought to mind the scripture in St. Matt. 5:13, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." The preservative that was used in that

jar of tomatoes was obviously very good. The bond has never broken, popped or bubbled. It has remained secure. So it must be in our lives. We must have a secure faith and bond with our Lord Jesus Christ. A bond that allows the contents in our lives to remain clear enough that others might still see the seeds. The seed of Christ in our life; seeds bringing forth the fruits of righteousness. May we all strive to keep our salt high and dry that it may keep its savour and remain good for something and not be trodden under the foot of men. May we remain the good salt of the earth and may our bins continue to be filled from the endless supply.

We thank Elder Bro. Sam Anliker for sharing July 4th weekend with us.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Carol Carter and her family in the passing of her mother, Sophie Sinn. Our sympathy also goes to Sis. Ruth Yackley and to Sis. Freida Frieden and the Aberle family for the passing of their loved one, Henry Aberle.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

Our Lord has richly blessed us here at Alto with a shepherd to guide our little flock. Bro. Aaron Steffen was ordained as Elder of the Alto congregation on Sunday, June 21, "Father's Day".

Visiting us on this beautiful day were Bro. Rudy Graf from Akron, Bro. Ben Maibach from Detroit, Bro. Andy Verkler and Bro. Joe Waibel from Bay City. We sincerely thank these brothers for helping to fill our hearts on this very special day which the Lord provided for us.

Sis. Anna Wingeier wishes to thank all her brothers and sisters in faith, her friends, and her family, for the many kindnesses, the visits, the lovely cards and flowers, and especially for the love which has been shared and the many prayers that have been offered for her and those very close to her. Sis. Anna was home from the hospital for a couple of weeks and is now staying at Kent Community Hospital in Grand Rapids. May God grant Sis. Anna, and her family, much added grace and strength in their time of need.

Our friend Fred Grawburg was hospitalized for a few days this

month. He is home and seems to be fine again.

We would like to introduce two young couples who have joined their hearts together in Holy Matrimony. Michele Smit and Martin Blough were married on Saturday, June 11. Their parents are Robert Smit and Mrs. Stan Lennerman, and Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough.

Michelle Marentette and Tom Oesch were married on Saturday, July 18. Their parents are Ruth Ann Fahrni and Ray Marentette, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch.

Our prayers are with these young couples as they begin their lives together.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer

We are sorry to say we have had several around us ill lately. Bro. Herb Ramseyer (Sis. Naomi) and Sis. Leanore Knochel (Bro. Norman) were both hospitalized. Sis. Sue Ruegsegger was on vacation in Colorado and was unexpectedly hospitalized for surgery. Ronald Wackerle (Kathryn) is still confined after having a heart attack. Sis. Marion Meylan remains quite ill and shut-in. A sunshine box was made for her to help encourage her each day.

We were visited by a few from Peoria as we had a wedding reception for Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle (Stickling) Virkler. Bro. Dennis's parents are Elder Bro. Andrew and Sis. Maxine Virkler. The couple is living in Peoria. We wish God's precious blessings on them as they begin a home and family in His name.

A farewell potluck was given for Sis. Vicki Ramseyer (Bro. Herb and Sis. Naomi). Vicki has been led to serve as one of our sisters going to Japan to teach for a couple years. We greatly encourage her and wish her the Lord's nearness and guidance in making herself one of His necessary tools.

We also welcome Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn Wieland and their family from Detroit. His job has moved him to the Midland area for a year or so.

Sis. Pam Wieland made up a new and current church directory for our congregation. So many times we fail to recognize the earnest efforts of others and take them for granted. We surely want to

thank Sis. Pam for this. It is appreciated.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD! "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:23, 24.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Helen and Bonnie Popp

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Psalm 116:1,2

On July 12, Mary Pentek offered this same word as her testimony and was baptized and welcomed as a new sister in faith. We wish her God's blessings and feel assured her simple but sure faith will keep her close to the Lord.

A meeting was held Saturday, July 11, regarding looking further to the needs and possibilities of a total care nursing home in this area. An invitation was extended to Alto, Bay City and Toledo to come and share in the information. We appreciate all who took the time to indicate their interest and concern. We covet your prayers as we seek God's wise direction in pursuing a center to provide for the needs of those who would require such a home.

Keith and Judy Anderson welcome Brian Keith, born June 23. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland are the happy grandparents.

Dave and Janice Barta announce the arrival of their baby, Sarah Michelle, born June 30. Grandparents are Bro. Willard and Sis. Arlene Belsley.

We wish a special blessing on these two young families.

"Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. . ." "But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge." Psalm 94:17, 22

We offer a prayer of love and comfort for the family of Bro. Harve Bertsch who passed suddenly from this life June 29. We especially remember Sis. Frances and the children. Though Bluffton

has been their home church for some time, the funeral was held in Detroit. Present were many from out of town, including Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier, Orville Ringger, Andy Virkler and Joe Waibel. Ministering Bro. Phil Stettner was also present.

Other ministering brothers visiting us this month were Merle Bucher and Homer Reineck.

In times of joy and in times of difficulty, it is such a comfort to know the Lord will be ever close at hand if we will but call upon Him.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." I Cor. 11:24, 25.

We had the blessed privilege in partaking of Holy Communion on Sat. evening, June 27. This Holy Sacrament was conducted by our Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We are thankful to them for their services.

We truly appreciated the ministering of Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA) on June 28 and Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield) on July 5. May the Lord richly bless them for coming to visit and sharing the Word of God with us.

