

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 33

AUGUST 1983

NUMBER 8

Study To Shew Thyself Approved Unto God . . .

II Timothy 2:15

As the day approaches when many students of all ages are returning to school, it's good for us as Christians to reevaluate our "Textbook," our study habits and our relationship with our "Teacher". First of all, let's evaluate our "Textbook" . . .

THE WORD

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II TIMOTHY 3:16, 17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. JOHN 1:1

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. HEBREWS 4:12

Next, let's take a look at developing . . .

OUR STUDY HABITS

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein . . . JOSHUA 1:8a

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ACTS 17:11

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. I TIMOTHY 4:13, 15

Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail . . . ISAIAH 34:16

Finally, how will this affect our relationship with . . .

OUR TEACHER

Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. PSALM 119:11, 12

Then said Jesus . . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. JOHN 8:31, 32

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . . I JOHN 5:13

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II TIMOTHY 2:15

As Christians, we are instructed to take the whole armour of God. The only weapon we are given is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). When we utilize and practice with this spiritual weapon, we will realize that we are equipped to cut in pieces the snares of the devil, tell others of the Gospel of Christ, and "withstand in the evil day".



URGENT NEED FOR TWO MARRIED COUPLES AND A SINGLE SISTER AT CHILDREN'S HOME

To be able to continue the operation of the Children's Home, there is an urgent need for a married couple to serve as houseparents, a married couple to serve as alternate houseparents and a single sister to serve as an assistant houseparent at the Children's Home at 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

tion on the red soil is one of the regional differences. Other culinary differences include grits, cornbread of the South, and a variety of meat specialties.

One can appreciate the warm Christian welcome of these special Southern brethren. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore appreciates help not only on the pulpit for the regular service, but also in the morning for adult Sunday School (during regular Sunday School), which is a time of eager learning and listening. Singing out of the Gospel Hymns (often in unison) precedes the services. The third Sunday of the month is usually a potluck lunch (oh, that mmm! Southern cooking). Otherwise, their custom is not to have lunch at church.

In the basement of the church is a cheerful and fascinating place to visit, the Apostolic Christian Preschool. With support from World Relief and many hours, prayers and concern from the preschool teachers, Sis. Irene Hagermaker and Sis. Doris Moore, and other volunteers, there is a witness being conducted in a unique way in their community.

These brethren are isolated because others have left our faith while they still remain with us, in obedience to the Word and our elder brethren. They are eager to know you, to shake your hand and greet you, to love you as a fellow Christian. May we be just as anxious to make these brethren a part of our prayers and personal attention — including visiting! (Take Route I-65 to Route 72 East. The church is just off Route 72.)

HENRY BEER'S BOOKS AVAILABLE IN SARDIS, OHIO

Good things for the Christian Home will continue to be available from Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle at their home in Sardis.

Several hundred copies of Bro. Henry's "My Garden of Verse" and "A Legacy in Song for My Family and Friends" were moved from Beers Bookstore in Milford, IN to Charity House Bibles at Box 110, Sardis, OH 43946. The new phone number is 1-614-483-1520. A very few copies of some of Bro. Henry's other works are still available also.

In addition, the Dixon Bible and most other Bibles can be purchased by mail at a discount. This service is being made available in loving memory of one who loved the Lord and His people enough to share.

REMEMBER OUR ISOLATED BRETHREN

Submitted by Sis. Kathy Schlatter

Are you from a church where you meet brethren and sisters during your weekly work and shopping? Then you are privileged to extend the uplift of fellowship beyond Sunday and Wednesday evening. What a joy! Perhaps, on the other hand, you, like we, attend a church where a smaller number and distances make Sunday and Wednesday evening even more important gatherings because we very rarely see our church brethren and sisters otherwise through the week. But all of us are given extra-special blessings, too, by ministers and other visitors who share themselves with us — as they are passing through, on vacation, because of their families or close relatives in the

area. Our extended family just continues to expand.

That's why, as some of you plan to leave the cold months here in the North for a warmer climate, I'd like to suggest a route that might include a visit to a very dear set of brothers and sisters. Athens, AL, is small and far from other churches (unlike those churches on U.S. Route 24 — our "main street" and others), its closest church being Lexington, KY. Within their small flock, too, there are distances which separate them week-long. Thus they especially could use visitors, Florida travelers and others. They live in a beautiful area, just over the Alabama border from Tennessee. The lush green vegeta-

SEE THE POWER

Through the years and ages, that have gone by,
 Since the earth and planets and the charming sky;
 All have been created by a wondrous power,
 We are still confounded, to this very hour.

Mountains, hills and valleys, rivers long and wide,
 Oceans that are governed by a mighty tide;
 Deserts dry and barren, glaciers cold and bleak,
 Trees and grass and flowers on the hillsides steep.

Fields of grain and produce, food for man and beast,
 Gardens, trees and vineyards, so that we can eat;
 Fish and fowl and livestock, for our daily meat,
 Clothes to warm our bodies, shoes upon our feet.

Bears and wolves and lions, creatures great and small,
 Bees and birds and fishes, someone made them all;
 Sun and moon and planets, stars so far away,
 What a great creator, Him they do obey.

Day and night are governed, by this mighty power,
 Cold and heat and hailstones, frost and snow and showers;
 Note the mighty earthquakes, and the stormy blast,
 But this great Creator, they'll obey at last.

See the helpless baby, on its mother's breast,
 Helpless and dependent, for its food and rest;
 Eyes and ears and fingers, hands and feet and tongue,
 What a matchless wonder, how its life begun.

Chorus

Oh this great creator, what a power,
 Oh this wondrous Master, what a mighty power,
 Oh this great Creator, what a power;
 See the power,

Oh this wondrous Master, see His mighty power, see His mighty power,
 Can you tell the one? God the loving Father and the blessed Son.
 Melody - Count Your Blessings

Written by Bro. Benjamin J. Hartzler, minister of Rittman, Ohio congregation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Jane Stieglitz - Uriel Gehring

Jay Powell, our high school graduate of '83, is now living in an apartment in Leo, IN and is employed full time at Bro. Brace Weiland's Furniture Factory in Grabill, IN. We wish him the best of everything and hope he continues to fellowship with us at the church in Leo.

We have been enjoying many "goodies" from the home gardens, thanks to the efforts of the staff and the children. Our houseparents, assistant houseparents and volunteers are all such good cooks. We trust the girls living at our home will learn to be good cooks, too.

Both houses went to Lacrosse for a weekend. We ate supper at Bro. Gary Bucher's farm Saturday evening, and afterwards participated in some constructive Bible question games. Bro. Tom and Sis. Luanne Troxel invited our homes and did such a good job taking care of us. To close the evening, we had ice cream cones. Thank you Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois and Bro. Tom and Sis. Luanne. We all went to church on Sunday, and were treated very kindly. We all ate supper at a school cafeteria. Thank you Lacrosse congregation. We arrived home around eight Sunday evening.

One of our Home Board members, Bro. Jim Schlatter, his wife, Sis. Kathy and daughter, Katrina are spending a week with us. Jim and Kathy are both teaching in Chicago, and we are utilizing their teaching talents in our summer school. We have had many other volunteers this summer; their efforts were all appreciated.

We have three new faces here. Jerry F. and Randy F., ages 13 and 11, and Eric D., age 9. Their birthdays are Jerry 5-7-70, Randy 3-18-72 and Eric 1-4-74. All three boys like to play basketball. As a matter of fact, Randy has the record for consecutive free-throws, 15. They fit into our family very well.

Our children all enjoyed their summer break with church families throughout the mid-west. We thank our Bluffton, Francesville, Morton and Gridley congregations for hosting them.

Remember our Annual Auction, August 27!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Though it is now mid-summer, the time for our annual BENEFIT DAY will be here in a relatively short time, and we want to send an urgent invitation to all to think seriously about how you can help to make it a success. We need your participation in providing quilts, crafts, toys, children's items, plants, baked goods and items made from wood are among the acceptable things. Your ingenuity, however, has brought about the items of real interest. Therefore, we suggest that you mark your calendars for November 18, and let us anticipate seeing you then.

