



"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." — St. John 16:33.

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." — Psalms 36:7.

IN MEMORY OF BRO. HENRY BEER

Retired Minister — Milford, Indiana

Bro. Henry Beer was called from this life's journey to his eternal rest and heavenly home on June 29, 1983 at the age of 82. Remembering the blessed years together are his wife, Sis. Alice; four sons, Bro. Victor, Marion, Lowell and Max; four daughters, Sis. Lois, Edith, Marilyn and Florence; 26 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. (A son Marcus went to heaven at age 9.)

Bro. Henry gave his heart and life to the Lord at age 19. The passing years were filled with opportunities to serve the Lord with labors of love, in serving on the World Relief Committee, translating Zion's Harp hymns from German to English, the poems written and published in "My Garden Of Verse", the hymnal, "Hymns of Zion" and a final work, "A Legacy in Song For My Family and Friends".

We have many precious memories of Bro. Henry as he faithfully shared God's Word in ministry and in deed. We thank the Lord for the blessing of these years of sharing Christ Jesus' love and for the legacy left by Bro. Henry of Christian thoughts, hymns and deeds.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
Silver Lining

In Memoriam

Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Jesse Beer conducted the funeral services from I Corinthians 15:57. "But thanks be to God, who giveth us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



FAREWELL THOUGHTS

Last poem written by Bro. Henry Beer
June 15 & 16, 1983

When ere I think of joys and tears
And blessings of the by-gone
years
The Spirit prompts me then to tell
The meaning of this last farewell.

My ship is nearing Jordan's port
Where I shall cross the river,
There I shall leave this land behind
And dwell in Canaan's land for-
ever.

CONSECRATED HANDS

By Henry Beer
From "My Garden of Verse"

Consecrated hands
Waiting God's commands
Service to perform.
Blessings follow still
All who do His will
Alike in sun and storm.

Humble through the task,
More He does not ask
That we do our best!
If in grace we live,
Service that we give
Truly will be blest.

Market, office, home,
Or in labors lone,
Prove the workman's brand.
Servants, nurses too,
May their work review
Blest by higher hand.

Christians work, you see,
Not alone for fee,
Nor for mere reward;
But with single eye
Talents they apply
As unto the Lord.

Consecrated toil,
In workship, home or soil,
Finds its due reward.
All success we share,
Sanctified by prayer,
Owe we to the Lord.

We are thankful for the many articles, poems and songs that Bro. Henry contributed to the Silver Lining during the past 40 years.

Silver Lining Staff

CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

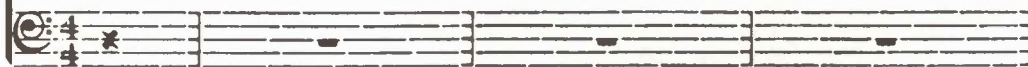
H. B.

By Henry Beer, From "A Legacy of Song"

H. G.



1. There are friendships that we cher - ish In our dail - y walk of
 2. But I prize the friendship high - est Of the one whose heart is
 3. There's a tie of no - ble kin - ship In a soul who loves the
 4. When at last these ties are riv - en. When we're called to go on



life Friends with whom we meet and la - bor In our earth - ly toil and
 true. Friends who live by truth and good - ness And who live in Him a -
 Lord, There's a friendship warm and last - ing If he heeds the Mas - ter's
 high, Oh, how sweet to meet in heav - en, Friends for - ev - er, you and



strife. Friends a - mong the aged and youth - ful, Friends that live from us a -
 new. Friends whose hearts are up in heav - en Though their feet traverse this
 Word, There is mu - tual un - der - stand - ing And a sym - path - y so
 I, When at last these ties are riv - en, When we're called to go on



part Friends of high - er rank and sta - tion Find a place with - in my heart.
 sod. Find a place of high - est mer - it In our fel - low - ship with God.
 kind In the tie of Christian friendship, As on earth we oft - times find.
 high, Oh, how sweet to meet in heav - en, Friends for - ev - er, you and I.



OUR NOBLE LORD

By Henry Beer
 From "My Garden of Verse"

Lord and Redeemer,
 Savior and King,
 Could I find power
 Thy praises to sing.

Master and Shepherd,
 Pilot and Guide,
 Friend everlasting,
 Proven and tried.

Help for the helpless,
 Home of the Soul,
 Center of praises,
 Refuge and goal.

Shield and Defender,
 Ancient of Days,
 Fortress and tower,
 Fountain of praise.

Blest Rose of Sharon,
 Way and the Truth,
 Mighty Physician,
 Lover of Youth.

Priest of high order,
 Pearl of great price.
 For all the Creation
 The great sacrifice.

The name of the man
 In verse I record
 Is none but my Jesus,
 My Savior and Lord.

FOOD PACKAGES FOR BRETHREN IN ROMANIA

Bro. Andrew Hunyady—Columbus

Reliable reports from Romania indicate the seriousness of their food situation. Shortages of daily essentials such as bread, flour, milk and milk products, meat, cooking oils, margarine, eggs, rice, sugar, etc. are very scarce, expensive and most are rationed. Workers and certain city folks are given priority to buy. Most of the elderly and young children suffer. Folks living in small villages and outlying communities are the hardest hit. It is reported that many of the young children suffer blood and bone diseases due to malnutrition.

Families of fellow believers in need have been examined and had their needs evaluated by their elders. Their names, with addresses, were submitted to us. Since last July (1982) we have undertaken a modest program to provide food packages to a limited number of families to supplement their needs. At first we had some doubts and concerns that the shipments may not go to the proper destinations. However, an increasing number of letters are coming almost daily to report that shipments are arriving 4 to 6 weeks from the date the orders are sent in. All report that the packages are arriving in good condition and all items listed on invoices are accounted for.

At first this program was made possible by the generosity of a few individuals and families and it has proved itself to be a reliable means to help our needy brethren. The World Relief Committee, through its support, makes it possible to send more packages each month. The Committee works only through two authorized channels: 1) Sends parcels through PALATINUS with Bro. Andrew Hunyady in charge of correspondence and sending the packages. 2) All donations

or funds can only be sent to two authorized elders in Romania. In the best interest of our Romanian brethren, we emphasize that orders be placed thru official agencies or channels. The parcels are delivered to the families tax and duty free.

An elder brother writes: "I cannot thank the Lord for your many kind deeds unto us! May you all be blessed by the Father, blessed by the Son and blessed by the Holy Ghost! . . . I turned 86, on Jan. 9. Came home from prison in 1960 in very poor health and very weak, never expected to reach this high age, yet the Lord has lead me safely through many tight situations . . . Just as I was about to close this letter, two more packages arrived. The Lord reward you with many heavenly riches and spiritual blessings!" John B.

"Dearly Beloved! The peace and love of our Lord be with you all! I am a weak brother, in faith since 1968 . . . In 1952 I lost my right eye and in 1974 I lost both of my feet (legs). I am in a wheelchair, each time they take me into the city, they take me for a beggar. We don't get much help here. I would like to get a motor for my wheelchair, could you give it a consideration? . . . for I am weak! May the Lord lead you all to heavenly places! I send my salutations to all the brothers and sisters in America." Dumitru L.

"Dear Brother: I wish to express our sincere thanks to our Heavenly Father thru the grace of our Lord and to our many beloved brethren for the good deeds unto us in the name of the Lord. My mother is 76, also in the faith. She is with us. My husband is not in faith, but is very understanding. The Lord bless you all!" Sis. Magdalena I.

even where people do not believe and follow the Bible.

Although usually no one desires to think seriously about hell, we had better be thinking about it. If we fail to do all we know to avoid going there, and should thereby be so unfortunate as to end up in hell, there is no retreat and no escape. Repentance in hell is to no avail. The Lord Jesus Christ taught us that in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Speaking of the rich man in hell he said, "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:24. His cry for mercy was too late. The time to cry for mercy is now, while we are living on earth and grace is available through the Blood of Christ. Unless we are under conviction of our lost condition apart from Christ, and the impending consequences in hell, it isn't likely we will plead for mercy and forgiveness! In short, we won't repent! Hence, it is very impor-

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

THE TRAGEDY OF HELL

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Usually, no one desires to think seriously about hell. Just the thought of what it must actually be like is too much for us. Add to that the teaching of the Bible that suffering in hell is eternal and we are altogether unable to grasp how terrible that is. Yet Revelation 20:15 reads, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." In verse 10 of

the same chapter, the lake of fire is described as a place where the devil, the beast, and the false prophet will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Christ spoke of it as, "The fire that never shall be quenched," Mark 9:43. In Matt. 25:46 He also said, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment." The concept of hell is found widely throughout the world,

tant to understand as much as possible about hell. To say there is no such place and then, upon departing this life, to discover we were wrong and the Bible right, would be a tragedy beyond what we are able to imagine.

When I was in high school one of the students joked about hell by saying he didn't mind going there because all his friends would be there too. When on K.P. duty in the hot galley of a troop

ship coming to Japan during the Korean War, one of my fellow soldiers joked about going to hell and I assured him I had no intention of going there. Repentance and faith in Christ which results in obedience to His teachings is the solution to the problem. Humbly following the teachings of Christ is highly beneficial already in this life.

You should repent. The tragedy of hell can be avoided.

service. Our sincere prayer is for God's provision and blessing for Bro. Bob's future work in the Milford area.

The changes here are constant, but God is ever the same with His abundant grace and provision for us. Bro. Uriel Gehring, along with his wife, Sis. Judy, and daughter, Rachel, have moved from Burlington, IA to serve as our new administrator. A warm welcome to them.

Recently the West House gained a new member in the arrival of Robin F. (8-28-69) Robin is 13. She is a hard worker and wants to please.

All the children were excitedly awaiting school dismissal the end of May. Many of the children have attained summer jobs and are enjoying earning some extra money.

Jay P., who recently turned 18, graduated from Leo High School, May 20. That's a real feeling of accomplishment. Please pray for Jay as he faces the responsibility of securing a full-time job and making decisions for his future.

The disappointments of our children are sometimes many. Hopefully they are learning to give them to the Lord instead of handling it themselves. The placement of the Willis children in Iowa was not a success and they have returned to the East House. They appreciate your prayers and letters which strongly indicate your love and concern for them.

Thanks to each one of you who helped to make the children's Spring Break more enjoyable by giving them a home to stay. For many of the children, this Home and the church people have become a real security to them.

This is a new chapter in the lives of the Gehrings, Uriel, Judy and Rachel. We arrived at the Home the latter part of April. Bro. Nick Knobloch (Princeville) moved us out. Bro. Don Steidinger (Fairbury) accompanied him. We stayed at the "Home" the first night (West House). The next morning, after a hearty "home breakfast" we unloaded our belongings at the "Grabill House" in Grabill, IN. A number of the Leo brothers and sisters helped us, and by 9:30 a.m., the semi was unloaded and we began unpacking at our new home in Indiana. We didn't realize that moving was such a big task.

We trust that the atmosphere here will radiate the love of Jesus; may we, the staff, let our lights shine brightly in the eyes of our children. May they

URGENT NEED FOR MARRIED COUPLE AND SINGLE SISTER AT CHILDREN'S HOME

There is an urgent need for a married couple to serve as alternate houseparents and a single sister to serve as an assistant houseparent at the Children's Home in Leo, Indiana. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for our brothers and sisters to put to use their God-given talents in working with young people and bringing out the best in them.

"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 and assistant houseparent are:

1. Must be a brother and/or sister sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order.
2. Must have the support of his/her 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 compensation, can be obtained by writing or calling:

Bro. Uriel Gehring
Box 423
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-5468 or (219) 627-5138

Bro. Oliver Stieglitz
Route 3 Box 321
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 657-5168

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
Route 2
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-2923

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." (Psalm 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
CHILDREN'S HOME**
Jane Stieglitz — Uriel Gehring

"... unto whom now I send thee. To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me." Acts 26:17b-18

Believing that these same instructions given to Paul by our Lord Jesus also have been given to those of us here at our Home in Leo, we strive on. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Many of you, you who have supported and closely followed the work at the Home, I'm sure join me in thanking Bro. Bob Cockburn and his family for his four years of concern, effort and

sense that we are being led by the Spirit, and that the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance is being manifested in our lives. If this fruit be in us and abound, God will cause His face to smile on us and bless us. We are looking forward to many pleasant, productive, spiritual and social working relationships in the months that lie ahead of us.

The weekend of June 18-19 both houses, and about 25-30 from the Leo congregation were guests of the Morton congregation. What a welcome they gave us, a delicious supper at the fellowship hall Saturday evening, fellowshiping, congregational singing and a few special numbers. We were all assigned overnite accommodations and attended church Sunday. Sunday evening we enjoyed a delicious chicken supper at the church. Thank you, Mortonairens, for a blessed weekend.

If anyone has items to place in the annual auction, August 27, please send a list to the home so we can include them on the sale bill.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

All of us have probably learned to know the meaning of loneliness. Though the causes may vary from physical isolation to that of being out of contact with God, the pain is in every case very real. Perhaps the aspect of aloneness felt by those incapable of communicating is felt even more keenly than by many others. Have you ever been in a situation in which your feelings were hurt by a careless remark and you were unable to confide your hurt to anyone because of inability to communicate? Or have you ever been with in earshot when a person with multiple physical handicaps has been erroneously labeled as being mentally handicapped as well? For these people whose soul is precious to our Creator, the avenue of even a simple prayer is most comforting. The tale is told of a simple man who loved the Lord, but all he could pray when in need was, "Jesus, it's Joe." and this he did every day. Then came the time when Joe became very ill and was admitted to the hospital. One day his countenance shone in contrast to the countenance of pain which had been evident. When questioned about it, Joe answered, "I saw Someone standing at the foot of

my bed, and He said, 'Joe, it's Jesus'. With this, he passed away.

We may at times be lonely, but if we love and obey the Lord, we are "Never Alone":

How many times, discouraged, we
sink beside the way;

About us all is darkness, we hardly
dare to pray.

Then, thro' the mists and shadows,
the sweetest voice e'er known

Says, "Child, am I not with thee,
never to leave thee alone?"

Take courage, wayworn pilgrim!
Tho' mists and shadows hide
The face of Him thou lovest, He's
ever at thy side.

Reach out thy hand and find Him,
and lo, the clouds have flown;

He smiles on thee who promised
never to leave thee alone."

As was begun in recent months, we are on a "walking tour" of the Home. Now we are ready to stop at the Laundry Department, where the day starts at 8:00 a.m. Hampers filled with soiled laundry are already in the laundry room. The third shift aides bring them after all the residents are sleeping.

We start by sorting things according to color and type of laundry. The linens are separated from the residents' personal laundry.

The big machines are then checked to be sure the water is turned on and the settings are correct for the type of load we will be putting into it.

After the big machines are loaded and started, we usually have some delicate laundry to put in our small washer. We then go to the dirty utility room at the South end to pick up any soiled laundry left there in the morning. This is then sorted.

When the washers are through the cycle, the laundry is put in the dryers, and the washers are reloaded. This routine is repeated until all soiled laundry is done.

When dry, the residents' clothing are put on clothes hangers and placed on a rack for delivery to their rooms. The linens are folded and taken to the linen closets.

When everything is cleaned and put away, we clean and check our laundry room, lock the doors and leave for the day.

Though winter and a cold, wet spring were reluctant to leave, beautiful, sunny weather is now with us, and our residents are absorbing the beauty of

the outdoors anew. It is as if there is a new freedom for those who have motorized wheel chairs and for those who ride their bikes or have their exercise classes out of doors. We are looking forward to our first of hopefully many outdoor meals in the picnic area in the woods. Our annual Fourth of July family potluck picnic is again planned. Many excursions of various kinds and types have and will take place. If anyone has any ideas to contribute in this area, please feel free to contact our activity director.

While enjoying nature (a deer was sighted just outside our back wooded area recently), our residents are being told: "All things bright and beautiful, All creatures, great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

Bro. James Leman was our guest minister on June 5. We always enjoy visiting ministers, but little Bryant enjoyed Grandma (Sis. Myra) and Granddad even more.

For the weekend of June 12, several from our congregation will journey to Francesville, IN for the wedding of Bro. Jim Meiss and Sis. Candy Wuethrich. "And this is love, that we walk after His commandments." II John 6. They will make their home in Phoenix.

On June 15, Bro. Joseph and Sis. Viola Traub will be honored with a farewell as they move to Sabetha, KS. "Keep yourselves in the love of God, . . ." Jude 21.

Steve Lemons came from his work in Washington, D.C., to visit his parents, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart.

Hospital patients were Bros. Earl Sanders and Robert Harris. Sis. Emma Sanders has been ill at home with a sore throat the past few weeks.

A May 21 reception honored high school graduate Jenny Zollinger and grade school graduates, Candy Schuster, Dan Steffen and Kristin French.

Memorial Weekend was Phoenix Sunday School and Youth Group's turn to host these groups from California and Tucson. The busy weekend included a church supper May 29 and singing later in the evening.

We had a record-breaking week of hot weather (108-113) May 22 - 30, while other parts of the nation were having cold or floods.

Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach flew to Morton, IL to be with Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly (Schupbach) Kaisner because of the untimely death of Fred's father. May you find comfort in the Lord.

June 12, Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) was guest minister while the family was vacationing in the west.