Congratulations go to Sis. Christine Schmidgall, who graduates on July 23 from LPN training in Sioux Falls, SD.

Our congregation welcomes back Sis. Martha Blessman, Tucson, who is visiting her daughter and son-in-law again this summer in Chetek, WI.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

OTHERS

Lord help me to live from day to day

In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for — others.

Help me in all the work I do,

To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd be for you
Must needs be done for — others.

And when my work on earth is done,

And my new work in Heaven's begun,

May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of — others.

Charles D. Meigs

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Wulf and Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), and Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl have a new daughter, Alexis. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Esther Koehl, and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf.

Two weddings have taken place recently. LuAnn Schaefer and Dave Horning were married Apr. 18. LuAnn's parents are Bro. Anton and Sis. Verna Schaefer, and Dave's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Horning. Bro. Alpai and Sis. Pearl Moser's son, Myron, was married to Marlene Manderscheid. We wish these couples God's presence in their marriage.

Sis. Vi Schmidgall was a hospital patient this month. We wish her a speedy recovery.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

Our congregation was saddened by the passing away of our dear brother in faith; James Messner—our lead song leader for many years! Jim was a steadfast, loving, and faithful pilgrim; and he will be greatly missed by all of us! A Bible verse about singing comes to mind when we think of Bro. Jim. Colossians 3:16. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington, Iowa and Bro. Russel Wuthrich of Pulaski, IA, held the funeral services on July 7. Bro. Jim leaves behind his wife, Sis. Julia, daughter, Sis. Gertie (Dennis) Esslinger of Bern, KS; daughters,

Pam, Becky, Joleen, and Ann of here; son, Richie, and Lila, youngest daughter living at home; one grandson, Anthony Esslinger of Bern, KS. Jim's parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Florence Messner of Lafayette, MN; brothers, Bob, Bro. Kenneth and Bro. John, all of Hutchinson, MN; sisters, Sis. Dorothy Jacobson of here, and Mary Ann Ohland of Kalamazoo, MI. Psalm 30:5. Weeping many endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. In that bright eternal day, all tears are wiped away.

God knows the way, He holds the key,

He guides us with unerring hand;

Sometimes with tearless eyes we'll see;

Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.

Cornelius

Bro. Tim Schmidt was elected to fulfill Bro. Jim's office as trustee.

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, IA, was here to assist our Elder Bro. Harold Messner in the important work of serving this precious holy sacrament of Communion. We thank these dear brethren who serve the flocks as our faithful shepherds. On the day of our communion services, we took a spiritual journey to Calvary.

In our spiritual minds' eye we were there when they cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" We were there when they made the crown of thorns; when they spit upon Him. We followed Him down the "Via Del Rosa" or "the way of the cross." We saw Him stumble under the load of His cross. We heard the pounding of the hammers driving the nails into His hands and feet; and saw the agony on His face, along with the blood on His brow from His "crown." We heard the cruel mocking, "If ye be the son of God, come down from the cross." We also heard the weeping of His mother and those who loved Him. We heard Him cry out in anguish; "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Then we heard Him say; "It is finished!" Then, and only then, we realized it was us in our unconverted state that cried out "Crucify Him." It was we who laid the cross on Him; and when He stumbled, none of us helped Him with

His load. (And it was ours to begin with). It was we who drove the nails into His hands and feet. It was we who mocked Him, laughed at Him, and spit upon Him. But our precious and loving Lord Jesus said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." For when His side was pierced; it was this life-giving blood that cleansed us from our sins. It was His resurrection that gave us new life. It was the wine and the bread; the symbols of eternal life; that allowed us to make this journey in this most precious day. May God ever be praised for His love that He has for us!

We were also privileged to have Bro. Duane Metzger and his family of West Bend, IA visit our congregation this past weekend. Truly the Word of God was spoken in all its truth and purity! May God richly bless all of our ministers in each and every church for their efforts.

Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner want to thank you for your love, kindness, and gifts. Their farewell wasn't easy, as you are all so very near and dear to them. They are thankful the miles are not further; and pray God will abide with all.

Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner The family of James Messner wishes to acknowledge all expressions of sympathy, love, and kindness that was extended to them. A special thank-you to all relatives, friends, and neighbors who gave food, cards, flowers and memorial gifts. They will be held in grateful remembrance.

Mrs. Julia Messner and Children
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Messner
His Brothers and Sisters

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Vera Marie Frieden
Vera Mae Frieden

"When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in
heart,

And hope to meet again."

Hymns of Zion #156

Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knoblock and their three children have moved from our area to the Bradford area and are worshipping with the Bradford congregation. They are greatly missed by our small congregation, but we wish them

God's blessings in this undertaking

Bro. Dean Marti is presently hospitalized after suffering a heart attack. We pray God will ever be near his, and his family's, side. May he soon be home and able to assemble with us again.

The engagement was announced of our Sis. Vera Mae Frieden (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice) to Bro. Larry Baer (Otto and Eleanor) from Princeville, IL. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan the future of walking the narrow path hand in hand.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Linda Hodel

NO MAN IS POOR!

What riches are ours in the world of nature—from the majesty of a distant peak, to the fragile beauty of a tiny flower, and all without cost to us, the beholders! No man is poor who keeps a mountain in his heart.