It has been said that in love's service the wounded serve well. In the life of

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
 USPS 496780

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Lynn Stieglitz
 Robert Indermuhle
 Albert Frautschi
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The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

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IN MEMORY - EDITORS:
 HENRY SOUDER
 EDWARD SOUDER

everyone, there are times when life itself seems most fragile and its balance, precariously delicate. In the vernacular, we are between "a rock and a hard place". How comforting it is at times like these to be able to turn our bleeding hearts to our Lord, who understands just what the temptations and sufferings are. When lack of ability to communicate prevents our finding an understanding heart, even the groanings of a pure spirit are an acceptable plea to the Father heart. Knowing and experiencing these things ourselves, we are better able to be attuned to the needs of our residents and to be alert for indications of needs. Many times a pat on the shoulder in passing, freely giving a smile when there seems none to give in return or expressing a few thoughts, clothed in words of encouragement, can lift a cloud of depression, letting them know we have their welfare at heart. When once we have their confidence and trust, we are in a position to impart hope. Combining these attributes with compassion and love, we can more easily work toward the happiness of the resident, which seems even more important than their physical care.

In our tour of the Home, we think of the Maintenance Department, which is not located in a certain section of the building, as some of the other departments necessarily are. Maintenance is everywhere. We see it in the lovely lawns, in the clean and polished floors, in the well-cared for equipment which allows smooth operation of the complex, in the willingness to be called from home at an inconvenient hour to take care of an emergency as well as in the myriad of minor repairs which interrupt a schedule. We pause to express appreciation for this department; for without the selfless rendering of these responsibilities, the other departments could not function properly.

Summertime is bringing many varied activities and excursions for the residents. How nice that they, too, can witness nature's changing scene! It never ceases to be interesting to drive down Cornfield Avenue when only a few short months ago, the view was a snow-covered field and then plowed black dirt. A cooling ride on the large boat in the Illinois River is a real treat on a hot summer day, as are the swimming excursions. We hope to enjoy them now while they are available.

To help us enjoy these various summertime outings is our new resident, Marta Graber. Marta's parents, Doreen and Harold Graber (Peoria, IL), have two other daughters, Carma and Adria, and two sons, Brent and Kirby. Listening to music is the favorite pastime of Marta. Birthday time for her is September 9. Welcome to our family, Marta. We hope you like your new home.

"In the affairs of life or of business, it is not intellect that tells so much as character — not brains so much as heart — not genius, so much as self-control, patience and discipline, regulated by judgment."

Source Unknown

ALABAMA, ATHENS Irene Haggermaker

THE TREE

If man were made perfect —
As complete as could be —
Then God would never have created a
she.

For man is the trunk and the branch
and the root;
While woman's the blossom,
The leaf and the fruit.

As unto the bow, the cord is,
So unto the man the woman is.
Tho she bends him — she obeys him.
Tho she draws him, yet she follows.
Useless each without the other.

H. W. Longfellow

I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7

We're so happy and rejoice in the repentance of Mrs. Connie Moore, daughter-in-law of Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris. On July 16 she will give her testimony and bury the old man of sin in the baptismal waters. Bro. Wendell Gudeman will assist Bro. Lavoyd in this sacred occasion.

We had our church picnic at David Crockett Park in Lawrenceburg, TN, on July 9. It was a great time of Christian fellowship and fun for all.

During the summer, our ladies group will be meeting each Wednesday morning from 10-12 at the church. We'll be working on projects for our local nurs-

ing home and hospital patients. We would welcome visitors that may be passing through our area at this time.

What God Hath Joined Together
Let No Man Put Asunder:

In this day and time with over one half of marriages ending in divorce, we're happy to announce the 60th wedding anniversary of a young couple, Bro. Henry and Sis. Annis Perry on July 10. They are the parents of seven children, grandparents of 26 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. We have asked Sis. Annis to speak at our next ladies' meeting and tell all of us how you live with a man for sixty years! They were married by the side of Cabbage Ridge Road with the minister sitting in his buggy. I just happen to live on that same road today.

Our annual school meeting was held June 26 with school board trustees, Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter, Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, chairman Elder Bro. Ed Hohoulin and school committee member Elder Bro. David Bertsch present. Bro. David Haggermaker could not be present.

Sisters Cindy and Cathy have worked hard in finding the right curriculum for our preschool. We decided on the Peter Panda Curriculum. In our meeting we discussed the need to develop our own Apostolic Preschool Curriculum. They plan to work on it. There is still a need for inside and outside toys, puzzles and books, etc.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"He that doeth good is of God."

III John 11

On June 26 James Emch was welcomed in as our brother-in-faith when he was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost by Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach. Bro. James is the son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch. It is always heartwarming to hear our converts give testimony of their faith.

It is with joy we look forward to the testimony and baptism of Harlan and Vivian Ramsier on August 6 and 7.

We enjoyed a church supper and singing on June. 26.

Visiting ministers included Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson) who came to assist with Bro. James' testimony and

baptism, and Bro. Lauren Knapp (Tucson) on June 22.

Rebecca Sue was born on June 16 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. Other family members are Nancy, Bob, David and Beth. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer and Bro. Howard and Sis. Goldie Stettner (Bluffton, IN).

On June 18, Heather Michelle was born to Joe and Dora Miceli. Amanda and Adam welcome home their new sister. Bro. John Kaufman and Betty Hari are the grandparents.

On June 21, Jerome and Janet Rokey became parents of little Megan. Raeann is pleased to have a little sister. Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione are the grandparents.

"And this is love, that we walk after His commandments." II John 6. On July 10, Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss were greeted at a wedding reception following their June 12 wedding in Francesville, IN. We are happy that they will be making their home in Phoenix and wish them the Lord's blessings and many happy years together.

After ten years in Phoenix, Bro. Joe and Sis. Viola Traub have moved to Sabetha, KS. We do miss them and pray the Lord will continue to watch over them.

We welcome Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and family into the fellowship of the Phoenix congregation.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Earl Sanders and Heather Miceli for studies. Outpatients were Sis. Emma Sanders for wrist surgery, Paul Doolittle for tests and Kristy Dotterer.

Several have been absent for various reasons; Sis. Toni Bently, Sis. Frances Schrenk, Sis. Ora Schrenk, Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney.

Correction: Bro. Todd and Sis. Jill Roth's baby girl's name is Tarah Lynne.

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." Phil. 1:2.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Josephine Martin and family have moved back to Phoenix from Yuma. Their new address is 15843 Kipling Dr., Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene Bertschi

want to thank the many who extended best wishes on their anniversary.

This past month we were blessed to have Bro. Clarence Yackley (Phoenix) and Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) minister God's Holy Word to our congregation. We thank these brothers for their efforts, and we pray that the Lord will richly bless them for their labors of love.

Bro. Tim, Sis. Betty and little Lindsey Kaupp have moved back to Gridley, IL after being a part of our congregation for 2½ years. Bro. John and Sis. Rose Huette and their family will also be leaving Tucson. They plan to relocate in northern California. As when any members of our flock move away, these families will leave a void. We pray that the Lord will go with these brethren as they leave our midst and will continue to guide them in their new homes. "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9.

A business meeting was held last Wednesday evening. Bro. Nate Lehman was elected Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Brad Bauer was elected Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. We wish these brothers the Lord's guidance as they take on new responsibilities in teaching our young people.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

MaryBeth Klotzle

We were blessed on July 2 to hear the testimonies of eight dear souls who have felt led by God to come into full fellowship of the Church. We joyfully welcome Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov and their family, Sis. Lillian, Sis. Maria, Sis. Anna, Sis. Brenda and Rose; also Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian (Jevremov) Petrovich and their children, Yasmin and Philip into our congregation. With over two years of prayer, counsel, fellowship and waiting, each one has the faith that truly the Lord's will has been done. The next day we witnessed the baptism of Sis. Brenda Jevremov and were reminded of God's precious gift of salvation. We thank visiting elders Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Ben Maibach (Detroit), Gene Marti (Lamar) and their wives for sharing in this weekend. Our praise and thanks to God seem so inadequate compared to His great and generous blessings. To express our

gratitude, let us remember to "... be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" Eph. 5:18-20.