Sis. Ora Schrenck had eye surgery.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

We were blessed with many visitors from the Phoenix congregation recently. Several young couples and their children traveled to Tucson to spend the day with us. Ministering Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and his family were among the visitors. We thank Bro. Jon for his efforts of love and consider our day of fellowship with all our visitors a blessed gift from the Lord.

The Tucson and Phoenix congregations had yet another opportunity to fellowship with one another as our Sunday School, young members and young couples, spent the weekend in Phoenix over Memorial Day. As always, the Altadena congregation also joined us and we were able to renew the blessed bonds of love that unite our congregations. It was an enjoyable weekend for everyone involved. Our thanks go to the Phoenix congregation for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Three couples in our little congregation are celebrating special anniversaries. Our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman, and his wife, Sis. Lorraine, are celebrating their 50th year of marriage this year on July 23. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lou Ann Funk marked their 25th year of marriage on June 15, and July 13 will mark the silver wedding anniversary of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. We certainly rejoice with these couples and wish them happy years ahead and bountiful blessing from the Lord.

Our Bro. Tim Fuecht (son of Bro. Walt) closed one chapter in his life and began a new one as he graduated from high school this year. Bro. Tim will attend the University of Arizona in the fall and we are so glad he will be able to assemble with us as always. We wish him the Lord's grace as he begins college life.

Independence Day is a special day when we can take a day off and relax with our families and friends in a holiday spirit. But, for the Christian, every

day is Independence Day. We should remember to celebrate our independence from the world and its fleeting attractions, and especially our independence from Satan. We need to ask God to help us depend on Him for all our needs and not listen to Satan and his evil ways. In this way we can truly celebrate Independence Day.

For anyone wanting to write to Joe and Cindy (Knapp) McAndrews, their mailing address is:

32nd TFS
Box 2 A.P.O.
New York, NY 09292

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

What joy was felt on May 22 as Ted Klotzle gave his testimony and was then baptized in our Lord's name! It is proof that God is certainly merciful and continues to call sinners to repentance. If only more lost souls of all ages would accept the grace He offers. We pray for the Lord's nearness to Bro. Ted in each day.

Our hearts also rejoice as Jeff Luthi (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Crystal, Morris) has yielded to God's calling and has surrendered his heart to Him.

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give,
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His service daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasure all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now.
Melodies of Praise #324

Our prayers are with Jeff as he learns of the unending love and grace that God blesses us with. No one will ever be able to fully comprehend all God does for us, and it's amazing how He just continues to give us more and more of His wonderful gifts, and keeps blessing us. It gives one a very unworthy and yet so overwhelming thankful feeling.

The Bible class and a group of young members enjoyed the Memorial Day

weekend spent in the Phoenix area. Many thanks to all of you who make these special fellowship weekends possible. Again, one cannot express the appreciation felt for the privilege of traveling many miles and gathering with others of like mind and faith. God's goodness has no bounds!

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammaun

We thank Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) for bringing us God's message on June 19. Also with us was Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). Bro. Ron Erisman and family were with us May 22 and 29 and Sis. Penny and children are staying over another week with her mother, Helen Julien.

We are sorry to report Bro. Ed Ruelle is ailing and not able to meet with us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9. How thankful we can be that we have such a loving Father in Heaven to always bestow on us sufficient grace. And can we appreciate enough that "His strength is made perfect in weakness."? How often we feel weak, then feel strength coming to us as only God can give. These thoughts were brought to us through one of our visiting ministers this month. We thank God for sending Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign-Urbana, IL) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). We pray that God will bless them for their willingness to serve Him.

We are happy to have Mark Gerber (Lester, IA) assembling with us this summer. He is in the Air National Guard and is stationed at Lowry Training Center here in Denver.

The remodeling of our church building is coming along nicely. God moved the hearts of brothers from many places (Sabetha, Sardis, Rittman, Bluffton and Latty) to come and labor for Him in our behalf. We are humbled by the love God showers upon us through His children. We believe that He will surely bless them all.

We have had several young folks come to the Denver area looking for work. We would encourage anyone in need of work or desiring a change to prayerfully consider this area.

For those visiting us, our new build-

ing is located at 280 S. Revere in Aurora — that is at the corner of Revere and Alameda, ½ mile west of Interstate 225.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Billie Klopfenstein

Our annual election to fill vacancies in church offices and Sunday School was held recently. Bro. Brad Troxel was elected to serve as a trustee along with Bro. Rod Gress and Bro. Jeff Graf, who have been serving in this capacity. Due to quite an increase in the number of children in our congregation, it was necessary to create another Sunday School class. Bro. Brian Webb was elected superintendent and teacher of the teen-age class, Bro. Rich Sutter is teacher of the intermediates and Sis. Judy Sauder was re-elected primary teacher. Bro. Noah Clauss and Bro. Fred Meyer were re-elected as ushers. Both brothers have held this post for several years and do a superb job. Sis. Doris Huber is our newly elected kitchen chairman. We all want to thank Bro. Roger Sauder for his dedication to our Sunday School. He has taught and served as superintendent for the past several years, but in our rotating system he could not be re-elected.

A recent rainy Wednesday evening worship service was considerably brightened by the presence of Bro. Vern Wettstein and family (Congerville). We appreciated his ministry very much.

An article I was reading the other day stated that love must guide our thoughts and actions — in our homes, the church, business and our social life. In Ft. Lauderdale we need to add one more place — our automobiles. We have a lot of local traffic and a lot of tourists and we are all in a hurry to reach our destinations. Sometimes I don't have much patience or feel very charitable toward other drivers. We need to ask ourselves, "Do my actions and attitudes reveal God's loving nature in me?"

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Doris and Diane Rocke

Our farewell singing at the home for Sis. Marie Martin was well attended with a full room of loved ones wishing her well for the trip to Roanoke, IL Nursing Home. We pray for blessings from above as she leaves her many friends and homelife here.

Note of Thanks: I sincerely thank

you for the lovely walker, other gifts, cards, flowers, deeds of kindness, prayers and visits to me. I will always remember your kindness during my time with you all. May God bless each of you beautiful Christian brothers and sisters. In Christian love,

Sis. Marie Martin

A sympathetic prayer is offered for Phillip and Sis. Marie Bartoni in the loss of a loved one.

Bro. Dan Kurchev had returned to the hospital. While there he had a pacemaker put in. He has endured great trial thru this all and we pray for strength and comfort. There is Power to lift us up which is stronger than all the things that hold us down. May God bless him.

A PATIENT'S PRAYER

Thank God for faithful doctors
Who treat all mankind's ills;
At times must be by surgery,
Sometimes with drugs or pills.
Remember Lord the nurses
R.N.'s and L.P.N.'s
Kindhearted and devoted
To ease their patient's pains.

Nor forget kind deeds of Nurse Aids
And the Pink Ladies, too;
Their tenderness and patience
When we were sick or blue.
Cooks and the Dietician
Who work with might and main
To feed us proper diets
So we our strength regain.

Lest we forget the janitor
Also the maintenance man.
While we're awake or sleeping
So we in comfort can.
Yet in any organization
There's many a hidden face
Bless them with "Boundless Mercy"
And Thy "Unfailing Grace".

If just a cup of water
In a disciples name
Deeds in "Your Book in Heaven"
Exceeds our "Hall of Fame"
May all Thy constant servants
Who work from Shore to Shore
And render deeds of Kindness,
Be Blest Forevermore.

by John Heiniger

Our Memorial Day weekend was shared with the brethren of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Accompanying the group were Bros. Al Schneider and Ken Law-

son. We were grateful for their services rendered. The feeling of love was shared in the picnic Sunday evening at Pyaka Park and the breakfast on Monday at Beneva Park.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein and family (Congerville, IL) were with us this month. We are so thankful for these ministering brethren who give of themselves.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

We appreciate and thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) for coming to minister to our congregation. We receive encouragement and a stronger desire for commitment to our faith from these brethren.

As most of us are now enjoying the warmth of the summer months, we want to pay tribute to our fathers on their special day in June and give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the warmth of their love and for making all things possible.

Our services in Atlanta are held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at the Ramada Inn, Interstate 75, Marietta, GA, at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact either Don Sellers at 404-923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at 404-451-9191.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shirley Denick
Charlene Knobloch

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington). We truly thank them for their willingness in sharing God's Word.

Our annual business meeting has added Bro. Ken Rinkenberger and Bro. Jim Kaufmann to our list of Sunday School teachers. We pray for God's continued blessings for them, as well as for those who have been teaching our young people.

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Cindy Vogel, Sis. Gail Hari, Sis. Heather Haerr, Jodi Gudeman, Debbie Stoller, Daren Brummitt, Paul Stoller and Matt Kupferschmid. Graduating from college are Sis. Heidi Haerr and Julie Hofmann McMath. We congratulate these students and their parents.

Many willing hands were necessary to make Vacation Bible School complete this year. We thank the teachers

who gave of themselves during a busy week. The Bible class received interesting instruction from visiting ministers Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park). Our sincere thanks to all, especially to God for his continued blessings.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Carl and Sis. Ann Frautschi and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Lenora Sorg in the death of Bro. Earl Sorg (Milford, IN). We know that death in the Lord is just the beginning of life with the Lord.

Little Jeremy Knapp was in the hospital for a short while. He is now back home with parents, Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula, Matthew and Kendra.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

After suffering here on earth, it must be beautiful in heaven to feel no more pain or sadness. This is a comfort, I'm sure, to Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser as his mother, Sis. Lydia Stisser was laid to rest. She had very recently found peace with God and was baptized in their home. Knowing this helped to bear her last moments. It was a great source of comfort to her loved ones, as well as an example to us all of God's love and mercy to man. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Sis. Velma Hancher is hospitalized at this time for tests. Jerry Knobloch's wife, Mary, had the misfortune to fall and break her hip. Hopefully she will be home from the hospital soon after a week's stay.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction). Our thanks and God's blessings to them and their families.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

The Fourth of July is a time for Americans to celebrate. Yet perhaps, we can best understand all America means by appreciating what those of our own ethnic background have contributed to our country: indeed, why they came to this country. I believe this to be true similarly of us as Christians. There is a great deal to be gained in examining our doctrine as Apostolic Christians, in appreciating our traditions and customs, the Scripture and logic behind them. In such prayerful study we can build our convictions and effective witness.

June is a long-awaited time for our Sunday School people. That first Sunday in June is the Sunday School picnic, an event looked forward to as a gathering of young and old in wholesome activity and feasting. This year, June 5, was no exception. Perhaps our anticipation is symbolic in a sense, as we lean forward expectantly, thinking of another banquet with young and old joined together around our Lord's table someday — soon?

Every ending leads to a new beginning. Whatever the change, whatever the challenge, there are adjustments to be made. We congratulate these eighth grade graduates, who are ready for high school tasks: Leigh DesCarpentrie (Bro. Bud and Sis. Kay), Todd Eisenmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy) and Martin Hodel (Bro. Merle and Gayle). Graduating from high school are Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy), who is enrolled in the University of IL, Chicago Campus, in engineering, and Randy Meyer (Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte) who is considering Arizona State University. May they truly be ambassadors for Christ in their new surroundings. We welcome Bro. Clark Baurer (Princeville, IL) to Chicago. He has recently joined Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, an architectural firm. We hope that he will consider us "folks" and enjoy the fellowship and common bond of Christ that we share. Another new beginning is the commitment of marriage. We wish Gary and Mary Knochel, married June 11, not only our love but also countless heavenly blessings as they walk hand in hand together. There are sad events, too, with which to come to grips. For Dorothy Strahm, the death of her father is one of these. We extend our sympathy and pray that the Lord may comfort her with His peacegiving balm.

Sis. Maria Benko has again been hospitalized, this time even more extensively. For her, her daughter and her family, we pray that the strains of mental and physical anguish may be lessened by the lubricant of His love. So many have burdens that we surely do need to "pray without ceasing". I Thessalonians 5:17. Even if we pray only where we know of the crosses, if we can be constant in prayer, the Lord is quick to answer. The trial may not disappear, but the rewards of prayer include more grace, more quiet witnessing, more fruit and peace.

We were reminded of Gethsemane

when Christ pleaded with His disciples to watch with him. They did not. Yet again He encouraged them to watch and pray. Why? Lest they fall into temptation. Do we think of waiting "one hour" with Him too difficult?

"Toil on, nor deem, tho' sore it be,
One sign unheard, one prayer forgot;
The day of rest will dawn for thee;
Wait, meekly wait, and murmur not."

Hymns of Zion #52, verse 4

The other evening we were at a singing. Gradually I noticed the beautiful fragrance of . . . there . . . to my left . . . those velvety-looking roses. I had not been seeking them, but their scent was too sweet to go unnoticed. When I was made aware of their presence, I could plunge my face into their splendid perfume. I wish I could be like those roses. One did not have to hear when they said to be touched by their presence. They were a silent but powerful witness. Such can I be if the love of the Rose of Sharon is within me. I also realized that as a rose is beautiful in bud and all succeeding stages, a Christian's beauty can be seen at all times of one's spiritual life. In fact, as a rose loses its petals, even then the sweet scent remains. So the fragrance of a Christian's life lingers behind in other's lives, after he/she has gone to be with God. May we be aromatic Christians, as we go with God here on earth and hereafter.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Wilma Walder — Joan Waldbeser

Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) was here to minister to us on May 22. May God bless his labors as he endeavors to bring us the pure and holy Word.

On May 29 the engagement of Sis. Julie Baumgartner and Bro. Derek Rabe (Fairbury) was announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner and Don and Julia Rabe. We rejoice with them and pray God will bless their union.

June 6 through 17 we held Vacation Bible School for our children. Four evenings of the two weeks, classes were held for our Bible Class students and young members. Ministers those evenings were Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Urbana), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest). A program was given the last Friday evening of the two weeks so the children could tell us through verse and song some of

the things they had learned during the two weeks.

Sis. Kathryn Martin underwent surgery and will be residing in the Eureka Home upon dismissal from the hospital. We will miss having Sis. Kathryn in our midst but wish her God's nearness and blessings in her new home.

In the hospital for surgery were Bro. Lynn Knapp and Sis. Elizabeth Rudin.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Wm. Wyss in the sudden death of his son, Don.

To correct last month's issue, Bro. Curt Sauder is our new Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Fred Maul is the assistant superintendent.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Carol Craig — Kay Roth

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out . . . Acts 3:19

We are thankful to God for the three dear souls who have turned unto Him in repentance. They are Ruth Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley), Trent Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary) and Mike Zobrist (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Joyce). May the Lord be with them as they seek to do His will and to follow His Word.

Also, seeking to do God's will is Sis. Emily Schlipf (Clarence and Lorene) as she and Bro. Dennis Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna, Eureka) plan to be joined in Holy Matrimony. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

The engagement was also announced of Simone Maurer (Bro. Heintz and Sis. Trudie) to Mark Heiman (Danvers). May the Lord be with them as they start their life together.

Our congregation has been blessed with the Word and teachings of the Lord as brought forth by our visiting ministers. They were Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Marshall Heinold (Washington), Jim Byrd (Roanoke) and Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield). We are thankful to these brothers for lending themselves unto us.

Dave Zimmerman is now home recuperating after having two surgeries this month. Bro. Rick Knapp is also home after having an eye surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they regain the needed strength that comes from God above.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Devotion borrows Music's tone,
And Music took Devotion's wing;
And like the bird that hails the sun
They soar to heaven, and soaring sing.
The Hermit of St. Clement's Wall

How the heart is eased when devotion can be set to music and in our hearts we can sing sweet melodies of praise to our Lord. May we continually bring praise and honor and glory to the Lamb until some day we will sing the "new song" before the throne along with the redeemed of all ages. (Revelation 14:3).

We think of Sis. Sophia Gudeman who departed this life June 11 and who had prepared herself to sing that new song. We are deeply grateful for the influence her life has had on this church community. Sophia, 95, was the widow of the late Bro. Edward and is survived by one daughter, Ella Stoller (Charles, Woodbury, MN) who lovingly tended to her mother's care in her declining years.

On June 3, the brethren assembled together to partake of Holy Communion. We can scarcely comprehend that supreme sacrifice, the shedding of the blood and the breaking of the body, to save this wretched mankind. It is truly humbling to bring ourselves again to the remembrance of this. Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) assisted Bro. Nathan Steffen with this work.

The week of June 13-17 was spent in Vacation Bible School by the Sunday School children and young adults. Opportunity was again provided for the children to hear of the life giving Word. We pray that they not take these opportunities for granted and lightly pass them by, but rather that the word could take root within their souls and grow and bring forth fruit.

The home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman was blessed with the arrival of Tonya Kay, born June 1. May the Lord direct them so that they can teach their children (Brandon and Lucas complete their little family) continually the ways of the Lord. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller and Bro. William and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman are the grandparents.

Certain of the brethren have met with illness that has required hospitalization. Bro. Lyle Kellenberger and

Sis. Louise Schock have been able to return home and are recuperating. Sis. Rose (Waldbuser) Goll remains hospitalized at this time and is recuperating from surgery. Sis. Rose (Schmidgall) Goll has been transferred to Americana Health Care Center from the hospital and will abide there for a time.

The loving efforts of visiting ministering brethren to minister the Word has been so beneficial to us and we thank them. Those who have spent time with us were: Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

Jesus Christ is passing by,
Sinner lift to Him thine eye;
As the precious moments flee,
Cry, be merciful to me!