E. York

Farmers in our area have experienced a very unusual spring, planting, and now harvesting season, due to excessive rainfall. We are aware that all of us, in one way or another, directly or indirectly are dependent upon the farmer. Perhaps God wants to strengthen our faith, and only exercise can give strength. "The faith which is not exercised is a faith that will not grow; a faith never tried will never be strong."

M. R. DeHaan

A special note of appreciation to our retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park, IL, for the God-inspired message shared with us on Wednesday evening, July 1. We're glad that Bro. Ezra and Sis. Ollie have a daughter, Sis. Dona Grimm, in Taylor, to visit, and because of this, we all benefit and receive a blessing when they come.

God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower strewn pathways all our lives through. God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow; peace without pain. But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, light for the way, Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love. O. Flint. Bro Jerry

Knapp was seriously and painfully burned when an aerosol paint can exploded in a trash fire. We wish for both Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy strength and patience during this time and that better days are just "around the corner."

A kind heart is a fountain of gladness making everything in its vicinity freshen in smiles. (W. Irving) We enjoyed meeting Eddie, and Dory Grimm and daughter, Ruth, from Switzerland who were visiting relatives here. Even though many of us could not communicate due to the language difference, we could feel the love in the hearty handshake and friendly smile, which is a universal language.

To be loved is to know happiness and contentment; To give love is to know the joy of sharing oneself—For it is through the miracle of love that we discover the fullness of life. R. St. John. The engagement of Bro. Richard Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Kay Miles was announced on July 5. May God bless this couple as they make plans for their wedding day and future life together.

"Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways." Psalm 128:1

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Ed Aeschleman

A dear old sister, Bertha Weisert, was taken to her eternal reward on June 15, after a long illness. It had been many months since she was last able to attend church at Union City. During the last few months, she lived with her dear sister, Alma Budinick, who will miss her presence in her home as they were close companions. We are all grateful to Bros. Al Schneider and Dan Stoller from Rockville for taking charge of the services.

Another dear sister will also be missed when Sis. Marie Walch leaves on July 21 to permanently make her home in her native country of Switzerland. Sis. Marie loves the church and traveled many miles using several different modes of public transportation to be with God's children on Sundays. We bid a sad farewell and trust God that she will be well-provided for, both for body and spirit.

Richard Diggelman and his

wife, Helga, were able to spend several weeks with Richard's parents, Bro. John and Sis. Mary, while on vacation from his work in South Korea.

Bro. Dan Stoller of Rockville visited the Union City congregation on Sunday, June 21. The Lord's presence could be felt in the power of His Word, inspired of the Spirit.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

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.

Zion's Harp, Hymn #200

On Sunday evening, July 19, we were able to partake of Holy Communion. As the words of the beautiful hymn which we sang together following the service reminded us, may we be renewed in heart and mind through this most sacred event which we could partake of together as one body of Christ. May each of us journey on throughout the coming days and weeks ahead with added faith and encouragement to follow completely God's will for each of our lives. The Naumburg congregation gathered with us for the evening and we were served by our Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner. We thank them for their continued efforts in our behalf and also pray for an added blessing for them in their work.

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

We are happy to report that Sis. Irene Farney and Betty Richie have been able to assemble in our midst again after having been hospital patients during the past month. Sis. Irene underwent medical treatment and Betty was a surgical patient. At this time, Sis. Barb Virkler remains a patient at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where she underwent major surgery on July 17. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of our loved ones at home, in nursing homes, hospitals, or wherever they might be. May sufficient comfort and strength be given to each one to bear the burdens which afflict them.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

We never are forsaken
With Christ our Lord so near
His faithfulness revealing
We feel His presence here.

He grasps our hands to lead us
Up to the mansion bright
His fold He is preparing
He'll lead our hearts a-right.

So march then boldly onward;
Our Saviour's in the lead!
He, as a faithful shepherd,
Sustains us in our need.

Zion's Harp, No. 138

Those who have had to spend some time in the hospital this past month are Bro. Everett Virkler, Sis. Pearl Colgrove and Aaron Hirshey. Aaron is the son of Bruce and Gale Hirshey. Sis. Pearl still remains in the hospital. May the Lord be with her.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We welcome Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Kieser and their three children, Dwight, Lanae, and Ann to worship with us at Akron. They moved to Bay Village as Bro. Charles is a doctor in Cleveland. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their work and new environment.

Sis. Rose Pamer has moved into the Apostolic Christian Home. We remember Sis. Rose and also her husband, Bro. Paul, in prayer as they each adjust to the change.

Diane and Eugene Bako were blest with a baby girl, Sarah Rose. Other children are Valerie, John, Tom, Joy, and twins Tammy and Amy.

Guests from Germany assembled with us as Helmut and Margarete Dolderer and two sons are visiting Bro. Leo and Sis. Elizabeth Heib. Margarete is Sis. Elizabeth's sister.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich moved into their new home near Marshallville. We will miss them very much, but know the Rittman church is welcoming them.

We were blest to have Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Virgil Rocke and their wives of Eureka visit us and to have Bro. Huber minister to us. Also, Bro. Ken

Sauder of Mansfield ministered to us recently.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

Our brethren from neighboring churches have been visiting us and helping us with the song leading. We surely appreciate all those who have put forth the effort to worship with us. We have had Bros. Pete Baltic, Gary Maibach, Eugene Pamer, and Vernon Leman as visiting ministers during the past six months. Our special thanks go to Bro. Ben Hartzler who served in our pulpit in our absence one Sunday.

