

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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Fatherhood: Responsibility & Reward

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons . . .

Deut. 4:9

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

Deut. 6:6-7

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Prov. 29:17

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Prov. 22:6

And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Eph. 6:4

Something's Happened To Daddy

As my little girl played with the kids
across the street,
The tone of her voice caught my ear;
What she said was so precious, her face
all aglow;
I could hardly hold back the tears.

Something's happened to Daddy, he's
not the same anymore;
Things are different at our house, like
never before!
Mommy said he met Jesus, and He
washed him white as snow,
Something's happened to Daddy, I know.



I remember at that old-fashioned altar we
knelt,
And promised to show her the way;
But I was so busy with the things of this
world,
All too soon I'd forgotten that day.

Something's happened to Daddy, he's
not the same anymore;
Things are different at our house, like
never before!
Mommy said he met Jesus, and He
washed him white as snow,
Something's happened to Daddy, I know.
Wm. Gaither

Fathers have a responsibility to their children far beyond providing for the physical needs. God commands fathers to instruct and guide their children in spiritual areas that will have eternal consequences. Godly instruction, nurturing and admonition all take time. Children learn far more from that which is visible than that which is spoken. Fathers, be encouraged through the grace of God, to not only find time, but also take time to truly "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

ETERNAL SECURITY

By Bro. Gene Lehman,
Minister Wolcott congregation

Security is a beautiful word. The dictionary describes it as assurance, certainty and freedom from fear or danger. A secure feeling is one of the best feelings we can have, and certainly a person bought by the precious blood of Christ has a right to feel secure.

Security is found in safe places. The pioneers felt secure in their forts. A defenseless rabbit feels secure from the fox in a tangle of briars. A child feels secure in its mother's arms.

Where then is the place of safety for the believer, and where is security to be found? Our beautiful hymn, number 16 in the Zion's Harp, describes eternal security so eloquently.

"The Lamb abides in this good
Shepherd's keeping,
Though all the depths of hell in
anger roar;

No raging wolf shall pluck it from His
bosom,

It rests in Jesus' might forever more.
It rests in blest security, and in the
vale of death the Lord its shield
will be."

The wolf is banned from the bosom of the Shepherd, and he knows it. He does not try to come in and snatch us out, but dearly beloved believers, he stands on the outside and beckons us to join him. He says, "See what I have to offer; it looks good, it tastes good, it feels good, and it's fun. Come out here

and enjoy the enticing things to be found in the world."

What happened to the pioneer who went out of the fort while the Indians were attacking? What happens to the rabbit when he leaves the secure briars and walks with the fox? What happens to the Lamb when he leaves the Shepherd's bosom and walks with the wolf? Obviously, the result is grave danger, most likely even death. The security is gone when we leave the place of safety. We can't expect anything else.

A believer must remain with the Lord. This means he cannot go places and do things that the Lord himself would not also do. Those who feel once we are saved we cannot lose our salvation are greatly in error. Our security is lost when we leave the Shepherd's bosom, and expose ourselves to sin, and even take part in sin. When sin enters, security departs.

We all want eternal security, since it means a home in Heaven for us. No one wants to suffer the pangs of Hell forever, and it is certainly not necessary as Christ has already paid the price to redeem us from Hell.

We may have this eternal security by entering the Shepherd's bosom. The Avenue is named Repentance, the Door is the Lord. Let's be sure when we get into the Saviour's bosom, we stay there!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH HISTORY PROJECT

The completion of the church history is drawing near. The project, which included histories of all local congregations in the Apostolic Christian Church, is scheduled for completion in October of this year. The lengthy manuscript has been typeset and pages are currently being pasted up. Proofreading and other finalizing aspects of putting the book together will extend throughout the summer and into the fall.

The book's contents will describe the church's historical link to European Anabaptists, the origins of the Froehlich movement, and the development of the church in America. World Relief activities and missions data will also be included.

The book is being printed by Sekan Printing Company of Fort Scott, Kansas. It will be available through your local church.

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, (Gridley, IL), has authored this volume with special guidance and counsel provided by a committee of six church Elders.

HELP NEEDED AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME — NEED FOR ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS

Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle will have served their commitment of one year as houseparents, in August.

There will be a need for alternate houseparents to help to continue on with the work of caring for these children and youth with Christian love.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The qualification requirements for the alternate houseparents are:

1. Must be a brother, sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order, married to a sister in like standing.
2. Must have the support of his home church elder.
3. Must be able to command respect of children, as well as adults.
4. Desirable age between 21 and 60 years. Consideration will be given to all applicants.
5. A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview.
6. This position is full-time.
7. Training or studies in child care, social work, nursing profession, counseling or teaching would be helpful. We have a staff development program and "on the job" training to help you carry out your duties.
8. Additional information concerning duties, salary, insurance and other

THE SILVER LINING

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All requests and resumes will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." (Psalms 27:10). There is an ever increasing great number of children who have been forsaken, and only a small number of Christian homes available to provide for them. The Lord needs willing workers to provide for these young souls.

The Children's Home
Board Members

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Ps. 33:12

Remembering that our nation's President recently set aside a National Day of Prayer and that he has also recommended reading the Bible, we realize that we are a fortunate people indeed. Oh that all people everywhere would enjoy these privileges!! Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of..." Alexis Carrel put it this way: "If you make a habit of prayer, your life will be noticeably and profoundly altered. Prayer is the most powerful form of energy that one can generate."

Here at the Home, staff prayers are a many-faceted plea for wisdom and guidance. Beauty is evident in the hearts of the residents when they express the desire to give thanks for their blessings and when they express prayerful concern that God will continue to work in the hearts of people to undergird the work here at the Home for the Handicapped.

Helen Steiner Rice expressed it beautifully by writing:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope in years to be —
Look down upon this present
And see our need of Thee . . .
For in this age of unrest,
With danger all around,
We need Thy hand to lead us
To higher, safer ground . . .
We need Thy help and counsel
To make us more aware
That our safety and security
Lie solely in Thy care . . .
Give us strength and courage
To be honorable and true
Practicing Your precepts
In everything we do,
And keep us gently humble
In the greatness of Thy love
So someday we are fit to dwell
With Thee in peace above.

We need to sing our thanks for a world full of loveliness. Even though there is much grief in the world, it is still a place of awesome beauty and wonder.

Warmer, springtime temperatures have dotted our landscape with bicycles. Some of the exercise classes may now be held out in the sunshine. A few have taken vacations; many have been able to go visiting and take part in group activities outside of the Home.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

It is much more pleasant to pray voluntarily than to have it wrung from us through discipline.

How far do I have to carry my burden to God in prayer? Just across the threshold of my heart, for He is waiting there.

People who are too busy to pray are busier than God meant for them to be.

The man who kneels down in true worship before the Lord, can stand up to anything. Daily prayers lessen daily cares.

Ere thou sleepest, gently lay
Every troubled thought away.
Put off worry and distress
As thou puttest off thy dress.
Drop thy burden and thy care
In the quiet arms of prayer.

Get your soul in tune with God before the concert of the day begins. You will never get a busy signal on the prayer line to Heaven.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Irene Haggermaker

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE!

On Sept. 8, 1981, Sis. Doris and I opened our little preschool to the public for the first time. We began the day with only one child, Daniel Haggermaker, son of Bro. David and Sis. Judy, who is two years old. You can be sure Daniel got the red carpet treatment! Within two days we added one more and then it grew to a grand total of 13 children by the end of the first school year. There were times when Doris and I both were almost ready to give up, although it seemed to work out that if one of us was discouraged, the other could always encourage.

Now with the second year coming to a close, the Lord is still blessing us with more and more children. We have had a total of 45 children this year, and will close out the year with 27 of them. We have 18 that will be graduating, 8 from nursery to preschool and 10 from preschool to regular kindergarten. Graduation will be May 26 at 7 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Each child has a part in the program — even the two year olds.

Our yard and bake sale was a wonderful success. We had hoped for \$149.99 to purchase a swing set for our playground. We got \$149.95, so the swing set has been purchased and is now being enjoyed by all. We want to thank everyone that gave of their time in baking and getting things together for the sale. We especially want to thank Bro. J. R. Hall for all the hard work he did in lifting all the heavy things and just for putting up with us women all day. Bro. J. R. and Sis. Louise have been such a help to the school, always willing to help in any capacity where there is a need.

To help cut costs, the school will be open on Tuesday and Thursday during the summer months. We'll plan on opening the fall session about the last week of August. With the economy looking a little better, our prayer and goal is to start classes with at least 40 children.

Our church was blessed with the visit of Bro. Ed Ringger on the first of May. His message on Bible doctrine, church doctrine and tradition was greatly appreciated by all.

Our high school graduates include Randy Moore (Bro. Lavoyd and Sis.

Doris) and O. C. Haggemaker (Bro. Carl and Sis. Shirley). Our college graduate is Sis. Teresa Haggemaker (Ed and Sis. Irene).

We have two new additions to our church. Thomas Nelson Bolan (Bro. John and Sis. Cathy, grandparents Bro. Windford and Sis. Eunis Kelly) and Samuel Tod Haggemaker (Bro. David and Sis. Judy, grandparents Bro. Carl and Sis. Shirley Haggemaker).

Sis. Eunis Kelly has been in the hospital with hepatitis, but she is home now and will have to be in bed for six weeks. Her husband, Bro. Windford, also has pneumonia but is improving.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron & Ev Hoerr

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5

Our eighth grade graduates are: Kristen French (Larry and Sheryl), Candy Schuster (Bro. George and the late Sis. Christine), Daniel Steffen (Bro. Harvey and Nancy). Our High School graduate this year is Jenny Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley).

On April 24 we enjoyed our monthly fellowship potluck and singing.

James Emch has found peace in the Lord and is awaiting baptism.

Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was our visiting minister on May 15.

And now, little children, abide in Him . . . (I John 2:28). Sarah Lynne Roth was welcomed May 13 by first-time parents Bro. Todd and Sis. Jill Roth. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene Roth.

Herb Mohrman and Sis. Toni Bentley were both hospitalized for surgery. Sis. Emma Sanders had out-patient surgery. Kristy Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) was hospitalized for a week and is now home.

The weather disturbances have been quite severe across the nation the first week of May, yet our birds are singing their joyous songs, and the humming-birds are busier than usual for an abundance of rain has brought many beautiful flowers and flowering cacti.

Thank you to our young group for serving noon lunch at church on Mother's Day.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

The first of May was a blessed day as the members of the Tucson church gathered to take communion together. Elder Bro. Richard Schubach was with us for the day as he and our Deacon, Bro. Noah Herman, held communion service. It was truly a blessing for all who took part.

Our Sis. Evelyn Knapp was hospitalized for a few days recently for an operation on her feet. She is recovering nicely, and we all wish her the Lord's healing and comforting presence. She hasn't been able to assemble with us for a while, and we certainly hope to see her in our midst again very soon.

Our dear Sis. Dorothy Heckel passed from this life on Thursday, May 12, after a short hospitalization. God's timing is so perfect and yet we fail to understand it sometimes. Our prayers are with Dorothy's sister, Sis. Sue Lamnech, during this difficult time.

Sis. Mary Ann Bertschi will be leaving us shortly for Illinois, where she will be attending college. We are going to miss Sis. Mary Ann but look forward to her visiting us as her parents, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene, reside in Tucson. Each person that leaves our small flock leaves a void, but we pray the Lord will bless Sis. Mary Ann in her new home and wish for her all His love and guidance.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp marked their 25th wedding anniversary in April. We wish them much happiness at this beautiful time of life and know the Lord must be smiling in Heaven when two of His children walk the path of life together in service for Him.

As Father's Day comes and passes, we are left to ponder the roles our own fathers have played in our lives, and we see now the importance of a father who makes time to take his children to church, to teach them right from wrong, and to love and guide them through their youth. We should be so grateful to the Lord for giving us these kind of fathers, and pray to Him daily for grace to be the same type of loving parent our fathers were as we were growing up and still are today.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:2-4

Many of us have been blessed with loving parents who have brought us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. When realizing that there are also those who haven't experienced a Christian home with believing parents, ache comes into our hearts. Yet I can't help but wonder if such children don't appreciate God as our Heavenly Father a little more. To think we can all have a Father who is constant in His love, understanding, and guidance through this life, our hearts are overwhelmed with thanksgiving! What a joy to have the hope of reaching His Home and to dwell there for eternity! That most beautiful Home where we will all be one family, united by His love and saving grace. If only more souls would accept a place in God's family! This Father's Day, let's all be thankful for our earthly fathers, and pray that God will fill each of their hearts with His special fatherly love.

April 23 was the wedding day of Ed Schlipf (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie, Gridley, IL) and Peggy Sargent. We wish them happiness and that they might follow God's guidance for their lives.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Mary Aberle (Sabetha) visited us this past month. We thank Bro. Joe and pray God will bless him for being a willing messenger of the Word.

COLORADO, DENVER Marlene Leman

April 24 was a special day for our little church. We were so thrilled to experience the first baptism here. As we could sing:

"My Lord an offering do I bring
My heart I give to thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me."

Zion's Harp #163 before our dear friend Joe Wagler stepped into the baptismal waters we could feel a real closeness to each other and to our Lord. We are so thankful to be able to greet Bro. Joe as a dear brother-in-faith and rejoice with him and his brothers and sisters that he could find his salvation.

The week after Bro. Joe's baptism,

work began on the remodeling of our church building. Brothers came from Elgin, IL, Cissna Park, Bern and Sabetha, KS to labor for the Lord in our behalf. During the second week brothers and a friend came from Silverton, OR and Bay City, MI to continue the work that had been begun.

"By many hands the work of God is done." Richard Le Gallienne

"There can be no real and abiding happiness without sacrifice. Our greatest joys do not result from our efforts toward selfgratification, but from a loving and spontaneous service to other lives. Joy comes not to him who seeks it for himself, but to him who seeks it for other people." H. W. Sylvester.

Truly these dear ones sacrificed much to come and work here and we could feel the joy they felt as the work was done so peaceably. We trust God will bless them richly for their labors of love.

We were also able to partake of Holy Communion recently. What a great blessing and closeness we could feel. All of our members were able to be present. "Oh, the depth of the riches of love, the riches of love in Christ Jesus! Far better than gold or wealth untold are the riches of love in Christ Jesus." Gospel Hymns #760

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). The word of God spoken through loving, humble brothers is truly the strength of our souls. We pray for a blessing upon each brother who spoke through Him to us.

God has blessed us so richly with material building and with the spiritual building through His most precious word. May God truly bless each one who has labored!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dorothy Viens

When Christ was on earth, He taught His followers that when they saw the trees bud and shoot forth their leaves, they would know that summer is nigh at hand. We can observe these signs around us today. Summer is here and already man is anticipating the harvest. But how much more should we be concerned with that great harvest day that is approaching for each of us and ever strive to prepare ourselves for

that day when He shall call us from this life. We know and are often reminded that there will be a great separation on that day, the sheep on the right and the goats on the left. May we, as sheep, willingly be obedient and follow our shepherd now that we shall be worthy to be with Him in His kingdom above.

Bros. Walter Hany, Arthur Lanz, Melvin Gerber and Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler have all been hospitalized this month. We are thankful that they are able to assemble with us again.

It was a privilege to have Bro. Carrol Gerber (Bluffton) worship with us on a Wednesday evening. We thank Bro. Carrol for being willing to bring the Word of God unto us.

On the weekend of May 15, we gathered on Saturday evening for services and on Sunday evening, we together partook of the Holy Communion feast, going back in the spirit to Calvary and the great price that was paid there for our redemption. Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Norbert Steiner (Croghan) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg) assisted our Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler in this most important work. May the blessings of God rest upon these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Bertha Lanz have reason to rejoice at the birth of their first great-great-grandchild. They are both ninety-two years of age and enjoy good health together. Bro. Paul and Sis. Bertha have nine children, 46 grandchildren, 70 great-grandchildren and now one great-great-grandchild. Some of their happiest times are spent with their dear family. We hope that their remaining time together is happy and healthy and that they will continue to enjoy the blessings of God.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

All of our winter residents have gone to their homes in different areas of the mid-west and north-east. Although we are quite a small group we are continuing our mid-week service for the time being. Each Wednesday evening at 7:30 is pulpit time, preceded by fifteen minutes of singing.

It makes us sad to have Sis. Laurie Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) leaving us to again make her home in Bloomington-Normal. She will continue her music education at college there. A beach picnic was recently

enjoyed by all as a farewell for Laurie.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli recently returned to Peoria. They spent about seven weeks here while he recuperated from heart surgery.

"To all the brethren and friends of Ft. Lauderdale Church, we sincerely thank you for your many prayers and deeds of kindness during Dick's surgery and convalescence. Although we were far from home, we never felt alone; thanks to your love, concern and support. May God richly bless you for your thoughtfulness." Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli.

Thought For The Day — We cannot hear God unless we listen.

FLORIDA, N. FT. MYERS

Mid-winter services were held this year in the Tropical Gulf Acres Civic Center of Punta Gorda. The facility was more comfortable and convenient than the previous meeting place, but no matter where we gather to praise His name, we find food for soul and body, love, fellowship and the common bond of faith in God. We have a unique little gathering and invite you to come and worship with us from the first Sunday in December through Palm Sunday.

Bro. Art Gudeman is assisted in the pulpit duties by Bros. Glenn Price, Doug Sabo, Homer Reineck, Joe Schrock and visiting ministers from the north share with us from time to time. Our register holds names of guests from Canada to Mexico. If you are in the Fort Myers area, come and worship with us.

March 6, 1983 was a very special Sunday when Elder Bro. Ben Maibach came to Punta Gorda and after services held an organizational meeting for the North Fort Myers Church. Bro. Ben read the preamble and the constitution that is standard for all Apostolic Christian Churches of America. It was established that the future meeting group would be named the Apostolic Christian Church of North Fort Myers, Florida. Bro. Ben then read the by-laws that were an adoption of the Detroit and Sarasota Apostolic Christian Churches. The Sarasota church by-laws were used as the model for the organized new church. Special emphasis was expressed on the legality of the corporation and its necessity.