Gospel Hymns #620

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as three souls have heard God's call and have not passed Him by. They are Kurt Eastman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma), Dale Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Brian Wiegand (Bro. Dietz and Sis. Loretta). May many yet hear His call while the door of grace is open.

God has blessed three families with precious bundles from Heaven. Randy Jacob was born May 15 to Bro. Bob and Karen Link. Robin and Russell complete this little family. Grandparents are Robert and Myrl Smith (Washington) and Emil and Edith Chamberlain (Bartonville).

Jacki Marie has made Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein first-time parents. Jacki was born May 26. Harold and Loretta Wettstein, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene Huette (Tremont) are the grandparents.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri Martin are also first-time parents. Bradley Lewis Martin's birthday is May 31. Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin, and William and Sharon Grubb (El Paso) are grandparents.

We appreciated the visits of Bros. Ed Alt and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) on May 22. May God bless them for coming to serve us.

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-17 in the evenings. We are thankful for each one who attended, and hope that the Word which was taught will

stay in each heart and bring forth the desire to serve our God.

On May 22 the engagement of Bro. Dennis Wettstein and Sis. Emily Schlipf (Congerville) was announced. Parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein, and Clarence and Lorene Schlipf. May God bless them as they plan for their lives together.

Ina J. Mogler and Mark Sauder exchanged wedding vows June 11. Their parents are August and Sis. Inez Mogler and Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlis Sauder (Roanoke). May God bless their new life together.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

We feel sure that there are many reasons to rejoice in the home of Maurice and Alma Steidinger as we recently welcomed them as our brother and sister-in-the-Lord. On the weekend of May 28 and 29 their son, Keith, and his close friend, Ken Zapp, gave their testimonies and were baptized. May God's rich grace be with them all.

A daughter, Kyra Lynn, born June 2, joined the family of Robert and Cherie Kaisner. Grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Hoffman and Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner (Fairbury).

It is always well that we pause and remember those who have been ill. We are thankful to God for those who have been able to return to their homes. However, we do have some that have had rather lengthy hospital stays and as of this writing have not returned home but are recuperating. They include: Bro. Melvin Hartman, Sis. Dorothy Steffen and infant Luke Kilgus (son of Jeff and Lisa). Also, Sis. Marie Broquard was hospitalized recently.

We especially thank Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend) and Ken Dietz and Marvin Leman (Bradford) who visited us and ministered God's precious Word.

Our best wishes are extended to Bro. Derek Rabe (Donald and Julia Rabe) and Sis. Julie Baumgartner (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta, Cissna Park) whose engagement was announced May 30.

Sis. Louise Hartman wishes to express her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbors for their prayers, visits, cards and gifts during her stay at the hospital and her recuperation. May God bless each and every one.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

We were very richly blessed when Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) were with us recently. We wish to thank these brothers and their loved ones for making the effort to be among us and imparting unto us the many precious teachings.

Hospital patients were Bro. Ray Wenger, Dan Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Imogene), Phillip Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Pauline Wiegand. We want to remember each of these dear ones in our prayers and especially Phillip Leman, as he is enduring much pain after being burned over 28% of his upper body. May God's nearness be felt by each one.

We have several new little blessings among us. Marvin and Rita Wenger are happy first-time parents with the arrival of Benjamin Ray. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leona Leman and Sis. Nathalia Wenger. We wish God's blessings of love upon this new little life.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman are also first-time parents. Little Jodi Lynn is their new bundle from Heaven. Bro. John and Sis. Beverly Eisenmann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman are the thankful grandparents.

Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia Gerber were blessed as first-time parents with a precious baby boy, Andrew Todd. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber.

Carrie and Lyn Steidinger are happy for a new little sister, Raya Jo, as are the parents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

Bro. Doug and Connie Aberle and children, Jeff and Marie, are making their home in Winnepeg, Canada, while Bro. Doug furthers his computer studies in a special school for the blind. Though many miles separate us, we are with them in thought and prayer and wish them God's abiding love and nearness. We are certain they would welcome mail and would be happy to know if anyone would be visiting in the area. Following is their address and telephone number:

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Aberle
29-125 Alleghney Drive
Winnepeg, Manitoba,
Canada R3T-3A1

204-261-9321

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us. S. Smiles

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Pam Wiegand

Once again our church has been blessed with two new members. Bro. Curt and Sis. Melita Hodel (Martin) gave their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of June 5.

Three babies were born this past month. Erin Noelle is the daughter of Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly Davis. She was born on May 31 and has one brother at home, little Ryan. Her grandparents are E. L. and Marie Davis (Goodfield) and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield).

Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler also have a new little girl, Kara Lynn, born on June 11. Little Diana welcomes her home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcella Schieler (Goodfield) and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin (El Paso).

Steven and Sis. Beth Mallory had a baby girl, Jeanne Jo, born on June 16. She has two older sisters, Heather and Tiffany. Grandparents are Dave and Barb Mallory, and Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Hohulin (Goodfield).

Sis. Esther Hartman (Hunziker) is presently in the hospital. We have sure been thinking of her in our prayers.

Sarah Bauman, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty, cracked a bone in her arm this past month. We hope it is better soon.

Thanks again to Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) who was here June 5.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"Love is of a friendly nature, Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker And is free from bitterness.
Love has mercy and is patient; Hasty ways it does not own.
Humbleness of mind is present; With true peace it has its home."

Zion's Harp #37

Our hearts were warmed by the sound of our dear Sunday School children singing these beautiful words in their Vacation Bible School program June 10. This year's theme for the week of Bible School was "The Love of God". Five of the children spoke in the

program about each day's opening lesson:

"This week in Vacation Bible School, we learned about the wonderful love of God. God loves us so much, He sent His only Son to die for us. Jesus died that our sins can be forgiven. On Monday, we learned about forgiveness. If God is willing to forgive us, we must also forgive others."

"We can show God that we love Him and that we believe His word, when we are obedient children. On Tuesday, we learned about obedience. God tells us in the Bible that our first commandment is to obey our parents. The Bible also tells us to obey the laws of our land, and that we should be submissive to authority within the church."

"On Wednesday, we learned about faithfulness. We know that Daniel loved God because he was faithful when he was tried. Daniel continued to pray every day, just as he always did, even though he knew it would cause him to be put in the den of lions. We too must always be faithful and steadfast if we truly love the Lord."

"The love of God in our hearts makes us kind and good to our parents, our friends, and every one we meet. On Thursday, we studied kindness. Jesus, as our perfect example, had mercy on the sick and the poor and healed their diseases. He was never rude and hateful, but was always full of compassion and love."

"On Friday, we learned about returning good for evil. We should never want to get revenge when others are unkind. Jesus said we should love our enemies and do good to them which hate us. We should pray for them that despitefully use us. With the love of God in our hearts, we will have the grace to turn the other cheek and walk the second mile."

How precious it is to instruct tender young souls in the way of the Lord, that when they are old they will not depart therefrom, but will rather embrace it with their whole heart.

We were blessed by the visits of ministering Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) who spoke to our high school Bible Class students two evenings during the Vacation Bible School week.

Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel are the happy parents of a new daughter, Tricia Ann, who was born June 10. She has a brother, Douglas, and her grandparents are: Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean

Hodel (Gridley); and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman (Roanoke).

June 19 was a blessed day for Bro. Jeff Gramm, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola, and Sis. LuAnne Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Ruth (Taylor). They were united in marriage to become one in the Lord.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Schlipf's son, Edward, was married to Peggy Sargent on April 23 in Lancaster, CA.

Mindy Gramm, daughter of Annie and the late Bro. Willis (Butch), was married to Larry McDowell in Bloomington, IL on May 21.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We want to wish Bros. Roger Ackerman and Mike Kelson and Sis. Gloria Leman and Sis. Brenda Kaiser God's blessings as they have been called to teach our children and young people in Sunday School. May God grant them wisdom from above to sow His seed in these precious and tender young hearts.

We have had several dear families who have experienced the loss of loved ones this month: Sis. Oleda Menold's mother, Sis. Elizabeth Honegger (Forrest, IL); Sis. Elma Heiniger's brother, Ezra Heiniger (Morton, IL); Sis. Emma Schupbach's brother, John Pflederer (Tremont, IL). May God comfort and bless these dear families.

Marie E. (Koehl) Zimmerman has been relieved of her earthly affliction. She was at Apostolic Christian Restmor, Inc. She was from Salem, AZ. Our ministers held local services here. Further services were conducted in Salem, AZ. She has two brothers, Bros. Al and Eric Koehl and two sisters, Sis. Aldeine Witzig and Sis. Matilda Kaiser. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

While saying farewell to her sister, Sis. Matilda Kaiser's husband, Bro. Warren Kaiser, was called unexpectedly Home. Funeral services were held on May 28. We certainly wish his family our sincere sympathy. May they feel the prayers in their behalf. May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Carla Knobloch (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel) and Bro. Tom Schafer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice). They were married on May 22. May the Lord truly be the head of their home and bless them as

they now will walk life's pathway together.

Bro. Fred Hermann wishes to thank everyone for their cards and gifts sent to him while in the hospital and most of all for the prayers that were given in his behalf. May the Lord bless each one for their love and kindness.

Our Sunday School picnic was held on June 5 at the fellowship hall. There was plenty of delicious food and blessed fellowship.

Our Sunday School children and young people enjoyed Vacation Bible School during the week of June 6 through 10. Everyone enjoyed learning "More About Jesus" and His Holy Word.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Andy Pflederer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor) and Sis. Kathy Diggie (Bro. John and Sis. Sarah, Roanoke, IL). The Lord has directed them to walk life's pathway together. May He richly bless them.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Annette Tanner, Sis. Emma Bernhardt, Bro. Sam Roth and Bro. Noah Zobrist. May we continue to pray for these loved ones and all those who are ill or shut-in at home.

We wish to thank Bros. William Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and John Isch (Indianapolis, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May He richly bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

Sis. Chris Schmidgall wants to thank each person who helped make Vacation Bible School a success this year. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim Huber (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Marie Huber, Fairbury) and Sis. Jean Hemmer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer) as they feel it is the Lord's will for them to be united in holy matrimony. Their engagement was announced to our congregation on May 29. We wish them the Lord's blessings. Their wedding date is set for July 24.

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers with us. Sharing with us this past month were Bros. Walter Rehklau (Toledo) and Hartzel Kaisner (Washington).

Hospitalized this month were: Bro. Walter Bittner, Bro. Walter Knepp,

Carl Pfaffmann, Sis. Viola Triplett, Sis. Sophie Hoerr, Sis. Amelia Dalling-er, Sis. Clara Slotter, Sis. Mary Ann Plattner, Sis. Dorothy Schneider and Sis. Ruth Yoder. We thank the Lord for His power and grace to heal.

Our precious little Heide Rheinbeck, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara, was sweetly called to her heavenly home. May God richly bless and comfort her parents, brothers, sisters and friends. It is hard to say farewell to our dear loved ones.

Our most sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Phil Hassler of our Apostolic Christian Home who passed away recently.

The birth of a new son, Brent Joseph, brightened the home and lives of Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn Hoerr. The happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer (Phoenix).

Bro. Danny and Sis. Karen Waibel are the happy parents of little William. His grandparents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz.

Jeff and Peggy Cooke were blessed with a baby daughter, Erin Ann on May 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Mazie Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cooke of Michigan.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Joos, Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee Unsicker and Sis. Viola Triplett wish to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, gifts, telephone calls, visits and most of all, the love and prayers that were sent their way during their stay in the hospital. May the Lord bless each one for all the love and kindness shown. It is really a blessing to have so many good Christian friends.

We welcome three new lambs into the fold, Sis. Kathleen Brewer, Sis. Amy Wieland and Sis. Lori Hermann. Each and everyone of us received a special blessing as we heard their testimonies. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk this new path of life.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Arlene and Arlys Martin

The Lord often does with us the same thing He did after Christ's death: He waits before making His power known. Visiting ministers who encouraged us to wait on the Lord have been Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke).

Our high school graduates and their

parents were honored at a breakfast on May 22 at our fellowship hall. The graduates and their parents are: Alan Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances), Jerry Leuthold (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley), Joyce Martin (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna), Kathy Martin (Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna), Brian Rumbold (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie), Rick Rumbold (Raymond and JoAnn), Kevin Scholl (Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene), Jim Streitmatter (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou), Wayne Streitmatter (Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla), LuAnn Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay), Gail and Kevin Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine).

Congratulations to Mark Hermann and Tammy Meeks who announced their engagement on April 3. Mark is the son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Hermann, and Tammy's parents are Erik and Margie Jenson (Eureka).

On the evening of June 4 we enjoyed a singing at our fellowship hall. Besides group singing, the Peoria, Morton and Washington choirs sang for us.

Our Sunday School picnic was held on June 5 at Jubilee State Park.

Sis. Esther Grimm had surgery on June 1. She is recuperating at home. Sis. Teresa Martin, wife of Bro. Dale, had surgery on June 10. She is also recuperating at home.

Regina Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce Streitmatter, was in a car accident June 4. She broke her leg in several places, and her leg will be in a cast for four months. We wish her God's blessings during her recovery.

Sis. Lydia Stisser passed away on May 27. Sis. Lydia was born on May 5, 1900, in Peoria and married Charles Stisser in 1917. He passed away in 1946. Our sympathy is given to her family, one son, Bro. Loris Stisser (Bradford); one sister, Elizabeth Stoller of our congregation; and one brother, Nathan Streitmatter (Indianapolis, IN).

Sis. Elizabeth Stoller would like to thank everyone for the prayers, sympathy cards and many expressions of kindness during her recent illness and the passing of her dear sister, Sis. Lydia Stisser. Your love and concern are deeply appreciated.

Our sympathy is also given to the family of Bro. Phillip Musselman. Bro. Phillip passed away June 14. He was born on August 1, 1907, and married Mary Van Tassel in 1939. Surviving

are his wife, Sis. Mary; his children, Larry (Chillicothe), Rick (Elk Grove, OK) and Judy (Mrs. Don of Chillicothe); five grandchildren; three brothers, Herman (East Peoria), Henry (Lafayette) and John (Provo, UT); and two sisters, Sis. Lena Joos (Peoria) and Sis. Marie Musselman (Princeville).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

Joy has come to many homes this spring as our congregation is being blessed with babes. Rebecca Lynn is the first child of Bro. Mark and Sis. Pam Hodel. She will also bless the lives of her grandparents, Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann Hodel and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser (Oakville, IA). Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie welcomed home their first girl, Megan Rose. She has an older brother, Grant, as her playmate. Sis. Lois DesCarpentrie and Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner are the grandparents. A son, Michael Edward, was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Stoller. This little guy's grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Barbara Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel. Bro. Brad and Sis. Patti Hodel are thankful for their new little daughter, Angeline Sue. Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel received a double blessing in grandchildren within a few days! Maternal grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell Aeschleman. The last little one is certainly not the least; she just arrived a little later! Lydia Ann was the first girl born to Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev Bertschi. They have two boys, Samuel and Steven. The happy grandparents and grandmas are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi and Bro. Sam and Sis. Anna Leman. Congratulations and God's blessings to all of you.

Jim Fischer and Deborah Ingram were married May 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah where they will reside. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Fran Fischer (Roanoke) and Steve and Winnie Ingram (Salt Lake City).

Mark Sauder and Ina Mogler (Eureka) exchanged their vows and are now looking forward to a happy life together. Parents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Marliss Sauder and Bro. August and Sis. Inez Mogler (Eureka). May the Lord come to live in these newly established homes; only then can joy be complete.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the loved ones who have been hospitalized. Bro. Jerry Getz, Sis.

Mary and Sis. Annie Leman, and Sis. Ellen Siebenthal are home now. Prayers have been answered.

We are grateful to the ministers and their willing families who have traveled to fellowship with us and spread the gospel. They were Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton) and Bro. Lennie Meyer (Chicago).

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to my sisters and brothers in our dear Lord for your prayers, generous gifts of love, flowers, telephone calls while in the hospital, and for food, cards and visits since I've been home. Your love and thoughtfulness will long be remembered. God bless you all and lead and guide you heavenward.

In Christian love,
Ellen Siebenthal

Roanoke was privileged to host the annual summer Bible School for high school-aged youth from Eureka, Washington and Roanoke. Our thanks go out to the brothers that spoke to these young people who will become our future church. They were Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), Bob Pfladder (Morton), Everett Harri (Bloomington-Normal), Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger**

We appreciated the visits of ministering brothers Hartzel Kaisner (Washington), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse), Don Wagenbach (Washington), David Bertsch (Leo), Dale Frank (Oakville). Earl Gerber and Wayne Anliker (Forrest). We received many good and timely teachings.

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Emma Aberle, Wilma Aberle, Mary Baurer, Anna and Kathryn Beutel and Bros. Wm. and Fred Beutel in the passing of their brother, Dan Beutel.

Several of our congregation had mishaps this past month. Sis. Wilmina Woerner fell and broke her wrist. Nate Zuercher (Bro. Curt and Sis. June) fell and broke a bone in his hand. John Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam) was injured in a three-wheeler accident. Todd Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky) had a lawn mower accident which cut one finger, requiring stitches. We are glad that those that were injured are all doing fine and thankful that these accidents weren't more serious.

Our sympathy goes out to the Curtis

Zuercher family in the death of Bro. Curt's father, Joe Zuercher. He was originally from the Washington area, but assembled with us since moving here three and a half years ago.