We miss Sis. Esther Saylor who has moved to one of the apartments in connection with the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Rittman. Sis. Louisa Lance has been visiting her son in Iowa. Sis. Mini Emch has been unable to assemble with us due to a cracked rib.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Frieda Gasser spent time in Phoenix with their daughter, Evelyn Gasser Howey. Evelyn's husband, Louis, passed away due to a heart attack. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Evelyn and her family.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

"Thus united and in concord," Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky (Manz) Zollinger will now, "together . . . walk the path of life . . ." (Zion's Harp, 237) as husband and wife in the Lord. Before exchanging their vows on July 12, they were reminded of the love they should have for each other and for Christ and of the duties of setting up a home where Christ is the head. Bro. Ken's folks, Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger, and family, welcome Sis. Becky to the Rittman church. Sis. Becky's folks, Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz, and family will naturally miss her, but are happy for her.

Among our many guests present for the wedding were Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), and Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty), who ministered the Word to us. Bro. Loren returned with Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) on July 18 to serve us Holy Communion. As we partook of this holy sacrament, we were reminded of the great price Christ paid that our sins could be

forgiven and forgotten and that we might live the new life in Him, saved by grace.

We want to wish God's blessings upon Bro. Roger Gasser (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha) and Sis. Susan Manz (Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn), whose engagement was recently announced.

A special welcome goes out to Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Izgherian and sons. Bro. Paul has found employment in our area and, Lord willing, plans to make Junction their church in the near future. Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon will be coming to Junction from the Detroit church.

Sis. Louise Manz expresses her thanks for the cards, gifts, and prayers given during her illness and for the sympathy extended during the death of her brother.

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness . . . Matt. 6:33. We are so thankful that three precious souls have answered the call of the Lord. Christy Keysor (Bro. George and Sis. Sharon), Rhonda Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby), and Carl Haney have felt the need to seek their souls' salvation. May they feel the needed grace and strength in their lives.

The weekend of June 27 and 28, Latty hosted the Camp Pickett Soldier's Reunion. Among the many visitors were Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction OH). Many precious memories and old acquaintances were renewed. We hope a blessing was received by all who attended. We also were encouraged by our visiting ministers, Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

What an inspiring weekend it was when we welcomed two more precious souls into the fold. We were encouraged by the testimonies of Sherry Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) and Byron Dunham (Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura). How thankful we are for two more soldiers to help fight in the army of the Lord. We appreciated Bro. Orville Ringger's (Bluffton, IN) support on Saturday evening of this blessed weekend.

We extend our prayers and sym-

pathy to Sis. Emma Pfister and family in the loss of her son, Elmer.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

Nothing is too small for Him to carry

Take your burdens to Jesus
Nothing is too great, why longer tarry?

Take your burdens to Jesus.
All your load Jesus will carry,
Take your burdens to Him!

R. J. Oliver

A man was once occupied with work which seemed to demand more than the usual exercise of his faith. Soon he became very burdened and then the Lord gave him a most beautiful revelation concerning the fact that His everlasting arms were underneath bearing him up. He had a daughter who was a paralytic. One day upon arriving home, as he met his little daughter who was sitting in the wheel chair, he kissed her and asked where her mother was. Little Minnie informed her father that she was upstairs. "I have a package for her," he replied. Little Minnie said, "Oh, let me carry the package." "Why, you cannot carry yourself," he replied. With a smile on her face, little Minnie said, "I know Papa, but if you will give me the package, I will hold it while you carry me." Taking her up in his strong arms, he carried her lovingly upstairs. Little Minnie was indeed holding the package, but he was holding Minnie. Then it suddenly came to him. He too was carrying a heavy burden, but praise God, he could proceed with confidence knowing that the Lord was in turn carrying him.

What have I to dread
What have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
I have blessed peace
With my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

E. A. Hoffman

In need of our prayers is Sis. Naomi (Fuhrer) Cordrey who had to be readmitted to Ohio State University Hospital in Columbus. Sis. Naomi has been stricken with leukemia and we certainly commit her to God for His comforting arm

of love and strength.

We rejoice that Sis. Alma Beer and Bro. Donald Cordrey have been restored to a measure of health after having undergone surgery and are able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Louise Sabo had a bad fall recently and we trust our Heavenly Father will comfort and strengthen her again.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Alvin Riggenbach in the recent passing of his brother-in-law.

Chuck and Nanette Went are the happy first-time parents of a baby daughter named Dawn Richelle, born July 6. Harold and Sis. Emilie (Oesch) Went are the grandparents.

The annual Sunday School Picnic was held at the home of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder. There was a large attendance and we thank them for sharing their home with us.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

Janette Blough

A room of quiet . . . A temple of peace;
The home of Faith . . . Where doubtings cease;
A house of comfort . . . Where hope is given;
A source of strength . . . To make earth heaven;
A shrine of worship . . . A place to pray—
I found all this . . . in my church today.

Cyrus E. Albertson

We are so thankful that three of our congregation are home again recovering after having been hospitalized for surgery. May our Lord continue to heal and restore good health again to Sis. Clara Hartzler, Bro. Steve Ramsier, and Bro. Bob Gasser.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18. After much prayer and guidance from our Lord to our brothers and sisters, three engagements have been announced. Bo. Darrel Widmer and Sis. Alice Manz, Junction, are engaged. Bro. Darrell is the son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Widmer and Sis. Alice is the daughter of Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Bro. Dan Rufe-

ner and Sis. Karen Riggenbach will be married also. Bro. Dan is the son of Bro. Orin and Sis. Anna Rufener and Sis. Karen is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggenbach. Bro. Larry Hartzler and Sis. LuAnn Steidinger have also announced their engagement. Sis. LuAnn is from Fairbury and her parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger. Bro. Larry is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Harzler. May God bless these couples as they plan their lives together.