Our other visiting ministers were Bros. Robert Miller (Portland), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Jim Leman (Roanoke) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix). How strengthening it is to hear the words of God come over the pulpit in truth and sincerity through willing brothers from afar, just as from our faithful local ministers. God blesses us with a bond of unity and closeness in His love despite the miles that separate many of us.

Bill and Theresa Witzig are the happy first-time parents of a dear daughter, Lisa Roselinda. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig. May God help Bill and Theresa daily in the many duties of parenthood and bless their family.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$6.00 are due in August for our congregation. Please see your correspondent.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for providing us with God's Word Sunday, June 26.

We were blest to have Bro. Ben Maibach with us July 3 as well as many of the young brothers and sisters from Phoenix and Tucson, AZ.

In our small congregation we are happy to have visitors.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

"Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 136:1. Truly the Lord is good and we have many reasons to thank Him. Again He moved the hearts of brothers and friends to come work on our church building. Workers came from Roanoke, Rockville, Rittman, Leo, Elgin, IL and Gridley, KS. God must have a special reward for those who give so selflessly of themselves for His work.

Again we are saddened as one of our brothers is leaving us. Bro. Steve Scheitlin feels directed by God to join the Peace Corps. He will be stationed in Honduras. Bro. Steve was a big help in the early days of our church here and

will be greatly missed. We pray God will protect him and care for him during his service there. His address is:

Steven Scheitlin, Cuervo de Paz
A. P. C-51, Tegucigalpa
Honduras, Central America

We have had some good-sized crowds here this summer. We really appreciate and enjoy each and every one who comes. Among the visitors have been ministering brothers, Loren Stoller (Latty), Kenny Dietz (Bradford), John Isch (Indianapolis) and Dan Koch (Tremont). May God bless these dear brothers for their willingness to be used by God for our benefit.

Our church building is located at the corner of Alameda and S. Revere in Aurora. This is about a half mile west of I-225.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dorothy Viens

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go
Anywhere He leads me in this world
below

Anywhere without Him dearest joys
would fade
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.

Anywhere with Jesus over land and
sea;
Telling souls in darkness of salvation
free;

Ready as He summons me to go or stay
Anywhere with Jesus when He points
the way.

Hymns of Zion #179, vs. 1 and 4

Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl have felt led by God's spirit to leave our congregation and settle in the Altadena, CA area. We will all miss them and their children, Rebecca, Theresa and Kurt, but we pray that God will bless them there and provide for them as they settle in a new area.

Likewise, we bid farewell to Sis. Marge Heintz who has gone to teach in our kindergarten in Japan. May she feel God's almighty nearness even as she is making many sacrifices in serving Him in this capacity. Let us always support one another in prayer no matter how many miles separate us.

We welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Gail Gasser and their family into our congregation. They are living near Boston and are worshipping with us here. Bro. Dave and Sis. Gail moved from the

Philadelphia area. We hope that they feel welcome in our congregation here.

Sis. Martha Schneider (Bro. Leon) was a hospital patient, but is able to assemble with us again.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the brethren who come from a distance to worship with us, bringing unto us the Word of God through the inspiration of His spirit. Our recent visiting ministers were Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest), Art Ringger (Indianapolis), John Klotzle (Altadena), Ed Aschleman (Philadelphia) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). May God bless each one and add the increase to the Word.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

"Fear not; for I am with thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10

A person I read about who was dying of cancer memorized the above scripture to draw courage and faith as the end of her life here on earth approached. None of us is free of fears and anxieties, although most of them are not as traumatic as having terminal illness. Rather, we worry about our jobs, family members and their futures, financial problems — a whole variety of things. What a comfort this verse can be if we call it to mind each time we face a crisis, great or small!

Thought For The Day: Let God take the place of fear in your life.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and family (Rittman) spent several days in our community. His ministry contained many good teachings and was very inspirational. Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Sutter hosted a potluck supper at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening so we could all get better acquainted with the Maibachs since it was their first trip to Florida.

Also passing thru and stopping to minister to us recently was Bro. Arnold Gerst and his wife (Taylor, MO). We really appreciate these ministering brothers and their families as we are quite isolated from other churches of our denomination.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Locke

Our visiting ministers and families this month were Bros. Ed Lanz (Oak-

ville), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Gary Maibach (Rittman), William Emch (Lamont) and James Plattner (Princeville). How thankful we are, for our cups were filled to overflowing.

We have made sufficient progress with our new addition to enable us to accommodate the veteran's group. We are pleased for all the volunteer help thus far and may they be rewarded.

We welcome the Reardon and Vargo families from Detroit, MI to our congregation. May they feel a welcome love and share the joy of the Sunshine State.

We are overjoyed to hear the announcement of Frank Krspogacin's baptism. May the Heavenly Father give courage and grace so he may hold fast to his peace.

Among those seeking the Lord in repentance are Marie Keller, Denise Mrdjanov, Bonnie McWhorter, Tony Christopher, Helen Vargo and Jeff Steitmatter III. We pray for all these souls that they feel the power of God's love in their lives.

Note of thanks: I want to say thank you for all the love, gifts, prayers and food during my wife's passing. May He above reward you.

Burley Zeigler

Bro. Dan Kurcher expresses a gratitude of thanks for all deeds rendered to him during his illness. We are happy to see him attending services after a second visit to the hospital for surgery. May the Lord give courage to all those who must suffer. Sis. Lucille Heiniger has entered the hospital for tests and we hope she will soon return home.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville), Bro. Lee Bahler (Rockville) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) were our visiting ministers on June 12, June 26 and July 10 respectively. We thank them for the encouragement offered our congregation through the word of our Lord and Saviour.

A baby girl was born to Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller on June 15. Her name is Staci Sue and we know she will add much joy to their home. The Stollers were members of our Atlanta congregation until they were transferred to their present home in Antioch, CA.

We have been blessed with several visitors traveling through the area who stopped to worship with us. We invite

anyone traveling through to stop and share the Word of God with us. Our meeting dates are every 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Ramada Inn, I-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
Charlene Knobloch
Shirley Denick**

Our best wishes go to Bro. Danny Kieser and Sis. Laura Meyer (Bluffton, IN) who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Meyer and Louis and Jean Kieser (Bloomington, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their lives together.

We welcome back two families who are worshipping with us again after having been away for awhile. They are Bro. Mark and Sis. Mary Huber and children, and Terry and Sharon Zimmerman and children.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Lyle and Sis. Lois Stoller in the loss of his mother, Sis. Laura Stoller (Latty, OH), and to Bro. Mark and Sis. Mary Huber in the loss of her mother, Sis. Peg Bucher (Francesville, IN). May God bless and comfort their families.

We thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) for visiting with us this month.

We rejoice with Dorreen Graham who has decided to change her life and live for the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham (Princeville). We wish her God's grace and blessings as she begins her new journey.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Shirley Kieser**

Our thanks and appreciation to visiting ministers, Bros. Don Manz (Junction) and Paul Gasser (Akron).

Sis. Hattie Miller and Sis. Lois Endress would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, food, gifts and beautiful cards which were sent to them during the time of their accident. May God bless you all.

In a sermon one Sunday we were reminded of the verses, Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee; (Eph. 6:1-3). It was brought out that it

is one thing to say, yes, my parents are good examples, they fear God and try to live for Him. But, if you are unconverted, this is not going to save you. You have to do something about it. Speaking well of your parents and thinking a lot of them will not make it "well with thee", as far as the saving of your soul. If you want to obey your parents in the Lord, this would surely include repentance and conversion, for your own sake, and not merely noticing and admiring the example your parents have been.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

"Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" Luke 17:17. I wonder how many times the Lord thinks that about me as one of the nine? I think although I try to be appreciative of others and all they have done for me, as well as what the Lord directly has done, that I need to cultivate gratefulness even more. For if I am feeling indebted to the Lord and His creation, I am also encouraged in humbleness of mind, humility. And for a person with the stubborn, weedy remnant of pride I have, that's necessary.