Note: Land has been purchased in the North Fort Myers, Florida area. However, we will continue to meet in

the above named building until such time as a permanent building is deemed necessary.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Doris and Diane Rocke

We are progressing nicely with the new addition to our church and are so pleased with all the helping hands. Our thanks to the willing volunteers. The weather has been so favorable this month for which we are very thankful. In a short time the outside will be completed.

We here in Sarasota would like to say thanks to our brothers for their labor of love while visiting us. It is truly wonderful to see God's spirit in such willing servants. Our Mother's Day message by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach was: "Christian Mothers are Indeed the Heart of the Home." As Father's Day approaches, may we give a few moments of gratitude for Christian fathers also, remembering to especially love, honor and obey our heavenly Father who cares so much for us all.

We are rejoicing with the wonderful change the Lord has brought in the life of our dear friend, Marie Keller (Bro. Arthur) who has given herself to the Lord. May her faith and repentance of the heart and mind give her that inner peace and joy. The Lord shows great love and mercy to a faithful believer through hours of trials. May she feel our love at all times, and yet fear the Lord, for this is the beginning of wisdom.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." (Ecc. 12:1) This is our hope for our three high school graduates. We congratulate Doug Martin, Darlene Krstec and Jeff Steitmatter III this year.

THE GRADUATE'S PRAYER

Father, I have knowledge, so will you show me now,
 How wisely to use it and find the way somehow,
 To make the world I live in a little better place,
 And make life with its problems, a bit easier to face . . .

Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,
 And show me how to serve Thee in the most effective ways.
 So all my education, my knowledge and my skill,

May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will . . .

And may I ever be aware in everything I do,

That knowledge comes from learning and wisdom comes from You.

Helen Steiner Rice

Tony Christopher (Wolcott, IN) who was attending Purdue University as an engineering student will be spending the summer months in Sarasota. He has found peace with God and we ask the Lord's blessings upon him. May we all share in his joy.

Our college students, Sis. Gloria and Katrine Streitmatter, have returned to Tallahassee, FL, for summer semesters. During the school year, Katrine is studying at Duke University in North Carolina and was able to spend a few days here recently. Sis. Gloria will remain at Florida State University for her senior year. We enjoy their visits.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

"God Almighty first planted a garden, and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures; it is the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man; without which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks."

Bacon

Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman, OH) was our minister on April 24. Our appreciation goes to Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann for coming to worship with us. Accompanying Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann were Gary's parents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riggensbach.

Our ministers scheduled for June will be from the Taylor, MO church on June 12 and from the Rockville, CN church on June 26. Our prayers are with all of these ministers as they travel to share the Word of God with us and we know God will truly bless them for their efforts.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Charlene Knobloch
Shirley Denick

May 8 was the wedding day of Sis. Peg Woerner and Bro. Steve Zimmerman. Bro. George and Delores Woerner (Tremont) and Bro. Bob and Judy Zimmerman (Normal) are their parents. May they seek God's guidance as

they begin their life together as husband and wife.

We extend special thanks to our visiting ministers this month. They are Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest).

We want to thank the parents of the A.C.Y.F. children, who attended the farewell dinner at the Heritage House in Peoria for Bro. Jim Kachelmuss and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann. Bro. Dave Huber has taken over the duties.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Shirley Kieser

With thankful hearts we welcomed Roseann Stahl as our sister-in-faith. She is the daughter of Sis. Charlotte Stahl. Many good teachings were expounded by Elder Bros. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Leroy Huber (Eureka), Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) on this touching weekend. Bro. Walter Herrmann and his family (Princeville) were also very welcome visitors. Only God can bless and reward these brothers for their labors.

Best wishes to graduates Wesley Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie), Daryl Knobloch (Bro. Marv and Sis. Diane), Amy Tanner (Harold and Imogene), David Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta), Mike Lampe (Clarence and Sis. Sharon Bruell), Sis. Dawn Leman (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane).

It is said, "Knowledge is a gift from above, inspiring minds to seek that which is beautiful and good." May you be thus inspired.

Also college graduates are: Fred Hausman (computer field), Sis. Roseann Stahl and Sis. Carol Kieser (medical assistants). May God lead them on their future path.

Sis. Lois Endress and her mother, Sis. Hattie Miller were injured in a car accident. They are both recovering and we thank the Lord for His protection and healing.

Ann Marie is Jerry and Mary Knobloch's new little daughter. Her brother, Ryan, was hospitalized for pneumonia so he had a homecoming about the same time as his baby sister. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Knobloch and the Eugene Flakes (Peoria) are grandparents.

 Give Your Address Change
 to Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. Truly we think at Father's Day of the very special influence our Christian fathers have had on our minds and hearts. Fathers, and mothers too, sometimes try to tell themselves that the best spiritual training for their children is a) allowing them a choice, or b) just exposing them to the Word through Sunday School. Yet a most important point in the memory of a child is the importance his parents — and perhaps, especially his father, place on their own salvation.

Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), lent himself to the preaching of the Gospel for us Sun. May 15. We are so blessed not only that brothers are willing to stand up and proclaim the Word to us, but also that they are willing to be prepared by the Spirit for that sermon, spending much time in meditation, prayer, and memorization day by day. We should do likewise.

Also on May 15, a young child was born into a Christian home. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie Leman are delighted with Marcus Allen, as "children are an heritage of the Lord . . ." Ps. 127:3. They are no longer a couple, but instead they are a family. We wish them the Lord's presence, that their responsibilities may be blessed and productive, bringing forth more fruit for His vineyard. Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman (Chicago) are Marcus' grandparents and grand supporters.

Bro. Earl Feller and Sis. Maria Benko have both been hospitalized recently. Bro. Earl is once again able to be active, while Sis. Maria is still recuperating. We are so glad that they are able to be home and pray that the Lord will keep them in His care, as "His yoke is easy, His burden is light. . ." (#130, Hymns of Zion). Because we love them, we ask that the Lord may grant them pleasant pastures, even here on earth, if it be His will.

"And it came to pass. . ." (Josh. 4:1), both the good and the bad, the bitter and the sweet. Yet the love and commitment of a man and a woman to each other, need not diminish, if nurtured by the fruit of the Spirit and Christ's example. We express our best wishes and hope for everlasting joy to Bro. Sam and Bell Slagel, who have recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary

and to Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Emily Lehmann on their 50th wedding anniversary.

We rejoice that Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy Neu have returned to our congregation. They have a home in Naperville and Bro. Tom is a doctor at Caterpillar's Aurora plant. May we enjoy their fellowship; and may they remain with us for many contented years.

Our sixth annual bus trip was to Taylor, MO, church on May 21 and 22. The Lord heaped upon us many blessings: safe travelling; a splendid afternoon in Hannibal, MO in Mark Twain's old stomping grounds; Saturday evening with Taylor brethren in fellowship and singing; overnight accommodations with special Christian hospitality; a moving day of worship on Sunday, our spiritual table well-laden with bounty; then a potluck table just as well supplied physically. There were also the farewells, never as much fun as our greetings. (Even our children said, "The weekend went too fast.") And the sunset that evening flamed over the horizon in a blaze of glory, symbolic of Christ's shining in our weekend, we trust. Dear Taylor folks, we love you. God be with you!

We do not realize how fortunate we are. In the Mark Twain Cave in Hannibal, MO, our guide turned off the light. The total darkness was not something to which one's eyes could adjust. After ten days of total darkness, we were told, one would be irrevocably disoriented and lost! And without the light of Christ's love, would that not truly be hell — total outer darkness.

Our Father in heaven allows us to see both sides of life — the dark and the light. Some of us have been fortunate to see more light, through the influence of Christian parents, but we live in the world and also see its darkness. Others have seen more of darkness; but surely, through those who love the Lord, they have been able to glimpse the light which shines outside the darkness of their worldly cave. As sinners we are/were enclosed, but there is an exit, through His blood. We are encouraged (but not forced) to reach out toward the light. Man has a choice — but he also takes the eternal consequences of that choice.

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

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Wilma Walder — Joan Waldbeser

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

With joy in our hearts, we welcome our new brothers and sisters in faith: Denise Kaufmann, daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldine, Patti Walder, daughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy, Eric Kaeb, son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou and Russ Walder, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy. Testimonies and baptisms were held the weekend of April 23 and 24 with Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) and ministering brothers Art Baurer (Princeville) and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) here to share the day with us.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Harry and Sis. Bonnie Young in the passing of her mother and to Sis. Helen Kuebler in the death of her sister, Sis. Tillie Geyer. Our community was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Art Martin, husband of Bernadine (Bucher) Martin and son of the late Bro. and Sis. John Martin. Surviving besides his wife are four children, Meloday Hall, Melissa Johnson, Cindy Dodd and Scott Martin, nine grandchildren, two brothers, Earl and Maurice and one sister, Sis. Louise Honegger of Forrest.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Anna Gudeman, Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann, Sis. Nettie Oberfel and Terry Hofbauer. We pray they will feel God's nearness and strength as they recover.

Our congratulations go to our high school graduates Jay Martin, son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Rosie, Jim Clauss, son of Vernon and Joanne, Rhonda Rudin, daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Elizabeth, Dawn Knapp, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores, Ron Ehman, son of Bro. Richard and Virginia, Martin Rudin, son of Sis. Kathryn and the late Bro. Harlan, Bro. Tal Kaufman, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys, Bro. Steve Walder, son of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma, and Doug Drayer, son of Bill and Judy.

April 16 was the wedding day of Jan Obergfel and Mark Swenson and Larry Walder and Julie Reed. Parents of the couples are Bro. Matt and Sis. Betty Obergfel and Ron and Joy Swenson and Bro. Harry and Sis. Leona Walder and Charles and Beulah Reed. We extend our best wishes to them.

Our annual Sunday School meeting was held May 9. Our new Sunday School superintendent is Bro. Fred Maul and incoming teachers are Bro. Bob Rinkenberger, Bro. Sid Kaufmann and Sis. Jean Kaufman. We wish them God's grace and guidance in this most important undertaking.

Following the morning service on May 15, many of us gathered outdoors at the site where our new fellowship hall is to be built for a short ground breaking service. Scripture was read and a prayer given beseeching God's blessing on this endeavor, that all can be done to His praise, honor and glory and the work done in peace and unity.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Carol Craig — Kay Roth

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

We look to our earthly fathers for instructions and guidance throughout our lives. We appreciate all the patience and love that they have put forth to raise us in the fear and admonition of the Lord. May the Lord bless and uphold them until they reach their heavenly goal.

We would like to thank Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Leroy Huber (Eureka), Marvin Leman (Bradford), and Glenn Dill (Tremont) for bringing to us God's precious Word. As we walk the pathway of life may our eyes be fixed upon the treasure which is in heaven.

Congratulations to our 1983 high school graduates. They are: Mary Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie), Roger and Ruth Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley), Brad and Brenda Baer (Ray and Dorothy), Mark Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) and Tim Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sheri). May God guide each step they take.

Chuck and Diane Schrock are the happy parents of their new son, Eric Charles. His big sister, Carly, also opened her loving arms to receive him

home. His thrilled grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Polly Schrock and Lee and Norma Rollman (Springfield, IL).

We would like to extend our sympathy to Sis. Irene Schrock and Sis. Esther Schrock for the passing away of their brother, Harvey Rassi (Nevada).

Bro. Ed and Sis. Bena Steffen have celebrated 60 years of happy and blessed marriage together. They would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and for the love expressed to them.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all who remembered me in their prayers and with visits, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Esther Miller

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Ruth Ann Getz

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Ps. 46:10) We may find this difficult in this restless world in which we find ourselves. Yet God says, "be still". Perhaps the quieting of our hearts begins to take place when we can bring ourselves into submission to his will, giving up the vain imaginations of the heart and setting out with a sense of yieldedness.

Often illness brings us to a time of being still before God, and the heart becomes more sensitive to our soul's need. It is our prayer that those among us who have been ill in this past month may sense and know the reality of God, both in suffering and in healing. Those experiencing such affliction are: Sis. Rose (Schmidgall) Goll, Lillian Davis, Mary Gross, Harold Vick, Sis. Sarah Kellenberger, Sis. Gertrude Kachelmuss, and Sis. Cecelia Braun.

When death enters our community, we also find that we must be still and know that God is God. Several of our loved ones have made this experience recently.

To Lester Heiniger and family we wish to extend sympathy in the passing away of Lester's brother-in-law, Bro. Reo Strahm (Sabetha).

Sis. Carol Kellenberger and her family have experienced the loss of her mother, Julia Schubert. May the Lord ease the pain of parting and bring comfort in his perfect way.

"Come, come sweet rest, which leads to God and brings us to our blessed

saviour." (Zion's Harp #147) These tender comforting words were sung at the funeral service of our beloved Bro. Joel Gudeman. Joel had been a resident at Fairview Haven (Fairbury) for the past several years. It was there that the Lord called him to eternal rest on May 20. Left in bereavement are his wife, Sis. Ernestine, his son, Bro. William Gudeman and family, and his daughter Sis. Dorothy (Perry) Zimmerman (Forrest) and family. Sis. Ernestine will soon be moving back to the Elgin area to dwell with the brethren here.

We were also saddened at the sudden death of Edward Rein (brother of Sis. Alma Schmidt, Sis. Leola Schambach, Milford and Arlie, all of Elgin). After being born and raised in the Elgin area, Edward moved to Mountain Home, AK in 1975. Edward was visiting his family in Elgin when he was stricken with a fatal heart attack. May this family also find comfort through God's word.

Bro. Roger Weiss was chosen to serve in our Sunday School. May the Lord go before and direct this newly appointed brother in paths of righteousness.

Collection of a \$6.00 subscription fee is being taken for all subscribers of the Silver Lining in the Elgin area.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15. We certainly want to thank Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Washington), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville), for bringing us the true word of God. We pray that the words spoken will fall on good soil.

Sis. Anna Miller of our "Valley Court" passed away on April 19.

Services were held in Gridley where she formerly resided. May God comfort her brothers and sisters who survive.

I am going to a city
 Where the streets with gold are laid,
 Where the tree of life is blooming,
 And the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

Certainly our beloved Sis. Ruth

(Rassi) Stoller, 74, will be tending to the Master's rose garden. Sis. Ruth passed suddenly from this life on April 29, leaving her husband, Bro. Leroy, and three children, Bro. Larry of Gridley, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane of our congregation. Also one brother, Bro. Joe (Roanoke), and three sisters, Sis. Emma Rocke and Sis. Lena Minger, both Eureka, and Betty Hodel (Roanoke). May God send His Comforter to those who have been left behind, knowing that in those bright mansions above He will wipe all tears away and there will be no sorrow there. What a precious hope we have of meeting our loved ones in Heaven! Services for Sis. Ruth were held on May 1.

Alexia Kay Blunier is the new daughter of Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy. Jenny and Abbie welcome their new sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Clara Lou Blunier, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Verna Hartter of Goodfield.

Ross Adam is the new son of Ted and Donna Blunier. Brian and Shelia are happy for another playmate. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller of Princeville are the grandparents.

Steve and Deb Fehr have a son, Erik Stephen. Lindsey is happy to have a brother. Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary Fehr, and Harry and Blanche Glazebrook of Washington are Erik's grandparents.

Philip, Alan and Peter Wettstein welcomed their new brother, Wade Marshall on May 13. Wade's parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier, and Harold and Loretta Wettstein.

Sisters Eliza E. Leman and Clara Neukomm from the "Home" have spent some time in the hospital. May God's healing power and strength be felt by all who are ill.

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

Congratulations go to each of our high school graduates. They are: Ann Banwart, Sherri Hewitt, Janet Lehman, Brian Wiegand, Sis. Linda Wiegand, Ruth Wiegand, Sis. Janine Wettstein, Sis. Mary Wettstein, and Mike Zimmerman.

In June, we set aside a day to remember our fathers. How blessed we are that God, our "Heavenly Father" saw fit to give us not only His own guid-

ance and love, but someone here on earth to turn to, talk to, trust, and love.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

May 15 was the wedding day of Sis. Gwen Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Kirby Knapp (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Laura, Forrest). May their love for God and for each other bring them rich blessings in their life together.

We are thankful for the efforts of our visiting brethren who have shared God's Word with us here. They are Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest); and Bros. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Hartzell Kaisner (Washington).

As spring is upon us, our thoughts turn to our young people who will graduate May 27 from high school. Our congratulations to our nine seniors who have reached this milestone. They are: Sis. Kim Ashba (Robert and Cherie Kaisner), Sara Bahler (Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne), Greg Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol), Anthony Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma), Janet Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Brenda Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene), Sis. Bonnie Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna), Keith Steidinger (Maurice and Alma) and Wendy Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores). We wish each one God's guidance and blessings as they make their future decisions.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

Ministers visiting us this month have been Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville). We thank them for willingly sharing the Word of Life with us.

Hospital patients were Bro. Emil Sohn, Sis. Leona Wallace, Bro. Nick Ricketts, and Sis. Marge Kuntz. May God extend His healing hand where it is His will.

Bro. Kirby Knapp (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Gwen Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge) of Fairbury, were united as one on Sunday, May 15. We wish them happiness in their new life together in the Lord.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion recently. What a blessing this is when we can feel so close to our Lord and remember the price He paid for our sins that we might live. Bro. Art Bahler and Bro. Josh

Broquard assisted Bro. Perry in this work.

Funeral services were held for our departed Sis. Elizabeth Honegger. She has six daughters: Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton), Sis. Verna Schaffer (MN), Sis. Leona Tanner (Goodfield), Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT), Sis. Ruth Roth and Sis. Donna Leman, both of Forrest. Also surviving are seven sons: Bro. Perry Honegger, Edward, Jessie, Harley, Max, and Glenn, all of Forrest, and Bro. John of Peoria.