Roger and Becky Schweigert are the happy parents of Tyler James, born June 9. He has big brothers, Christopher, Marc and Curtis to help take care of him. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Ida Schweigert and Wayne and Eleanor Howard (Minier).

The engagement of Sis. Susan Bolliger and Bro. David Huette was made known to our congregation. Parents of the couple are Sis. Alma Bolliger and Bro. Bill and Marilyn Huette. They are planning an August 7 wedding.

Announcement was made of the forthcoming marriage of Sis. Mary Zuercher and Bro. Dale Wagenbach. Parents of the couple are Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach. We wish both couples the nearness and blessings of God in their undertaking.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Joos

GIVING

God gives us joy that we may give;
He gives us joy that we may share;
Sometimes He gives us loads to lift

That we may learn to bear.

For life is gladder when we give,
And love is sweeter when we share,
And heavy loads rest lightly too
When we have learned to bear.

Author Unknown

Giving — that describes our visiting ministers, Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). We are always thankful for them giving of themselves.

We also thank the Men's group from Gridley for giving us the beauty of song. It is a joy to hear such beautiful praises sung to God. It's a taste of heaven on earth.

The Vacation Bible School began June 13. The children enjoy learning more about Jesus and His love.

Julie Vogel, daughter of Jerry and Lois Vogel, is spending the summer in Kandersteg, Switzerland. She is staying with cousins while working in a restaurant and studying the language.

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to Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Lily Schick

Vacation Bible School was held the second week of June in the evening. It was an opportunity for the children to have more concentrated lessons on Bible teaching as well as spending time together. Children are being confronted with so much evil in today's society. They need a strong basis for what is right and wrong, and why.

We are glad that little Alan Wine-miller is home from the hospital and recovering from his accident. His parents are Larry and Sue.

Evie Heinold and Jim Mitchell took their wedding vows May 28. We pray God's mercy and love will become a part of their lives. Their parents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Washington) and Wayne and Bonnie Mitchell (El Paso).

What a blessing when our Heavenly Father brings His humble servants to visit us, emptied of self and filled with His Spirit to teach us. Our own dear Elder Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria) was with us, as was ministering Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury).

Often times our experiences and observations in life have spiritual analogies. We were hiking in the mountains recently and many such thoughts came to mind. The trails were steep and rocky much of the time. When we got to the higher altitudes, snow intermittently occluded our path; but we persevered, going over it or struggling through it. Occasionally, one had to stop and catch her breath; just inhaling that crisp mountain air and taking in the beauty and wonder of God's creation was refreshing, physically and spiritually.

There were moments one could have gotten discouraged and thought, "What's the use to go on?" That's where each other's fellowship was of such value. We could encourage one another along the way, not knowing for sure what our destination would look like; but feeling confident it would be worth it all. It would have been so much harder to walk it alone.

How often we have a spiritual mountain before us and the devil tries to discourage us by putting obstacles of all sorts in our way. When it seems we cannot go another step lest we faint, stop! Breathe a prayer, which is our source of strength. Then look around and count each and every blessing. Certainly then we can sense God's

grace and love for us, which gives us strength to go on! At such a moment, too, God often speaks through another of His children to encourage us on. For as we share experiences, we find we are not alone. Not only is our Heavenly Father with us, but others have had similar tests of faith. They have overcome, and so can we!

No, we don't know what heaven will be like; but Jesus has promised us it will be more beautiful than we could ever imagine. Then all our struggles will be rewarded; then it will be worth it all!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jan Ringger — Linda Kipfer

Our twenty-second annual Vacation Bible School was held the week of May 31 and June 6. Three-hundred forty children attended and were taught of the love of Jesus. "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 extend our best wishes to Sis. June Gerber (Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo) and Bro. Dave Fiechter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine) as they announce their plans to marry on Sept. 4. May the Lord guide them as they prepare for their wedding day.

Our hearts were filled with joy as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of ten dear souls: Bro. Gordon Alles, Bro. Randy Ringger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine), Bro. Sam Kaehr (Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Lisa Bailey, Sis. Connie Baumgartner (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jean), Sis. Madelyn Gerber (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Margaret), Bro. Nick Ringger (Bro. Gary and Rosetta), Bro. Tom Bertsch (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian), Sis. Debbie Lambert and Sis. Jeanette Eisaman. As they begin their journey with the Lord, it is comforting to know that He is always with them as He has promised in Hebrews 13:5.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction) for visiting us and sharing from the Word of God.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Martha Moser, Bro. Albert Kipfer, Bro. Howard Habegger, Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall) and Simeon Kipfer (Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie). We pray the Lord will strengthen and abide with each one in their time of need.

Four new babies have entered the

world and are a special joy to each of their families. Janelle Lynn is welcomed by Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz. Her grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Beulah Schwartz, Bro. Harry and Sis. Ada Gerber, and great-grandmother is Sis. Sarah Schwartz. Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber are the parents of Trent Alan. Grandparents include Bro. Floyd and Sis. Gladys Gerber and Bro. Alphia and Sis. Lucille Reinhard. Kimberly Jo was born to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr. Her grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Naomi Kaehr and Bro. Floyd and Sis. Gladys Gerber. Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey are the parents of Benjamin Douglas. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis Dotterer and great-grandmother is Sis. Sophia Gerber.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Kathy Longenberger

Peg Fiechter

Numbers 6:24-25; "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." We heartily wish this for our 1983 graduates who are: Minna Sakki, an exchange student from Finland who has been staying with Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen; Tony Shively (Charles and Sis. Sally); Rhonda Gerber (Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois); Sis. Gala Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise); and Kenny Frauhiger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose).

Travis Aeschliman has welcomed home his new brother, Chad Michael, who was born May 23. Happy parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Deb. Grandparents are Bros. Walter and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman and Bro. Jim and Sis. Dorothy Geisel.

On June 5, Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) ministered to us. We are thankful for his visit.

Our only hospital patient was Sis. Sylvia Frauhiger (Bro. Ivan). We were glad to see her back in church.

On June 12, Bro. Steve Gerber and Sis. Gayla Baumgartner were united in holy matrimony. What a joy it was to witness these marriage vows. Parents of the couple are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner. May the Lord bless them as they begin their new walk in life together.

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INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Arlene Metzger

"And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." I Cor. 11:24-25. May the Lord bless Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto) for his labors of love as he assisted Bro. Wendell in our sacred communion services and also in sharing the Word.

We want to congratulate our 14 graduates and pray the Lord's richest blessings upon their lives. They received Bibles, "their roadmap for life" during the Graduation Program. They were: Gina and Tina Denton (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon), Curtis Leman (Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern), Gene and Gina Huber (Gene and Sis. Barb), Brent Huber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty), Martin Neihouser (Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally), Jeffrey Tanner (Ralph and Carol), Melissa Cook (Herb and Sis. Suzanne), Kathy Fulmer (Dick and Pat), Bro. Dean Topp (Dale and Louise), Joel Montgomery (Harry and Estelle) and Michelle Scheffer (Larry and Sheryl).

Troy Gutwein was taken from this life 6 days prior to graduation. He was the son of Bro. Eldon and Sis. Mary Lee.

We've had the privilege to witness three weddings this past month. Bonnie Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) became the bride of Mark Vollmer (Mr. and Mrs. Robert). We wish them God's nearness as they make their home in Indianapolis. Kevin Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth) took Connie Tiede (Mr. and Mrs. Donald) as his new bride. Our congregation witnessed the precious vows of Sis. Candy Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola) to Bro. Jim Meiss of Phoenix (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann of Morris). We will miss them, but know a happy home will be established in Phoenix. We thank the many visiting ministers who came and shared the day with us: Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), Floyd Schmidgall and Harold Gramm (Morris), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton).

We are very thankful for God's mercy and protection over Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber. Carol had the misfor-

tune of a broken wrist, and Wayne spent several days in the hospital recovering from a farming accident. God is so good!

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Two young couples have done this and are now looking forward to the day when they too can make their vows one to another. Sis. Marla Wuethrich's engagement (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb) to Bro. Tim Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy of Milford) was announced and also Bro. Randy Gudeman (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella) to Sis. Becky Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene of Wolcott).

Our congregation is experiencing another joy of having several young people surrender their hearts and lives to the Lord. We thank Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso) for spending a Wednesday evening ministering unto us. May the Lord bless our many visiting ministers.

NOTE: Silver Lining dues for our congregation are due in July.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

On May 23 Bro. Jeff Fritz and Sis. Carla Bradtmuller were united in holy matrimony at Leo. We wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their new home in Indianapolis. Believing it is the Lord's will for their lives, Bro. Tim Steffen and Sis. Marla Wuethrich were announced to be married. Marla, the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb (Francesville), is currently working and living here. Tim is the son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy (Milford). May God bless them during their wedding preparations.

At the start of these summer months we have been richly blessed by the counsel of Bros. Roy Wieland (Bay City), Gary Anliker (Elgin), Jack Bollier (Leo) and Walt Steffen (Milford). They offered much encouragement and challenged us to seek and study God's Holy Word, not only for our spiritual salvation but also for our families.

A modern day version of the old parable; A certain man had two sons and the younger of them said to his father: "Father, give me the portion of thy time and thy attention and thy companionship and thy counsel and guidance which falleth to me." And so he divided unto him his living, in that he paid his boy's bills and sent him to

preparatory school and involved him in sports and more college and tried to believe that he was doing his full duty to his son.

And not many days after, the father gathered all his interests and ambitions and took his journey into a far country, into a land of stocks, bonds, securities and other things which do not interest a boy, and there he wasted his precious opportunity of being a friend to his son. And when he had spent the very best of his life and gained money but failed to find satisfaction, there arose a famine in his heart and he began to be in want of real companionship. And he went and joined himself to clubs of that country and they elected him president and sent him to legislature. And he fain would have satisfied himself with the husks that other men did eat, and no man gave him any real friendship. But when he came to himself, he said "How many men of my acquaintance have boys whom they understand, who talk about their boys and associate with their boys and seem perfectly happy in the comradeship of their sons, while I perish here with heart sick hunger? I will arise and go to my son and say to him "Son, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and am not worthy to be called thy Father. Make me as one of thy acquaintances." And he arose and came to his son.

But while he was yet afar off, his son saw him and was astonished, and instead of running and falling on his neck, he drew back, ill at ease. And the father said to him "Son, I have sinned against thee and am not worthy to be called your father. Forgive me now, and let me be your friend." But the son said "Not so, for it is too late. There was a time when I wanted your companionship, your advice and counsel, but you were too busy. I got the advice and companionship I needed, but I got the wrong kind and now, alas, I am wretched in soul and body. It is too late — too late — too late!"

Streams in the Desert

Father's Day, a one day celebration, for someone with such a "weighty, responsible" position in life. I often wondered what is the appropriate gift to give my father on Father's Day. And when I ask him he replies the usual, "Just be a good girl." The following verse and above story can help that gift "Be a good girl," become more real to a father and his children.

"It has been stated that the greatest gift a father can give his children is to love their mother."

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Lu Ann Feller — Connie Knobloch

Once again, we find many reasons for rejoicing. Two dear friends have decided to surrender their lives to Christ. They are Ralph and Jeanette Yergler. How the church rejoices with this good news!

We were privileged to hear the Word spoken by several visiting ministers. Special thanks to Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) for their messages. A special blessing was in store for those who attended Vacation Bible School. We heard talks by Bros. Uriel Gehring (Leo), Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). We can hardly adequately express our gratitude for their efforts in preparation and willingness to serve us. May God be their rewarder.

On June 18, Ken Nuest and Jayne Geyer were joined together in marriage. Ken is the son of Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest. We wish God's blessings on this couple as they begin their life together.

Andy Bucher, son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie, spent a short stay in the hospital and is doing fine at this time. Also, Emma Fritz has been hospitalized for a little while. May God comfort her during this time and grant His healing mercies.

We are so happy to welcome Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz, along with Craig and Stacey, to our congregation. Although originally from Lacrosse, they moved to Urbana, IL. Now another job transfer has brought them back, and we are so thankful! Our dear Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger have made a similar decision to move. They have decided to make their Sarasota winter home their permanent location. We will miss their fellowship and wish them God's blessings and grace.

Our friend Tina Baltzer of Denmark has been staying with Elaine Nuest (Bro. Rich and Sis. Garnet) this year. She is returning home the end of June. We've sure enjoyed having her with us and will miss her.

We heard an interesting antidote about a little red wagon and three persons. One is pulling, one is riding,

and one is riding and dragging his feet. Perhaps each Christian and church member can see himself as one of the three. Which are you? May we strive to be "pullers" and not "free riders" or even "foot draggers"! Let's be thankful for our precious heritage and support its preservation.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

Each of our homes has not only one, but more likely, several Bibles. Some people have none. Our church doors are open and people are welcome. Some churches across the world are closed, and worshippers must meet in secret and in fear of their government instead of under the protection and encouragement of the government as we do. His Word is faithfully proclaimed and taught by our ministers and S.S. teachers week after week. Untold numbers have never heard the Truth with the news of the precious gift of salvation. 95% of preaching is done on the North American continent! Yet, His words in Mark 16:15 are: Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. That order has never been changed.

We must admit, to our shame, that often we take our many blessings for granted. In addition to such blessings, we accept and have even come to expect, God has graciously showered us with more. Among these were the praises sung by the Goodfield, IL choir, the ministry of visiting Elder Bros. Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL) and Edwin Hohulin (Goodfield), and a rewarding arm-chair visit to the Holy Land via pictures and explanation by Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis). Another opportunity for spiritual growth is our V.B.S. which is in progress at this time. All of this puts responsibility on our shoulders. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Luke 12:48.

A small, but very important place to live our thanks and appreciation is in our home. "The moral fabric of a nation is woven with the threads of God-fearing homes." (Our Daily Bread).

"A nation built on praying homes
 Will stand when others fall;
 But when its people leave God out,
 It has no hope at all."

— Branon

As the freedom of our nation is observed on Independence Day, let us

be reminded of our individual duty in prayer.

Eric Indermuhle, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Karen, who are houseparents at our Children's Home, suffered a broken leg and ankle necessitating surgery and a hospital stay. The good news is that he is mending well.

A dear baby boy, Anthony Dwain, was born June 4 to Bro. Philip and Sis. Stephanie Bollier. The grandparents are Janet Sylvester and the late Dwain Sylvester and Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

It was a real blessing to sit under the Word and enjoy its message that was brought forth each night of our Vacation Bible School. Sharing their time and talent with us were Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington), Uriel Gehring (Leo), Aaron Steffen (Alto) and Pete Baltic (Mansfield). We were also blessed this month with the visit of Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Ray Sinn (Latty). We wish to thank all of these brothers as they continue so willingly to feed the flock through the ministry.

Part of our family that has spent some time in the hospital are Bros. Henry Beer and Theo Brooks and sisters Martha Haab, Madine Lehman and Kate Price. Surely God has given these brothers and sisters an extra measure of strength and encouragement as they have recently faced difficult times.

Joyfully we share in the happiness of the engagement of Bro. Tim Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Marla Wuethrich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb of Francesville). We wish them God's richest blessings as they will soon begin their lives together.

Entrusted into Glen and Sue Losie's care was a precious baby boy, Joseph J., born June 10. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mim Speicher and Mr. and Mrs. George J. Losie (Goshen).

Loving sympathy is extended to Gene and Sally Hoerr and boys (Peoria) in the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Earl Sorg. Funeral services for Bro. Earl were held June 12. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Sis. Lorene and a brother, Bro. Richard. Surviving along with his daughter, Sally, are three brothers, Sidney, Nelson and Bro. Melvin and a sister, Sis. Ann (Carl) Frautschi. Though difficult,

we must look beyond our tears for in Ps. 116:15 it is written, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints," and we know it is better "to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:8).

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

IS PRAYER WORTHWHILE?

Over the heads of the crowd the confident cry rang out, "There is no answer to prayer; it's all imagination. Don't be carried away. Use your common sense. There is no hereafter. When we are dead we are done for."

The speaker was standing at the foot of a monument erected in an open space of a busy city. He had an excellent gift of speech and a winning manner. A large crowd of men and women stood around listening. In a persuasive voice he tried to prove the nonexistence of God and the inefficacy of prayer, concluding with a professed readiness to debate the question with any person in the audience.

As this juncture a man was seen making his way from the edge of the crowd towards the speaker, saying at the same time, "I accept the challenge."

The people eagerly made way for this champion of prayer, and in a few moments he was standing on the step of the monument, facing the crowd. He was tall and well dressed, but he was no orator. He had no set phrases to tickle the ear; he had not the winning, catchy demeanor of his opponent. For a moment or two he stood looking over the sea of faces before him, faces waiting with eager expectancy for him to open the debate. A flush of color came over his features, and the sweat stood in beads on his brow.

"Friends, I am not a public speaker," he said. "I did not come to this meeting with the intention of disputing anything our friend might say; but when he denied that there is any efficacy in prayer, and challenged anyone to prove the contrary, I felt bound to come forward." The crowd cheered the frank yet modest statement.

He went on again: "You see standing before you a man who was once as big a scoundrel as it was possible to find in the city. I was a drunkard, a gambler, a wife beater; yes, everything the word 'brute' implies. My wife and children

dreaded the sound of my footsteps; and yet, bad as I was, for years my wife had been praying for me, unknown to me, and she taught my children to pray.