The work of the Spirit giving oral expression through our brethren in the ministry has been a fascinating phenomenon for me to marvel at and to pray for, since my conversion. (Before that I most certainly took it for granted.) Besides our beloved home ministers, we give thanks to the Lord for our visitors recently: Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Virg Metzger (Champaign). Their visits added richness to our worship because of their dedicated service to the Lord.

Vacation Bible School has engaged many helping hands, prayerful hearts, listening ears and inquiring minds. This year we focused on the Bible map song — an exercise in learning for teachers as well as students. The Lord blessed each one who came, I believe, whether for one night or every night. The effort put into the study of His Word is always well-repaid — perhaps in energy, in knowledge, in spiritual power. By His grace, we trust our six nights of V.B.S. were to His honor and glory.

Though the burdens of life may seem heavy, there are those pure, honest and virtuous beginnings to think on. Tibor Bozzay (son of Bro. Tibor and Sis.

Pearl Bozzay) has sought the Lord. We rejoice and pray on. We are thankful and humbled. No matter what man has done or been, we see again that he was only a tool in the Master's hand, for the Lord alone can nudge the convicted heart and bring one to salvation. With Tibor, his repentance seems a natural occurrence, yet we know well that had it been a "natural" he would have repented at an earlier time. Because we fight against "principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" Eph. 6:12, we are so joyous at the winning of the first battle (perhaps one of the hardest), but the battle is only really an initial encounter, our prayers continue and even intensify. "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." Luke 15:24.

Gail Metzger (daughter of Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger) and Pat Park (son of Herta Park of Atlanta, GA and Leonard Park of Itasca) were married July 16 in a beautiful chapel at Northwestern University, Evanston Campus. They will be living in New York State where Pat is stationed in the Navy. Gail will be completing her nurse's training. "Blessed be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love . . ." #156, Hymns of Zion. We don't want them to forget us. May we remember them — in prayers and letters:

Pat and Gail Park
1311 Huntridge Drive
Clifton, New York 12065

Several beloved ones were hospitalized: Sis. Emily Lehmann, Sis. Christine Fuhrmann and Bro. Sam Slagel. May their hearts be steadied by His presence. We would support them in their physical distress, by a willingness to remember how very frustrating and weakening illness can be and by surrounding them with prayer, that the Lord may mend any fences and keep Satan and his discouraging temptations out!

Sis. Maria Benko had spoken of her conviction unto salvation, hearing as it were, "Come back to the church; come back to the church." She did so, and after almost 30 years of serving her Lord, she peacefully died on July 7 at the age of 76. Born Maria Bekker, Oct. 31, 1906, in Paks, Hungary, she was the wife of Joseph Benko. They had two children, Rosa Benko Jankovich and Joseph (who died at the age of 8). In 1963 Sis. Maria emigrated to the U.S.

and had lived with her daughter and family since. Sis. Maria had two brothers and one sister, but only one brother is still living, in Hungary. She is also survived by her daughter, Rosa, one grandchild, Alex Jankovich (both of Chicago) and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, many still in Hungary. We hope that His Spirit can help fill the empty room, the empty place in their home, as we extend our deepest sympathy to the household of Sandor and Rosa Jankovich. We shall miss Sis. Maria, but we have blessed memories and we look forward to greeting her in heaven.

"For Him we live, and move, and have our being..." Acts 17:28. Did you know there are specific proportions that are virtually the same for every human being? We each are as tall as the length between our outstretched arms, fingertip to fingertip. The length of one's foot is the distance from elbow to wrist (inside measurement). I understand there are an incredible number of these constant proportions, the measurements individualized, person for person. Satan would have us believe that though these are clever and unique, they are purely coincidental. But I revel in these facts as another signpost showing clearly that we are indeed the handiwork of our God!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Wilma Walder — Joan Waldbeser

He undertook our soul's salvation;
Our sad condition moved Him so!
And came to us from pure compassion
To raise us from our depths of woe.
O, wonderful, surpassing love,
Which brought Him to us from above!

O, Lord, of goodness so amazing,
Not one is worthy, no not one.
We stand in shame and wonder gazing
At wondrous things which Thou hast done.

Thy crowning grace and precious blood
Have reconciled us with our God.

Zion's Harp #145

We rejoice with our friend, Doug Greiner, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi, who has sought the Lord in repentance, found peace of heart and is looking forward to baptism.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloom-

ington). May they feel God's blessings on their labors.

June 26 was the day of our church picnic. Young and old together enjoyed the beautiful day, good food and blessed fellowship.

Sis. Betty Oberfel and Sis. Nettie Scharlach underwent surgery and Sis. Arvella Yergler, Sis. Mattie Bauer and Sis. Anna Hari were hospital patients. We are thankful all are home and improving. May they feel God's nearness and strength and our prayers on their behalf.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harry and Sis. Mattie Bauer in the sudden death of their son, Leslie Bauer. He passed away July 5 leaving, besides his parents, four brothers, Bill Bauer, Cal Bauer, Lowell Bauer and Glen Hodel and two sisters, JoAnn Hartman and Madalyn Seggebruch.

May God comfort our Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard (Fairbury) and his family in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Marie.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Carol Craig — Kay Roth

We enjoyed the blessings that we received during our annual Sunday School picnic. Several classes of Sunday School children presented short programs that expressed the Love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

We would like to extend our sympathy and prayers to the two families whose loved ones past away. Our sympathy goes to Bro. Eugene Hartman and family in the passing of his mother, Sis. Esther Hartman (Goodfield) and to Sis. Polly Schrock and family for the passing of her sister, Sis. Peggy Bucher (Francesville, IN). Also we all felt sorrow at the passing away of Sis. Marie Broquard (Fairbury). Bro. Josh had spent many years as our dear elder and Sis. Marie was always there, lending her prayerful support and giving encouragement to us all. We are glad to know that this earth is just a temporary home and that God has prepared an eternal Home in heaven for those who love and serve Him.

The Brotherhood Conference is coming up soon. Our prayers and thoughts will be with our elders and ministers as they seek that which is right and good in the sight of God. May the Lord lead and guide them during this year's conference.

Alan Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) and Joanne Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans

and Sis. Arlene, Goodfield) were united in marriage on July 16. May the Lord bless them as they walk through this life as husband and wife and as they set up their home together.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Death has left its affects on our Elgin Church community, and we find that various emotions are stirred within us. In each case there has been a time of suffering preceding their departure, and often we stood by, somewhat helplessly, to observe their struggle to bear the burden. We are, therefore, grateful that the Lord finally called them home, releasing the spirit from their miserable earthly frames. Yet we had grown to love them each one and we will miss the communion we had. In that we find sorrow.

Thankful are we that the Lord, himself, gave confirmation of the resurrection to the Sadduces, who denied the power of such, when he said, "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him." St. Luke 20:35-38

Sis. Kathryn Williamson, 94, passed away July 7. She was the daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Kathryn Noffsinger Kinsinger and lived in Pulaski, IA most of her life. In later life, Kathryn moved to Elgin to be with her brother's (Bro. R. O. Kinsinger) family.

Sis. Rose Goll, 83, passed away July 11. She was born in Germany to Henry and Sis. Christine Schock Waldbusser and survived by an only daughter, Mrs. Henry (Marion) Graff; a sister, Louise Staudle and a brother, Henry Waldbusser (both in Germany); and two grandchildren.

Bro. Henry Kellenberger, 90, passed away July 15. He was born in Bern, KS to Bro. Henry and Sis. Salome Strahm Kellenberger. Surviving him are his wife, Sis. Sarah; two sons, Bro. Adrian (South Elgin) and Bro. Lyle (Elgin); one sister, Sis. Rose Moser (Hills,

MN); two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sis. Lydia Jenny, 75, passed away July 17. She was born in Germany to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Rosina Dietrich Gebhard. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Glenn (Marlene) Heide (Kenosha, WI); three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

To each of these families we wish to extend our deepest sympathy and prayers for God's nearness to bear their sorrow.