Ellen and Dick Johnson are the parents of a second little girl, Stephanie Lynn. Stephanie's sister Melissa and grandparents, Bro. Chet and Sis. Roma Rufener welcome this little bundle also.

Thanks are extended to visiting ministers who brought us the word of God. They are Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest and Bro. Eugene Pamer of Akron.

Terry Hanzie has become engaged to Suzanne Lengacher. Terry is the son of Florence and the late Virgil Hanzie. Best wishes are extended to them.

OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

"God bless you from the heart we sing," Gospel Hymns, No. 514. A special thanks goes out to all who came and made our annual West Virginia Sunday possible. We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Leroy Huber, Eureka, IL and Rudy Graf, Akron, OH, ministering Bros. Carroll Gerber Bluffton, IN, and Bill Gudeman, Elgin, IL with us to teach us from God's Word. Bro. Rudy concluded the afternoon services with a history of the West Virginia church. It was very interesting and made us very thankful to our Lord that there is yet a way open to salvation. Thanks again to the ministering brothers and their families for coming. Those churches represented were: Rockville, CT, Forrest, Fairbury, Eureka, Princeville, Cissna Park, and Elgin, IL, Bluffton, IN, Bay City, MI, Mansfield, Rittman, Akron, Sardis, Latty, and Toledo, OH, and Philadelphia, PA.

"God bless you! God bless you! Bless and keep us all in Jesus' love, And when our partings here are over, Take us to the joy above." Gospel Hymn, No. 514

We had our first evening of Vacation Bible School. Ministering Bro. Ron Steiner came and spoke to us about "Godliness With Contentment." How wonderful it is when we can with faith accept our lot and portion in life without questioning!

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Daily we bow our heads and thank our Lord for the food before us, often asking that He bless it to our bodies' needs. This past month we have had occasion to thank our Lord for "spiritual food" in the form of the Brotherhood Conference tapes. And we do certainly pray that this "food" will be taken in and digested well to the benefit of our soul's needs. We know it is nearly time for the 1981 Conference and we out west are a little late in hearing the tapes, but their message is no less timely today than it was last August.

Harvest is in full swing here in Oregon with many different crops. The climate in our Willamette Valley allows our farmers a very diversified choice of crops to raise. Fruits of the vine and tree, vegetables, many seed crops, nursery stock, wheat and grains, hops, peppermint oil, nuts and more are all raised in our area. Naturally, different crops require different harvesting procedures and equipment, making life very interesting for the farmers and their families. So, now is a good time to:

- Count your Blessings instead of your crosses,
- Count your gains instead of your losses,
- Count your joys instead of your woes,
- Count your friends instead of your foes,
- Count your smiles instead of your tears,
- Count your courage instead of your fears,
- Count your full years instead of your lean,
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean,
- Count your health instead of your wealth, and
- COUNT YOUR GOD INSTEAD OF YOURSELF.**

Unknown

We know it's summer in Silverton when we get out our picnic baskets and move into our yards and parks for potluck suppers with our visitors from afar and our neighboring brethren from Portland. July 5 was our first such get-together, followed by a singing at the church. A Grange building near the home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Kneet served our purposes on July 19. We can agree with the songwriter when he wrote: "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." Hymns of Zion #156

Along these same lines were the thoughts of our visiting minister Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), when he likened our morning meeting and greeting of brothers and sisters from churches far and wide, to that joyous time when the Lord will call His elect from the four corners of the earth. Then, to, we will feel this bond of love, even though we may have never met before. So now we must each strive to live so that we can be a part of that blessed meeting. Many thanks go to Bro. Gene for ministering the Word to us. In addition to the Metzger family, we enjoyed visitors this past month from Tucson, AZ; Eureka, Morton, Roanoke, and Washington, IL; Lester and Oakville, IA; Bay City, MI; Winthrop, MN; Rittman, OH; and Coos Bay, OR. There are so many beautiful places to see in Oregon, but sometimes it takes company to get us out to see our own state. Does that happen to you? So, come to Oregon . . . give us an excuse to take time to enjoy God's handiwork.

Sis. Carolyn Bolliger (Bro. Ben) was pleasantly surprised when she opened her door recently and discovered her porch was filled with smiling ladies. The Silverton sisters came with coffee, rolls and a few items to help fill the new shelves of the Bolligers' new home. An hour or so of fellowship was enjoyed and Carolyn was "helped" by her young sons, Andy and Alex, unwrapping and stacking the pantry supplies that had been brought.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) who was hospitalized for surgery this week. May God be her refuge and her strength.

THE WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT

RURAL GOSPEL AND MEDICAL MISSION OF INDIA

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm of Taylor, MO, read Bro. John Klotzle's interesting report giving us an update on their recent trip to India in late February and early March of this year. Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier and Roy Grimm, representing the Missionary Committee, and Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and Bro. John Klotzle, representing the World Relief Committee, made the trip for an on-site inspection and to visit the loved ones to offer counsel and advice for the ongoing needs since the passing of Mr. Bhagwat in January of 1980 and Mrs. Bhagwat in February of 1981. The visiting brethren visited with the Indian lawyers to finalize the transfer of title of the properties to the Mission through the probate of Mr. Bhagwat's estate.