He paused for a moment, as if overcome with sadness at the memory, and then continued: "One night I went home unexpectedly, rather earlier than usual, and, by accident, sober. When I opened the door, my wife had just gone upstairs to put the little ones to bed. I stood listening at the foot of the stairs. My child was praying; he was praying for me. 'Dear Lord, save my daddy! Save my dear daddy!' And as he prayed in his simple, childlike way, I heard my wife saying, with a sob in her throat, 'Lord Jesus, answer his prayer.'

"They did not know I was listening. I crept softly out of the house into the street. Strange feelings were coming over me, and ringing in my ears was my child's prayer: 'Lord Jesus, save my dear daddy!' Was I indeed dear to that child? In what way? He had never known a father's love. I questioned whether he had ever known a father's kiss. And as I thought of it, a great lump came into my throat, tears filled my eyes, and I cried aloud, 'Lord help me. Lord, answer my child's prayer.' And he did.

"Years have passed since then. Today I am a Christian. My past is repented of. I live in the present; a new creature in Christ Jesus."

Again he paused, and then said earnestly: "Friends, don't you think I would have been a coward if I had kept silent today? Can I do other than believe there is a God and that He not only hears but answers prayer?"

The skeptic made no reply. The man's story had moved the crowd to tears, and when he finished speaking the people went silently and reverently away.

The Way

Oftentimes, we as Christians, find ourselves in a real battle when we get on our knees. I believe the devil knows of the power that is available there because we read in the hymn "and Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees." I find such courage in these testimonies of answered prayer.

Perhaps we do not express our appreciation enough for the ministers who travel the miles to our congregation to preach the Word. We are thankful for their sacrifice of time and real-

ize that they find encouragement in their labors, also. Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) were with us this month.

Cindy Waibel was married to Brian Molter June 4. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane Waibel and the Don Molters (Goodland, IN).

Joe and Betty Vaughen are happy parents of Gretchen Lynn, born May 21. Her sister is Heidi and grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker and the Clyde Vaughens (Earl Park, IN).

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Nancy and Karen Lehman

Jesus in the night of His betrayal, when His covenant He did endow, When His blood, in love and grace eternal, For transgression and for Sin did flow, He established for His church a token, That His covenant ne'er be broken, This His holy Sacrament and Feast, For His own, from sin and death released.

Zion's Harp

We were all in like mind and faith as we took part in Holy Communion. We all felt a closeness with one another and God. Those that were not able to be with us due to illness or confinement were able to break bread with the elders at a later date.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with the shut-ins. Bro. El Schumacher is recovering at home after surgery.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Bro. Bill Hodel and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Elder Bros. Jesse Beer, Wendall Gudeman and Alfred Bahler were here for Communion services.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Jill Hitz — Vera Nuest

No Christian is exempt from times of stress and trouble. Pressures from all sides add to our daily struggles. But we can rejoice in any trial, resting in the assurance of our unshakable foundation. The Christian is not engaged in a brief skirmish, but a lifetime war. One battle will follow another as we march toward our heavenly goal. In the "basic training" segments of our life, we must "dig in" and be prepared to "endure unto the end", Matthew 24:13. We

don't know what lies ahead, but with an attitude of prayer, a deep commitment to Christ, and a dependence upon the Holy Spirit, we can overcome every attack of the enemy.

Two students from our congregation have graduated from high school. They are: David Zeltwanger (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn) and Jim Paarlberg (Conrad and Donna). Both are planning to attend Purdue this fall.

We welcome Alex Patton from the Morton area, who has been worshipping with us for awhile. We welcome anyone who would be moving to our area to worship with us.

As we reflect on Father's Day, we are thankful for "Christian" dads, who are unshakable in their faith in the Lord Jesus. Christian parents, nurturing children to maturity calls for loving, patient and wise discipline. Consistent, loving correction is the key. Give your children the love described in I Corinthians 13 and they'll always know where to find refuge.

Tho't: If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, you have been placed on a solid foundation. You can't sink through the Rock.

Anonymous

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer

"Have you any room for Jesus?" was the theme for our Vacation Bible School held jointly with the Remington Church. Many wonderful teachings were brought to us by our home brothers as well as our visiting ministers: Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford), Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) and Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis).

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) and Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis). We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement was announced of Sis. Becky Schwab and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville). We wish them many blessings as they plan for their marriage. Their parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman.

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and their two boys who have moved here from Taylor. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they settle into their new home.

Gary and Debbie Royer are the hap-

py parents of Matthew Glenn born June 17. Natalie, Dana and Benjamin gladly welcome their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Royer.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Kim Salek — Edith Massner

The first funeral service ever to be conducted in our Burlington Church was for Bob Paige on June 11. He is the brother-in-law of Bro. Allen Massner. We were glad Bro. Uriel Gehring could return and assist Bro. Harvey Heiniger with the funeral service. It seemed that our God spoke plainly to all the friends in attendance via Bro. Uriel. Bob expressed Himself as having found peace with God before his death, and we feel God will be merciful to him as He was to the thief on the cross who repented. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Allen's family who so faithfully stood by Bob in his months of illness. May God likewise continue to stand by them.

Bros. Gary Anliker's and Uriel Gehring's families came back to visit us. We are so thankful we can assemble in quietness and reflect upon our high calling.

It was good to have the whole church together for the annual Sunday School picnic and sing hymns. We pray that we will find grace and courage day by day to teach our children of God's ways.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Our Sunday School children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. It is our prayer that the efforts put forth to reach these young and tender hearts, with the teachings of our Lord, will not be in vain but will bring forth fruit in its time.

IS IT DIFFERENT?

I have crops to raise, and I plow the field,
and plant my seeds with care.
And I thank the Lord for the rain He sends
As I watch them growing there.
But I don't sit down with a book by day
and let my crops run wild;
For crops won't grow by themselves, I know;
Is it different with a child?

The engagement of Clarence

Thoman and Dorothy Kuhens was made known. We wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Evelyn Pulfer spent a few days in Methodist Hospital in Rochester as a surgical patient.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Eileen Funk

How blessed it is to have our faith in God! It was six years ago this month that my mother went to be with the Lord. Maybe some of you who have lost loved ones, or have some challenges to face would appreciate this poem by Ben Burroughs:

When troubles mount around you,
To form a wall of grief,
It's high time for you to show
How great is your belief.
Look up to God in heaven,
And then sincerely pray,
Have faith and in a little while
The Lord will show the way.
Tell Him about your heartaches,
For He will understand.
He'll calm your fears and dry your tears
Then take you by the hand.
With God you can go forward
Toward a lasting peace.
If faith is strong, the Master will
Make all your worries cease,
You never have to go alone
Though worldly friends are rare,
God always gives a faithful heart,
The strength to conquer care.
Remember this when things go wrong,
And other helpers fail,
Trust in the Lord and He will raise
The gloom of sorrow's veil.

We really appreciated Sis. Vi Funk (Morton) for her smile and help in our vacation bible school for two weeks. We had a nice attendance, several children came that normally don't attend church. Our children learned a lot about God's word. They shared some of what they learned at the V.B.S. program. It was a blessing to all.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra Hamilton invite anyone visiting in Ames to look them up.
58-C Schilleter
Ames, IA 50010
Ph. 515-292-5297

Most of the crops are in for this area. It's haying time and our men have been very busy in the fields.

As long as the world stands — seed time and harvest shall not cease. What a blessed promise from God! God bless you all!

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Joyce Eland

We have another new baby in our congregation! Jon and Pat Knapp are the proud parents of Blake Matthew. He has two older brothers, Ryan and Brandon, to welcome him. He also received a warm welcome from children and grownups alike on his first Sunday in church. Perhaps this joy we share with the parents of a new babe can give us an inkling of our Heavenly Father's joy when one of us turns to Him in repentance.

We want to thank those who visited our congregation this month. Our already small group has been very small with summer vacations, weddings, reunions, etc. It makes a big difference to even have a few visitors. It truly multiplies our blessings when you make the effort to assemble with us. We hope you also receive a blessing!

We are especially appreciative of the ministers who have assembled with us. Brothers sharing God's word with us this month were: Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago).

Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) were also with us for the celebration of Communion.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

As we celebrate the founding of our government and the freedom it gives us, it would be well to observe the proclamation issued by Gov. Alexander Martin of North Carolina in 1783 — all good citizens of this state to set apart July 4 from bodily labour and employ the same in devout and religious exercises.'

Among our many visitors on Memorial Day weekend were the young member groups from Peoria, Roanoke and Cissna Park, IL. It was a joy to have the sincere young people with us.

The Bible classes in Sunday School enjoyed a weekend of youth fellowship in West Bend. They are grateful to their hosts for the well-planned activities and the hospitality shown to them.

Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy Knobloch became grandparents of twin girls on June 8 when Christa Lea and Carissa Lynn were born to Dan and Lola Deragisch. They are welcomed home by a brother and a sister and their paternal grandparents are Doris and Henry Blum.

A high school graduate whose name was inadvertently left out last month is Dean Ludwig, son of Randy and Deanne. Congratulations.

We had quite a number of hospital patients because of accidents or illness. They were Sis. Elizabeth Nester, Jesse TeSlaa (Sis. Rhonda and Gary), Bro. John Gerber, Loren Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva), Bro. Jake Wulf, Fred Metzger, Bro. Tony Bosch, Sis. Lola Knobloch, Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Sis. Jan Dogotch and Carl Knobloch. May God add His healing touch.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Jerilyn Wagenbach

O GOD OF WISDOM

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand;
Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.

As they go forth upon life's way,
Sustain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey
And live in joy and peace.

May they with holy lives adorn
Thy doctrines, Lord, and be
Amid life's sunshine and its storm
True witnesses for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #286

May 29 was the wedding day of Sis. Georgia Wiegand and Bro. Tim Pfloderer (Morton). Their parents are Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor Pfloderer (Morton). We ask the Lord's blessings on this couple as they establish their new home. We also want to thank the ministers who visited us the day of the wedding — Bro. Tim's father, Bro. Bob, Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo).

II Peter 3:18 — But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

GROWING IN GRACE

My eyes
are growing dimmer,
yet I see more than I used to see.

My ears
are hearing less, and yet
I listen more perceptively.

Now some folks
will say I'm aging,
growing older, come what may,
but to me,
I'm just plain growing —
growing more in grace each day!

Alice Joyce Davidson

IOWA, WEST BEND

Elma Mogler — Polly Zaugg

We were refreshed anew with words of life when Bros. Ken Knapp (Taylor) and Fred Knapp (Congerville) visited our congregation this past month "Thou hast put gladness in my heart . . ." Psalm 4:7.

Those who have been hospitalized are: Sis. Ida Schmidt (Chris), Sis. Jessie Fehr, Sis. Clara Bruellman, Beth Metzger (Bernard and Alice). Sis. Katie Dogotch, who had major surgery, is now residing at the rest home. She appreciated all the cards, gifts and prayers during her lengthy recovery. We certainly want to remember those in prayer who have been confined to their homes.

Several months have gone by since Robert Banwart had his left thumb completely severed. It seems somewhat of a miracle that God has given surgeons the wisdom to attach the thumb again. We are thankful the use of his thumb has been restored.

We extend our sympathy to Sam and Sis. Tillie Mogler whose daughter, Lucinda Berninghaus, suddenly passed away from a heart condition. Her home was in Montgomery, Minnesota.

REMIND ME, GOD

Dear God, when I am lonely and . . . Perhaps I feel despair . . . Let not my ailing heart forget . . . That You hear every prayer . . . Remind me that no matter what . . . I do or fail to do . . . There still is hope for me as long . . . As I have faith in You . . . Let not my eyes be blinded by . . . Some folly I commit . . . But help me to regret my wrong . . . And to make up for it . . . Inspire me to put my fears . . . Upon a hidden shelf . . . And in the future never to . . . Be sorry for myself . . . Give me the restful sleep I need . . . Before another dawn . . . And bless me in the morning with . . . The courage to go on.

Author Unknown

JAPAN, SHIODA

Vicki Ramseyer

Lois Ehnle went to America on May 26 because her father, Henry Beer, was very ill. We wish Lois and her family God's special nearness during this difficult time.

During Lois's absence two of Ehnle's children came from America to visit us. Because they were already in the Philippine Islands, they were not aware of their grandfather's grave condition until they reached Japan on June 5. Those of us who are here have been enjoying Joy and Tom's visit. Our prayer is that they will enjoy their time with their family, longtime friends, and with those of us who are just getting to know them.

Jewel Ehnle graduated from high school on June 10, and will now be leaving Japan to attend college in Chicago. It will be nice for Jewel to be close to Joy since she will be so far away from home. The speaker at Jewel's graduation told them something I'd like to share with all of you. He said because you are now leaving your homes, family and friends you will need to take Christ with you, because alone the world is too much for any of us to handle. I was reminded of Ephesians 6:10-11, "Be strong in the Lord," and "put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Congratulations to all graduates everywhere; you don't really have to be on your own; God is able and willing to go with you.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

We are enjoying beautiful weather prior to the rainy season here in Japan. The flowers, bushes and trees are at their best and we thank God for His beautiful creation.

We shared in the joy of Jewel Ehnle's graduation from high school with a supper and singing held at our church on Sunday evening, June 12. We especially enjoyed having Joy and Tom Ehnle with us as they returned to Japan to visit their family for a short time. We trust that the songs of the evening, scripture and prayers will go with Jewel as she continues her education in the field of nursing in the states. It was always a joy to have her visit our assembly on the weekends she did not go out to her home in the country. Commencement speaker S. Norman

gave the definition of church as a place where the people live in obedience to Christ and are a help to each other. He also mentioned that they cannot survive without it.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Sometimes our tasks seem difficult
 And very hard to bear,
 Sometimes they almost seem much
 more
 Than our rightful share —
 Bertha Annis

Bro. Darrel Stoller must have felt this way as he was elected minister May 22. May our prayers and God's guidance be with Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Lydia Hanni, Bro. Alpha Strahm, Sr. and Alan Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann).

Bruce, Barry and Byron Stoller are happy to announce a baby sister, Belinda Jean, joined the family circle June 15. Rejoicing parents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl Stoller and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm (Sabetha).

We appreciated having Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) minister God's Word to us May 29.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Jamie Marti

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

Vacation Bible School was held every evening June 6-10. Teachers and students alike learned and gained spiritually during this week. Sunday, June 12, a picnic was enjoyed by all and the children gave a short program of what they had learned.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

On July 4 our country, once again, was able to celebrate its wonderful freedom. The song writer, Francis Scott Key, clearly saw America as a country that would always need to be "under God." — "So this be our motto, in God is our trust."

We rejoice with our dear older Sister, Esther (Charlie) Knapp, as we

were privileged to hear her testimony of faith in her Lord and Master. On the evening of June 14 several assembled together to witness the baptism of this dear soul. For many years, she told us, she had wanted to walk a Christian life and be counted among the believers. With a smile and a Christian countenance, Sis. Esther returns to her home at the "Old Age Home" in Yates Center. She still assembles with us each Sunday. "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me for my soul trusteth in thee; yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge." Psalm 57:1.

We had the blessed privilege in partaking of Holy Communion this past month. Elder Bro. Lester Hartter, (Bern) assisted our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), in conducting this Holy Sacrament.

We enjoyed a blessed week of vacation Bible School. How precious it is when we can see the fruits of the little ones who attend each day so eagerly. Often times I will hear a memory verse recited by one of them. This is so thrilling to think that the impression made upon their dear hearts and minds still lingers therein.

Sis. Lydia Young was hospitalized again this past month. May God ever be present to care for her in these trying hours.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

Bible School — What a blessed week for all of us! To be privileged to spend several hours a day teaching children all about our Lord, and having them teach us about perfect faith and trust. Their innocence and perfect faith in the person of Jesus puts many adults to shame for lack of that same faith. Our teacher was driving a student home one evening after Bible School. As they passed the ball diamond, he casually stated, "That's my team playing." When the teacher further questioned him, he said, "I knew about the game, but I told my Mom I'd rather go to Bible School." Truly the Scripture in Matthew 21:16 says it all: And said unto him, hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

We enjoyed having services at the Kiowa Manor twice this past month. The first time was our usual appointed

day, and the second was when the Bible School children went to sing and deliver a box of fruit to the home. Our elderly and our young — How precious they are to us.

We would like very much to thank Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) and his dear wife, Sis. Barbara, for lending themselves to us as they were traveling back to Phoenix recently. It is such a joy to have them in our midst and our cup truly was filled to running over.

Sis. Laverne Roth was a hospital patient this month, but we are thankful that she is again able to be with us.

Well, harvest is upon us again. As I look out over the fields of grain that so soon will be ripe and golden, I can't help but think how often our lives are compared in Scripture to wheat. As the wheat starts as a tiny seed, so do we. As it grows and either flourishes or dies out, so do we. And as it turns ripe for the Harvest and is garnered into bins except for the chaff which is destroyed, so will we be. Those who are in Christ through conversion, repentance and baptism will be gathered unto the Lord, and those who know Him not will be cast into outer darkness. Oh, may we all be ready that we may live with the Lord.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill Luthi

One thought comes to mind as I remember my spring vacation, and I would like to share it with you. An elder was referring to the word Famine. To us we each know the "physical famine" — a shortage of food, drought, pestilence. However, the elder pointed out there are two kinds of Famine: the physical, as stated above, and "Spiritual Famine", or searching for the True word.