Sis. Mary Leuthold has been a hospital patient and is now home recuperating. May the Lord restore her health so that she may once again go in and out with us.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

Kate Rebecca has brought joy to the home of Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker. She was born June 21. She is the new sister to Aaron and Jody. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Mina Anliker, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Clara Kempf, all of Eureka.

July 3 was the wedding day for Bro. Kent Leman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Christine Schmidgall (Bro. Ray "Barney" and Sis. Millie) at Lester, IA. May the Lord be the head of their home and bless them as they walk life's pathway together. We welcome you to our congregation, Sis. Chris.

Our best wishes go to Jane Schmidgall (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy) and Dwayne Schock (Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois, Elgin, IL) as they have recently announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan for their life together. An October 29 wedding is being planned.

Bro. Carl Knepp is a patient in the hospital at this time. He has been unable to attend church for some time due to his failing health. Sis. Della Anliker from the "Home" is a surgical patient. Sis. Margaret Schumacher, also from the "Home", is a patient in a Peoria hospital. Many thoughts and prayers are with these loved ones.

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford) who ministered to us one Sunday this past month. May we prayerfully support the brethren who proclaim God's Word.

I would rather travel with God in the dark than go it alone in the light.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

Two families have been blessed with bundles from heaven. A son, Neil J. was born to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner on June 27. He has a sister, Katherin, and a brother, Matthew, who welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner and Bro. Walter and Sis. Mary Schwind (Roanoke). First-time parents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr on July 8 as they were blessed with a baby daughter, Shannon Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman (Forrest).

On June 6 the engagement of our Sis. LaRae Zehr to Bro. Dewayne Dill of the Tremont congregation was announced. Their parents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores Zehr and Sis. Barbara Dill (Tremont). May God direct their path as they make their future plans together.

Bro. Edward Huber went on to his eternal rest to be with the Lord Jesus Christ while he was at the home of his daughter, Sis. Katharine and Bro. John Fehr. At the age of 91, Bro. Edward was the oldest brother in our Fairbury church. Bro. Edward's wife, Sis. Lydia (Fehr) preceded him in death. A recent dream of Bro. Ed, a retired farmer, was of walking on a country road. He was so happy and he was singing, "I'm Going Home to Die No More". The song was sung at his funeral. Surviving are four daughters, Sis. Katharine Fehr and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft (both of Fairbury), Sis. Virginia Blunier (Forrest) and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH); a son, Melvin of South America; a sister, Sis. Caroline Hodel (Roanoke); a half-brother, Sam Huber (Bloomington); 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Three brothers, a half-brother and four sisters preceded him in death. Funeral services were held by Elder Bro. Rudy Graf (Akron).

Our dear sister, Marie Broquard, 80, wife of Elder Bro. Josh Broquard, passed on from this life into eternity on July 8. Her life of meekness and humility has truly been an example for all of us as she so willingly stood by Bro. Josh in his duties. Surviving are four sons, Earl and Ralph (Watseka), Kenneth and Dean (Fairbury); two daughters, Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville) and Doris Cottrell (Chenoa). A grandson preceded her in death. Funeral services were held by Elder Bros. Leroy

Huber (Eureka), Sam Anliker (Lamont), Dan Koch (Tremont) and Art Bahler. The family deeply appreciates being remembered by so many.

Our sympathy is extended to both of these families in the loss of their loved ones. May we all strive to be prepared for that endless eternity where there will be no more pain or sorrow.

Reminder: August is the month for collection of the Silver Lining dues for our congregation.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) and Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing with us God's precious Word of life.

Hospital patients this month are Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Joel Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Lydia Kilgus (Bro. Henry).

Phil Leman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna) wishes to extend a special thanks to all for their prayers, cards, gifts and visits while he was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one for the kindness and love.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

Our hearts were saddened this past month as our beloved Sis. Esther Hartman was called home to her eternal rest. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her family as we find great comfort knowing she is with her Saviour.

On June 11, Greg Musselman, son of Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman, was united in marriage to Laura Schultz, daughter of George and Darlene Schultz (Galesburg). On July 16, Alan Roth, son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville), became the husband of Joanne Hinrichsen, daughter of Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen. May the Lord bless these two young couples as they share their love and their lives.

"What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!"

Tabernacle Hymns #188

On July 2 and 3 we were privileged to

hear of the wonderful change that came into the life of Albert Knapp. Although Albert is confined to a wheelchair and unable to read the Bible, he enjoys listening to tapes of God's Word. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) for his assistance with this testimony.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) for giving us much food for thought on June 29.

Bro. Rick Wiegand was hospitalized for an appendectomy. We hope his recovery is swift and complete. We wish to remember our two gravely ill Sisters, Esther Woertz and Minnie Knapp with our loving prayers of comfort.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul! On the
stormy sea, He speaks peace to me,
How the billows cease to roll!"

#169 Tabernacle Hymns

What fullness of joy is ours when we feel that quiet rest and tranquil spirit of peace within our heart. The dove that descended upon Jesus at the time of His baptism is symbolic of the calmness, the serenity and the gentle goodness that soothes the freshly cleansed and sanctified heart of the new believer. After a time of struggle, a time of sorrow and tears; when we wrestled with the enemy and in our weakness implored God for the grace to overcome sin, the storm clouds were lifted and the beautiful peace of God overwhelmed our soul. A true repentance is often sad and gloomy at first as we deeply regret the sin and iniquity of our past life and become spiritually crucified with Christ. The enemy often makes it difficult for us to break away from our old habits and often would tempt us to give up. He would like to tell us that it is too difficult to be a child of God, that we can never do it so we might as well not try. But he is a liar, and what may at first seem like such a steep and thorny way, becomes a gentle, and easier yoke to bear just as the Savior promised: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." He gives us more grace and as our faith increases we realize that our doubts and our foolish pride were the only hindrances that separated us from the beautiful, quiet,

communication with our Maker that we now enjoy.

We are thankful and rejoice that Richard Keifer, son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Louise, has made the best decision of his life by deciding to seek the Lord in repentance and has since acquired the peace of God in his heart. God willing, he will give his testimony and be baptized the weekend of July 24.

We appreciate the ministering brothers who visited us and labored for our benefit: Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Bros. Ben Manz (Junction), Carl Wyss (Washington), Glenn Funk (Garden Grove) and Kent Heimer (Taylor).

Our best wishes for God's blessings to abide in their homes are extended to Bro. Ed Wyss (Washington) and Sis. Kathy Schlipf who were married June 26; and also to Bro. Mark Campbell (Gridley) and Sis. Marsha Schmidgall who were married in Morton, July 10.

Bro. Si Hohulin wishes to thank all his friends and relatives for the many beautiful cards and gifts of money he received on his 80th birthday.

Our hospital patients have been: Sis. Louise Gramm, Lillian Yergler, Duane Krug and Sis. Anna Klopfenstein.

We welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp and their daughter, Lindsey, who have moved back to Gridley from Tucson, AZ.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Joann Roecker

We welcome Eliza Ackerman as our sister-in-faith. She gave her testimony and was baptized on June 19. May the Lord bless and keep her as she walks the narrow way. Sis. Eliza is very ill and confined at home. She has expressed such joy and peace in her new Savior.

Morton Apostolic Christian mixed chorus was privileged to host the Leo Children's Home and several others of the Leo congregation who accompanied them. We had a very blessed weekend with them. Many friendships were renewed and new friendships started. A church potluck was held on Saturday evening, June 18 at our Morton Fellowship Hall. Food was plentiful and love and fellowship abounded. It was hard to see a beautiful time come to a close.

We rejoice with Sis. Jane Schmidgall (Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen) and Bro. Mark Nelson (Darryel and Sis. Sandy) who were married on June 26. May

God bless them and be the head of their home.

The family of Bro. Warren Kaiser wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the prayers and many deeds of kindness shown unto them during the loss of their loved one. May God bless all who were so kind.