We give our support to our Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Bro. Ivan) as she begins her new duties as Sunday School teacher. We know it is important that our little children learn of God.

A reminder to our congregation that July is Silver Lining collection month. Subscription rates are \$6.00. Please give any address or subscription changes to Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ernestine Gudeman in the loss of her husband and to Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman in the loss of her father Bro. Joel Gudeman. Bro. Joel and Sis. Ernestine resided in Fairview Haven and often assembled with our congregation. May God go with Sis. Ernestine and be her comfort as she now will make her home in Elgin.

"O Father hand that guides me so
securely,
O Father eye that watches over me.
O Father heart that hears my prayer so
surely,
And thinks of me in love and charity.
Conduct me further on my pilgrim
journey,
The narrow way that leads to heaven
above.
And make me worthy of that life
eternal,
Alike in sore distress, in peace and
love.

Zion's Harp

As this song tells of our Heavenly Father's love for His children so our fathers, too, want the best for us, their children, and they want to guide us so that we can someday reach Heaven. Let us thank our fathers this Father's day for their love for us.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

The words of Psalm 121 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence

cometh my help." were a special part of the wedding ceremony of our Bro. Barry Kloter to our Sis. Joyce Zobrist on April 20. May God continue to guide them, increasing both their joy and their closeness, as they share this new togetherness. We were grateful also for the word spoken by Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) who was with us that evening.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to our Sis. Evelyn Hofmann (Floyd) in the loss of her father, Ralph Debolt, who passed away on April 19. May God shower her with comfort and strength.

The home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand was blessed with a sweet angel named Larisa Leah on April 18. Helping take care of this new little sister are her two brothers, Kevin and Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Verla Wiegand and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp (Congerville).

Prayer waters the seeds of faith, hope and love . . . With abiding faith and prayerful hearts, Bro. Jaye Rinkenger was called to attend to the ministry of God's Word on May 1. Our earnest prayers and support are with Bro. Jaye and his wife, Sis. Peg. May God enfold and uplift them. Elder Bro. Dan Koch of Tremont has our deep appreciation for assisting us in this important task.

We want to thank Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) for sharing services with us on Mother's Day.

We share in the sorrow of our Sis. Leona Tanner for the loss of her mother, Sis. Elizabeth Honegger (Forest). We lovingly pray that God will provide comfort for all in bereavement.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Carol Klopfenstein

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
 When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
 When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
 Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure;
 His power has no boundary known unto men.
 For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!
 Gospel Hymns #403

When we depend upon our own ability and strength we often fall short in our endeavors. But if we could learn to fully depend on the grace of God, no doubt we would find that we can do all things (that are needful) through Christ which strengtheneth us. (Phil. 4:13) And through it all, we would be able to retain that meek and quiet spirit within our hearts. May we, like Mary, remember that one thing is needful and choose the better part, so we will not need to hear the voice of our Lord saying to us as He did to Martha, "Thou art careful and troubled about many things." (Luke 10:41)

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kanda Steffen are the blessed parents of a new son, Justin Mark, who was born April 28. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen (Gridley) and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Laura Knapp (Fairbury).

Evan Christian is the new son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Elma Fleming. He was born May 15 and has a sister, Erin. His grandparents are Sis. Ella Schlipf and Mr. and Mrs. Don Fleming.

Sis. Lorene Stoller, 73, departed this life on May 8 and has gone to her eternal rest where joy and peace abound. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. George; her son, Bro. Don; her daughters, Sis. Elaine Schmidgall (Morton) and Sis. Nancy Sauder (Tremont); her brothers, Bro. Rudolph, Bro. Fred and Bro. Henry Miller; her sisters, Sis. Anna and Sis. Mary Miller, Sis. Naomi Grusy and Aline Stortz, all of Gridley.

Bro. Bill Schifferer (son of Bro. Bill, Sr. and Sis. Lana of Elgin) and Sis. Patricia Malcom were united in Holy Matrimony May 15.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates! Sis. Kathy Stoller graduated from Illinois Central College. Bro. Brad Gramm received his degree from the University of Illinois College of Veterinarian Medicine. Mark Butikofer, Sis. Karen Funk, Larry Gramm, Pamela Gramm, Eric Kiefer, Jeffrey Stoller, Michael Stoller and Sis. Sherrie Stoller are our High School graduates.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker
 Marten Zimmerman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Myrna) and Jamie Hoerr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene), Peoria, IL, are engaged to be married. We wish them God's richest blessings.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Mary Kaiser (Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne) and Bro. Daniel Farney (Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene) as the Lord has directed them to walk life's pathway together. May God bless them.

We gathered together to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening, April 30. It was a solemn occasion. May we continue to walk close to our Heavenly Father. It certainly brings us to our knees to think that Jesus, God's only begotten Son, hung upon the cross, shed His blood, and died a cruel death for each one of us so we could find our Salvation and have redemption. May we never cease to thank Him. We wish to thank Elder Bros. David Keiser (Princeville) and Robert Grimm (Goodfield) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Joe Braker with communion service. May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

We welcome Wilma Bollegar as our new sister-in-faith. We heard her testimony and witnessed her baptism on April 27. We wish her God's richest blessings as she now walks the narrow pathway of life.

Sis. Emma Geiger wants to thank all who remembered her on her birthday and during her stay in the hospital. May God bless all who were so kind.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Elaine Schmidgall upon the passing of her mother, Sis. Lorene Stoller (Gridley, IL) and to Sis. Anna Rapp upon the passing of her sister, Sis. Tylla Geyer (Francesville, IN). May the Lord comfort and bless their families and friends.

We rejoice that Sis. Lisa Kaiser (Bro. Lester and Sis. Irene) and Bro. Bruce Schoenbein (Lydia and the late Bruce) have been directed of our Heavenly Father to become one in Christ Jesus. May God bless them.

Sis. Cinda Honeg (Don and Sis. Millie Bigger) and Bro. Steve Galbraith (Wayne and Marlene) were united in marriage on May 15. May God bless them as they will now walk life's pathway together.

We want to thank Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Esther Frank, Sis. Edith Getz and Bro. Fred Hermann.

May God continue to be with them and all those who are shut-in or sick. May we hold them up in prayer.

When we think of our earthly fathers, we know that they must go out and be the bread-winners for our families. Our fathers must lead the family in worship to our Heavenly Father daily. Fathers must correct and chastise their children just as our Heavenly Father must correct and chastise us. May we continue to pray for our fathers or have precious memories of our fathers.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Margo Marx — Susi Herman

WHEN FATHER PRAYS

When father prays, he doesn't use
the words the preacher does;
There's different things for different
days,
but mostly it's for us.

When father prays, the house is still . . .
his voice is slow and deep.
We shut our eyes; the clock ticks loud,
so quiet we must keep.

I can't remember all of it; I'm little yet,
you see;
But one thing I cannot forget, my
father prays for me.

Author Unknown

Let us remember the godly wisdom that our Christian fathers have taught us and put it to practice in our homes. Children very seldom learn from lectures but they learn much from examples.

The home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel was blessed with the arrival of their precious son, William. The happy grandparents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waible and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz. William is also welcomed home by his two older sisters, Renee and Rachael.

Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Ruth Messner to Bro. Keith Herrmann, son of Bro. Noah and Sis. Evelyn Herrmann (Princeville). May God richly bless them as they prepare for their life together.

Several of our loved ones were hospitalized this month. They include: Sis. Mary Ann Plattner, Sis. Ruth Yoder, Sis. Dorothy Schneider, Sis. Martha Streitmatter, Sis. Linda Leathers, Sis. Ella Hoerr, Bro. Bob Joos, Bro. Mel

Unsicker, Bro. Ray Wiegand, Marshall Witzig (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Leila), and Jonathan Obergfel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy). We are always thankful when all can be well again.

"The choice lies before us. God loved us enough that he sent his son to be our Redeemer. And there is not going to be any excuse on that great day when we stand before him. Not one of us is going to be able to say, 'I didn't know! I didn't have a chance!' Because Jesus died for you and he died for me. We have come under the sound of the gospel truth. If there is a soul who didn't hear the story, that is another matter. That rests in the hands of God. I do know this, that anybody that is here today, comes under the sound of God's word. You're accountable for it. If you were innocent when you came in, you're going to be guilty when you go out. God's word is open before us and the way of truth is here. There is not going to be any excuse. The way of the cross is the way that leads home, and it is the way to joy and peace and happiness."

This is the message brought to us on April 17, by visiting minister, Bro. Gene Lehman. He also reminded us that it would be necessary for each of us to grow spiritually, just as it is necessary for a baby to grow physically. May God richly bless him for the many precious teachings he brought to us.

We had a very blessed weekend, April 16 and 17, with the Bible class from Bluffton, IN. We praise God for the blessed fellowship we can share together.

This "Thank You" comes from Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli:

"We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all of you who were so supportive during Dick's recent surgery and recuperation. The cards, letters, gifts and promises of prayer you sent certainly sustained us through this trying time. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness. We especially thank our ministers for their prayerful support."

Bro. Walter and Sis. Elsie Hess wish to thank all the loved ones who so kindly remembered them with beautiful cards, flowers and gifts of love on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sis. Minnie Nuest (Sarasota, FL) wishes to extend her sincere thanks for all the expressions of sympathy, prayers, cards, and kind deeds during

the passing of her brother, Francis J. Nuest. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The most important thing in our life is our walk with Christ. Visiting ministers who shared the Word of God with us have been Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Chuck Sauder (Tremont), Bob Pflederer (Morton), Bob Walder (Congerville), Bruce Leman (Roanoke), and Virgil Metzger (Urbana).

Communion services were held on April 16. We were privileged to have Bro. Dale Eisenmann with us that evening.

On Sunday evening, May 1, Bro. Bob Pflederer showed us pictures of Israel.

We have a new sister-in-faith in our congregation. She is Sis. Lydia Stisser who was baptised April 23 at the home of her son, Bro. Loris Stisser. We wish Sis. Lydia God's blessings. Our prayer is that she can be well enough to assemble with us once again.

Ryan Siebenthal, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal, broke his wrist April 30. He is recovering.

Sis. Evalyn Herrmann, wife of Bro. Noah, had surgery on May 5. We are glad that she is feeling better and recuperating at home.

On Sunday, May 15, the engagement of Bro. Keith Herrmann and Sis. Ruth Messner was announced. Bro. Keith's parents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann. Sis. Ruth is from Peoria and her parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

God gave our congregation a most blessed weekend recently, as we rejoiced to hear of the conversions of our new brothers in faith, Richard Isaia and Morris Braker. We are so thankful, as we know they are, that God appeared unto them on their pathway of life and offered them salvation. Bro. Richard's mother is Dorothy Isaia of Roanoke, and Bro. Morris' parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker (Remington). (Bro. Morris and his wife, Janet, are a part of the little congregation at St. Louis. We hope they will find a joy in worshipping with us in the future when the opportunities arise.) We appreciate having these two brothers added to God's flock.

Our Sis. Minnie Schafer, 85, has gone to her new home to be forever

with the Lord. We extend our deep sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Lydia, Sis. Caroline, and Sis. Frieda, who have lived their entire life together, and to Sis. Emma Frank of Morton. We know they will trust in the Lord until they meet again.

Two daughters of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn Hangartner have recently been married. Sis. Annie married Bro. Chuck Fehr (Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn) on March 6. Kay married Michael Nazarczuk (Lillian Nazarczuk) on May 14. The Fehr's will be moving to Princeton but worshipping with us frequently. The Nazarczuk's new address is 9234 Susy Lane, Apt. 2E, Schiller Park, IL 60176. May each of these young couples invite God into their new homes.

We so enjoyed blessings received from God's hand through the visits of ministering Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Earl Kilgus (Remington), Charles Marti (Lamar) and Ed Frank (La Crosse).

Sis. Ellen Siebenthal and little Annie Hodel have been hospitalized. Our prayers are that it could be according to God's will that they be restored.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger**

We are thankful for our two visiting ministers this month who spent Mother's Day with us. They were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville).

Many of us enjoyed visiting with Helmut and Sophia Steinbach from Widdern, Germany. Sophia and Helmut have been staying with her brother, Fred Endress, his wife, Ruth and their family. They also spent some weeks traveling through the United States.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Merle Sauder family in the loss of Sis. Nancy's mother, Sis. Lorene Stoller (Gridley).

Many willing hands have been helping Simon, Jr. and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach as they had the misfortune of having a fire in their home. We are thankful no one was injured.

A special thank you to Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor Pfloderer (Morton, IL). Our congregation was privileged to gather in our Fellowship Hall to view the slides and hear the wonderful presentation of their tour of the Holy Lands. We appreciate Bro. Bob's ef-

forts. It was a truly inspiring evening.

Our congratulations go to our many graduates. High School graduates are: Sis. Cathy Baer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris), Rosemary Endress (Fred and Ruth), Sis. Diane Frank (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosemary), Dale Glueck (Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda), Sis. Ann Huette (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Marsha Huette (Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene), Peggy Stoecker (Bro. Gene and Sis. Annie Koch), Kurt Pfloderer (Bro. Chris, Jr. and Sis. Ruth), Todd Prather (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carolyn), David Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joanne), Don Schweigert (Willard and Della), Mark Steiner (Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Shirley), Patricia Wagenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy) and Debbie Burcham (Doug and Lila).

Our eighth grade graduates are: Jim Holmes (Marshall and Sis. Phyllis), Tim Kaiser (Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene), Lynda and Jennie Koch (Gerald and Bonnie), Tricia Martin (Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy), Marlise Michel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen), JoAnne Prather (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carolyn), Glen Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Ruth Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann).

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Cheryl Joos

April 28 was our annual meeting. Sis. Charlen Banwart and Sis. Joan Hanson were appointed as Sunday School teachers to fill positions being vacated by those moving. Two other Sunday School teachers were elected, Bro. Rick Ringger and Bro. Tim Pfloderer. Bro. Ben Blunier and Bro. Tim Sauder are our new trustees. And Bro. Frank Sauder was elected usher.

May seems like a mass exodus for us, for that is when, after 4-5 years, the students move on. But we anxiously await the fall semester to see who the Lord leads to our fold. He always provides. Graduating from the University are Sis. Heidi Hoerr, Sis. Dawn Mengler, Sis. Marriane Ringger, Bro. Clark Baurer, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer. Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Fischer will make their new home in Indianapolis, where Sis. Joyce begins her internship. Bro. Keith and Sis. Diana Ifft will reside in Cleveland while Bro. Keith will begin his internship. Bro. Brad and Sis. Sue Gramm will be moving to Gridley where Bro. Brad will establish his veterinary practice.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz

will be leaving our congregation and moving back to Indiana. Sis. Margie Heintz has committed her next two years to intense service in the Lord, teaching in Japan. We wish for all those leaving God's richest blessings and His continual direction in their lives.

Jim Blunier (son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier), Sarah Vogel (daughter of Jerry and Lois Vogel) and Ethan Hanson (son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson) are our high school graduates. May God continue to keep them in His care as they are at a crossroad in life.

Bro. Roy Grimm presented his slides of India to us. What a humbling experience! Too often we forget the poverty of others because we have been so abundantly blessed.

Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville), Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) were our visiting ministers. We are always hungry for the sincere Word of God which they bring us, and we're thankful for their dedicated service.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Lily Schick

It's graduating time again. Our 1983 high school graduates are Joyce Dreeste (daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Millie), Greg Schumacher (son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty), Scott Schick (son of Bro. John and Sis. Dolly) and Kip Koehl (son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Lou). They now face the uncertain future and the challenge of finding employment in a depressed economy. We certainly wish them good fortune; but most of all, salvation! For truly, if God directs our lives, He will provide for us on Earth, and a home in Heaven for those who prove their love for Him.

We were grateful to have two ministering brothers from our Peoria congregation come to visit us this month and lend themselves in the Lord's service. They were Bros. Leroy Hartman and Jim Hoerr.

April is "election month" here in Washington. Those retiring from Sunday School are Bros. Max Pfaffman, Bill Schick and Steve Bucher and Sisters Sue Wagenbach and Ellen Cox. To assume their responsibilities, beginning in August, are Bros. Ed Fritz, John Cox, Russ Plattner and Ed Wyss and Sisters Martha Fritz and Pam Huber. May our Heavenly Father be their guide as they instruct the prec-

ious children, our future church, in the accounts and teachings He has given in His Holy Word. For ushers, Bros. Doug Wagenbach and John Klein will take the place of Bros. John Cox, Wayne Schellhammer and Jim Howell; and to fulfill the obligations of trustee, Bro. Bill Schmidgall will replace Bro. Ed Teubel. May God bless them all as they give of themselves in labors of love, and those who are rotating out, for having already done so.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy Neu have moved to Naperville, IL due to Bro. Tom's job transfer and will be assembling with our body of believers in Chicago. Though we miss them, we pray God's peace will rest upon them as they settle there.

May 14 was the date for our first Mother-Daughter Brunch. It was lovely, and we appreciate all the efforts put forth by the committee who made it possible. Our mothers received the honor they so rightly deserve. So often as children, we didn't appreciate their labors of love and self-sacrifice. But as we grow older and reflect back, we then begin to realize what our mother's love has done for us.

Tribute goes to our fathers as well — for what would life be like without dear ole' Dad, who we look to for advice, love, a helping hand, and many other things. Each of us have our own memories of Mom and Dad. They make us realize how very much our parents mean to us. Those of us who are blessed with God-fearing parents should be eternally thankful that they pointed us to the Truth, the straight and narrow way. They know that "the way of the cross leads home." Hymns of Zion #167. So let each of us children do our part to be sure that "by and by, it (that) better home awaiting in the sky", the circle will be unbroken. Hymns of Zion #222.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Linda Kipfer — Jan Ringger

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back,
 Nor a sail to take us there,
 But a guiding light, whose love shows us the way.