In reference to the Spiritual Famine, it says in Amos 8:11-12:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

May we in perfect love be found
 When we Thy table, Lord, surround;
 Keep soul and body purified;

Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied
Upon this feast.

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 3

We were reminded of Christ's suffering Saturday, June 18, as we broke bread and drank of the cup together. Officiating for this Sacramental Supper was Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) helping our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. We thank Bro. Lester for his presence.

Just a note for those who are traveling (and those who aren't), you are always and ever welcome to come be with us. May you each have a safe journey during these "holiday" summer months.

Reminder: August is collection month for Silver Lining dues.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the Labors increase;
To added affliction He addeth His mercy
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.
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 no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth and giveth again.

Several from our congregation have been hospital patients this month. They were Bro. Noah Steiner, Bro. Ben Aberle and Bro. Alpha Aberle. It is our prayer that God will lay His healing hands upon them and restore them to good health once again.

We are sorry to have omitted in last month's report that Curtis Strahm (Marvin and Peggy) and Lana Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta) have graduated from high school this year. We pray that God will watch over them and direct each of their lives.

Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA)

was our visiting minister recently. We thank Bro. Jon for sharing God's Word with us.

We rejoice with Marvin Strahm as he has begun his journey to Zion. May each of us take up our cross daily and follow our heavenly Father, so that when our journey here is ended the Lord might say to each of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Matt. 25:23.

We recently had our Sunday School elections. Our new teachers will be Sis. Ada Plattner, Bro. Doug Grimm and Bro. Steve Knoblock. Bro. Harlan Meyer was re-elected to the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged board of directors. May each one be blessed as they go about their duties in God's service.

May 25 was the wedding day for Gayla Grimm (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois) and Daniel McKee (Wichita, KS). They will be making their home in Wichita.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

"O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97
"... his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 1:2.

God's Word is so wonderful and such an encouragement and nourishment to our spiritual life. God is so gracious to give us His Word of Truth, filled with so many promises and words of instruction. God's Word is meant to be a daily part of our life as David said. We need food every day for our physical body or we become weak and our resistance is down. Likewise, if we deny ourselves of God's food for our spiritual growth we become weak and are easy prey for Satan who loves to attack us. God exhorts us to take in daily supplies of His Word and meditate on it and grow in it. What a blessing He gives when we desire His Word!

God's Word was brought forth by several visiting ministers the past few weeks. May 15 Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS) was with us. May 22 Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) ministered to us. We thank God for their service to Him.

Jesus said in Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." We rejoice that Matt Kieser has turned to his Saviour and is willing to serve Him. Matt is from Goodfield, IL, and is attending school in Wichita. As Matt is now experiencing, serving Christ makes a complete turn around in the purpose of life, and is not like you imagined, but is much more joyous and precious. We pray the Lord will guide Matt, and bless him with His wonderful peace. We continue to pray for the many people who do not know the Lord or have a hope of eternal life. God is so gracious and merciful in providing salvation through His Son Jesus. Thank you, Lord!

The Lord has led another couple to our little, but growing, congregation. Bro. Rocky and Sis. Mindy Giltner have moved back from Bluffton, IN. Rocky plans to attend school here. It is exciting to have them in Wichita again. We missed them when they were in Bluffton for the past year and now God has blessed us with their fellowship again.

Sis. Ruth Yackley has been in the hospital for heart bypass surgery. We pray God will give her a speedy recovery so she may assemble with us soon again.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Wieland

The Bay City Homecoming/Appreciation Weekend was held on May 21-22. Many former residents returned to Bay City to once again worship with us. A short history of the church was presented and a thank you to all involved in the recent remodeling of our church building was given. A song service was held Saturday evening at the church along with church meals both Saturday and Sunday evening. A big thank you to all who made the weekend possible.

One plants, another waters, but it is God that gives the increase. We are grateful for our visiting ministers who have yielded themselves as servants to plant and water and we trust God for the increase. Our visiting ministers include: Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Ben Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI), Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Joseph Ram-

sier (Rittman, OH) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

The Bay City congregation was privileged to host several young groups over the Memorial Day weekend. Included among the visitors were young groups from Alto, MI; Bluffton, IN; Bloomington, IL; Detroit, MI; Morton, IL and Tremont, IL. We appreciate their efforts of travelling long distances to spend the weekend here. May God bless each of your lives.

Funeral services were held June 17 for Fred Meylan. Our sympathy is with his family and relatives in this loss.

The following have been on our shut-in list during the past month: Bro. Bob Knochel, Sis. Eula Maibach, Mary Ramseyer (Dale) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler. We are thankful to see some of them in attendance again, and ask God for returning health for those still not able to attend church.

On Sunday, May 29, the engagement of Sis. Beth Schlatter to Bro. Dana Knochel (Detroit, MI) was announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter and Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel. May God be with them as they prepare for their upcoming marriage.

God has given little Tianna Lee more than just life — He has also placed her in a home with parents who will teach her of the love of God. We wish Bro. Regan and Sis. Tammy Wieland divine guidance as they raise this precious child. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak and Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland.

Last month's list of graduates should have included Tammy Knochel (Sis. Doris). My apologies for the oversight.

How privileged we are to live in America! As we celebrate our nation's anniversary perhaps we should consider the following similarities:

Our nation declared its independence from tyranny and oppression; Christians declare their independence from desiring to follow Satan and his wiles. At the same time our nation was seeking its independence, our forefathers also recognized the need to be dependent on God and each other. As Ben Franklin put it: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." We, too, as Christians, need to exercise total dependence on God and pull together in our battle against Satan. We are reminded in the Scriptures ". . . if a house be divided

against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25.

Our nation insures liberty for all. Christ also gives liberty to all. We have been freed from the law and now walk by faith. Unfortunately some of this nation's citizens abuse their right to freedom. As Christians, we must be careful that we do not abuse our liberty in Christ. "For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13.

Great sacrifice was made on the part of our nation to provide each citizen with freedom. Lives were lost, bodies were injured and long periods of separation from families were endured to win freedom in this country. Jesus on Calvary's hill paid the supreme sacrifice that was necessary to allow us the freedom we experience as Christians today.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Dawn Bahr

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal . . . And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 12

It is through this Godly faith, hope and charity that Bro. Dana Knochel and Sis. Beth Schlatter have become engaged. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel and Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter (Bay City, MI). We rejoice with Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth.

June 11 was the wedding day of Gary Knochel and Mary Galassini. Gary's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guido Galassini (Highland Park, IL). Gary has been living in the Chicago area, and they will make their home in Wheeling, IL. We wish them much happiness, and pray that they will seek God's guidance and direction in their life together.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

"Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

Isaiah 26:3-4

Carola Fortenbacher was welcomed as a beloved sister-in-Christ upon her testimony of the perfect peace she

feels in her heart, and of her trust in the Lord. The blessed day of Sis. Carola's baptism was made even more joyful for her and her family, since two of her sisters, Lydia and Wanda, took the first step toward a heavenly goal and began their repentance. Carola, Lydia and Wanda are the daughters of Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ont.)

Our congregation recently selected a new Sunday School teacher and a trustee. Replacing Sis. Jeanne Allen in Sunday School is Bro. Nick Gutwein, with Bro. Tom Hitz and Bro. Jim Barton acting as substitutes. Bro. Tom Hitz was elected to succeed Bro. Ernie Weigele as trustee, with Bro. Leonard Hitz serving as alternate. We thank Sis. Jeanne and Bro. Ernie for their years of faithful service.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Deb Tilbury

The following ministering brothers have been with us: Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita), Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Alpha Moser (Morris). May God bless them as they labor in his vineyard.

Sis. Sophia Gudeman passed away. She had made her home with her daughter and her husband, Ella Mae and Charles Stoller. We extend our sympathy to them. She was buried in Elgin, IL. Sis. Sophia will be missed by her family and friends.

Lori Virkler (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol) graduated from high school this year. We trust the Lord will bless her on whatever pathway she may choose.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock

God is ever sending us a bit of heaven as He blesses families with new little ones. Brittany Leigh Wevley is the first child of Bro. Steve and Sis. Sara. Her grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch. Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell (Wulf) Koehl are also new parents of a son, Lucas Roy. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys and Bro. Jack and Sis. Alice Wulf. Doris (Koehl) and Kenneth Agan rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Manirah Lea. Sis. Lillian Koehl has become a grandmother twice recently! Bro. Carl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl have a daughter, Kari Jo. Kristi, Tommy, Matthew, Blaine and grandma, Sis. Lillian, welcome her. God gives blessings and also takes them away; so

while we have them to enjoy, let's cherish every moment of time together.

The family of Bro. Edward Koehl wishes to thank all who showed their love and concern in many ways during the loss of their husband and father. God bless everyone.

Ken Feuchtenberger was hospitalized for a hand injury and has experienced God's healing powers. Sis. Louise Mohrman has been a patient, too, and we send prayers and thanks on her behalf.

West Bend, IA was host for the annual Sunday School fellowship weekend and we express our thanks to them for their Christian love and hospitality. Lord willing, Winthrop will be the host next June.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt

There's no problem too big
And no question too small,
Just ask God in faith;
And He'll answer them all.

Not always at once,
So be patient and wait;
For "God never comes
Too soon or too late" —

So trust in his wisdom,
And believe in his word;
For no prayer's unanswered
And no prayer unheard.

Helen Steiner Rice

We rejoice with our two dear converts who have turned their lives over to God and were announced for peace this month. They are Joan Burlingame and her daughter Jill, both of Hutchinson, MN. They are now looking forward to baptism and being sisters in the Lord. We are certainly happy for them and wish them God's grace.

Our Bible Class and teachers wish to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the West Bend congregation for hosting the youth fellowship gathering in June.

A good time was shared by all at our own Winthrop S.S. picnic. The day was chilly but many blessings of fellowship were still shared.

The annual Sunday School voting was held in May. Bro. John Messner, Sis. LeAnn Messner and Sis. Brenda Messner were put in as teachers. Bro. Verl Schmidt and Sis. Lois Messner

are the substitute teachers. Bro. Jerry Messner is our superintendant.

Bro. Raymond Messner wishes to extend a thank you to all those who remembered him with prayers, visits, cards and gifts. Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt (Dick) was hospitalized for observation. Mona Messner (Duane) had surgery and once again is assembling with us. Angie, daughter of Gary Messner, was hospitalized for ear surgery.

John and Sis. Dorothy Jacobson announced the marriage of their daughter Sally to Michael Heikkila. The engagement of Scott Nelson (Al and Sis. Donnabell Nelson) to Kris Wells, daughter of Glenn and Blanche Wells, from Blue Earth was made known. A Sept. wedding is planned. We wish them all God's blessings.

We welcome anyone traveling to northern MN for fishing, to stop and visit our Winthrop congregation. A warm invitation is extended to all.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti — Becky Hohulin

A Christian is a person through which
Christ thinks,
a voice through which Christ speaks,
a heart through which Christ moves,
hands through which Christ helps,
feet through which Christ goes,
and a life through which Christ lives.
"Star of Hope" publication

We enjoyed the blessed privilege of Christian fellowship on Memorial Day weekend as we had the single group from Eureka, IL to be with us here in Lamar. We hope that they will return to visit us again soon.

Our deep prayers and thoughts go out to our dear Bro. Ray Luthi as he will be entering the hospital for open heart surgery. We wish him God's never failing love and nearness.

Also in the hospital were two of our dear brothers, Noah Schlupp and Dean Marti. At this writing Bro. Noah is still in the hospital recovering from surgery, and Bro. Dean has returned home. We pray that all three of our dear brothers will feel God's healing power and strength.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing

and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19

We thank Elder Bro. Edwin Hohulin (Goodfield), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) for their services this past month. May the Lord bless them all who traveled to be with us. It is such a joy to meet and greet each one in the Lord.

Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. For more information, call Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP"

There are friendships that we cherish / In our daily walk of life / Friends with whom we meet and labor / In our earthly toil and strife. / Friends among the aged and youthful, / Friends that live from us apart / Friends of higher rank and station / Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion #91

The weekend of May 21-22 was a happy one — especially for our Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge Gerst and family when a bus load of brothers, sisters and friends from the Chicago area came to visit. These represented Marge and Arnie's church family for 17 years and I'm sure many mixed emotions were shared. It's a real blessing from God to be able to travel near and far and a foretaste of the day when we all get together and need not say goodbye. Among the group were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenman and Bro. Lenny Meyer. May God share with them His love and may they feel the appreciation from the "Little White Church on the Levee" for their services.

We're glad to have Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell back after spending the winter months in Florida.

May God bless our graduates as they reach this crossroads in life — and may they seek His direction in whatever they do. Shon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), Tina Sutter (Dan), John Gerst (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge) graduated from high school and Vicki Knapp (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis) graduated from college.

Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel and Bro.

John and Sis. Joan Oberlander (Morton) welcome a little granddaughter, Kristen Jane, 2½ years old. Krissy's parents are Keith and Nancy (Hodel) Oberlander and big brother is Joey (LaCanada, CA).

"ABOUT GOODBYES"

To say goodbye to dearest friends
Some think would be quite sad
But we can keep in touch through
prayer
And this our hearts are glad.

We will miss Bro. Brian, Sis. Lorna, Jordan and Kyle Knapp as they are moving to Wolcott, IN, where Brian has found employment. May God be with them and bless this undertaking.

Sis. Peggy Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge) and Jason Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) were hospital (surgical) patients and are home again doing well.

Thank you everyone for the cards, visits, prayers and concerns while we were in the hospital and since we've been home. Sis. Loida Hodel and Sis. Betty Hoerr.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind." II Timothy 1:7

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Bro. John and Sis. Mary Diggelman express their thanks and appreciation for the love shown by so many through the numerous cards, gifts and phone calls received on their 50th wedding anniversary. It is our hope and prayer that God will grant them more anniversaries here on earth and an eternity together in the beautiful home above.

We welcomed ministering Bro. Roy Lugenbuhl and his wife and others from Rockville on May 25. We heard again of the power of the word and its ability to divide the righteous from the lost. We continually thank God for those who are willing to stand forth and proclaim the truth.

June being the traditional graduation month, we congratulate our dear friend, Cindy Brinkerhoff, for successfully completing her college commitments and earning a degree in the field of education. May God stand by her as she seeks employment and in her endeavors to walk a Christian way of life.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

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

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

Zion's Harp #200

On Sunday, June 12, we assembled in the Naumburg Church to hear God's word expounded by Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville). We were so vividly reminded of our duties and responsibilities together as a family of God. In the evening we were privileged to assemble in the Croghan Church to partake of holy communion together. We were again reminded of God's most wonderful love shared unto us by the sending of His only Son to this earth to suffer and die for the sins of each of us. We sang together in the beautiful hymn, "May we all united stand by holy tie and sacred band," as truly we are members of Christ's body. We extend our thanks to Bro. Corbin for serving us along with our own Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner, who so faithfully serve us throughout the entire year. Also our thanks goes to retired Elder Bro. John Bahler for his words spoken to us on this special day.

Our only high school graduate this year is Dawn Farney, daughter of Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie. Our best wishes go to her as she begins another step in her life.

Sis. Lovina Farney was a medical patient at Lowville, and we are happy to report that Sis. Celia (Bro. Lowell) Virkler has received a favorable report from her tests in a Syracuse Hospital.

Two families have welcomed little bundles, both of them arriving on May 30. Robert and Diane Purvines have welcomed little Cary Lynne. Her grandparents are Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and Lester and Shirley Grandjean. Cliff and Cathy Lehman have welcomed Bradley Nelson. Bradley's playmates will be his brothers, Ryan and Eric and his sister, Mollie. Their grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler and Alice Lehman.

August is collection month for Silver

Lining dues in the Croghan Church. Please give your dues to the reporter.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Our dear Sis. Pearl Colgrove is in intensive care in Lowville Hospital. May God help and strengthen her in her trials. Sis. Maude Pelton spent a few days in the hospital but is home again.

A very nice weekend was spent with the Croghan congregation. We were together at Naumburg Church during the day. Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler and wife, Sis. Virginia, were with us. It was so nice that Bro. Corbin's folks, Elder Bro. John and Sis. Julia could come also. Bro. John even spoke a few words to us. In the evening we assembled at Croghan Church and held communion. Elder Bro. Corbin helped Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner. We felt the Lord's blessings.

Clifford and Cathy Lehman have a boy born May 30. His name is Bradley Nelson. Clifford is the son of Alice Lehman and the late Norman. Sis. Barbra Bachman is great-grandma. Cathy is the daughter of Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Our beloved Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf and his wife, Sis. Bethi, will be having a 50th wedding anniversary in July. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Bethi Studer were married July 16, 1933. They have four children: John, Bro. Arthur, Rudy, Jr. and Margaret Gallagher.

Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler hosted our three high school graduates and their families, along with the ministers, for a breakfast on Sunday morning. Bro. Ned is Sunday School Superintendent and with an encouraging presentation, blessed each graduate, giving them a Bible with their name engraved in gold.

Harold and Sis. Esther Fritz have returned from a safe and enjoyable vacation trip to Hawaii.

While Sis. Bonnie Bako was in the hospital, having had surgery, her husband, Bro. Zoltan, got his hand smashed in the bed of a trailer and it required 10 stitches.

Sis. Ogle Trostle is home recuperating after being hospitalized.

We appreciated the visit and message of Bro. Bill Gerst and his wife Judy (Alto, MI).