We are thankful that our Heavenly Father granted Caroline Strunk grace to repent and become converted. We heard her testimony and witnessed her baptism on June 29. We welcome her as our sister-in-faith and wish her God's blessings as she now walks the narrow pathway of life.

July 10, Bro. Mark Campbell and Sis. Marcia Schmidgall joined hands and exchanged their marriage vows. Their parents are Charles and Margaret Campbell and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lucy Schmidgall. May God bless this dear couple as they make a home and begin their walk together.

Bro. Dan Farney (Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene) and Sis. Mary Kaiser (Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne) were united in holy matrimony on July 17. With love and joy we pray a special blessing on this couple and all others as they start their lives together, two becoming one in Christ.

We have several loved ones who are shut-in and those suffering great illness. Our prayers continue with them. The Lord hears the prayers being offered and those in need so often express how they feel our prayers. So continue in prayer for those who continue to wait upon the Lord.

Our love and appreciation is extended to the following visiting brothers for their labors of love: Uriel Gehring, Jack Bollier and Marvin Stieglitz (all of Leo), Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Al Aberle (Tremont), Ed Ringger and Al Witzig (Gridley) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington). May God richly bless them and their families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

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

God has led two souls together to share in His love through holy matrimony. Married on July 10 were Marten Zimmerman and Jamie Hoerr. Parents of the couple are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Merna Zimmerman. May God bless

them in their new life together that He may be glorified through their love.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington), Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Carl Kinsinger (Altadena). May God bless each one for his willingness to serve the Lord by preaching the Word of Life.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara Reinbeck would like to sincerely thank all of you for your beautiful cards, and most of all for your prayerful support during their sorrow when they lost their precious little Heidi. "Words cannot adequately express our thanks to all who gave of themselves and those who helped at the funeral. Your Christian love has helped to lessen the sorrow very much. We sincerely thank you for caring. May the Lord bless each and everyone of you and keep you forever in His loving care."

Sis. Ella Hoerr wishes to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and most of all, the love and prayers that were sent her way during her recent hospital stay.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Ivan Thomas, Howard Eilers and Sis. Mary Tanner. May they each feel God's presence as they struggle with adversity.

Sis. Clara Stoller of the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home was called Home. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Gene and Sally Hoerr in the recent death of her dad, Bro. Earl Sorg (Milford, IN).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

Don't be content just to follow after God — walk with Him. Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN) was our visiting minister.

On June 25 we heard the testimony of Sis. Lynn Koener and we witnessed her baptism on June 26. Sis. Lynn's parents are Matt and Maxine Koener (Dunlap).

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Kenny Gehrig, Bro. Bill Streitmatter and Sis. Carol Martin. They will replace Bro. John Leuthold, Bro. Alf Streitmatter and Sis. Mary Jane Streitmatter.

Sis. Emily Stoller, wife of Bro. Joe, injured her leg on June 21. Bro. Dana Regier broke his wrist on June 18. Andrea Stoller, daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie, has a cast on her arm. She hurt it at home on July 16.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Fred Schafer and Sis. Helen Schick.

Our sympathy is given to the family of Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht. Sis. Margaret's mother, Sis. Marie Broquard, passed away July 8.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

Marilyn and Bob Ott are the parents of their fourth child, Steven Daniel. His three playmates at home are David, Heidi and Lisa. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Em Blunier and the William Otts of Roanoke.

Announcement was made of the approaching marriage of Sis. Kathy Diggie (John and Sis. Sarah) to Bro. Andy Pfledder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ellie, Morton). May the love of God surround them all their life.

Rita Leman was wed to Randy Kneezel on June 19. She is the daughter of Bro. Rollie and Sis. Verla Leman and his parents are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kneezel (Alton, IL).

We have prayerfully petitioned for God's healing touch in the lives of our sisters and brothers that have been hospitalized. They are Bro. Vince Hodel and Sis. Fran Fischer and Sis. Lena Martin. They are missed in our congregation each time we gather.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

Recently made known to our congregation was the engagement of Bro. Dewayne Dill (Henry and Sis. Barbara) to Sis. LaRae Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores of Fairbury). We wish them God's richest blessing as they plan their life together.

Another joyous event, on July 3, the birth of precious twin sons, Jess Weldon and John Daniel, to Daniel and Margaret Staker. Proud grandparents are Bro. Weldon and Sis. Doris Staker and John and Marian Lay.

Also welcoming a new baby son are Bro. Peter and Sis. Debbie Aberle. Ryan James was born on July 13. Big brother, Randy, welcomes him home. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville).

July 10 was the beautiful wedding day of Sis. Teresa Huetter (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arlene) to Bro. Dale Schock (Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois, Elgin, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new home together.

We are happy to report that Sis. Hanna Koch is now home after having spent several weeks in the hospital.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Richard Steiner, Sis. Ann and their children. Bro. Richard is in the hospital recovering from a fall which resulted in breaking both of his legs. We pray God will be with them in the long days ahead.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bill and Maizie Hopkins in the loss of Bill's sister, Linda, who passed away last week after a long illness.

Bill Michel, father of Bro. Paul, is now residing in Restmor Nursing Home. We pray the Lord will bless and strengthen his wife, Bertha, as she continues to help care for him.

We wish to thank all of our visiting ministers this month — Bros. Nathan Steffen and Bill Gudeman (both of Elgin, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park).

Sis. Hanna Koch wishes to thank everyone for all the kindnesses shown to her during her recent illness. She is especially thankful to all for their prayers, gifts, visits and food.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Lily Schick

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life . . ." Zion's Harp #237. On June 26, Bro. Ed Wyss and Sis. Kathy Schlipf shared their wedding vows to become one in the Lord. As our heavenly Father has drawn them together, may He bless them farther on as they journey through life. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Schlipf (Gridley, IL).

Our health is something we so often take for granted, but is certainly a blessing from above. Sis. Dolly Schick was in the hospital, and is home again. We are so thankful that God has restored health to her so that she can resume life as before.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy Steffen and their four children have moved to Washington and will be worshipping with us. We want to welcome them into our midst! Another family has left here for employment elsewhere. Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and their seven dear children have gone to make their home in Lamont, KS. We miss them, but feel the Lord has led them there. It is comforting to know, too, that

they are among our body of believers, who have enveloped them with their love. Our prayer is that God ever will bless them as they settle there with His love, contentment and abiding peace.

There are times in our spiritual walk that we seem to find ourselves asking, "Lord, where to now?" It is only when we are totally submissive to Him that He can gently lead us in the right direction — that being where we can best be of service to Him. We know we must walk by faith and not by sight. Being the poor, weak mortals we are, that's often difficult to do. Perhaps we are thinking more of the material factors involved than what are God's plans for us. He has promised always to provide for our every need, if we but totally lean on Him. "Ready to go, ready to stay, Ready my place to fill; Ready for service, lowly or great; Ready to do His will." Hymns of Zion #124.

July 10 was the date of our annual Sunday School picnic. It is an event looked forward to and enjoyed by all, unifying to the church as a whole.

Ministering Bro. Roy Ehnle was with us this past Sunday. How grateful we are to God that he lent himself "in the service of the King" that we all could be fed by His Word. May the Lord be his rich Rewarder.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Linda Kipfer — Jan Ringger

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

In the spirit of Christian love, Sis. Twila Gerber became the wife of Bro. Terry Longenberger on June 26. Parents of the couple are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona Longenberger. We wish them God's grace and guidance as they begin their walk as one.

Amber Jo has come to add joy and blessings to the home of Leon and Sis. Cindy Kaufman. Her family includes sisters, Missy and Jamie, and grandmother, Sis. Aldine Moser.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel's home was blessed with the arrival of a new son, Jeremy Todd. Welcoming him home is his sister, Rochelle, and grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel and Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen.