G. W. Douglas

How grateful we should be that our government recognizes the importance of the family unit by proclaiming June 19 as Father's Day. On this day, and every day, let's remember our fathers.

For those who remain with us, let us pray that they remain committed to their God; committed to their wife, and committed to the well being of their children.

Sis. Valerie Ringger (Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Wallace and Sis. Marilyn) have announced their plans to marry on August 14.

July 31 is the wedding date planned by Sis. Brenda Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena) and Bro. Kevin Fiechter (Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris).

Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Beth, to Bro. Craig Baumgartner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce). They are looking forward to a July 24 wedding.

We rejoice with these couples and pray that God will bless their lives together.

Ben Joseph has arrived to bring added joy to the home of Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard. Brothers, Michael and Mark, and grandparents Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene Reinhard and Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane Yergler, complete his family.

On April 24, our congregation witnessed the marriage of Sis. Jenny Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Lynn Frauhiger (Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris). May God be their guide as they establish their Christian home.

A slide presentation of the Holy Land was enjoyed by many of our congregation. We thank Bro. John and Sis. Mary Isch (Indianapolis) for sharing their travel experiences, which relate so closely with our Christian heritage.

Funeral services were held on May 3 for Sis. Roselena (Kipfer) Steffen, widow of Bro. Emil. She will be missed by sons, Bro. Lenard, Bro. Ramon, Bro. LeRoy, and Bob; and by daughters, Sis. Luella (Harold) Aschliman, Sis. Dina Fae (Glen) Moser, and Mrs. Nolan Barger; 35 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren; two brothers and three sisters.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sophia Meyer, who passed away on May 6. She had returned to her loved ones in Bluffton, after residing in Elgin, IL for over 50 years.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Kami Fiechter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Vicki), Angie Pfister (Tim), Bro. Noah Aschliman, Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Paul),

Bro. Herman Steffen, and Sis. Debby Fiechter (Brian), as they have spent some time in the hospital.

We congratulate our many May graduates! As you embark upon a new phase of your life, we offer you this advice:

YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY —
 For thinking before acting,
 For hearing before judging,
 For forgiving your enemies,
 For being candid and frank,
 For helping a fallen brother,
 For being honest in business,
 For thinking before speaking,
 For being loyal to your church,
 For standing by your principles,
 For stopping your ears to gossip,
 For bridling a slanderous tongue,
 For harboring only pure thoughts,
 For sympathizing with the afflicted,
 For being courteous and kind to all.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Peg Fiechter
Kathy Longenberger

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 #200

We had our first Holy Communion at the Bluffton North church on April 28. Visiting Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and Bro. Bob Meyer. What a blessing was received as we partook of this holy rite in our new church.

We were happy that Bro. Sam Huber stayed for Sunday and shared the ministry with Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis). We thank them so much for being with us.

We have two new converts in our congregation, Rita DeHoff and Kathy Shriver. Rita is the wife of Scott and mother of Brooke. Randy is Kathy's husband. They have two children, Joshua and Melissa. We will be awaiting their baptisms in the future.

Bro. and Sis. Vernon and Carol Meyer's son, Bro. Patrick of South Bend is engaged to be married to Sis. Annette (Annie) Greenberg, also of South Bend. Annie's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Sam Greenberg of Indianapolis. Bro. Pat and Sis. Annie are planning a

July 24 wedding in South Bend with a later reception in Bluffton.

We would like to honor all fathers with the following. We hope that they know how much we love and appreciate them.

WHAT IS A DAD?

A dad is a person you can always rely upon to be strong.

A dad is strength and steadiness. Like a sturdy oak he stands, sheltering his growing family from the storms and adverse winds of life.

A dad is the person who earns and deserves the title, head of the house. It is his judgment and foresight that safely steers the home ship through the years.

A dad is a person who talks less about love that shows it. His love is always there, evident in the dust in his face when he comes home at night, the sweat on his brow, and the strong hands that are continually working for his family.

A dad is the reason Father's Day is special.

And it's because of dads like you!

Excerpts from *Ideals*, May 1978 by
Roger L. Kerr

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

We were recently reminded of the uncertainty of our lives here on earth, as two souls from the congregation passed into eternity.

Troy Gutwein, son of Bro. Elden and Sis. Mary Lee, passed away on May 9, 1983 after being in critical condition for over a week from a car accident. Troy was born August 19, 1965. Our sincere sympathy goes to his parents, three brothers, Dan, Brad and Cary, and the many relatives and friends.

Sis. Tylla Geyer (Kuebler) passed away on May 14, 1983, after many years in the Lord's service. She was born on June 24, 1890. Our thoughts are with her three sons, Art and Louis of Francesville and Herb of Denver, CO, two daughters, Sis. Helen Eschleman of Francesville and Isabell Tomlinson of Valparaiso, and the other friends and relatives. Sis. Tylla was a resident of the Parkview Haven Retirement Home.

The comment was made in Sis. Tylla's funeral that someone close to Tylla remarked that they can't remember ever hearing her say anything that

wasn't Christ-like. What a testimony and goal for all of us to strive for! It was also mentioned we can't change what is behind us, but we can go on from here. . . "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." Phil. 3:13.

We're rejoicing with two new converts and pray that many, many more can turn to the Lord and walk closely to Him throughout their lives.

On a recent Wednesday evening, our hearts were filled as Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO) expounded on God's word. Bro. Charles and his dear wife were here visiting Sis. Peg Bucher. Our prayers are that God's peace sustains Sis. Peg.

Susie Zeltwanger, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty (Morris, MN) has decided to further her schooling in Lafayette and has made Francesville her church while she is here. We're so happy to have her here, as is her sister, Lyn Wuethrich (Bro. Ken).

On May 7, two hearts were joined as one when Corrine Gutwein (Bro. Nate and Sis. Adeline) was married to Mike Dornhecker (Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dornhecker) at the church Fellowship Center.

A precious baby boy was born to Bro. David and Sis. Mim Wuethrich on May 17. Little Clint Alex is welcomed home by one older brother, Kyle. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Wuethrich and Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook.

At this time we're looking forward to partaking in Communion. It's a time to search and see whether our lamps are growing dim or if we have extra oil in them. It's wonderful to know that we can have God's spirit in abundance. It's our choice!

A special "thanks" to our Godly fathers, husbands and grandfathers at this time of year. What would we do without their examples and leadership?

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Winslow — Judy Dubach

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,

That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you

did or said?

Does the man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,

You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

Readers Digest

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Troy Gutwein, who was hospitalized here until his death. With broken hearts, we must try to accept God's sovereign will and continue on life's path. Our prayers are with the family and friends of these two young people.

Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton) and family visited and ministered to us this past month. We are grateful for their efforts.

Andrea Zeller (daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) fell from her bike and broke her jaw in 3 places. She was in the hospital for a short time, but is now recovering very well.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Lu Ann Feller — Connie Knobloch

"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." (Proverbs 4:26). Graduation seems to be a time of reflecting the past and considering the future. Certainly some very important decisions must be made. How wonderful it is if one can have our Father in heaven to lead during this time! We are thankful that Sis. Amy Bucher has already made that "most important decision" and wish her God's guidance as she graduates from high school. Amy is the daughter of Sis. Gwen Bucher.

On May 15, Sis. Marcia Furrer and Bro. Bob Feller were united in marriage in Wolcott. Their parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Janet Furrer and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller. We pray that God will be first in their marriage; for if this is so, they will know fullness of joy in Him.

We were thankful to have Bros. Larry Wenninger and Ray Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) to share the Word with us. Let's be careful not to take these blessings for granted! God has been so good to give us willing servants who speak the truth. We certainly must remember to pray for them.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

June is the beautiful first month of summer. It's the month of so many good things: green trees, growing gardens, children at play, fresh strawberries, fragrant roses, and each day is a day the Lord has made. What is our basic attitude? Do we rejoice and be glad in it? We can complain because the rose bushes have thorns or we can rejoice because the thorn bushes have roses!

A recent sermon closing sentence, as nearly as it can be recalled was: Let us walk on joyfully as we're on our way to Heaven and let us walk on soberly as we're following the Son of God.

It's graduation time. Our High School graduates are Jay Powell in the home of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fisher and Sis. Marcia Stieglitz, daughter of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz. Graduation can really be commencement into larger opportunities as well as greater responsibilities.

There were some showers of rain on May 22, the wedding day of Sis. Carla Bradtmueller and Bro. Jeff Fritz. Family and friends wish them His showers of blessings throughout their life together. Parents of the happy couple are Otto and Janice Bradtmueller and Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz. Jeff and Carla will be at home in Indianapolis.

Sharing His blessed Word with us were visiting ministers Bros. David Wiegand (Urbana, IL), Arthur Ringger (Indianapolis, IN), Roy Wieland (Bay City, MI) and Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

Christian fathers deserve the respect of their families as the spiritual leaders. We're grateful that a day has been designated for us to remind loving Christian fathers how special they are. The following short paragraph is taken from The Log of the Good Ship Grace — It is very difficult to be a Father. Fathers are suppose to be perfect in the eyes of their little sons and daughters. But perfect just isn't possible, so you have to find a better way to get into their hearts. Dads . . . love your children to pieces. I mean love them so much that they can't help but see it. Those children are God's gifts to you and they are your responsibility.

INDIANA, MILFORD Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

Max Sumpter, son of Sis. Irene and Jim was united in marriage to Deb Carey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carey. We give our best wishes for God's blessings on this union of two hearts.

Our Lord Jesus was glorified and our congregation was refreshed as we listened to the testimony of Staci Schieler (Bro. Will and Sis. Sue). How truly grateful we must be that in Phil. 4:7 we are assured that the peace of God, which passeth all of our human understanding, will keep Staci's heart and mind through the love of Christ Jesus.

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer was assisted by Bro. Elmer Hartler in this Lord's work. How precious it was to hear Staci express her joy as she felt peace. The verse revealed to her in Scripture stated "Daughter, be of good comfort, they faith hath made thee whole, go in peace." Luke 8:48.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab rejoice as does our congregation and the angels in Heaven. Their daughter, Jill, has heeded Christ's message to "Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19. May the peace of God soon fill her soul.

Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) ministered to our congregation May 15. We are thankful Bro. Jim has been granted God's strength in body and spirit; that he can add purpose to his days by serving Thee.

Sis. Louella Beer has returned to the nursing home following her recent hospitalization. May God's unending love and strength continually be felt by Sis. Louella.

Bro. Henry Beer must be content to trust God's wisdom as his health falters. We know our Lord hears his prayers for patience and endurance. Bro. Henry awaits being received into God's kingdom, doing kind deeds, yet as he is able. Our prayers go out for Bro. Henry and Sis. Alice.

As Father's Day approaches, may we be especially thankful for the love and guidance given to our children by their dads.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Annette Bahler — Beth Virkler
On the evening of April 23, we gathered to partake of Holy Communion.

Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar) assisted our home elder and exhorted us on the importance of communion. There is a very close relationship between the Jewish Passover and Communion. Even though the ordinances given to the Old Testament people of God were abolished at the cross of Christ (Col. 2:14), the purpose of the Passover foreshadowed the principles recognized in the observance of Communion. The Jewish Passover commemorated the deliverance from Egyptian bondage and pointed towards the future redemptive work of Christ. Communion points back to the finished redemptive work of Christ which enables us to be freed from sin, self and Satan.

Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) ministered the word to us on May 1. He exhorted on a portion of Deuteronomy 11, in which the Lord is telling the children of Israel of the rewards of obedience to His word and cause. The Lord specifically commanded the Israelites to "lay up His commandments in their hearts and in their soul and bind them for a sign upon their hand that they may be as frontlets between their eyes. To teach them to their children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when walkest by the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up and to write them upon the door posts of thine house and upon thy gates. (Deut. 11:18-20). We who are young mothers and fathers tremble at the responsibility that is laid upon us toward our children. I have a plaque on my wall which reads "The best thing to spend on children is your time." How many of us have experienced bringing home a gift to our child only to discover after several hours that the excitement over the gift was gone and their eyes were looking at us once again pleading for our time and attention. These verses tell us that the Lord expects us to make it a high priority to set aside time to teach our children His commandments. How often we find our enemy, the devil, trying to divert our attention from our children by alluring us away to another cause.

DEAR DADDY

When I'm a great big man like you,
I want to do just like you do;
I's goin' to go just where you go,

I want to know all that you know;
I's just a growing awful big,
And walking in the tracks you dig;
I think it won't be very long,
I's growin' fast and getting strong,
And soon I'll go to town with you
And be your partner all day through;
I'm just a little, great big man,
A' gettin' like you fast's I can.

DEAR SON

I'm glad you want like me to be,
Yet, I must change some things I see;
If you will do just what I do,
And follow me the whole length through,
Then I will pray for strength and power,
To walk the Christ's life every hour,
And leave tracks all along my way,
Which lead to joy and endless day.

R. E. Neighbour

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Nancy and Karen Lehman

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his Father and Mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

St. Mark 10:6-9

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Sis. Annie Greenburg to Bro. Pat Meyer. They are planning a July 24 wedding.

Sunday School elections for the nursery and primary class were held. Sis. Norma Aeschliman and Sis. Karen Lehman were prayerfully chosen to teach our precious children the word.

The dear ministering brethren who taught us the word this month were Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford), and Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL).

Bro. El Schumacker has been recently hospitalized for tests. Our prayers are with him.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Jill Hitz — Vera Nuest

A PLEA TO THE UNSAVED

You, my friend, are a sinner and dead in trespasses and in sins. You may be a moral and religious sinner, or you may be blaspheming, indifferent, curs-

ing kind of a sinner. Or you may be a criminal, so corrupt that society has locked you up because you are a menace. It makes no difference, you need Christ, and you can only be saved by Him. Scripture leaves no doubt here. Listen!

For there is no difference.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:22, 23).

This is God's indictment of ALL. But He also included the ALL in the plan of salvation, and says:

Come unto Me, ALL ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28).

Oh, TRUST HIM TODAY! Believe the record that God gave of His Son. Look away from feelings and emotions, and everything else. Accept HIS WORD, and then you too can say, God says it — I believe it — that settles it!

Mindy Heinold (Bro. Keith and Sis. Susie) has given her heart and life to Christ in repentance. We just praise God for His plan of salvation!

In God's word we are instructed to "speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Francesville choir came and ministered to us in song this past month.

Bro. Lenny Meyer, (Chicago) was with us also. We thank him for sharing the Gospel. He spoke about being too busy in our life to stop and help another soul even if it takes some of our precious time.

I ran across an article the other day, and I would like to share it with you.

IT WASN'T ME

They moved in about 8 years ago: Mother, stepfather, and two preteen girls. "Divorce," they explained — both of them. Together they were building a new life and a new house right across the street from us.

"Sure, I'll go to church with you sometime," she had promised. I felt the warm satisfaction of a duty well done. Days, months, and eventually years slipped by. The two girls entered the tumultuous teen years, and their mother struggles. We talked over coffee a few times and shared some laughs and a few tears. Not often, though. We were both too busy. She was working, raising her girls, and we were going to meetings — church functions, mostly.

They were the only family in our

immediate neighborhood that didn't go to church on Sunday and Wednesday night. I often thought what a good witness it must have been for them to watch all the neighbors depart at the same time and return en masse after the services. I didn't even wonder if they might get lonesome. Not until later.

Time went on. Someone befriended their oldest girl. Got to know her, accepted her, took her places — eventually to church. "First time I ever heard what Jesus did for me," she told me later. Times had gotten tough in her senior year. "I had nowhere to turn, and no one seemed to have time for me," she said. We were gone so much that we hadn't noticed — church mostly. Busy.

Two years later, after months of struggle we knew nothing about, her mother sought Christ. She had seen her daughter change, and she felt the warm breezes blow softly on her own soul. She had listened carefully as others in her life had voiced their faith in Christ. They had just loved her, and had been available. Finally, all of them — mother, girls, and one of the daughter's husband — were baptized in that place where people had cared the most.

But last night was the hardest for me to believe. "Three weeks ago," the mother bubbled, "my husband turned in faith to Christ." In his living room. Right across the street. Led by someone who had risked asking the hard questions.

But it wasn't us. Not their neighbors. Oh, no. We knew how. We had all the answers. All the books were on our shelves, and all the methods in our heads. We always thought the time would come, and it did. But we weren't there. We might have been at church — I don't know for sure. Can't keep track sometimes. Too Busy.

Woman's World

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Debbie Anliker

Our last service for the spring semester was held on April 28. We are thankful that brethren from Milford assembled with us around God's Word.

Our annual spring picnic was held on May 3 and afterwards officers were elected for next year. We were fortunate to have no seniors leaving this year, and Lord willing, we look forward to

meeting together again next fall.

We would like to thank all who have attended and participated in Purdue services this year. Your deeds of love and kindness, and your constant support are appreciated very much. May God richly bless you for your efforts.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

On April 23, we once again broke bread together and shared the cup of our Lord's suffering. What a beautiful time of worship this is. Our congregation thanks Elder Bros. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Eugene Marti (Lamar) for sharing it with us.

Sis. Norma (Bro. Glenn) Blume has had foot surgery and is home recuperating.

The bright sunshine was reflected in the hearts of Sis. Marcia Furrer and Bro. Bob Feller (LaCrosse) as they were united in marriage by Bro. Alfred Bahler, May 15. Their parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Janet Furrer and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller. Also sharing in their special day were Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Roy Grimm (Taylor) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo).

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Kim Salek

It was with much sadness that we bid our dear brother and sister, Uriel and Judy Gehring and their daughter farewell on a Wednesday evening as they left to begin a new phase in their lives. Yet, that sadness was mixed with much joy, knowing that God was the instrument in their decision and that where God leads He will follow to bless and provide. God will provide for us who are left as well as for them in their going. Our small congregation will surely miss Bro. Uriel and his family, especially as he has served us many years in the ministry. Again we pray for them God's blessings and nearness in this new undertaking.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

With Christ we have an endless hope — without Christ, we have a hopeless end.