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Andy Hunyady****BE YE HOLY**

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." (Ex. 19:5, 6) "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Pet. 1:15, 16.

This sounds as a great challenge to every true believer today. In this wicked day and time how can one maintain a life of holiness?

The dictionary describes the word holy as: (a) the strongest word that applies to things that have most immediate connection with God, (b) completely devoted to the service of God, (c) of great spiritual worth, (d) spiritual purity, etc.

"... Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, . . . But with the precious blood of Christ, . . ."

To become holy and remain in that state, the heart must be cleansed, and purified by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. No one can purify his own heart. Man can live a fairly good and moral life on this earth, and can keep himself from committing a deadly sin, but that is not sufficient to become pure in the sight of God. God requires a heart to be clean and pure in the sight of God. God requires a heart to be clean and pure, filled and schooled by the Holy Spirit. One must love God and the brethren with a fervent love and be willing to submit himself totally to the will of God, to obey and observe all the sacred ordinances. Yes, and to keep from being spotted by the sins of this present, corrupt world. Our desire and aim in life is to attain unto this highest level of spiritual stature of "holiness without which no man shall see God." May God help us and grant us grace to that end!

Our very special thanks to the dear brethren who came to minister God's pure and holy word to refresh and renew our needy souls. On April 24, Bro. James Rinkenberger (Bluffton); May 8, Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo) and June 12, Eld. Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) visited us. Our thanks to the many out of town visitors for your love and fellowship.

Our best wishes to Carlton Schlatter (Junction), on his graduation from Ohio State. We are happy to learn that he was accepted to enter the College of Veterinary Medicine at OSU and we look forward to his return next fall.

OHIO, GIRARD**Karen Laparo**

On May 29 we were blessed with 100% attendance as we partook of Holy Communion. Bro. Rudy Graf (Akron) performed this labor of love and we all extend our heartfelt thanks to him.

MYSELF

I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know.
I want to be able as days go by
Always to look myself in the eye.

I don't want to stand with the setting
sun
And hate myself for the thing I've done.
I never can hide myself from me,
I see what others may never see.

I know what others may never know,
I never can fool myself, and so
Whatever happens I want to be
Self-respecting and conscience-free.
Edgar A. Guest

Our visiting song leaders this past month have been: Bro. Dale Hartzler (Rittman), Bro. Leon Graf (Akron), Bro. Larry Rufener (Rittman), Bro. Joe Rufener (Rittman) and Bro. Dana Emch (Rittman).

OHIO, JUNCTION**Les Manz**

July 4, 1776 our national forefathers declared our nation to be independent of the yoke which their master (which was England) had placed upon them. Consequently, every year on July 4, we remember this event in which our nation became free. Certainly, we do have many blessings to count, living in this nation of freedom. Still, in a land of freedom we find ourselves to be slaves to a much stronger master than England, this of course being Satan. God's Word points out to us, though, that all who will be free of this strong master, Satan, can do so through the blood of Christ, shed for us nearly 2,000 years ago. So, those of us in the Junction congregation who have been freed by God's grace and through Christ's death

and resurrection assembled this month with our Elder Bros. Loren Stoller and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) to partake of the cup and the loaf in remembrance of this spiritual freedom we have obtained and in thanksgiving to God for this freedom.

June 19 is a day Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon (Schlatter) Gasser will long remember, for it was then that they exchanged vows of faithfulness to each other in Holy Matrimony. Among our many guests for this blessed event were our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller and ministering Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Eugene Fetter (Toledo). We will miss Sis. Sharon who will be living near the brethren who attend the Rittman Church. Parents of this new couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser and Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Others who visited us this month and preached God's Word to us this month were Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) and Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron).

Hospitalized this month for short periods were Steve and Danny Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) and Kyle Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila).

Sis. Ruth Weiss (Mansfield) wants to thank all who helped her in any way during her stay in our area while she was recuperating.

OHIO, LATTY
Cheryl Wenninger
Patty Rigenbach**GOD'S LOVE IN AFFLICTION**

For us Jesus Christ was slain,
And for us His blood was given;
Murmur not in earthly pain!
We shall share His joy in heaven.
He to life eternal leads,
Saying, "Think not on your needs!"

The afflictions of our time
Are not worthy of the glory
Promised in that realm sublime
To the patiently enduring.
See how Jesus as a lamb
Suffered for the sins of man!

Oh, that we might clearly see
What afflictions should accomplish!
Willing in God's ways to be
And obey His Spirit's promptings,
We would soon the fruits behold,
Which afflictions do unfold.

Zion's Harp #243, vs. 2, 5, 7

Several from our congregation have been suffering afflictions of the body through illness or injury. How comforting to know that when we reach heaven we will have a new and perfect body, exempt from any pain or sorrow. Those hospitalized this past month were Sis. Maria Heffner, Bro. Carl Sinn (Sis. Tootie), Bro. George Sinn (Sis. Clara), Carma and Wesley Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Irma Stoller (Bro. Millard). We pray that we can serve as an encouragement to our brethren in their times of distress.

We extend our condolences to Bob and Sis. Janet Williamson in the death of Bob's mother, Louise Williamson.

Bro. Byron Dunham was one of our college graduates (omitted from the last report). He received his degree from Indiana Institute of Technology.

We were pleased to have two visiting ministers. Bro. Art Gudeman (La-Crosse) and Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis) ministered the Gospel to us. Bro. John also shared the slides from his trip to the Holy Land with us. Our understanding increased as we were introduced to sights we often read of in the Bible.

The Vacation Bible School program climaxed the week of activities in which the children learned more about their Lord and His church. Our hearts were blessed as we listened to them sing and recite of God's love. We appreciate the contributions of time and service by all of those involved and trust that all will be blessed for their efforts.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Lucille Groh

I am the lily of the valleys. (Song of Solomon 2:1)

I have found a friend in Jesus
He's everything to me
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul

The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.

The snowy white lilies we in America are accustomed to are not to be confused with the lily of Palestine which is of brilliant hue which emits an exquisite fragrance. Jesus, in his discourse recorded in Matt. 6, compares their hue to the gorgeous apparel worn by Solomon who was known to be clothed

in scarlet and deep purple. Those who have seen these blood red blossoms say they are more than two inches in diameter and in many places form a beautiful and fragrant carpet that at certain seasons of the year almost completely covers the ground. Their color seems to speak of redemptive blessing. When these flowers are in bloom, hunting is brought to a halt, for the delightful smell of the lilies are so strong that the scent of the game is lost and the dogs cannot trace their prey. That is why we call Jesus the Lily of the Valley because where Jesus is, we are safe; we can walk among those lilies and the 'hounds' cannot reach us or track us. The sweetness of Jesus will cover the scent of our old nature if we but dwell in His shadow. The devil will be helpless against us if we stay close to Him who is the Lily of the Valley.

The elders which are among you I exhort, . . . feed the flock of God. I Peter 5. We are reminded that soon our beloved elders will be assembling together, prayerfully considering what our Lord, "the Lily of the Valley", would direct them in considering the many problems and leading of the flock. We little realize what a great responsibility they have and often they must feel it a thankless service. Just recently I received the following poem through the mail which seems so fitting at this time to publish. It is entitled "Thank You Dear Elder", and we do appreciate and thank each of them for their devotion to God and to His people:

THANK YOU DEAR ELDER

As a child your love you shared
A pat on the head to show you cared
You taught and told salvation's story
Of a crucified Lord, renowned in Glory.

Thank you dear elder.

You heard our confession of guilt and sin
Helping us when we didn't know how to begin
Assuring us if we did our part
The peace of God would enter our heart.

Thank you dear elder.

You baptized us on that day
With laying on hands you did pray

That the holy spirit would guide our path
And lead us in to heaven at last.

Thank you dear elder.

You instructed and chastised in love
As directed by God up above
Counseling us both day or night
And encouraging us to continue to fight.

Thank you dear elder.

As you lay your body down to rest
Often weary and in distress
Pleading and petitioning God in prayer
And wondering, does anyone really care.
We really do.

Thank you dear elder.

Elmer J. Sauder

We do thank our elders and visiting ministers who visited us this past month: On May 22, Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington) and June 5, Bro. Harold Kraft (Ft. Scott). During the week of June 13-17 we enjoyed a blessed week of Vacation Bible School with Bro. Bob Indermule (Leo) whose topic was Children of Christian Homes vs. Those of a Home; Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier who showed slides of the Apostolic Christian Church Missionary Work in India; Bro. Larry Bocka who spoke on the Subliminal Mind and How Satan Can Use It, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty) The Restoration of Israel and Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota) who explained Humanism, A Tool of Satan. May God bless each one who labored in any way during this week.

June 12 was recognition night for recent graduates. They included: Steve Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue), Hedi Oesch (Sis. Catherine), Kent Kemper (Sis. Mary and Keith), Sally Bocka (Fred and Penny), Greg Sauder (Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn), Robin Washington (Bro. Barney and Sis. Beverly).

We do not want to forget those of our dear ones who have been hospitalized this past month and pray for each one of them. Bro. Robert Beer, Bro. Kenneth Sauder, Bro. Larry Bocka, Sis. Naomi Cordrey, Sis. Helen Sferro and Sis. Frances Gage. Our Sis. Clara Zimmer has a bad accident at home and had several fingers crushed. We trust our Lord will be near each one

and grant them comfort and encouragement.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough
Florence Hartzler

We are so happy to report we have five precious souls who have answered the call of our Lord. They are Tim Ramsier, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez, Roger Bauman, son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice, Ken Stoller, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda, Lori Steiner, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol and Betty Hartzler, daughter of Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie. May our Lord grant them all much grace in their repentance.

The engagement of Bro. Ralph Marty, son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou, and Sis. Marie Stoller, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda was announced recently. We wish them our Lord's blessings as they plan their lives together.

Bro. Ben Gasser and Sis. Sharon Schlatter were married June 19 in Junction. Parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Liz Gasser and Sis. Esther Schlatter (Junction).

Our congregation was saddened by the death of our dear Bro. Harvey Gasser whom the Lord saw fit to take Home to Him. We shall surely miss him and our prayers and sympathy are extended to his wife, Sis. Helen, and his children, Bro. Ron Gasser and Sis. Betty Steiner; sisters, Sis. Grace Marty, Sis. Pearl Marty, Sis. Irene Gasser and Selma Henderlong. May our Lord comfort his loved ones.

HE KNOWS AND CARES

I do not know why sorrow comes and
burning teardrops fall;

I only know God still is God and
watches over all.

I do not know why we must part from
loved one and from friend;

I only know God's love lives on, and will
live to the end!

I cannot see with earthbound eyes the
gilded courts above,

But by faith I know I'm kept within His
boundless love!

And so in faith I must believe regard-
less of the test;

No matter what each new day brings,
God's way is Best!

Jon Gilbert

Dennis and Chris Hartzler are the

parents of a new baby boy, Seth William. Seth has one brother, Erik, and his grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller are the parents of a new baby boy, Troy Arthur. Troy has one brother, Tony, and one sister, Audrey, and his grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller (Latty).

Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori Rufener have a new son named Abram Orin. Abram has one sister, Heidi, and one brother, Samuel. His grandparents are Bro. Orin and Sis. Anna Rufener and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron).

Kristen June is the new little daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser. Kristin has one brother, Kurt, and sisters, Kelly, Kara and Katrina. Grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer and Bro. Glen and Sis. Liz Gasser.

Those from our congregation who have been hospitalized are Sis. Martha Steele, Boyd Acker, Sis. Olga Trostle and Kathy Stoller, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette. May our Lord restore these loved ones to good health once again.

May 21 was the wedding day of Marlene Dotterer and Dr. Roy Blackford. Marlene is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer.

June 11 was the wedding day of Rhonda Ramsier and Jeffrey Northcraft. Rhonda's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier.

We wish to thank our visiting minister Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for ministering to our high school age and above Sunday School classes and to our congregation. May our Lord bless him for his efforts.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

We have been uplifted and encouraged the past month to have been able to have three weekends of Bible School. The first week, Bro. Doug Kellenberger (Leo, IN) taught us on the "realness" of the Spirit. God can be very real in every aspect on life. We need not handle one little thing by our own strength. The second week, Bro. Andy Stoller (Rittman, OH) was with us. He showed us clearly that there is no valid excuse for not doing God's will. It was amazing and humbling to learn that nowhere in the Word of God were excuses accepted by God. The third

week, ministering Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) reviewed with us the precious doctrine of our faith. We were reminded that when questioned about our faith, we need to start explaining at the very basis of it, God's unlimited mercy and the shed blood of Jesus. May God richly bless these brothers for coming and sharing with us through the Spirit.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Mary Ann Weigele
Josephine Rehklau

On June 4 Kristi Weigele was married to Brian Wareham. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele. Brian's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wareham (Findley, OH). They are presently living in Bowling Green, OH, where they both are attending Bowling Green State University. We wish them a long, happy life together.

Vacation Bible School was held June 13 through 17 with an enrollment of 22 children. The theme this year was "Fruit of the Spirit". On the final day, the children gave a short program to show and tell what they had learned.

Beth and Tim McFadden have recently moved back to Toledo from Florida. We welcome them and their two small children, Ryan and Megan. Beth's parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Colette Harmon.

My husband and I attended a neighborhood meeting recently. The evening was ended by singing "God Bless America". It was very touching and made me realize how much God has blessed our nation in the past. As we celebrate the "birthday" of our nation this month, let us pray that God will continue to bless us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

On a recent Saturday morning our church and church yard were filled with eager workers who had gathered for our Spring cleaning. When so many willing helpers set to work it makes a big job seem small, and even makes it seem like play instead of work. And what a good warm feeling it gives each one to come to church on Sunday and know they had been a part of the effort to make everything look so neat and clean. May God bless each one.

Many from the Silverton congregation enjoyed the fellowship and the potluck supper hosted by the Portland

Church at Mt. Tabor Park on Sunday, June 5. Especially memorable, were the slides of India shown and narrated in the evening by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), who has had a personal involvement in recent years in our church's worthy interest in the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions in India. If you ever have the opportunity to see these slides; take it. They are something you will not forget for a long, long time.

On the following Thursday, Elder Bro. Roy Grimm ministered to us at our mid-week services. Our sincere thanks go to him and also to visiting minister Bros. Robt. Miller and Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), for coming and sharing the Word with us.

We are pleased to welcome to our community and our congregation, Sis. Linda Furrer (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen, Morris, MN). Sis. Linda has moved to Silverton and taken employment here. May the Lord continue to bless her and guide her steps.

Another welcome newcomer to our area is a little bundle from Heaven, named Mark Edward Dietrich. The happy parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan. Becky, Lori, Kristy, Brian and Jill welcome their little brother, Mark, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Millie Dietrich (Silverton) and Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA) who were able to be here a few days before Mark's arrival day, June 8, and a week or so after.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Ed Aeschleman**

On Sunday, May 29 after church, a large group of brethren and friends enjoyed a picnic and good fellowship together. Bro. David and Sis. Gail Gasser and their two children, who will soon be leaving us for about a year, and Philip Aeschleman, who graduates from high school this year were the guests of honor. Bro. David will be on Sabbatical doing some research work at Harvard University in Boston. He will take his family with him and they will attend the Rockville Church. We will sorely miss their presence and strong support, but take heart in knowing they plan to return to Philadelphia where David is employed by the University of Pennsylvania. Phil Aeschleman will work through the summer with a landscaping and nursery company and plans to enter York College in

York, Pennsylvania in the fall. May God guide and keep them all while they are away from us.

We were greatly pleased to have ministering Bro. Fred Knapp and his wife, Marjorie (Congerville) with us in the Philadelphia Church on May 23. Bro. Fred was in Washington, D.C. on business and came out east earlier than he needed to so he could spend Sunday with us. We appreciate the effort they made to serve us and to encourage us both with their presence and through the power of the word which was freely offered.

Silver Threads

THE VALUE OF A SMILE

It costs nothing, but creates much.
It enriches those who receive without
impoverishing those who give it.
It happens in a flash, and the memory
of it sometimes lasts forever.

None are so rich they can get along
without it, and none so poor but are
richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness in the home, fos-
ters goodwill in a business, and is the
countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the
discouraged, sunshine to the sad,
and nature's best antidote for
trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, bor-
rowed, or stolen, for it is something
that is no earthly good to anyone un-
til it is given away.

And if in the course of the day some of
your friends should be too tired to
give you a smile, why don't you give
them one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as
those who have none left to give!

SMILE!

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD Romans 8:28

Just how this statement can be true,
Perhaps has often puzzled you;
You've wondered how that "all things"
could,

Work out for your eternal good;
How trouble, sorrow and unrest,
Could work together for the best;
How this could be, you did not know,
And yet, you felt it must be so.

Now "all things" mean both good and
bad,
Yea, things that really make you sad;
It means your sickness and your health,
Your poverty as well as wealth;
Of troubles you will have your share,
While in this world of toil are care
But rest assured you have a friend,
Who knows your life from start to end.

Should God permit dark clouds some
day,
To cast a gloom across your way,
Just take it as your Father's will;
You're in His care, He loved you still;
Be not alarmed, nor be cast down,
'Tis through these trials you win a
crown;
All earthly sorrow soon shall cease,
While joys eternal shall increase.