We were thankful to have the inspiring word of God brought to us by visiting ministers, Bros. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont), Harry Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale), Larry Wenninger (Latty), and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott). May these brothers be blessed for their unselfish service.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Bro. Ezra Reinhard, Jr., Clara Tonner (Harry), Sis. Emma Steffen, Sis. Devona Gerber (Ralph), Brian Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann), Kelly Stucky (Bro. Steve and Sis. Carol). May we continue to pray for these loved ones and all those who are shut-in or sick at home.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Dale (Pauline) Maller who passed from this life into eternity on July 11.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Peg Fiechter

Kathy Longenberger

"There is beauty all around, When there's love at home." Hymns of Zion #64. Two more Christian homes will be established with the coming marriages of: Sis. Kim Gerber, daughter of Bro. Vic and Sis. Julia, to Bro. Kent Gerber, son of Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois, and Sis. Lora Meyer, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn to Bro. Dan Kieser, son of Bro. Louis and Sis. Jean of Bloomington, IL.

Chad Jenkins has a new baby brother in his home. Benjamin Lee is the new son of Rick and Jackie Jenkins. Grandparents are Bro. Lenny and Sis. Nancy Gerber. May God give all of us as parents direction in rearing our children in the Lord's way.

The weekend of July 9, Bluffton North had testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls. They were Sisters Connie Bertsch, Kathy Schriver (Randy), Rita DeHoff (Scott) and Becky Edington (Tom). Visiting ministers for this Holy rite were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction). Other ministers visiting this month were: Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington) and Leland Plattner (Zapata). May God richly bless each one for their endeavors.

Bluffton North had their first annual family picnic on July 15. An evening of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

WHERE THE ROSES

NEVER FADE

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

In this world we have our troubles,
Satan's snares we must evade
We'll be free from all temptations
Where the roses never fade.

Loved ones gone to be with Jesus
In their robes of white arrayed
Now are waiting for my coming
Where the roses never fade.

Here they bloom but for a season
Soon their beauty is decayed;

I am going to a city
Where the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

The words to this song seem so fitting as our dear Sis. Peg Bucher passed from this life into eternity. Our hearts ache because we miss her, yet we rejoice, trusting she is "Asleep in Jesus".

Our sincere sympathy is with her husband, Bro. Elmer; four daughters, Sis. Linda Hodel (Bro. John, Roanoke, IL), Sis. Mary Huber (Bro. Mark, Bloomington, IL), Sis. Becky Barnes (Bro. Brad, Indianapolis, IN), Elaine Sanders (Mrs. Jeff, Rensselaer, IN) and her son, Jimmy.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) shared with us in the funeral services. We want to thank them for the loving thoughts they shared.

We enjoyed a blessed week June 20 through 26 — our Vacation Bible School week. We appreciate so much the time the following brothers took to expound upon the theme: "Signs of the Times": Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

On Sunday evening, June 26, the younger classes took part in the annual Bible School Program, relating truths they learned. It is precious to hear them tell of God's truth by singing songs and reciting verses.

We were thankful to have the follow-

ing visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). Also visiting us was Lazarus Padale of India, who shared with many in an evening of slides. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) was also here for the slides. We thank all of them!

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Mabel Pelsy, Sis. Yvonne Gutwein, Bro. Art Novotny and Bro. Bruce Wuethrich as they have been hospital patients this past month. We're thankful they are all home and pray they all recover speedily to enjoy the blessing of good health.

There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents. How much more joy over many? Words can't express the joy we feel over souls repenting, and we're so thankful for several here that have recently started in this precious way!

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

Christ, the center and heart of the Bible, the center and heart of history, is the center and heart of our lives. Our Eternal destiny is in His hand. Our acceptance, or rejection of Him, determines for each of us, Eternal glory or ruin; Heaven or Hell; one or the other.

The most important decision any one is ever called on to make is to settle in his heart, once and for all, the matter of his attitude toward Christ. On that depends everything. It is a glorious thing to be a Christian, the most exalted privilege of mankind. To accept Christ as Savior, Lord and Master, and to strive sincerely and devotedly to follow in the way of Life which He taught us, is certainly and by far, the most reasonable and most satisfactory way to live. It means peace, peace of mind, contentment of heart, forgiveness, happiness, hope, life here and now, life abundant and life that shall never end.

We thank ministering Bros. Carl Westfall (Francesville) and Dale Strassheim (Milford) who were with us in the absence of our own ministers. The Indianapolis Church is having a 10-year reunion for everyone who has lived, worked, went to school and worshipped with us. It will be held on Sunday, Spetember 25 at the church. Anyone interested in coming may write Sis. Suz Ringger, 9012 Butternut Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260. We hope

everyone who has been here sometime in the past, can come and spend the day in worship and fellowship with us on this special day. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to come, so we can go about preparing the meal. Thanks and hope to see you in September.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch — Lu Ann Troxel

Our congregation was blessed with two weddings in July. On the 10th, Sis. Lu Ann Feller and Bro. Tom Troxel were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Ed Frank. We want to wish Bro. Tom and Sis. Lu Ann, who is your Silver Lining reporter, many blessings as they start their life together. We, as well as their family, were thankful it was the Lord's will that retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller and Sis. Ollie could attend their granddaughter's wedding. May God continue to keep them in His care.

Sis. Marsha Bucher and Bro. Dennis Weiss exchanged these blessed vows on the 17th before Bro. Ed Frank and a host of witnesses. Believing faith brought them together, we pray their lives will ever be bound with that threefold cord.

Among the many guests who visited us, we were thankful to have ministering Bros. Marvin Stieglitz and Jack Bollier (Leo) and Rod Huber (Valparaiso). We thank these brothers for expounding God's Word unto us and pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

We were sorry to hear that Sis. Lina Bock fell and broke her wrist. She is able to assemble with us again, and we pray that God will continue to share with her His healing mercies.

Janelle Nuest and Angie Heinold have received that heavenly peace and are awaiting baptism. We are thankful God is still calling souls unto repentance and pray that many more will take advantage of His love while the door of grace is still open.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

"He who loves the Word will receive the power to understand what he loves." Visiting ministers who directed our thoughts into His Word were Bros. Dale Strassheim (Milford), Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Kent Ringger (Bluffton), Roy Weiland (Bay City) and Gary Anliker (Elgin). His servants

everywhere need the prayer support of the hearers. "The prayer closets of God's people are where the roots of the church grow."

Bro. Uriel Gehring, Sis. Judy and their daughter, Rachel, are welcomed by the congregation. He is wished God's blessing and direction as administrator of the Children's Home.

Several precious little ones have arrived recently. Bro. Paul and Sis. Leann Fisher are the happy parents of Laura Beth. Her grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Patricia Fisher (Leo).

Jordan Michael is welcomed by Michael and Jane Heller, sister, Jayla, grandparents, Bro. O. W. and Sis. Helen Maxfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar Heller.

Two baby girls joined the family circle of Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman. Heather Eileen was born to Roger and Diana Garman Strite. Rebecca Ann was born to Mark and Judy Garman Stockert.

May these young parents:
"Take time to hear their prayers at night

To really cherish and enjoy
A little girl with flaxen curls,
And the small wonder of a boy,
They ask so little when they're small,
Just love and tenderness — that's all."

Author Unknown

And for an extra smile:
"B-1 and B-12

For the children's diet,
But what I use the most

Are B have and B quiet!"

Author Unknown; but both of the above are taken from 'Heart to Heart Poetry Album' by Ella May Miller

We turn now to a very sobering thought. Dear readers who have not yet experienced the joy of His salvation, you cannot repent too soon for you know not how soon it may be too late!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee through Thy blest sacrament, which we partook.

That joined in heart and hand; To Zion's realm and holy land we journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

Bro. Elmer Hartter and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer were assisted by visiting

Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) in serving holy communion.

Sis. Sonia and Thad Tinkey's home has added joy and happiness since the arrival of their first child. Kayla JoAnn's grandparents are Sis. Virginia and Don Hoover and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Tinkey. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Flossie Hartter are great-grandparents.