Bro. Roy expressed an attachment and compassion for the Indian folks, and will convey the report to the Elder brethren at the August conference for further evaluation and participation.

A report of World Relief's activities in helping others will be included in each issue of the Silver Lining.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

We all appreciate Bro. Corbin Bahler's willingness to take charge of our services on June 26 in Bro. Ed Aeschleman's absence. A day of good fellowship and food for the spirit was freely given.

Our dear friend, Bess Merz, submitted to eye surgery and with God's help, is making a good recovery. May God always hear our prayers for each other.

We have enjoyed many visitors from various parts of the country this summer. We are grateful for this fellowship of love and for the opportunity to share our new facilities with our brethren.

NEW MARTINSVILLE WEST VIRGINIA,

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

The annual all day meeting held at the country church on June 28 was well attended by many folks from distant points, as well as lo-

cal residents who had never spent the day with us. Several ministers were present with Carroll Gerber from Bluffton, IN, being the main speaker for the day. The weather was a beautiful summer day and the attendance was really the largest ever. Our good folks from the Sardis Church were hosts for the day and they did a real job in every respect. We again say many thanks to them, also to the many visitors for their donations of food and money and their presence.

The annual Witschey reunion will be held at 4-H Camp on Sunday, Aug. 23. All relatives and friends are invited to attend.

J. Edward Kocher, son of the late Henry and Viola Durig Kocher, passed away on June 19 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three grandchildren, one sister and two brothers. Services were held on June 21.

William R. Barth, a great-grandson of the late Herman and Mary Ann Witschey Barth died very suddenly on June 27. He was owner of Barth's Florists here in New Martinsville and is survived by his wife, one daughter, one son and three grandchildren, his mother and one brother. Services were held on June 30.

John V. Iams, co-owner and president of Iams Funeral Home, passed away very suddenly on April 25. He is survived by his wife, two sons, five grandchildren and one sister. Services were held on April 28. The Home will continue with the family in charge.

Our goal should be, not to be happy, but to deserve happiness.

What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.

If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade out of it.

Faults are thick where love is thin.

When it is the hardest to pray, then pray the hardest.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

"What can I do for my Lord today?" He has done everything for us. He has given us His Word. He has given us His Son. The Lord has given us His life and has shed His blood that we could be free from sin and walk in His ways.

Beloved, ours is the highest calling that man could have. We are children of the King! We are His followers, so let's let charity edify us. "If any man love God, the same is known of Him." I Cor. 8:3. Remember that we are known by our fruits. Love is of God and God is love. Therefore, if God is part of our lives, His love is in our hearts and we will share it with the world around us.

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." I Cor. 8:4. How much plainer can we make it? How much more simple can we make it? If the world would only acknowledge that there is only one God and that He is the ruler of the universe and governs everything at His bidding!

He holds the blueprints of your life and mine in His hands. He has a purpose and plan for every life that is lived upon this earth. His plan is that we are to be saved and He is willing to give us the grace and help which we need.

Today it seems that we need more faith than ever before just to believe that God is ruling the world. Men who do not have faith wonder why the world is in such a mess. Beloved, let's review the Word of God.

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . ." Hebrews 4:12.

The word of God "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16.

The Word of God will stand forever when the world passes away. Luke 21:33.

Why should we fear men? Let's put our faith in God.

"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." I Cor. 8:5, 6. I believe it's a good time for each of us to reflect upon our individual lives. Let us look where we come from, look at what we are today, and look at where we are headed.

Beloved, we were lost sinners. Christ died for us. He drew us to Him and we found our salvation through faith in the atoning blood that flowed on Calvary. Where are we going? Are we still focused on our Lord? Are we keeping heaven as our objective?

There are many things to sidetrack us in this life. There are many things which could capture our attention and become gods to us, taking our eyes from the goals of eternal life. I believe that Christians should be reminded of this. We have to be refreshed by telling ourselves that we are going to heaven and there is nothing in this world that is going to stand in our way.

Are you walking toward eternal life? Are you determined to walk that way? Sin is still sin today and we have to take sin out of our lives and walk with the Lord. It can cause heartache for the believer if we allow ourselves to become lukewarm or if we allow ourselves to take liberties because we feel that something is not too important or that it is "safe."

Beloved, we can be standing on treacherous ground unaware. We could be caught up in wrongdoing and we could be lost again. I believe that our goal should be heaven and heaven alone, and that nothing should stand in our way.

Let us remember that we have full-time jobs as believers. Our walk of life speaks loudly. Do we have any gods in our lives? We read that there are many gods. Anything that is more important to us than God and heaven becomes as a god to us.

It could be money, farms, or automobiles; it could be anything that is more important to us than God, Himself, and His Son, the Lord Jesus. If there is any such thing, we are standing on treacherous ground that could separate us or lead us astray.

Let us stay near the cross. Let us go back to Calvary. The love of Jesus was there as He hung bleeding and dying for you and for me. He looked upon his enemies and said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. That is love!

When Stephan was dying from being stoned, the first Christian martyr to give his life, he saw the heavens open and he said,

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60. What can we say?

Beloved, we have the highest calling that could possibly be given. Let us determine that we are not going to allow anything to become an idol in our lives. We have to be very watchful, more than we realize. Many times we think that small things are perhaps not evil or wrong. Even small things should be cautiously, carefully, and prayerfully considered because we have only one life. "Only one life, will soon be past; Only what is done for Christ will last." "Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; . . . But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak." I Cor. 8:7, 8, 9.