Kent Pulfer (Paul and Sis. Evelyn) is our only high school graduate this year. He plans to attend ISU in Ames this fall for pre-vet education. We wish you much success, Kent!

We also wish to congratulate Bro. Lou Butikofer who recently graduated from Upper Iowa University. Bro. Lou is employed at St. Joseph Hospital in New Hampton as Director of Nursing.

Sis. Marie Butikofer wishes to thank all who remembered her on her 93rd birthday, May 5.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Joyce Eland

June — This is the month we celebrate Father's Day. How thankful we are for our loving fathers; for the guidance they've given us and the examples they have provided. Let us also take time to reflect on the even greater love and guidance given by our Heavenly Father. Indeed we should celebrate daily!

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3). Baby boy Adam is the "new addition" for Andy and Jane Souder and sister, Mendi. Ron and Audrey Landherr are the happy parents of Jeffrey. Christopher and Heidi helped welcome him home. May the Lord bless both of these families and give the parents grace and understanding to teach and guide their children in His ways.

We are thankful for the guidance and teaching given to us in this past month. Ministering brothers who have shared God's Word with us include Gerald Sutter and Arnie Gerst (Taylor), Paul Eissenman (Burlington), Ed Lanz and John Steiner (Oakville) and Nathan Stoller and Roy Ehnle (Bradford).

On August 20 and 21 we are planning a reunion for anyone who has been associated with Iowa City over the years. We will be sending out postcards but would urge anyone interested in attending to contact us if we overlook sending you a card. We hope many of you will be able to attend!

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

"Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam" was sung at the funeral service for four-year-old Drendon Stickling. He was taken suddenly from this life in a farm accident at his parents home. Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) spoke words of comfort to the family and all of us during the service. Drendon is survived by his parents, Sis. Diane and Bro. Dale Stickling, a brother, Delayne and sister, Danielle. His grandparents were Bro. Herman and Sis. Evelyn Stickling

and Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold; great-grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary Leuthold and Sis. Rose Moser. The family cannot fully express their gratitude for the outpouring of love, words of comfort, cards and memorials which they received in this time of sorrow.

As God has taken away, he has also given to us two new baby girls. Sara Jo Gerber was born to Dan and Darcy on April 24. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Norb Roeman. On May 6, Bob and Shirley DeSmet became the parents of Kristin Lynn. Her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch and Mr. and Mrs. DeSmet.

Our congratulations to graduating seniors. They are Dwight Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Denis Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Victor Myrlie (Roger and Patty), Paul Knobloch (Gilbert and Sis. Vickie), Michelle Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cris), Denise Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), Jackie Wysong (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet), Sis. Paulette Feucht (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie, Kent Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores), Vernon Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva), Greg Popkes (Sis. Eleanor) and Gustavo Diez (exchange student living with Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber family). Harold Metzger (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella) has received his degree from South Dakota State University and has accepted a position in Fergus Falls, MN. Bro. Stan Wulf is now working in the Morris area. Our prayers are with the dear young people as they begin their careers or seek further schooling.

Those who have recently spent time in the hospital were Liz Wulf, Bro. Albert Knobloch and Megan Kellenberger, infant daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Theresa. We pray for God's healing touch.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Jerilyn Wagenbach

Little children can provide such joy, and two families have been blessed in this manner recently. Curt and Karen Grimm welcomed their first baby on April 18. Bradley Lee is the grandson of Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McCulley (Wapello).

Nicole Renee was born April 19 to Steve and Paula Stoller. She has one sister, Stephanie, and her grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Ione Stoller,

and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mack, Jr. (Burlington).

We wish to thank Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont) for coming to visit us and share in the work of the ministry.

As Father's Day approaches, we want to let them know how much we appreciate the part they've shared in our lives. "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord . . ." Genesis 18:19.

FATHERS

Fathers are for talking with,
For words that guide and cheer,
Fathers are for walking with,
For always being near,
Fathers are for caring,
For being strong, yet gentle,
Fathers are for sharing
When you're feeling sentimental,
Fathers are for standing by
Through every kind of strife —
Fathers are for giving faith
That lights your way through life!

Alice Joyce Davidson

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Wiegand — DeAnn Wuthrich

The weekend of May 14-15, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of three young souls, Kenny Teubal and Nancy Teubal (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma) and Tony Rinckenberger (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Janice). Then on Sunday, we witnessed the baptisms of these three souls. May God give them much help and strength each day of their lives. Sharing the weekend with us was Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN). We certainly do thank these brothers for helping us carry out the duties on this important weekend.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubal welcomed into their hearts and home their first child, Sara Lynn, born on April 28. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gene Christy, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubal.

Robert and Janice Johnson welcomed into their hearts and home their first child, also, Russell Aaron, born on April 14. Grandparents are Phyllis Russell and Billie Johnson, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubal.

Give Your Address Change
to Your Reporter

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

The weekend of May 1, we partook of many touching moments and blessings, including a baptism, ordination of our new elder and partaking of Holy Communion. We are so thankful that one more soul so willingly and humbly made a covenant before many witnesses, to walk hand in hand with his Maker. We were happy to meet Eldon Banwart (Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna) as a brother in Christ. It was so good to again be reminded of those solemn vows.

In the past, God has worked in the hearts of our brothers and sisters to prayerfully consider if the duty of elder could be placed on one of our ministering brothers. The door has been opened and many sincere prayers have been answered. This all-important duty and serious responsibility has been placed upon Bro. Wayne Fehr. Our Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) who so kindly and ably carried the mantle for 16 years, willingly and gratefully handed the duty of stewardship to Bro. Wayne. One could truly feel the spirit moving among us as our Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Ed Lanz (Oakville), Gene Marti (Lamar), Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin) carried out the ordination and consecration prayer.

We found these words of Godly wisdom impressive as the assignment was placed on Bro. Wayne. These guides from the Word of Life can be divided into three parts. The love of our brothers, the duty of an elder toward his flock and the Holy directives laid to the heart of the church. All three should be exercised willingly, humbly and very unselfishly on the part of all concerned. It was also mentioned that our untiring love for the Lord should never grow thin, for His love will always carry us through. Our prayers go out for Bro. Wayne and his helpmate, Sis. Kathy.

On Sunday evening, it was good for us to be reminded of Christ's suffering and death by partaking of His Holy Feast. A perfect way to finish such a blessed weekend.

In addition to our elder brethren who visited us were ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Don Miller (Minneapolis), Carl Feucht and Dale Wulf (Lester), Dale Moore (Elgin), Elmer Schmidt and Leroy Messner (Winthrop). We thank them for being with us.

Several among us have had to spend some time in the hospital or be confined to their homes. Among them are Joann Traub (Fred Jr.) who has recovered nicely, Sis. Nima Fehr, Sis. Ida Schmidt (Chris), Sis. Katie Dogotch, Bro. Arnold Metzger, Bro. Philip Fisher and Bro. Harley Bruellman. May our daily prayer be with the sick.

Justin John is welcomed into the home of Tim and Gloria Mogler. His grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Lilly Mogler and Max Wilcox. Babies are precious gifts from God.

Our Bible Class and teachers enjoyed having a group of young people and teachers from the Elgin, IL Sunday School visit us recently.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Judy Luginhuhl

"The harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37, 38

This request has probably evoked a variety of responses from many different people. Very easily we can prayerfully call to mind specific places, people and missions asking the Lord to provide the laborers by moving hearts of individuals to meet these numerous needs in the Lord's vineyard. How different we experience that same prayer when we add one more element; to be available and willing to offer ourselves for the Lord's use in meeting any of those same particular needs. With this kind of commitment prayer, we often quickly find ourselves convicted and involved with some type of project or in some capacity donating our time, possessions and talents for a special cause. Soon we also rapidly develop an increasing awareness of many open doors, calling for help as well as other doors that require a little more work, prayer and commitment to open. The timeless Word of God expresses still today the same urgent need for individuals to pray for laborers. Not only the comfortable prayers (though those prayers are also needed and appreciated) but also active prayers — prayers that offer ourselves. We need to be available and ready to commit whatever the Lord desires to accomplish His will. This may even mean reaching out to seek after and create opportunities to meet the needs in our immedi-

ate community or elsewhere as the Lord, through His Word, convicts us. With this short life that our Lord has given me, I have often asked myself, "What portion of it am I really willing to give Him for His service whatever or wherever it may be?" What corners have I reserved for myself . . . my own desires, dreams, comforts, personal aspirations . . . ?

We are daily lifted and strengthened by the many faithful prayers offered on our behalf and thoughtful words of love and encouragement expressed to us. Please continue to pray that this harvest and the laborers will steadily grow in size and quality.

We were recently blessed by fellowship with Phil Schlatter. Time passed quickly, consumed with many places to go, people and things to see, as well as numerous hours in sharing convictions and truths we have reaped from the Word of God. We were stimulated and encouraged by the spiritual life and interest he has taken in his new walk with and for the Lord.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

April showers brought lots of May flowers for us to enjoy, and we surely give the thanks, honor and praise to our wonderful Creator and Blessed Redeemer. Other blessings to our assembly this month was a visit of Phil Schlatter (Junction) stationed in San Francisco with USAF. He was able to get a military hop to Japan, and we enjoyed his fellowship so much. We wish him well as he is soon to be discharged, finds employment and most of all as he continues on the Heavenly pathway he recently began.

We warmly welcome Sis. Hiroko Utsuki in our circle again as she has returned home from one year's stay in the New York City area with her sister. We especially bless all those who so lovingly provided for her needs.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

On May 14, Wayne and Linda Edelman gave their testimonies and were welcomed into our blessed brotherhood. We enjoyed the presence of Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Sam Huber (Sabetha) on this special occasion.

We appreciated having visiting ministers Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL)

and Bro. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott).

Graduating seniors from high school are Angela Plattner (daughter of Sis. Waneta and Bro. Eldon Plattner), Jay Baumgartner (son of Sis. Nancy and Bro. Leonard Baumgartner), Curtis Edelman (son of Sis. Marjorie and Bro. Morris Edelman), Dwight Edelman (son of Sis. Joann and Bro. Fred Edelman), Dean Menold (son of Sis. Louise and Bro. James Menold) and Jim Meyer (son of Sis. Janet and Bro. Robert Meyer). The following verse seems very fitting for anyone that may be graduating:

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU ON YOUR GRADUATION

On this day and always, may God impart

His richest blessing unto your heart —
Love that keeps His presence near,
Faith that conquers doubt and fear,
Trust in His all-giving love,
Hope that shines down from above,
Joy of enduring kind,
And ever . . . always . . . peace of mind.

Author Unknown

NOTE: July is the month for collection of the Silver Lining dues for our congregation.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Jamie Marti

We extend our congratulations to our two college graduates. Larry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) graduated from Fort Scott Junior College with an Associates Degree in Business. Sis. Lynne Fischer (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian) also graduated from Fort Scott Junior College as a R.N. May God continue to direct their paths.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

Have you developed a sweet communion with your father in heaven? Prayer is a precious privilege given to us as an avenue of communicating with our Heavenly Father. To fall on our knees to pray before God seems to suggest our heart's very attitude. A lowly, unworthy, submissive heart, fallen before almighty God, finds favor and communion with His Lord God. The most important thing in prayer is what goes on between you and your Lord, not between you and other people. We were reminded recently, in one of our evening services in Emporia, that if we leave our bedroom in the

morning and don't feel that 'sweet communion' with our Lord to keep us throughout the day; then we probably should return to our room, fall on our knees, and pray unto the Father that He might impart His Spirit upon us.

We are continuing to hold services in Emporia, KS. We extend a sincere welcome to any traveling through. Services are being held the 1st Wednesday evening of every month at 8:00 p.m.; and the third Sunday evening of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Village Mobile Park Clubhouse — located right along I-35, bypassing Emporia.

We extend our sympathy to the family of our dear Sis. Emma (Henry) Bahr. Sis. Emma passed away after spending several years in the Sabetha Care Home. Sons from Gridley are Bro. Roy (Doris) Bahr and Arnold (Helen) Bahr.

Congratulations to our graduates Kip (Albert) Edelman, Wendy (Eldon) Metzger, Doug (Ray) Botham, and Tina (Loren) Strahm. May the Word of God be a light unto your way and a lamp unto your feet.

Many Christian thanks to our visiting minister, Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN). We can never be thankful enough for sincere, God fearing ministers who stand before us.

A dear soul, who is older in life, has expressed her desire to live her remaining time here on earth, as a consecrated one, with her Lord and Saviour. Esther (Charlie) Knapp has requested prayers in her behalf.

Hospitalized this past month was Dale Kraft, (son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine).

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

On April 20, Bro. Sam Schrock was called to his heavenly home. Although, it is sad to lose our loved ones here on earth, we can be comforted knowing they are in the Lord's hands. May God comfort his family and friends.

Kathy and Rex Miner hosted our monthly singing in their home.

Hospitalized this past month were Vanda Domnick and Sis. Esther Terry. They are both well and assembling with us again.

"Greater love hath no man, than that he give his life for his Brother." We call that the supreme sacrifice, the finest example of human selflessness. It is sung about, lauded, praised, rewarded;

medals are given for it. It is the highest, greatest gift that one man can give to another, yet it is not supreme. The supreme sacrifice is found for us in a simple, yet deeply profound statement in Romans 5:8. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." That's the greatest love!

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill Lothi

MY FATHER'S HOME

No matter where I travel,
 No matter where I roam
 I'm in my Father's kingdom,
 So everywhere is "home".

My ceiling's made of fluffy clouds,
 Afloat the skies of blue,
 My carpet's woven out of grass,
 And flowers fresh with dew.

My walls are made of mountains,
 And woods of stately trees,
 My home is warmed by sunshine,
 And in summer, cooled by breeze.

For joy and entertainment,
 I have a constant show —
 Songbirds singing, sunbeams dancing,
 Dawn and dusk aglow.

And when my earthly days are done,
 And I no longer roam,
 I'll still be in His Kingdom,
 I'll be in my Father's Home.

Alice Joyce Davidson

The Lamont congregation was host the weekend of April 23 and 24 to the Kansas and Lamar, MO Sunday Schools. We enjoyed seeing the youth have a great time together and meet one another. As the Lord provided, we were also thankful to have with us Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) for this occasion. Truly he was a great inspiration to us, and we thank him for being with us.

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

Zion's Harp #170, vs. 5

These are the words Bro. Fred Luthi

has longed for, as he was called to rest in the Heavenly Mansion Sunday, May 1, at the age of 96.

Born on Dec. 20, 1886, and a lifetime resident of Lamont, he married Sis. Laura B. Ott on Jan. 12, 1915. To this union were born five sons and one daughter. Sis. Laura preceded him in death on Feb. 16, 1961. Surviving are Bro. Glenn (Bern), Bro. Lloyd and Raymond (Lamont); one daughter, Ilva Kaufman (Shawnee Mission); 11 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Bro. Fred will be remembered for many things, but most of all as a grandfather, a father, and a pillar of our church. In 1977 when Lamont decided to erect another house of God, Bro. Fred donated the three-acre tract of land, where our church now stands.

Recent hospital patients include Sis. Dena Emch and Sis. Lorean Anliker. We are thankful that they again are assembling with us. Sis. Dena would like to express many thanks for the cards, prayers, visits and deeds of kindness while she was in the hospital.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer
 mine;
 Lord I will forever and always be thine,
 For Thou hast created and purchased
 me too,
 Baptized with the Spirit, Thou makest
 me new.

After longing to become one of God's children, we welcome Maria Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) as a new sister in faith. May the Lord ever be near her in her young tender years. Our visiting minister was Maria's uncle, Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott).

Congratulations to our 1983 graduates. Those graduated from college are Bros. Steve Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) and James Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty). High school graduates are twins Marla and Sis. Maria Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy). We wish them each God's blessings.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

We offer our sympathy to the Meyer family on the death of their brother, Bro. David Meyer. Surviving are two brothers and two sisters, John, Lester, Sis. Lydia and Sis. Esther. Memorial services were held April 23, 1983 in Sabetha.

Hospitalized this past month were

Sis. Helen Strahm and Sis. Tillie Aberle.

Open House was held May 8 at the Apostolic Christian Home and new Apartment Complex. We were given the opportunity to tour some of the apartments and the ancillary area. Nearly 600 people went through.

We welcome Marjorie Edelman into our fellowship. She was given the opportunity to bring her testimony before the church and is now our sister-in-faith. May the Lord be with Sis. Marge and grant her grace to continue in her walk of faith.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Eugene Marti (Lamar).

Our hearts are saddened as a dear brother was suddenly called out of our midst to his Heavenly Rest. Bro. Reo Strahm, 73, passed away May 13. His dear wife of many years, Sis. Verna, preceded him in death, Aug. 7, 1982. Survivors include two sons, Marvin Strahm (Sabetha) and Dr. Joe Strahm (Pender, NE); three daughters, LaVerne Hohnstreiter (Albuquerque, NM), Arlene Hawley (Montrose, CO) and Karen Pinkerton (Wichita); four sisters, Sis. Irene Aberle, Sis. Liseten Aberle, Sis. Vila Meyer and Leota Montgomery (all of Sabetha); a brother, Art Strahm (Sabetha); 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were held May 16 by Bro. Gene Marti and Bro. Roger Aberle. Burial was in the Sabetha Cemetery with Bro. Carl Hartman offering the prayer of committal.

Our congratulations to high school graduates, Sis. Lanette Meyer and Benjie Wysong. May they be guided in their walk of life.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Our annual meeting was held on May 1, and the following changes were made. Bro. Roger Reimschisel was elected as Chairman of the Board, Sis. Priscilla Frank was elected as Sunday School teacher and Sisters Kristen Plattner and Judy Langhofer were chosen for Kitchen Committee.

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers recently. May 1, Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was with us. Bro. Joe and his wife were on their way to California. Also Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) was here May 8, and brought forth God's Word to us. We

pray God will bless Bros. Joe and Roy as they proclaim His Message.