There's much we do not understand,
But "all things" are within His hand;
Remember God's mysterious plan,
Cannot be solved by mortal man;
But when we reach the land of rest,
We then shall see that He knew best;
The things we had not understood,
We'll realize were for our good,

Submitted by: Bro. Peter Weber
Peoria Church

I WONDER

I wonder if it's worth it
to be a parent,
to have to say "no" in love,
to have to say "no" despite a plead-
ing look and sad eyes
that wish and pray for "yes".

I wonder if it's worth it
to feel the hurt that stabs a parent
every time his child says,
"But everyone else does;"
"You never let me do anything I want
to;"
"I wish I'd never been born."

I wonder if it's worth it
to be a parent
to have to watch a child make the
mistakes that could have been
spared him
if dad intervened;
to be housekeeper, cook, nurse,
seamstress, teacher
when appreciation comes only in the
form of
"Mom, where'd you put my jeans?"

I wonder if it's worth it
to lie awake at night until he gets
home,
wondering if he's all right,
worrying that something might have
happened —
and then when he does get home
having to pretend nothing was
wrong.

I wonder if it's worth it
to work and work at bringing them
up right,
taking them to church despite,
"I hate Sunday School,"
trying to teach them right from
wrong without sounding
"preachy" —
and then one day to sit and wonder:
"Did I bring them up the way I
should have?"
"Did I teach them the right things?"
"Do they have high moral stand-
ards?"
"Do they really know right from
wrong?"

I wonder what it takes
to convincingly convey
"thank you" for the endless toil and
worry.

I wonder what it takes
to make a parent realize
that somebody thinks it's worth it.

WHO?

Who made the golden sunrays?
Who give us day and night?
Who spreads abroad the heavens?
Who made the stars so bright?

Who gives us spring and winter,
The summer and the fall?
Who plants the grassy meadows?
Who makes the trees grow tall?

Who set the hills in order?
Who made the winding streams?
Who made the sunny hillsides?
Who robes the woodlands green?

Who dots the vale with flowers
Which bloom so bright and fair?
Who gives the rose its fragrance
The lilies odors rare?

Who paints the leaves in autumn?
Who makes the grain to grow?
Who gives refreshing showers?
Who makes the glistening snow?

Who taught the birds their flying?
Who made their cheery call?
Who gave to man his reason?
Who set him over all?

These are weighty questions
Wherever man may trod
Some people say it's nature,
But I will call it "God".

Author Unknown

THE STORY OF THE PILGRIM AND THE APOSTATE CHRISTIAN Ephesians 6:10-18

My friends, this story which I tell,
Is not new to your ear.
For it began so long ago,
And continues year by year.
It's the story of a pilgrim
Who, clad in armor tight,
Met a worldly Christian
Who was not armed to fight.

Now perhaps it should be noted here
(Lest the details should be lost)
That these two men had met before
While kneeling at the cross.
And both had donned the armor
Which the Captain did provide —
The breastplate and the Gospel shoes,
And the sword kept at their side,
The shield of faith, the Word of truth
(A most abundant ration),
And best of all, upon their heads,
The helmet of salvation.

And both men picked their crosses up
And started on their way,
But had not gotten very far
Till one was heard to say,
"My cross is very heavy;
It doth hinder where I go.
I'll drop it here along the way.
The Captain will not know.
And I will leave this narrow road
And walk the road that's broad.
Then I'll not need these heavy shoes
With which my feet are shod.
And won't you travel with me, friend,
Along this easy way?
Think of all the fun we'll have!
Oh, let's begin today!"

But the pilgrim slowly answered,
"Friend, this I cannot do.
I cannot lay my cross aside
And travel hence with you.
For my will and my desires
Are in the Captain's hand.
And the cross which I now carry,
I do at His command.

As for the road that's broad, my friend,
That's not the way to go.
It leads to sure destruction,
For the Captain told us so."

"Nonsense," laughed the worldly one,
"They both end up the same.
But your road leads through battle-
grounds,
And mine through fun and games.
For up ahead they stomp and shout
'Hooray!' and clap their hand.
'The Lord has won another soul,
From the enemy of man.'
And, oh, it looks like so much fun
To clap and shout His praise,
And never fight the battle,
And never run the race."

And so their pathways parted.
Each went their separate road.
One chose the way that looked like fun,
And one the crown of gold.
Now many times the narrow path
Does cross destruction's way.
And so sometimes they chanced to
meet
Like they did thus one day.

"Greetings, sir," the pilgrim called.
And then he looked again
Lest his eyes deceive him.
Was this his Christian friend?
"But what's happened to your loin-
cloth?"
He asked in sure surprise.
"The everlasting truth of Christ
That was gird about your thighs?"

"Oh, that," the other answered,
"I traded it away.
It's much more comfortable to wear,
The words that people say.
But you, my friend, look weary.
Is the battle waging hard?
Why not watch the Captain,
And cheer Him from my yard?"

"No, the Captain's always with me,"
The pilgrim to him said.
"I can't forsake Him now, you see."
And so he plunged ahead.
And again the two were parted
As each continued on their way.
But oft the pilgrim thought of him,
And often did he pray.

The next time they came together
When the two ways met again,
The pilgrim sadly shook his head
When he saw his wayward friend.
"Where," he asked so sadly,
"Is the plate of righteousness
That one time hung so brightly
From your laden chest?"

"It was so very awkward
That I left it by the way.
And instead I donned the works of men
That you see me in today.
For you see they suit me better,
And I think them rather pert."
(And the pilgrim groaned in spirit
For they were but rags of dirt.)

"And your sword and shield?" the pilgrim asked,
"Those also have you lost?
The ones the Captain gave you
When you knelt there at the cross?"

"I seem to have mislaid them,
But I really need them not.
Remember, friend, I stand and cheer
When the battle wages hot.
All I really need, you see,
Is this helmet on my head
To keep me in His army,"
The deceived one smugly said.

"But surely you're mistaken, sir.
Oh, don't you see the light?
You cannot be His soldier if
You are not armed to fight."

When the conversation ended,
Their paths again did part.
The pilgrim clad in armor full,
With a burden on his heart,
Turned again to battle
The enemy of man,
Trusting in his Captain
And heeding His command.
And the riches and the treasures,
Which he acquired in his race,
Shone like jewels in his eyes,
And joy was on his face.

And when they met the next time,
Many years had passed.
They met again on Jordan's shore,
And this time for the last.

"Well done, thou faithful pilgrim,"
Said the Captain of the fight.
"Removest thou thine armor,
And don this robe of white.
For thy battle now is over.
Thy victory has been won.
Come now into the wedding feast,
Thou good and faithful son."

"Good Captain," said the worldly one,
I have no armor on
Save this helmet on my head."
(But it, my friends, was gone!)

"O foolish, slothful servant!"
The Captain said that day.
"Without thine armor thou hast made
Thyself an easy prey.

For the enemy has crept upon thee
And taken thy salvation.
He led thee down the easy road
That leads to condemnation.
For thou wast never with me
When the battle waged so hot.
O ye that work iniquity,
Depart, I know thee not!"

And so the worldly Christian,
Who cast his armor off,
Joined his other playmates,
Eternally now lost.
But as you travel through your life,
You'll meet many with his name.
And no doubt they'll try to tell you
That the Christian life's a game.
But it's not a game, dear pilgrim,
For the Bible tells us so.
It's a battle to the end,
And the winner gets your soul.

—Michelle Richard

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

think on these things." Phil. 4:7, 8. Sometimes we hear something and hardly weigh it to determine if it is only gossip and if it is going to do harm if repeated. It sounds like news, something different. Life has been somewhat boring and nothing's been going on. So we think, "Something happened — I'll tell somebody." We get something going. We talk about it. Finally, through it, someone is injured.

I read a little article about what we should repeat or not repeat. It said that if you hear something about someone that isn't good, never repeat it unless you absolutely have to repeat it. Then, only repeat it to the person whom you have to repeat it to. When you do repeat it, remember God is listening. We must continually remind ourselves that God is listening. We read in the Proverbs: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Prov. 15:3.

God knows in our every waking moment what is on our minds and in our thoughts. God sees all the deeds we do every day. Surely, many times we would be very ashamed if even people knew the thoughts that cross our minds. But such thoughts don't have to stay in our minds; they can just cross our minds. God will take these thoughts from us if we pray as Jesus prayed, "Get thee behind me, Satan," Matt. 16:23. God can then give us better thoughts. In Proverbs we read:

"For as he (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he." Prov. 23:7. Another writer wrote: "A man is what he thinks all day long." That's why it is so terribly important that we read the Scriptures, that we have fellowship with those of like mind and faith, and that we are very careful of whose company we are in. If we have to be in company that isn't good, we should make it just as short as we can. We read: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." I Cor. 15:33. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure (beautiful, beautiful thoughts!), whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The heading of this chapter is: "Subjects for Meditations". I hear the young folks singing the song that says "What a joy it is to be alone with God." Just to be alone with God! I think every believer should spend time alone with God. It is a real blessing to read the Bible around the family altar (the table), and it is necessary. We should not fail to do it. But to take the Bible alone, completely alone, close the door of the room and sit in quiet meditation and read the Word can elevate our thinking. It can chase away the blues. It can give us joy, blessedness, comfort and peace such as nothing in this world can give the heart of man. "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil. 4:10, 11.

Can you and I say this? Have we learned to be content whether things are going good or whether things are going not so good? Can we feel that God has a purpose in blessing and also in bringing tribulation and heartache upon us? Perhaps there are many here who will testify that even in the greatest heartbreak and sorrow, they felt closest to God. When things are going well we usually become a little forgetful. Man sometimes boasts that he hardly needs God. He has it all figured out. He can just use his own mind; but Who gave him the mind? We must recognize where all our blessings come from. I believe it is in the 137th Psalm where David cries out, "If I forget thee,

O Jerusalem (God), let my right hand forget her cunning."

Where did we get the talent to do anything? To work and provide a living? Whatever our talent or ability is (every one of us), the Lord has given us that talent to be used. He wants it to be used for His honor and glory, to further His work in the hearts of men by our good example and by our works. The Bible tells us that "... faith, if it hath not works, is dead." James 2:17. The very beginning of the Christian walk of life is through a true conversion, becoming completely upright, true, and honest with God and with our fellowman in our conduct and behaviour. Following that, as we grow and are no longer on milk, we should be helping one another, showing love and visiting.

The Scripture says in James: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. Paul further writes, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Phil. 4:12.

Perhaps some of us would have to admit that we don't know how to handle sorrow when it really comes. And then again, when things go too well, we hardly know how to handle that either. Isn't it true that we can forget and become careless if we are just a little lax in prayer and neglect the assembly? I pray that each one of us may learn better how to be abased and how to abound so that we will never forget that we have a very earnest life to live.

An author wrote:

Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream;
And the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real; life is earnest,
And the grave is not the goal.
"Dust to dust, thou returnest,"
Wasn't spoken of the soul!

Surely, we all realize that we have an undying soul that is going to spend a long eternity. Eternity is beyond our comprehension. How can we of finite minds, when everything we do is ruled by the clock, picture or even grasp eternity? Our soul is going to spend eternity somewhere. "... in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." Ecc. 11:3.

Paul had the key. He had the key, and it is in this next verse: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. The soul even cries. The Psalmist of old said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord." Psalm 121:1, 2.

We should realize that we "can't go it alone" no matter how intelligent we are, or how well we have things planned or figured out. In one day all our castles can fall on the sand. Our health can fail and our fortunes can be taken away from us, that is, if we have a fortune. When all is gone, what do we have? If we don't have God, we have nothing.

I once read the story of Alexander the Great, who was a great conqueror. Many of you remember reading about him in the history books. It said that, when he had conquered all the then-known lands, he mourned that there were no more to conquer. He was a man with a very covetous spirit. His only desire was to rule and to dominate and to make a name for himself. It said that in his final years he began to realize that all that he had achieved and done was dross, nothing. He asked that at his burial his hands be hung outside the coffin with the palms up to show that he had nothing. May the Lord impress upon our minds that if we do not have Christ, this Living Hope, and have not come the blood-bought way through baptism, we have nothing. All that we possess will vanish away.

"Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction." Phil. 4:14.

It appears that the Philippians served Paul, cared for his needs, and always were happy to have him come into their presence. This encouraged Paul and gave him joy. Perhaps that is why he had the feeling that he expressed in the first verse: "... dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown ..." Phil. 4:1.

He told them that it wasn't so much that he would not have gotten along all right had they not provided for him, but he says, "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Phil. 4:17. Surely, this is what the Lord desires today from all of us who are His children. He wants us to be fruit-bearers, to live fruitful lives, giving our time, effort and talents to the work of the kingdom. We

do not have to go on the street corners and preach, or hand out gospel tracts. We can serve by our conduct and example. The Word says, "Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves ..." I Pet. 4:8. People are first going to see and know that we are a different people, and that we are not striving for earthly crowns, if we really love one another, we bear each other in arms of longsuffering compassion.

Do you know what the word "long-suffering" means? In part, it means to bear with our brother when we think he should do something different, but he doesn't seem to agree. Still, we love him just the same even though he doesn't walk as we think he should. That is being longsuffering. "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:18, 19.

Beloved, let us all believe that from day to day, if we are faithful in prayer and come to the altar of grace and plead with our God, that He is going to supply all our daily needs, every care and every need. We read in the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin." Matt. 6:28. Yet, the Lord cares for them. Surely He can see our need, and surely, we are of more value. It says in one place, "... ye are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:7. How great a value are we to God? Do you know how great? Great enough "... that He gave His only begotten Son ..." (John 3:16) to come upon this earth and die for us. God gave what He loved the very best, what was most precious to Him, the Lord Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Father. He was pure, holy and righteous, and was sent into this wicken, sinful world to take upon Himself our sin load, to be the propitiation for your sins and my sins. Then we in faith can have a living hope beyond this life. The Bible tells us in one place that "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19. So let us pray together that each one of us will put a greater value each day upon the living hope, the peace that we have in our heart, and in knowing that our names are written in heaven.

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SERMON BY BRO. EDWIN A. BAHLER OF REMINGTON, IN

Text: Philippians 4

Surely, beloved, in those words we can feel the great love that the Apostle Paul had for the Philippian Church, this small, struggling church. We would all concur that this is the love of Christ. The same love of Christ should exist among us today so that our love will go far beyond the physical, caring love of an unconverted man toward his fellow men, and include love for undying soul. That love that we ought to have one for another in seeing the soul home safe is the greatest love we can know. We do not want one brother or sister to fail to receive the saints reward. Out of love we want to bear them up, and we want to intercede and pray for them. We want to do all that is within our means and power, not because we will receive any earthly benefit or even a thank you, but because we have tasted the love of Jesus Christ, because we have been lifted "... out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set ... upon a rock" Psalm 40:2.

Even if it has been a season since we were redeemed through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have not forgotten our cleansing, our deliverance, or the condemnation when the Lord let us feel lost and undone. We remember how He took us up, healed us and cared for us. He put peace into our hearts, a peace that the world cannot know or understand, that would cause us in the midst of trials and tribulations to sing songs in the night because our Redeemer lives, and because we have a hope beyond this life. That hope is so much greater than any earthly expectation that it defies comparison. We read here together: "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." Philippians 4:1.

Paul's heart was full of concern that none of them would become a victim of the evil adversary of our soul. We

cannot forget that we are in the midst of a continual battle with Satan, over whom we have gained victory in repentance. However, he is still warring against our souls, and seeks to pull us back into our former transgressions and a life of condemnation and sin.

Paul writes, "And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life." Philippians 4:3.

Sometimes we can hardly fathom, if we are born again and have been received into the fold (the household of faith), that our names are written in God's Book of Life. They will remain there if God doesn't have to, grievously, wipe it out. We know, as we testified in our proving, that although we could fail, we cannot blame God because He will be faithful. If we walk closely with Him, He will keep us.

We are taught in this good Book of Life to "... lay hold on eternal life ..." I Tim. 6:12. In another place it says, "... if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." II Pet. 1:10. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men." Phil. 4:4, 5.

These are beautiful verses. Moderation. "Let your moderation be known unto all men." That doesn't mean on Sunday or in the presence of believers, but it means everywhere, wherever our daily business takes us, wherever we are seen of men. Others should see that we are people of temperance and moderation, not living after "the fashion of this world" which, it says in the Scripture, "passeth away". I Cor. 7:31. We are not seeking the vain passions of the world, which would soon take away our hope and peace. We are not seeking great accumulations of material goods in this life. We can read in Isaiah: "Woe unto them that join house to house,

that lay field to field, till there be no place ..." Isa. 5:8. Such is the desire of a covetous man.

I once read this little simile: a covetous man is like a man who is up to his chin in water and is still thirsty. Perhaps that could teach us much about being moderate in our living, our life and our conduct. I recall that a visiting brother once prayed, "Lord, give us a modest ambition." Surely we ought to pray for that when it comes to earthly things so that we would not seek a big name for ourselves among men, but rather that we would rejoice that our name is written, as we have read, in the Book of Life. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

Sometimes we hear people visit, here and there, and I recall hearing a younger sister make this comment: "Well, I don't pray over something that trivial." But maybe we ought to pray about what kind of dress to buy, what kind of clothes to wear. Maybe we ought to pray about all such things so that we make the right decisions, because these decisions make us what we are. A decision here and a decision there. Each decision should be made with a Godly concern as to how it will appear to others and whether it will draw us into a closer walk with God, or whether it is going to give us a careless attitude. All of these things matter very much. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,

(Continued on Page 30)