Beloved, God has given each of us grace to work with our faith. Remember that we are not all the same; we differ according to the proportion of faith that we have.

Our brother may be weak in faith and we may feel, "Why can't he be as strong as other brethren?" God has given each of us only that which we can use. He expects us to use what He gives us, all that He gives, no more and no less; just all that He gives.

So, we have to remember that we could offend our brother or sister by something that we allow in our lives. It doesn't affect our life, seemingly. Yet, if we are causing someone else to stumble or fall, who is going to account for that brother, sister, or even a precious friend? Someone who had faith might stumble and say, "They allow this in their lives. I am living as good as they are."

Beloved, let's be careful. Let's be prayerful. Then we need not be stumbling blocks, but can be steppingstones. Let's live so that a person can look upon us and say, "Now, there is a witness! These are children of God. You can tell by the love that they give to others. You can tell by what they do with their lives." Yes, the happiness and the joy that radiates from face, heart, and life is the

evidence of a happy believer! If we are happy believers, there is no idol that is overtaking our love of God. The love of God. We cannot put it into words. We just know that if we let love reign in our hearts, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

If we are not stumbling blocks we can be steppingstones. We can help those about us so that their lives can become honorable and be a help to someone else.

"And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?" I Cor. 8:11. There is a difference in believers. There are weak brothers and there are strong brothers. There are weak sisters and there are strong sisters. As long as we are humble, we can feel our weakness and we can also feel the strength that God gives us.

"But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Cor. 8:12, 13. That could mean many things. If you know that anything is going to be harmful to your brother or sister, don't do it. If you know that it is going to be helpful, then you can and should.

I believe (and I think of myself first) that there are many times when we should stop and say, "Wait a minute; if I do this, will this help me to be a better person? Will it help my brother and sister?" If we weigh that carefully and prayerfully and ask God for an answer, He will answer us. But if we can see in any way that it is going to offend our brother or sister, perhaps even robbing them of the good intentions that they have, let's not do it. Let's stay on the safe side so that God will be satisfied with our lives.

Beloved, you can look around and see the things that people allow themselves today. They are caught up. So many, many people have made their lives into such messes that they cannot even straighten them out. But with God's help, all things are possible.

There are people today (and I believe that there are many) who would like to serve the Lord and

seek Him out. But because of circumstances, they seem to be helpless. If you and I do not let our lights shine before such people, if we are not witnesses for Christ, how will the world really know Him? You and I have a tremendous responsibility. Let us not fail in the duties that have become ours. Let us not fail to share God's love with others. Let us not be stumbling blocks. Let us not allow knowledge to stand in our way. Let us not let anything prevent us from reaching heaven.

I believe that we have friends with us today and we have friends in our home congregation. If they only knew the concern, the weight and the prayers in our hearts for them, perhaps they would repent right now, although I believe, too, that we have to wait upon the Lord.

In Isaiah's writings we read, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 40:31. So let's not give up the struggle. Let us continue on because victory lies ahead! Beloved, we should rejoice as we have read in the Psalms. Let us rejoice every day. If you can't find anything to rejoice about, just be thankful for the gift of life itself. Life is given to us by God and that is a blessing.

It is up to us to choose how to live our lives. We have that free choice. But there will come a time when we must give an account to God. When we know the difference between right and wrong and God touches our hearts and draws us, we become accountable.

We are thankful today that there are friends heeding the call and yielding their lives to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way to find salvation except through faith in the shed blood of Christ at Calvary. Then we are to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ Himself and become a living witness for the name of Christ. Whatever we do, wherever we go, whatever we say, Jesus Christ's name should be glorified, praised, and honored.

Beloved, I want to share with you the closing chapter and the closing days and hours of a man's

life that occurred within the last thirty days. It was that of my brother-in-law.

At the age of 55, he did not know His Lord. He had had many opportunities and had been talked to about repentance and conversion, but he had neglected to heed the call. He neglected his salvation until the day he was to go to surgery. He had leukemia and was dying from cancer. He had but a short time to live.

I want to share this with you because it burdens my heart. If I share it with others, perhaps someone might glean something to help him find salvation. A man who has no grace, no help, no strength to be released from the power of Satan is in a most pitiful condition.

When he left for surgery, the nurses asked, "Would you like to speak to this man?" We said, "Yes," my wife and I. We asked him, "Is there something on your mind and on your heart that you would like to talk about before you go to surgery? We may never see you again. This may be the last opportunity that we will ever have to talk to you." All he could say was, "It doesn't look good. It doesn't look good."

My wife took hold of him and said, "You have to say something. We may never see you again. This may be the final parting forever. You're a sinner. Don't you feel in your heart that you're sorry?" All he could say was, "Yes! Yes! Yes!" But he could not say, "I'm sorry."

He left for surgery. Beloved, he was frightened, petrified. I'll never forget the scared look on his face. I'll never forget. He went to surgery. We begged and prayed that God would be merciful, that somehow, someday an opportunity would be given that he could say he was sorry. He came out of surgery.

On Sunday after church we went to visit him. We went into the intensive care room. As my daughter and I were walking toward the bed, he raised his arms and said, "I want to repent!" Beloved, we said, "This is what we have been praying for . . . for days and days!"

He had so many tubes and things in his throat and nose that he could hardly talk. But he said,

"I want to repent!" I believe that he went through the depths of hell those days until he could talk and make his peace with God.