On May 6 we had a Mother-Daughter dinner at church. It was an enjoyable evening of fellowship and reminded everyone of how special and needed our Mothers are.

Our oldest Sister, Dora Young, celebrated her 88th birthday, May 12 and many assembled at her home that evening to wish her a happy birthday. we pray God will continue blessing her with life and will be with her through each day. Sis. Dora is a very much loved part of our body of believers here.

I just had to think — as a Christian reaches that age there must be a real anticipation of going Home to be with our Father. But really that should be every Christian's desire and longing while here on this earth. A few Sundays ago we were read the Scripture I Thessalonians 4:16-17 — "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Just think, we shall behold Him in all His Majesty! We shall actually see Him face to face. I don't know if I had actually thought about this deeply or realized exactly what it means. But I did realize that we should constantly be looking forward to that glorious day and should always be ready to leave this world at any time. There should be no pleasure in this life that is holding us back from wanting to meet the Lord at any moment. What a joyous thought to be with Jesus forever! Praise the Lord!

We would encourage and welcome anyone passing through Kansas this summer to visit us in Wichita. Visitors are special and we love to have them!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

We have three dear souls who were baptized into the fold of Christ just a few weeks ago. We warmly welcome Sis. Michelle and Bro. Tom Oesch (daughter-in-law and son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva) and Sis. Juanita Gerst (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy). May our Lord grant each one of you the richest blessings.

Those graduating from high school this year are Michelle Steffen (daugh-

ter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna), Robert Koehl (son of Linda Koehl), Jodi Byam (daughter of Doug and Marilyn Byam) and Sis. Renee Steffen (daughter of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta). College graduates are Nancy Byam (daughter of Doug and Marilyn Byam) and Sis. Carol Schlatter (daughter of Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat).

We have been richly blessed with many ministers this past month. They are Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City), Bros. Ken Sauder, Pete Baltic and Fred Domka (Mansfield) and Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville). We want to thank these brothers and tell them just how much we appreciate their labors of love.

We warmly welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier, as they have returned from their winter home in Sarasota, FL. It really seems good to have these dear ones home with us again.

To all of our fathers: We wish you a most enjoyable and a very blessed Father's Day.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Wieland

"My son hear the instruction of thy father . . ." Prov. 1:8

How thankful we should be that our fathers instructed us in godly ways, so instilled within us would be a knowledge of the path to salvation. As we seek to honor our earthly fathers, we should keep in mind that Christians have also a heavenly Father to honor.

Hospital patients this month include Mildred Wackerle, Bro. Alf Kaeb, Clinton Wackerle, Charlene Wieland, Lisa Kosnick and Jaclyn Knochel (Jack and Debbie). We pray for God's healing power and grace for them and their families.

Sis. Linda Ramseyer has relocated in the Detroit area to secure employment. Her talents and positive attitude will be missed by all the Bay City congregation. We wish her God's blessings and increase in this undertaking.

We congratulate our high school graduates on having reached this milestone in their lives. To each of them we wish God's guidance as they seek employment or further education. Our graduates include: Sis. Kim Andrzejewski (Norm and Sis. Linda), Lori Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie),

Kent and Kelly Wieland (Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie), Lynette Wright (Gary and Sis. Shirley), Allan Schlatter (Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret), Bob Jackson (Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda), Carolyn Kosnick (Jim and Colleen), Marcia McNally (Lyle and Marlene) and Wendy Ramseyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

Once again the time is here for remembering our fathers and all of their love, support and teachings. As we honor our earthly fathers, let's remember to take a special moment to honor our Heavenly Father, who loved us so much, He sent His only Son into the world to die as our Savior, so that we may live. He is the Supreme Example of Fatherly love.

God has blessed Bro. Mark and Sis. Beverly Bahr with a precious little daughter. Amber Leigh was born May 4, and was warmly welcomed home by her two sisters, Alisa and Amy. Amber's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr (Sabetha, KS).

We welcome Sis. Linda Ramseyer into our Detroit family from Bay City. Linda recently began work in the Detroit area. Our congregation bids farewell to George and Sis. Marie Reardon, as they leave our area to make their home near Sarasota, FL. May they all feel God's guiding hand of love as they adjust to life in a new community.

We enjoyed having several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI). We also welcomed our ministering Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (temporarily of Washington, IL) and his family home for a short visit. We want to thank these brothers for taking the time to share God's Word with us.

Graduating from high school this year is Bro. Keith Gudeman. As he makes plans for his future, we pray that he will feel God's continued guidance and direction.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

We would like to thank Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) for bringing us the Word this past month.

We held our annual meeting on May

15. The following people were elected: Bro. Perry Virkler, Sunday School teacher; Bro. Ken Schmidt, correspondent to the home for the handicapped; Sis. Kathryn Olson, chairman of world relief sewing; Sis. Diane Olson, children's craft night.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock

We have several young people graduating from high school this year. They are Mark Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barb), Penny Fehr (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Judi), Kim Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane), Marsha Goll (John and Helen), Doug Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl), Dawn Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen), Terry Nohl (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Jodi Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila). May God be with them and guide them as they face many new experiences and responsibilities.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We thank them for bringing us the True Word.

Bro. Vernard Brown and Sis. Louise Mohrman were hospital patients this month. We pray for God's healing strength for these loved ones.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf have been blessed with a daughter. She is Myra Jane. Mindy, Molly and Marcie are her happy sisters. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet and Lloyd and Dorothy Durkee are the grandparents who will be helping to raise this precious bundle.

"I wish to sincerely thank all the loved ones who so kindly remembered me with prayers, visits, cards and other gifts of love while I was recuperating from surgery and for my birthday. May our loving God richly bless each one as only He can." Harold Gramm

WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagles flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,

Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it . . . Dad.

Anonymous

May we each remember our fathers on his special day not only with material gifts, but with a thank you and our love. May we also thank God for all our parents have done for us.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt

Faith came singing into my room,
And other guests took flight.
Grief and anxiety; fear and gloom,
Sped out into the night.
I wondered that such peace could be;
But faith said gently, "Don't you see,
That they can never live with me?"

Author: E. Cheney

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Peoria Choir for their special visit; and also for sharing their Christian fellowship with us one weekend in April. Ministering Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) and Noah Miller (Minneapolis) shared the word of God with us also. In these times that we are living in, we need the Word of God, strength, and fellowship of fellow believers more than ever! May God richly bless each and every one for their labors of love.

This past weekend we listened to the memorandum reading and had Holy Communion served to us on Sunday afternoon. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (KS) was here assisting Bro. Harold in this most important work. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" (I Cor. 10:16). We then shared a potluck supper and singing together at the Fellowship Center.

A surprise farewell singing was given at the home of Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner, for Sis. Brenda Schmidgall who has recently finished courses at a local college. She will now be employed by her father in Hancock, MN. We wish her God's warmest and richest blessings in her future. She will be dearly missed by the Winthrop congregation.

Pam Messner and Charles McMaster, both of New Ulm, MN, were united

in marriage on May 21. Pam is the daughter of Sis. Julia Messner (Winthrop, MN). We are certainly happy for them and wish them God's blessings.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Delores Messerli, Sis. Rose Alice Howk, and Bro. Bruce Messner for surgeries. Bro. Ray Messne and Gene Schmidt were also hospitalized for tests. We pray God will add His healing touch to all. They all very much appreciate your cards, letters and prayers.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Janice Lehman

On May 22, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Eugene Marti and Sam Huber here to share Holy Communion with us.

Sis. Tina Strahm has graduated from nurse's training and will be moving to Emporia, KS where she has found employment. We also want to congratulate Don Braker who recently obtained his Masters Degree in engineering.

Keith Steffen has been transferred to Memphis, TN. We are all praying that this will just be temporary and that in due time he can worship with us again. We can all rejoice that Keith has turned to the Lord in repentance. In a small congregation as we have, we truly understand the meaning of Luke 15:7 . . . joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Hohulin — Sandra Marti

When we sit together and partake of Holy Communion, we can certainly understand why it was instituted. Humbleness and thankfulness fill our hearts as we are so vividly reminded of our dear Savior's gift to us. It was our privilege to partake of Holy Communion on April 17. We're thankful that Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), could be with us that Sunday to assist our Elder Bro. Eugene.

Our dear Sis. Rosa Widmer, at the age of 94, was surely granted her desire as she departed from this life on April 29. Rosa was a quiet, soft spoken person and a good example to all of us. Her husband, Bro. John, preceded her in death. One daughter and two sons survive: Mary Engelage and Walter of Lamar and Edward from Wolcott, IN. May they feel God's nearness. Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS) was here

to assist Bro. Lester Braker with the funeral service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ray Luthi. He has had to spend some time in the hospital for tests. Sis. Bertha Rouleau has been unable to assemble with us due to illness. We also think of her often.

Little Dana Marie was born on May 11. She is the daughter of Sis. Janice and the late Bro. Dan Braker. She was lovingly welcomed home by Robin, Phil, Kristen, and Greg. Dana's grandparents are Sis. Mabel Springer (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker. It is our prayer that Sis. Janice and all parents can feel God's guidance as they raise the little ones that He has given them.

Sis. Marie Marti has been elected to teach a newly formed Sunday School class. We trust that God will lead her as she works with the children.

Sis. Melisa Moser (Morton, IL), has come to spend some time here this summer. We look forward to having her assemble with us.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Kevin Marti (Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine), Troy Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) and Kathy Connors (John and Mabel). May they seek God's will in their lives.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Becky Gudeman

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20

We thank Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and his family from Forrest for being with us on April 24. We also thank Bro. Ralph Garber and his family from Morton for being with us on Mother's Day, May 8. It's always a blessing to be able to greet and have fellowship with our brethren. We pray the Lord's blessing on those who so willingly make this effort.

Recently, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Morris Braker. We gathered at Roanoke on May 1 for this occasion and certainly appreciated the hospitality of that congregation.

We are happy and thankful that Eleanor Zimmer, our friend who's been attending our St. Louis congrega-

tion is repenting and has expressed a desire to be a part of our fellowship. She lives at 92 Green Acres, St. Louis, MO 63137.

We welcome anyone who will be in our area to worship with us. Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel; 4645 N. Lindberg Blvd. For more information contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

There is a destiny that makes us brothers;

None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others

Comes back into our own.
Edwin Markham

Our thanks go to Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Lydiann (Washington) for their weekend visit.

A boy was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp on April 25. "Kyle Brandon" has a brother, Jordan, and grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp and Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schultz (Oakville).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb Sutter are first time parents of a little girl, "Angele Marie" born May 3. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter and Bro. Donald and Sis. Carolyn Ott (Congerville). Children are a heritage of the Lord and we know these little sunbeams will add much joy and happiness in their homes.

Hospital patients were: Bro. Kenny Knapp, emergency treatment for severe hand injury due to farm accident; Sis. Betty Hoerr, medical; and Sis. Loida (Henry) Hodel, surgical.

Strange gift indeed!—a thorn to prick,—
To pierce into the very quick;
To cause perpetual sense of pain;
Strange gift! And yet, 'twas given for gain.

Unwelcome, — yet it came to stay;
Nor could it e'en be prayed away.
It came to fill its God-planned place,—
A life-enriching means of grace.

And he who bore it, day by day,
Found Christ his power, his strength,
his stay;
In weakness gloried, since thereby
The power of Christ might on him lie.

Oh much-tried saint, with fainting heart,
The thorn with its perpetual smart,
With all its wearing ceaseless pain
Can be thy means of priceless gain.

God's grace — thorns, — ah, what forms they take!

What piercing, smarting pain they make!

And yet, each one in love is sent,
And always just for blessing meant.

And so, whate'er thy thorn may be,
From God accept it willingly;
But reckon Christ, — His life — the power
To keep, in thy most trying hour.

And sure — thy life will richer grow;
He grace sufficient will bestow:
And in Heav'n's morn thy joy 'twill be
That, by His thorn, He strengthened thee.

J. Danson Smith

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) and Andy Virkler (Bay City) visited us with their wives on April 24 and May 15 respectively. We appreciate the encouragement offered our small flock through the power of the Holy Word of Life. Bro. Len and Sis. Audrey Hitz (Detroit) also worshipped with us on May 15. It was a joy to have them again in our midst after having moved from New Jersey several years ago.

Our dear friend, Elizabeth Rush, was admitted to the hospital. May God be her strength and healer in answer to our prayers.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

On Wednesday evening, April 27, we assembled at the Naumburg Church when Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and his family were visiting our area. We thank Bro. Joe for his visit and services in the Lord's work.

Wayne Farney and Rhonda Brouty have announced their engagement. Wayne's parents are Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie and Rhonda's parents are Duane and Elaine Brouty of Castorland. We wish them the best as they begin making plans for their life together.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Lovina Farney, and her family. Her sister, Mary Gerard, was called out of this life. Services were held at the Donald Virkler Funeral Home by Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr.

Sis. Celia (Bro. Lowell) Virkler has been able to assemble with us again after having been absent. She was a medical patient for several days.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schamback were absent several Sundays. They were visiting their children in Bay City when Bro. Dave became ill and had to undergo surgery. We are thankful he had a speedy recovery and has been able to return home. Bro. Dave wishes to thank all who remembered him with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers during his hospitalization in Midland, MI.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

It was so nice to have Bro. Joseph Gerst with us at our Wed. service. He spoke to us a wonderful message through the spirit.

Sis. Rosella Schulz has had to spend a few days in the hospital but we are glad she is out and around.

A nice crowd gathered for a birthday singing at Sis. Pearl Colgrove's home.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

June is the month of Father's Day and we think of sacrifices to bring joy or satisfy our fathers. Jesus satisfied His Father by the travail of his soul (Isa. 53:11) and it became a fragrant sweet-smelling sacrifice. In Song of Solomon, Christ is depicted as fragrant and sweet smelling as myrrh. Myrrh can also indicate tears, for Mark 15:23 tells when Jesus hung upon the cross they mingled his wine with myrrh, but He received it not. Psalm 45:8 foretells: "All thy garments smell of myrrh and aloe..." After His crucifixion, Nicodemus brought myrrh and aloe in which to wrap Jesus' body. (John 19:39). We can bring fragrance as sweet as myrrh and aloe to our Father in Heaven and our father on earth by offering "the sacrifices of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Heb. 13:15)

Sis. Marsha Graf and Bro. Jay Maibach united hearts and hands in marriage and will now walk the path of life together. Parents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Alpha and

Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman). The newly weds took a trip East and are now home near Rittman. May the Lord bless them and keep them.

We appreciate the visits of Bro. and Sis. Walter Anliker (Eureka), Bro. and Sis. Al Langhofer (Wichita), and Bro. and Sis. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty) and the inspiring messages of the brothers.

Little Daniel Pamer, son of Bro. and Sis. Steve Pamer, was hospitalized.

OHIO, GIRARD

Karen Laparo

As vacation time approaches, let us all be careful not to take a vacation from our spiritual walk of life. I came across this article which seems very fitting for this time of year.

VACATION PRAYER

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

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

From this life, so near to Nature's heart, may we drink in new strength to help us reach the restless hearts of men. May we go back to the world and its duties, stronger, simpler, sweeter and thus become more worthy messengers of Him who saw His Father's goodness in the sparrow's flight and His Father's love in the beauty which clothes the lilies of the field.

Hugh L. Burleson

We sincerely thank all who visited us this month, especially our visiting ministers: Bro. Rudy Graf (Akron), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and also our visiting song leaders. May God bless you all for your labors.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

This month, the Junction congregation learned about God's will for mankind through the preaching of Bro.

Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) and Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo).

Peggy Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) graduated from high school this month and is hoping to find secretarial work locally. Bob Manz (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty) completed two years post-high school program in electronics. As our young people graduate from school and seek employment, many are finding that most employers don't need workers at this time. Not so, though for our Heavenly Employer, as we are reminded of the parable of the householder who went to find laborers for His vineyard. This householder, who is our Heavenly Master has work for those of all ages.

Kyle Thomas Schlatter is the latest addition to the Junction Church. He is the third son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila. Kyle's older brothers are Corbin and Doug. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner (Rittman) and Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Anna Manz and Sis. Madeline Manz. We are thankful that both are again progressing quite well.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Riggenbach Cheryl Wenninger

WHAT GOD HATH MADE

God took the strength of the mighty oak,
The steadfastness of the mountains tall,
The warmth of the rising sun —
He used them one and all.

He took endurance from the hardy pine,
Love vast as the rolling sea,
Peace from the mountain stream,
And the heart of the dogwood tree.

He took from spring her promise,
From summer the beauty of life,
Courage from the winter's struggle,
And added faith to meet the strife.

He took the soul of the twilight hour,
The rich mellowness of the fall,
The depth of the quiet lake,
And the mystery of the wild bird's call.

A FATHER God molded from these things
To lead each home aright,
Down the path the Savior trod,
Out of darkness into light.

Jean Jones

As we again set aside a time to honor our earthly fathers, let us ever be thankful for what they have done for us. They have provided for our material needs and spiritually they have weathered many storms to keep the faith so that many sin-sick souls can find a place of refuge.

Dale Stoller (Bro. Glen and Sis. Ede) and Jodi Brigner have announced their engagement. They plan an August wedding. May God ever be with them in their planning.

Several loved ones from our congregation have been hospitalized. They are: Bro. George Keysor (Sis. Sharon); Sis. Beulah Stoller (Bro. Roy); Sis. Hilda Wenninger; Bro. Loren Stoller (Sis. Esther); Sis. Maria Heffner; Roy Stoller (Helen); Harlan Riggensbach (Sis. Delores); Bro. George Sinn (Sis. Clara); and Bro. Kenneth Laukhuf (Sis. Marge). Even though they experience pain and suffering, we pray that they may draw near to God. In different ways the Lord leads his children into difficult times, but may we ever look upon these times as a way by which God is getting us ready for that Heavenly Kingdom. We know that without a battle, there can be no victory.

Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) ministered to us. We pray that the Lord will bless him for the efforts. We are so thankful that we have brothers who are so willing to be used of God in this way. Let us continue to remember them in prayer so that they may always speak by the spirit's inspiration, as God alone knows our every need.

"God put the church in the world, but Satan is always trying to put the world in the church."

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

... Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

As we observe Father's Day we are reminded what a wonderful privilege to be able to call on our Heavenly Father whenever we choose and know He will hear our prayer through His son, Jesus. A good illustration of a loving father is that of a boy who was seen one dark night at the midnight hour, creeping slowly up the stairs of a beautiful mansion, now completely dark and quiet. He took from his pocket a little key, and with it unlocked the door and entered. He warmed himself by the

fire, then started up the stairs very carefully. Feeling his way to the door of a certain room, he turned the knob. It was unlocked and the boy quietly stepped in.

The street light shone upon a dainty bed all ready for an occupant. A dressing gown lay on a chair near the bed, also a pair of slippers. The rest of the room was darkness. With a cry, the boy fell on his knees by the bedside.

He was not a burglar, no, no, only a homesick boy stealing home under cover of night to die.

Two years before, he had knelt by that bed when his angel mother had died. At that time, he thought his father was stern and cold, so he ran away to live as he liked. While wandering from place to place, a much forwarded letter reached him one day. It contained no writing, only a tiny latch key of the home door. He had carried that key in his pocket for months, and at last it had drawn him back to his home so far away.

The following morning, the father opened his son's door as he had ever since he had sent the latch key. he really expected nothing, it had become a habit with him. So this morning, he opened the door as usual. Thinking his old eyes deceived him, he started back when he saw his beloved son in the bed asleep. How thin and worn was the face. When the father fell on his knees, the boy opened his eyes. "Father, I have come home to die! I have been so wicked. Can you forgive me?" he sobbed. Quickly the father replied, "Forgive you my boy? Indeed I can, and God — have you asked His forgiveness?" "Yes, father, that is what I wanted to tell you before I die." "Die?" And as the father gathered him in his arms he said, "Die, when I have just found you? No indeed." "But father, the doctor of the hospital said that I could not live long."

When the family physician had examined the boy over, he promised him a full recovery if he would obey his orders and told him he would yet be the stay of his father's old age.

A short time after this the boy turned to his father and said, "Father, I would never have come home by daylight and if you would not have sent the latch key, I would not be here today. When I was out in the cold stormy night, I could not resist the comfort at the end of that key."

Dear friend, have you been like this

boy, wanted your own way, left home to do your "own thing"? Mom and dad want you to come home, your loving Saviour wants you to serve Him, won't you come "Home" today and repent and serve Jesus? The latch key is not of metal itself as was that key, but the words of Christ himself, "John 6:37, Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

Have you wandered away from your father's care
Heavy hearted and sad do you roam
There's a sweet gentle voice calling now to you
Wandering child, wandering child, Oh, come home.

We welcome our new brother, Marvin Beer into our fellowship. He was baptized on May 7 and we wish him much grace as he begins to work in the vineyard of the Lord. Bro. Rudy Graf and Bro. Joseph Ramsier were here for the joyous occasion.

Sis. Katie Deturk has moved to live with her daughter, Evelyn Gemzer. Katie's new address is 285 Auburn Avenue, Mansfield, OH.

Bro. Robert Beer has been admitted to Mansfield General Hospital. May he find comfort in knowing God has promised never to let more come over us than what we can bear.

We welcome Mark and Diane Mason and their children, Kara and Aaron who have moved here from Bluffton, IN and are presently residing at 375 South Main, Apt. 26, Bellville, OH 44813.

We were saddened at the recent passing of Sis. Dorothy Heckel, who had resided in Tucson, AZ. Funeral services were conducted here in Mansfield on May 16. Bros. Kenneth Sauder and Wallace Ramsier officiated. She is survived by two brothers, Bill and Andy Heckel, five sisters, Martha Pohanka, Lydia Davis, Helen Purity, Julia Stamlar and Sue Lamneck. May God comfort the dear family in their great loss.

This is just a reminder that June is collection month for the Silver Lining for Mansfield. If you have not already done so, please contact your reporter.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

Oh, such precious memories we have after an enjoyable weekend spent with ten dear souls as testimonies were

given on Saturday, May 14, and then to witness their baptisms on Sunday, May 15. We then greeted the following: Sis. Joni Schar, Sis. Janee' Schar, Sis. Joan Stoller, Sis. Luanna Davis, Bro. Jeff Trent, Bro. Dave Dotterer, Bro. Steve Rufener, Bro. John Bauman, Bro. Norman Zollinger, Sis. Jennifer Hartzler. The brethren present to help with this work were Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit), Bro. Rudy Graf (Akron), Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron). Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka), Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo). We want to thank all these brothers for bringing us the Word of Life.

We welcome Sis. Marsha (Graf) Maibach to our congregation. On May 1 in Akron, she became the wife of Bro. Jay Maibach. The parents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach. May the Lord bless your life together.

Our best wishes to Ron and Terri (Berlin) Stoller who were married recently. We have the good news that they are now giving their lives to the Lord. May they find the peace of God they are looking for. We are also thankful John Klotzle has answered the call of God, and is willing to leave the sinful world behind. We pray the peace of God will be received. The parents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Jane Klotzle.

New babies to report are Marlin Richard Miller, born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen. The other family members include Jan, Jill, Marcie, Mike, Myra, Rachel and grandparents Richard and Sis. Melba Miller, and Sis. Martha (Robert) Beery. A son, Ethan Rowen, was born to Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. Others in the family are Sis. Joni, Sis. Janee', Tim, Gary, Phillip, Natalie, Nathan, Gretchen, Anna and grandparents Glenn and Sis. Ella Miller, and John and Marie Schar.

Born a few months back was a son, Charles Rudolph, to parents Steve and Sue Zollinger. Little brother Jeremiah welcomes a playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger. May the Lord bless these families with their precious little ones.

Best wishes to Dennis Indermuhle and Sherri Beichler who have become engaged. The parents of Dennis are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet.

Those needing hospital care were Sis. Lorena Riggenschach, Sis. Esther Saylor, Sis. Ruth Ingold and Howard Beery. We are thankful for the healing

power of God, and we are glad to see them assemble with us.

Twelve years of schooling has now ended for the following, who will be graduating this year: Sis. Lorie Acker (Boyd and Barbara), Pam Bachman (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Katherine), Bill Bauman (Marion and Sis. Dolores), Rose Boltz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marjorie), Sis. Kim Blough (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille), Jim Gasser (Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope), Bill Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Wayne Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce), Kevin Keiper (Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty), Pam McIntyre, Brian Maibach (Bro. Art and Sis. Janet), Glen Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen), David Marty (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou), Sharon Ramsier (Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez), Chad Riggenschach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita), Lyle Rufener (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas), Sue Rupp (Ralph Rupp), Tim Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Kurt Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol), Lori Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol), Shelly Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth), Greg Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette), Jeff Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen), Steve Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marjorie), Greg Trent (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn), Sandy Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda). No matter what you plan for the future, may you look to God who holds your life in His hands. We say best wishes and may you find happiness in whatever your calling may be.

OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

"Thus united and in concord let us walk the path of life." Zion's Harp #237. Once again our body of believers was united and strengthened as we heard God's will and way taught through the conference memorandum, and as we shared the Lord's supper. We pray for special blessings on our Elder Bros. Rudy Graf (Akron, OH) and Joe Ramsier Rittman (OH). It was wonderful to be together with them once again and share God's love and Word.

We were also strengthened in the past months when Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) spent a weekend with us. His visit and ministry was a real lift.

Summer days are stretching out before us. We rejoice when we see God's beautiful creation singing, blooming and running, all praising

their Maker for the chance to be alive. May we as His creations praise and thank Him each day for all our blessings.

OHIO, TOLEDO Mary Ann Weigile Josephine Rehlau

On April 21 our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and his wife were with us for midweek services.

Bob Beard, son of Bro. George and Sis. Clara, was involved in an accident recently and is in the hospital at this time. We pray he will soon recover from injuries.

It is once again graduation time. There are two graduates from our congregation. Julie Weigile is graduating from high school and plans to attend college at Bowling Green State University next fall. Andy Fetter is also graduating from high school. He wants to pursue further education but his plans are indefinite at this time. We wish them God's blessings on their future.

We celebrate Father's Day in June. This brought to mind a young boy I know who said he wanted to be "just like daddy" when he grew up. Let us pray that fathers can be a good example for their sons and daughters in their spiritual life and their daily activities.

We enjoyed having Sis. Sharon Schlatter with our congregation for a period of time. She will be greatly missed.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Once again graduation time has arrived throughout the land, and Oregon is no exception with our four graduates this year. Four people finally reaching a goal that has loomed ahead of them... only to find that it is not really a destination, but yet another doorway thru which they shall pass on their way to their next goal. We have heard it said that "Happiness is not a destination... but a mode of travel". Perhaps, but we know a destination that is happiness and the "road" we choose and the "way" we travel it, will determine if we will ever reach that destination. We hope and pray that each of us will choose the right road and the right method of travel and even the right travelling companions for a "safe" arrival.

Our hearty congratulations to Theresa Knecht (Bro. Ed and Sis.

Judie) who has received an Associate Degree in Science from Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Theresa is now seeking employment as a Legal Secretary. Gary Cooper (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginnie) is a graduate of Molalla Union High School. Gary plans to attend Clackamas Community College next fall, majoring in Business Administration. Another high school graduate is Kris Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) who is a member of the Class of '83 at Gervais Union High School. Kris plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the field of Human Resources. An eighth grade graduate from Pioneer Grade School is Jeff Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rose Lee). Jeff will be a freshman at Gervais Union High School next fall.

The Lord willing, a reception/singing for our graduates is planned at the home of Bro. David and Sis. Margene Peasley. The graduates, their families and both the Silverton and Portland congregations are invited.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

THE COMING OF CHRIST

The Lord will come, and He is near
To meet His own with gladness.
O that His vision would appear;
Great joy would banish sadness.
If now today in majesty,
We'd see Him come, then surely
We would weep for joy and gladness!

Oh that before Him now the earth
And heaven would be fleeing,
And we the token of the Son,
High in the clouds were seeing,
In godlike majesty abound!
O, that we'd hear the trumpet sound
Of angels coming nearer!

O Jesus, come; we wait for Thee
With all the true and faithful!
Do not delay, but let us see
Thy reappearance graceful!
We shall rejoice to hear Thee say;
"Come, blessed ones" and when we
May thus unto Thee be carried.

Yes, Amen, come! Thy bride doth call,
In spirit and with longing,
Until Thy face she may behold,
And rest upon Thy bosom.
Yea, earth and heaven doth resound
With echo sweet, in true hearts found,
A thousand fold, fond welcome.

Zion's Harp #56

On Sunday May 15 we enjoyed Bro. Ed Knecht and Sis. Judie and family. Thank you, Bro. Ed for an inspiring message.

We are enjoying a beautiful spring in the northwest. The beautiful flowers and trees that are in bloom are so breathtaking. If God has created such beauty for all of us on earth to enjoy; just think how much more beautiful heaven will be for those who stay true and faithful and are able to enter into those heavenly gates. May we all pray more fervently for our loved ones outside the fold.

PENNSYLVANIA,

PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bro. Duane Farney and his wife and family (Croghan-Naumburg) visited us on April 24. On May 15 Bro. Al Langhoffer and his wife (Wichita) also spent a Sunday with us. We are especially appreciative of visiting ministers and the Lord blessed us richly with food for the spirit.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Our Zapata congregation is now down to its permanent summer residents as all our winter residents have returned to their homes in the north.

Bro. Ernest Kellenberger was in the hospital in Laredo for emergency surgery, but recovered quickly. He and Sis. Ella have returned to Morris, MN.

It is vacation time and many of our residents will go north for summer vacations. Our congregation will be small but we certainly welcome any visitors traveling this way this summer to stop in and visit with us, as someone will always be here.

Silver Threads

"IT'S ONLY A LITTLE WHILE SIR"

"Well, Molly," said the judge, going up to the old woman's apple stand, "Don't you get tired sitting here these cold dismal days?" "It's only a little while sir," said she. "And the hot dusty days?" said he. "It's only a little while sir," answered Molly. "And your sick rheumatic days, Molly?" "It's only a little while sir," said she. "And what then, Molly?" asked the judge. "I shall enter into that rest which remains for the people of God," answered the old

woman, devoutly; "and the troublesomeness of the way there doesn't annoy or bother me — it's only a little while sir." "All is well that ends well, I dare say," said the judge, "but what makes you so sure Molly?" "How can I help being sure sir," said she, "since Christ is the Way, and I am in Him? He is mine and I am His. Now, I only feel along the way. I shall see Him as He is in a little while sir." "Ah, Molly, you've got more than the law ever taught me," said the judge. "Yes sir, because I went to the Gospel." "Well Molly, I must look into these things," said the judge, taking an apple and walking off." "There's only a little while sir," said she.

FATHERS ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE

Fathers are wonderful people
too little understood,
And we do not sing their praises
as often as we should . . .
For, somehow, Father seems to be
the man who pays the bills
While mother binds up little hurts
and nurses all our ills . . .
And Father struggles daily
to live up to "his image"
As protector and provider
and "hero of the scrimmage" . . .
And perhaps that is the reason
we sometimes get the notion
That Fathers are not subject
to the thing we call emotion,
But if you look inside his heart,
where no one else can see,
You'll find he's sentimental
and as "soft" as he can be . . .
But he's so busy every day
in the grueling race of life,
He leaves the sentimental stuff
to his partner and his wife . . .
But fathers are just wonderful
in a million different ways,
And they merit loving compliments
and accolades of praise,
For the only reason Dad aspires
to fortune and success
Is to make the family proud of him
and to bring them happiness . . .
And like our Heavenly Father
he's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on
to be always at our side.

Helen Steiner Rice

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

SIMPLICITY

Dear Lord I ask one thing of Thee,
The gift of true simplicity,
A cheery fire, a rocking chair,
Enough to eat, enough to wear.
A little cottage built upon
A spot that I can call my own,
A garden and a shady tree,
A dog to keep me company.

A pot that's big enough to hold
Enough to fill another bowl,
A welcome mat that's out to all,
Whenever neighbors come to call.
A bed, a lamp, a book or two,
An old friend and perhaps a new,
And since all things are mine in Thee,
Then this is quite enough for me.

Grace E. Easley

TO ANY LITTLE BOY'S FATHER

There are little eyes upon you
And they are watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly
Take in everything you say.

There are little hands all eager
To do everything you do;
And a little boy who is dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.

There is a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you are always right;
And his eyes are always open and he
Watches day and night.

You are setting an example in each
Kindness that you do;
For the little boy who is waiting
To grow up to be like you.
Author Unknown

FATHERS

Fathers are for talking with,
for words that guide and cheer,

Fathers are for walking with
for always being near,

Fathers are for caring
for being strong, yet gentle

Fathers are for sharing,
when you're feeling sentimental,

Fathers are for standing by
through every kind of strife,

Fathers are for giving Faith
that lights your way through life.
Alice Joyce Davidson

"MARY HAD A LITTLE BOY"
Mary had a little boy,
His soul was white as snow
He never went to Bible class,
'cause Mary wouldn't go.

He never heard the stories of Christ
That thrill the childish mind;
While other children went to class
This child was left behind.

And, as he grew from babe to youth
She saw to her dismay;
A soul that once was snowy white,
Became a dingy gray.

Realizing he was lost,
She tried to win him back,
But, now the soul that once was white,
Had turned an ugly black.

She even started back to church
And Bible study too,
She begged the preacher; Isn't there
A thing that you can do?

And so, another soul is lost
That once was white as snow,
Bible study would have helped —
But Mary wouldn't go.

— Selected

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The church and the world walked far
apart
On the changing shore of time,
The world was singing a giddy song
And the church a hymn sublime.
"Come, give me your hand," said the
merry world

"And walk with me the way;"
But the good church hid her snowy
hand.
And solemnly answered, "Nay".

"I will not give thee my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you.
Your way is the way of eternal death,
And your words are all untrue."
"Nay, walk with me a little space,"
Said the world with a kindly air.
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there."

"Your way is narrow, and thorny, and
rough,
While mine is flowery and smooth;
Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,
But rounds of Joy I move.
My way, you can see, is a broad, fair
one,
And my gate is high and wide,

There is room enough for you and me,
And we'll travel side by side."

Half shyly the church approached the
world,
And gave him her hand of snow;
And the false world grasped it and
walked along,
And whispered in accents low;
"Your dress is too simple to please my
taste;
I have gold and pearls to wear,
Rich velvets and silk for your graceful
form,
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The church looked down at her plain
white robes
And then at the dazzling world.
And blushed as she saw his handsome
lip
With a smile contemptuous curled.
"I will change my dress for a costlier
one,"
Said the church with a smile of grace;
Then her pure white garment drifted
away,
And the world gave in their place.

Beautiful satins, and fashionable silks,
And roses and gems and pearls;
And over her forehead her bright hair
fell
Waved in a thousand curls.
"Your house is too plain," Said the
proud old world,
"Let me build you one like mine,
With kitchen for feasting and parlor
for play,
And furniture ever so fine."

So he built her a costly and beautiful
house
Splendid it was to behold;
Her sons and her daughters met fre-
quently there,
Shining in purple and gold.
And fair and festival — frolics untold,
Were held in the place of prayer;
And maidens bewitching as sirens of
old,
With world winning graces rare.

Bedecked with fair jewels, and hair all
curls,
Untrammelled by Gospel or laws,
To beguile and amuse, and win from
the world
Some help for the righteous cause.
The Angel of Mercy rebuked the
church,
And whispered, "I know thy sin."

Then the church looked sad and
anxiously longed
To gather her children in.