We had a prayer together. He said he wanted to pray, when we asked him. So we prayed together. I asked him if he would like to talk with our elder and he said, "Yes." So Bro. Orville went to talk with him and we had a wonderful feeling that he did make peace with God.

The doctors said, "There is something going on in that man's mind. We cannot understand. We don't know what it is. Do you have any idea?" I said, "Yes, I believe I can tell you. He wants to talk about his spiritual needs." The doctor said, "Yes, he needs to take care of that too. He wanted to tell me something so badly, but I could not understand. He blew the cap right off the ventilator. I know something is going on in his mind."

Shortly after that, a calm look came over his face. The doctors reminded us of it. The nurses spoke about it. His own children, when they went in to visit him, said, "Something has happened to him!"

Beloved to witness a man like that in the closing days and hours of life, and to see the power of Satan defeated by the grace of God is marvelous!

My beloved friends, if you tell yourself, "I will repent when I want to, or when a more convenient day comes," that day will never come. You must become humble and plead for God to give you grace. The grace of God is the only thing that can help you.

My brother-in-law began feeling a little better that day and could talk. The next day was pretty good. The next day he turned for the worse. The next day, worse. Only seven days later we saw his pulse rate and heart beat come down, down, down, and he departed from this life. It was only one week from the day he asked to repent. Beloved, that is going almost to the twelfth hour. Almost lost, but saved. Thanks be to God!

Today, beloved, I tell you a truth. Today, everybody seems to stand for everything, but we need somebody to stand for something. That something is to live for the Lord Jesus Christ lifelong. Can that somebody be you?

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SERMON BY BRO. CARROLL GERBER OF BLUFFTON, IN

Psalm 96 and I Corinthians 8

Beloved, we have not chosen this chapter and only the Lord knows what each of us needs. He has given us what we have read together and will speak upon this morning.

We can read in Timothy's writing: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. That is what the Word of God is for. In which of these ways will it help us today?

We have read the Word; and, if you have prayed earnestly and conditioned your heart before you came to church this morning, you are prepared to receive a blessing. Beloved, I believe that each one individually should pray to God for His guidance and blessing when we assemble in His house together.

In the unity of the Spirit we can call upon God, read together, sing together, and hear the Word spoken so that He can provide for our needs. Then we can be strengthened and nourished in our faith.

Who of us here today doesn't need spiritual food? Who doesn't need guidance, direction, help, and strength from the Word of God? I don't believe any of us would dare to say that we don't. We all need spiritual food and drink to sustain our spiritual lives.

How long would we live in the natural life if we did not eat and drink to sustain our mortal shells? We would soon be hungry and thirsty. If you have come with a true hunger and a true thirst this morning, God can provide a blessing.

We read together, "Now as touching things offered to idols, we know that we all have knowledge." I Cor. 8:1.

Today, knowledge has increased tremendously. It was prophesied that in the last days "... knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12:

4. It doesn't say what kind of knowledge, but it says "knowledge."

I read a report from a university in the East that was published some time ago, and I cannot remember the exact figures, but I believe it went something like this: From the time when Christ was born, for knowledge to double took 1500 years. Then from 1500 years, it took only 300 years for it to double again. Then it dropped to 70 years; then, to 40. Now knowledge doubles every 7 years. Perhaps, today it is even faster than that. This tells us one thing. We are getting close to the fulfillment of prophecy and close to the end of time.

We have read together, "... we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up ..." I Cor. 8:1. That's what knowledge does. It is so true—"knowledge puffeth up."

What is knowledge? Knowledge is what is known. The more we know, the more we want to learn about the things that are unknown. Beloved, knowledge does puff us up. So if we have knowledge, we also need wisdom. Wisdom can guide us in how to use knowledge.

Let's not allow knowledge to puff us up. Truly, the more we know, the more we realize how little we really know, and the more there is that is yet to be known. "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." Charity edifies, helps makes things go better, fulfills, completes and that is what we need. What is charity? Charity is love in action.

We can't tell people that we love them and do nothing about it. We have to show that love. Love in action can be a kind word, a help in time of need, a visit to those in the hospital, or going out of our way to help others. Charity is shown in so many ways, beloved. Let's explore the avenues of char-

ity because it edifies.

Exercising charity brings peace and the peace of God goes beyond the understanding of men. In this we are only doing our reasonable duty to fulfill the Word of God. "... but charity edifieth," we have read. So if we know that charity edifies, it becomes our duty to practice charity in our every day lives.

"If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him." I Cor. 8:2, 3. Isn't that self-explanatory? Yes, beloved, he who is puffed up because of his knowledge doesn't know what he should know.

The Apostle Paul said that he knows "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" and that's the same message we bring today. If we don't know anything else but Christ as our personal Saviour, and let Him live and reign in our hearts and lives, the world will see that we are God's children.

How wonderful it is if people can look upon us as a living Bible. Have you ever thought of it that way? The world in general does not know the Lord. Many of them don't know what the Bible contains. Beloved, there is nothing more precious than to walk in the light of God's Word, showing the world that we are His people.

We are sons and daughters of God, brothers to the Lord! Doesn't that humble us and make us want to use the knowledge that we have to praise and honor God?

We have wonderful opportunities every day. Opportunity is knocking at your door. If you want to see how much you can do for the Lord, ask Him for opportunities and they will be there.

Many times we wonder, "What am I going to do today? What will I gain today?" It would be much better if we would say,

(Continued on page 25)