But some were away to the midnight
ball,
And others were at the play.
And some were drinking in gay saloons,
And the angel went away.
And then said the world in soothing
tones,
"Your much loved ones mean no
harm,
Merely indulging in innocent sports."
So she leaned still on his proffered
arm.

And smiled and chatted and gathered
flowers
And walked along with the world.
While countless millions of precious
souls
To the horrible pit were hurled.
"Your preachers are all too old and
plain,"
Said the gay world with a sneer;
"They frighten my children with dread-
ful tales
Which I do not like them to hear.

"They talk of Judgement and fire and
pain,
And the doom of endless night;
They warn of a place that should not be
Thus spoken to ears polite!
I will send you some of a better stamp,
More brilliant and gay and fast,
Who will show how men may live as
they list
And go to Heaven at last.

The Father is merciful and great and
good,
Loving and tender and kind;
Do you think He'd take one child to
Heaven
And leave another behind?"
So she called for pleasing and gay
divines
Deemed gifted, and great and
learned,
And the plain old men who preached
the cross
Were out of their pulpits turned.

"Go take your money and buy rich
robes
And horses and carriages fine,
And pearls and jewels, and dainty
foods
The rarest and costliest wine.
My children, they dote on all such
things,

And if you their love would win
You must do as they do and walk in the
way,
The flowery way they're in."

Then the church her purse-strings
held,
And gravely lowered her head.
And simpered: "I've given too much
away,
I will do, sir, as you have said."
So the poor were turned from the door
in scorn;
She heard not the orphans cry;
And she drew her beautiful robes aside
As the widows went weeping by.

And they of the church and they of the
world
Journeyed closely hand and heart,
And none but the Master who knoweth
all,
Could discern the two apart.
Then the church sat down at her ease
and said,
"I am rich and in goods increased;
I have need of nothing and naught to
do,
But to laugh and dance and feast."

The sly old world heard her, and
laughed within
And mockingly said aside,
"The church has fallen – the beautiful
church,
Her shame is her boast and pride."
Thus her witnessing power, alas! was
lost
And the perilous times come in;
The time of the end, so oft foretold
Of form, and pleasure, and sin.

Then the angel drew near the mercy
seat
And whispered in sighs her name,
And the saints their anthems of rapture
hushed,
And covered their heads with shame.
A voice came down from the hush of
heaven
From Him that sits on the throne,
I know thy works, and what thou hast
said,
But alas! thou hast not known.

That thou art poor and naked and
blind,
With pride and ruin enthralled;
The expected bride of the Heavenly
groom
Is the harlot of the world!
Thou hast ceased to watch for that
blessed hope,

Hast fallen from zeal and grace
So, now, alas! I must cast thee out,
And blot thy name from its place.

Author Unknown

HE WAS ONE OF US

He was born as little children are
And lived as children do,
So remember that the Saviour
was once a child like you.
And remember that He lived on earth
in the midst of sinful men
And the problems of the present
existed even then;
He was ridiculed and laughed at
in the same heartbreaking way
That we who fight for justice are
ridiculed today;
He was tempted . . . He was hungry . . .
He was lonely . . . He was sad . . .
There's no sorrowful experience
that the Saviour has not had;
And in the end He was betrayed and
even crucified,
For He was truly "One of Us" —
He lived on earth and died;
So do not heed the sceptics
who are often heard to say:
"What Does God Up In Heaven
Know Of Things We Face Today?" . . .
For, our Father up in heaven is very
much aware
of our failures and shortcomings
and the burdens that we bear;
So whenever you are troubled
put your problems in God's hand
For He has faced all problems
and He will understand.

Helen Steiner Rice

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

was moved by the Holy Spirit to go to
the eunuch who was reading. Philip
asked the eunuch if he understood
what he was reading. This man of dark
skin said, "How can I, except some man
should guide me?" Acts 8:31.

After Philip had explained about
Jesus and the Gospel message, the
eunuch asked to be baptized. After we
repented and were converted, we were
not forced to be baptized. We were not
pressed into this, but we had the same
desire: "What doth hinder me to be
baptized into the death of our Lord?"
Acts 8:36

Because there was no hindrance,
Philip went down into the water with
the eunuch, and this man was free to
become a child of God. As the Bible

says, "He went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:39

Isn't it wonderful, brethren, how the Spirit of God works as He did in this man who might otherwise have gone home with a heavy heart? We believe that our friends often go home with heavy hearts. They come, and they know that this is the place to hear and to taste and to see. Beloved, if we don't surrender to the Spirit of God, we must go home with a heavy heart of condemnation and conviction.

It is of the greatest importance to be humble. I have asked this before, dear brethren: Do you have any good suggestions as to how to get across to the masses of men that being humble and being meek does not mean being weak? Is there a way that we can convey this message? To be totally surrendered to the Creator of heaven and earth is the answer to all of life's problems.

We sang in the last song before we came to the pulpit, "Oh, to be nothing." Read that song over again very carefully. There is a tremendous impact in those words, but the question is, do we really feel that way? It is easy to sing it, and it is easy to say it, isn't it? But do we really feel it?

That is also true of believing. Believing means to not only say words with our lips, but it is to act upon them. We read in Deuteronomy that the Lord told His first-covenant people exactly what they should eat. It wasn't so much, beloved, that this particular flesh or that flesh would have been much different to the taste, but He had to tell them what was good and wholesome in their particular way of life.

Likewise, He tells you and me that what we read, what we view, or what we talk about is clean or unclean. It's the same thing, is it not? He says the same thing to you and to me today.

Consider how Daniel was told that he was greatly beloved of God. Brothers, can you think of a higher calling than to have that comment made of you? That is exactly what was said of Daniel. "Thou art greatly beloved." Dan. 9:23. Do you remember how he was despised in the court of Assyria, but then arose to a very high position in the kingdom?

When his faith was tested, when they made a decree that no one should worship anyone but the king, Daniel was not intimidated. It didn't worry him. He knew that people were watching him. He knew that this was all done to try to put him out of the picture so

that his presence would no longer prick their hearts and convict them. It could have brought a lovely and beautiful conviction upon them to enjoy life of fellowship with God as Daniel had, but in the ways of flesh they didn't want that.

Daniel was faithful, beloved, in spite of the test and the trial that was put before him. After a sleepless night, the king came to Daniel in the morning and asked him whether God had closed the lions' mouths. It wasn't a great surprise, beloved. The king believed that the Lord would preserve Daniel.

In another portion of Scripture pertaining to this faithful servant, the king said that if Daniel could tell him the meaning of a dream, he would clothe him with scarlet and hang a chain of gold around his neck. Daniel said, so to speak, "You keep them. They don't mean anything to me. I have no use for them. I will tell you the meaning of your dream. I won't, but the Spirit of God through me will. Keep all your decorations because they don't mean anything to me. They are part of the world and I don't have any use for them."

In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul tells us to take off those weights which hinder our spiritual progress. Isn't that good advice? The weights are not necessarily horrible sins, dear brothers and sisters. They may not be something that Satan would hang out in front of us as a lighted neon sign. We would flee from those. But small, minute sins may creep into our lives and finally lead to deception and spiritual blindness. In the book of Revelation, God tells us to anoint our eyes with eye salve (the understanding and the wisdom of God) so that we might see.

We could list all of the foods forbidden in Deuteronomy, but some of them such as an eagle, we wouldn't even have a desire to cook, would we? But that isn't the point, beloved. An eagle could provide sustenance for us in an emergency and it wouldn't be unclean anymore before God. He was trying to tell the Jewish people what they should partake of and what they should not.

We read the same thing today in the New Testament. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps. . ." Matt. 25:1.

We are the lamps, beloved. We are not the light. The light is the Spirit of God within you, but you provide a

carriage for that light. You become the vessel that it is carried in.

They ". . . went forth to meet the bridegroom (our blessed Lord and Savior)." Matt. 25:1. It is very important for us to be ready. Five of the virgins were wise and five were foolish. What does this say to you, and what does it say to me? There is no assurance that there will be an afternoon for us. We have no assurance that there will be an evening hour, or a tomorrow. It could be any time. He tells us, ". . . in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. . ." I Cor. 15:52. Some might be foolish and believe that there will be time to make changes.

Listen to this: "They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them." Matt. 25:3. The oil is the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God had flown. It was gone. We are told that the five were foolish.

"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." Matt. 25:5. I am trying to say, dear brethren, that we must be wise and alert. We must not be foolish and allow the enemy of our soul to lull us into a state of being spiritually asleep. Then at midnight, perhaps a time when they least expected it, when they thought that all was well and good, there was a cry: "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Matt. 25:6

They weren't told, were they, that there would be an hour and ten minutes left for preparation, or so many seconds, or so many days, but. . . "Goye out to meet him."

A member of our congregation died some years ago, and at that time I did not ask the dear sister how her husband came to his death. But some time later we were speaking of it, and she said, "You will hardly believe this, but when I got up to get breakfast, he had long been dead." She said, "He died sometime during the night. I didn't want to disturb him. I just arose and went about my duties. When I went in to call him, he was cold and rigid." She said, "He must have been gone several hours, even before I arose."

We have no assurance, do we? Very recently a friend of ours was sitting at a table in a restaurant. Two couples were sitting together. One man simply ceased talking and sat there dead. Just like that. I wasn't there, but it happened in the presence of a room full of people. With no forewarning whatever, he was gone.

"Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." It doesn't say that we should run the other way, does it? We so often say that, do we not? We would meet and greet our Lord if we could. If He came here, surely every one of us would make that effort. We can't, because we don't see Him face to face. So we meet you, and you meet us.

As a brother said at the conference, "Ten thousand strong, beloved brethren, and every one hopefully dedicated to one thought, and that is to serve our Lord and our God and to promote His cause here before men."

We also read, "Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise . . ." Notice that all were aware of the calling. All arose, but, ". . . the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." Matt. 25:7, 8.

Can you think of a more tragic sentence to be pronounced upon any of us than to hear that our lamp has gone out? We are the bearers, at one time filled with the Spirit, with the oil of God within us. We would not want to hear that our lamps had gone out. "But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell." Matt. 25:9.

Beloved, here is the dispenser of the oil of the Holy Spirit of God. Within the covers of this Book, we can find the answer to every question in our lives, can we not? Is there one of us who has been within the calling of the Lord for any length of time who can truthfully say that even one incident has come up in his life that he could not find the answer to in the Word of God?

But they said, ". . . go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." Matt. 25:9. It was too late. The time had passed. "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came . . ." Matt. 25:10.

You can read throughout the Scripture that when the Lord comes at the sound of the trumpet, and the trumpet shall sound, the faithful who have gone before you shall arise first. You who are living in the Lord shall then go with them to meet Him in the air. The apostle Paul told us to "Comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4:18. "While they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." Matt. 25:10.

A closer union cannot exist here on earth, beloved, than that of those who are married in the Lord and become one in mind and spirit, even one flesh before man and God. Their goal should be to bring pleasure and joy to the life of one another. When we consider the duties of the sister in the marriage vows, dear brothers, remember that it is your duty, and mine, to be such that she can love, serve, and rejoice with. If this is true in earthly marriage, then how much more dedicated we should be in serving our Lord.

Some years ago a brother made this passing remark: "You don't want the rewards of the world." This is true, isn't it? The world doesn't even want that — the world doesn't want the rewards of the world. Nobody really wants to go to hell.

The difficulty is, beloved, that flesh doesn't want to give up the flesh; flesh doesn't want to give up the world. Though you and I are born again and risen to a new life in Christ, we still arose in the same body, did we not? We are new persons in Christ Jesus, but the flesh and bones are still here. They are prone to want those things that are not wholesome for us.

The Lord "spelled out" to Israel that the eagle and the bat and so on were not for them, but He permitted what was best.

He says to you and to me that those things that pertain to the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eye are no longer for us. We should discipline ourselves so that we do not even crave them.

Let us go back again to the thought that we do not want the reward of our former lives for we found that repulsive, and we knew what were facing. We hear from converts how they walked the floors in fear that they might not live through the night, that they might be called upon to leave this earth and not be ready. How thankful that soul is to be accepted by the Lord in repentance.

So if we do not want the rewards of the world, beloved, why do we walk in its ways? As a tree falls, so shall that tree lie. We know that this is true in the natural world, and it is also true of the Spirit. When the Lord calls us, there isn't time, we read it here again, to make any change. Now is when the change needs to be made. It says of the wise virgins that they were ready to meet the bridegroom. "Afterward

came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us." Matt. 25:11.

Remember the story of the ark? It was the same situation, was it not? God in His wisdom put a window on the top. He Himself sealed the door so that feeble man couldn't look out and see those people in the flood struggling and crying to gain entrance into the ark. Out of human compassion, they would probably have opened the door. They would have let down the plank, but God in His wisdom closed the door.

Of the churches in the book of Revelation, the Lord said that they had a little strength. To the church of Philadelphia He said, "I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it." Rev. 3:8. This in an encouragement, is it not? Beloved, as far as numbers are concerned, we are small and we may be almost insignificant. This is not important.

Oh, how we wish that the masses of men would join and swell the ranks of the church of God. The whole world may someday be evangelized, but Scripture doesn't encourage us to believe that it will be converted. How we wish that it would! You and I, brethren, have been called and have accepted Christ, have accepted the precepts of holiness in Him; but far more important is the fact that we have found ourselves called and accepted of Him, acceptable before Him. Those are tragic, tragic words: "Verily I say unto you, I know you not." Matt. 25:12. Unto us He says, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matth. 25:13.

We may think sometimes, "Well, we don't have very much strength; we don't have enough power to stand fast." Maybe you read the story of the little boy who was trying to move a big rock, a large stone. He pushed and he pulled and he tried as his father watched him. Finally, the father said, "Have you used all the power that you have?" He said, "Yes, I have and I can't move that stone." The father said, "No, you really haven't, because you haven't used me." That made all the difference, didn't it? When the little boy used the father, it wasn't too hard to move the object. The same is true of us, beloved. We heard that this morning: "In Him, we cannot fail." There is one thing that God will not do and cannot do. He cannot fail His own. The rest of it, brethren, is up to you and to me.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
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SERMON BY BRO. EDWARD ALT OF CISSNA PARK, IL

Text: Deuteronomy 14 and Matthew 25:1-13

Intelligent people in different fields often tell us that the more they learn in their trades or professions, the more aware they are that there is more they need to know. The same is true of us, is it not, dear brethren, in the reading and meditation of the Word of God.

We read, and we think we understand. Then we read it again, and we often find that we see it in an entirely new light. If we are diligent, we believe that by the inspiration of God we can understand enough so that we can work out our soul's salvation.

We heard this morning about believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture tells us to believe with all our hearts. Beloved, let us understand what believing really means. It does not mean to only acknowledge that there is a God and that Jesus is His Son. In the original language, it means to follow in the Lord's footsteps and to lean totally upon Him. It means something that is almost impossible to express in our language.

We often hear that in our exhortation, in our preaching and in our ministry, we may be giving souls false hope of what is required to be children of God, acceptable before Him.

We have just read the parable of the ten virgins. You probably read from time to time (as your mailbox gets as much mail as ours does) material which tells you that God could never say to one whom He has once known, "I know you not." But we read that here, didn't we? We read of ten virgins. They were all virgins, all pure at one time, but five were foolish. It was to those five, beloved, that He said, "Depart from me; I know you not." Matt. 25:12

This is a serious matter, beloved brethren. We could read in the last part of this chapter in St. Matthew of the dividing of the sheep and goats, sym-

bolic of that which is pure and that which is impure before God.

We have a high calling in Christ Jesus, our Lord, and we need to be very diligent and search our hearts.

What is righteousness, beloved? It is not our own. We understand that don't we? Our righteousness is as filthy rags which cover nothing and give off a very bad order. But what is righteousness? What does the righteousness of God mean? It means, simply, a right standing with God in obedience to His Holy Word. How do we know if we are standing right before God unless we lay our lives over this Word as an overleaf, and compare them?

Paul told Israel of old, an unconverted people, that they were hard-hearted and stiff-necked. The Lord gave that message distinctly.

Do you remember the story of Lot and Abraham when they had both become prosperous? Their fields were not large enough for their sheep. Abraham, with godly wisdom, told his nephew to take his choice, either the plain with the fresh water or back up into mountains, and he would take the other. I suppose Lot took the same that you and I would take. He looked out across that good prairie grass, and he took the level land where the going was easy.

Abraham was wise. He went up into the mountains where it was more difficult to keep the sheep together. It required more effort on his part. The going was difficult and the pastures were less verdant. But Abraham has this advantage, dear congregation. He was separated from the thing that has become somewhat repulsive to our ears, and that is "the world." We hear the comment that perhaps we should refrain from using this word, "world."

The Scripture doesn't refrain from

speaking of the comparison between the church and the world. We are speaking sometimes of unregenerated mankind, and sometimes of the world system. The world system always has been and always will be in opposition to the family in the plan of the kingdom of God.

We need to recognize these things, do we not? That is why God spoke so plainly to Israel and told them what they should eat and what they should not eat, of the clean things and of the unclean things.

In the New Testament account of Peter's vision on the housetop at noonday, we understand that in the sheet that was let down from heaven were animals that were forbidden in Deuteronomy. The Lord said to Peter, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common (unclean)." Acts 10:15

Peter was being told that whosoever will may come. "Then Peter . . . said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. Peter, being a Jew, had to hear clearly from God that Cornelius, a Gentile Roman army captain, would be welcome in the family of God because he had the same desire in his heart which Peter had.

However, Peter didn't understand God's plan that there would be a New Testament church drawn from every nation, creed, and color. But Peter was to follow in the footsteps of God. That is true believing.

We see this same Spirit, do we not, in the eunuch who was on his way back to Ethiopia. The Scripture tells us that he had been to Jerusalem to worship. If you read in the Old Testament, you will find there that this man by the decree of the law would have been forbidden to come into the congregation forever because of being a eunuch. Yet, Philip

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