We are thankful that Bro. Ray Levy's eye surgery was successful. Wess Bell (Sis. Ann) is recovering following knee surgery. How truly grateful we are that God gives us both spiritual and physical strength during illness.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn and family. Bro. Bob's father, Dr. Kenneth Cockburn (Middletown, CT), died recently following a three-year illness. His wife, Alice, survives.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Ronald Steiner (Rittman, OH), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We are thankful for God's Word as these brothers share it.

When e're 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 forever.

Bro. Henry Beer wrote this farewell to us shortly before he died on June 29 following an extended illness. Bro. Henry served as our minister for many years and left us many precious thoughts in his poems and songs. Memories of him will be with us always. We are happy that he can now be at rest with Jesus, as He opened His merciful arms to allow a child of His to come home. His wife, Sis. Alice, survives. Additional survivors include four daughters, Sis. Lois (Bro. Willis Ehle, Japan), Edith Brown (Belair, MD), Mrs. Wayne (Marilyn) Riggs (Indianapolis) and Mrs. Robert (Florence) Hinni (Winter Haven, FL); four sons, Bro. Victor (LaBelle, FL), Bro. Marion and Lowell (Denver) and Max (Milford); 26 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Oscar (Sis. Hulda) Graff (Milford) and Sis. Salome Kipfer (Bluffton); and two brothers, Bro. Theo Beer (Milford) and Peter (Goshen). May God's comforting hand be extended to each of these family members.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps it burrows in from the outside. Well, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from inside.

But how does he get there? Very simple! The insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Eventually, the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works its way out through a person's thoughts, words and actions. For this reason, the psalmist once wrote, "Create in me a clean heart, O God," and the hymnwriter once penned, "Search me, O God and know my thoughts today." Is our heart clean and ready for the Lord's will to be accomplished in our life?

I recently read of a young man who was seeking to bring the Gospel to a group of heathen people on a remote island. Upon hearing of the young man's zeal, his friends and relatives discouraged him because of the reputation these heathen people had for being savage warriors. His family feared for his life. The young man listened to their kind warning, then simply replied, "I already died before the Lord sent me here." This thought left a lasting impression on my heart. The Lord has not called me to a remote island . . . but where His will is leading me, I must ask myself this question. Am I hindering the Lord's work because I have not died to self? Am I ready to lose my life for Christ's sake?

Our visiting ministers in recent weeks were Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford).

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Nancy and Karen Lehman

Likewise must the deacon be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

I Timothy 3:8-10

Our dear minister, Bro. Robert Beebe, was recently ordained deacon of our South Bend congregation. He has our prayerful support as he continues to do God's work.

This past month we held vacation

Bible School. The children went for one week and the adults had two evening classes. Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso) and John Isch (Indianapolis) were our two speakers. We thank them for their time. We also want to thank those who came to be with us and took part in special numbers.

There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6

How blessed it is to greet a new brother and sister-in-faith. Bro. Don Lehman and Sis. Jill Lehman were warmly welcomed into the fold.

Our small flock welcomes back Sis. Emma Lou Gerber after a stay in Florida.

We want to thank Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for lending himself as a visiting minister. We extend a warm invitation for anyone to visit our South Bend congregation.

Our dear Sis. Marge Mangold has recently been hospitalized but is now recovering at home. Our thoughts and prayers are always with her.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Jill Hitz — Vera Nuest

DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYERS?

The Bible is filled with answered prayers from Genesis to Revelation. You are commanded to pray, and God has promised to answer (Jer. 33:3). In John 15:7 we read: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. There are two requirements for answers to prayer. First, you are to abide in Him; that is, to continue in Him. It means to remain in His perfect will at all cost (Rom. 12:1, 2). Second, His words are to abide in You; they are to become a vital part of your life. You are to be filled with and guided by His words (Col. 3:16, 17). Meet these two requirements, and your prayers will be answered.

(1) The answer is sometimes immediate. Peter walked on the water to go to Jesus and as he began to sink, he prayed, "Lord save me." The answer was immediate. (Matt. 14:22-31)

(2) The answer is sometimes delayed. The delay is according to His will (Rom. 8:28). The resurrection of Lazarus is a good example of delayed answer to prayer. Lazarus was sick.

Mary and Martha sent for Jesus to come and heal him. But Jesus delayed coming until Lazarus was dead and in the tomb for four days. Then He came and raised Lazarus from the dead. The answer was delayed, but not denied. (John 11:1-44)

(3) The answer is sometimes "no". When God answers with a "no", He always accompanies the answer with peace (Phil. 4:6, 7) and grace (II Cor. 12:7-10)

(4) The answer is sometimes different from what you expect. You pray for patience and God sends tribulation — because "tribulation worketh patience" (Rom. 5:3). God answers all your prayers — not according to your wishes, but according to His perfect will.

HINDERANCES TO PRAYER

When prayers are not answered, you should examine yourself in the light of God's Word. If you find anything not pleasing to God, confess it, believing God for forgiveness that your prayers may be answered (I John 1:9).

(1) An unharmonious relationship between husband and wife will hinder prayer (I Peter 3:1-7)

(2) Selfishness will hinder prayer (James 4:3)

(3) An unforgiving spirit will hinder prayer (Matt. 5:22, 24)

Many Christians go without answers to prayer because they have wronged others; or have been wronged, and have failed to humble themselves and seek reconciliation.

(4) Unbelief will hinder prayer (James 1:6, 7 and Heb. 11:6)

(5) Known sin in the heart will hinder prayer (Isa. 59:1, 2 and Ps. 66:18)

When you pray, go to God in all humility. Ask Him to reveal anything in your life that is not pleasing to Him. Then judge it; confess it; calling it by name; and forsake it. Pray in all simplicity and earnestness, believing, and God will hear and answer.

Last month our visiting ministers were: Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park). We certainly thank God for the words we heard.

Two new souls gave their lives over to Christ. They are: Chrissy Kimmerer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Susie) and Kelly Thomas (Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia). We just praise God that young people are listening to His calling.

Scott and Marianne Rice have welcomed David Scott into their lives. Little Sara is also happy for her new brother. Grandparents are Conrad and Donna Paarlberg and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Rice.

There is always so much joy when two people decide to share their life together in marriage. Russ Adams and Cindy Zeltwanger (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn) were wed on July 2. On July 17, Bro. Dennis Weiss and Sis. Marsha Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois, LaCrosse) were also united in marriage. We pray that each of the couples will have a loving and fulfilled life together.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer

A boy was taken by his father on a camping trip in the Adirondacks. They hired a guide, left the beaten trails and spent a week in the heart of the woods. The boy was greatly impressed by the ability of the guide to see all sorts of things, invisible to the ordinary eye. One day, after the guide had been pointing out some of the hidden secrets of nature, the lad asked with an awed voice, "Mister, can you see God?"

The old man replied, "My boy, it's getting so I can hardly see anything else when I'm out in the woods."

Walter Dudley Cavert

A good thing to think about, especially on these busy summer days of work and play. Do we see God in our daily lives, or do we let the world block our vision?

We thank Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Glen Price (Sarasota) for sharing God's love with us at Wolcott. May it return to them "pressed down . . . and running over."

Sis. Edna Kyburz has been home recovering from recent surgery.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Kim Salek

Summer, as always, is such a busy time with people coming and going, meeting family and friends that perhaps we haven't seen in some time. Sundays are always special because we never quite know if some company will be here that we haven't heard about. We are a fortunate people in that we can visit congregations where perhaps we know no one and still feel at home and acquainted. How thankful we should be that we have the freedom

and the means to travel with such ease.

We are very thankful to the Oakville ministering brothers and their families for aiding our ministering brothers this month. Bro. Harvey Heiniger and his wife were gone for a couple of Sundays and the ministering brothers from Oakville assisted Bro. Paul Eisenmann on the pulpit in his absence.

Jim and Dorothy Mitchell have both had some health problems recently. Dorothy had some eye trouble that caused her a great deal of pain and Jim was having some heart trouble. We're thankful they're both feeling better now.

We will soon say good-bye to Kathy and Shannon Jones as they will be going back to California with their husband and father, John. John is in the Navy and has been out at sea. Kathy and Shannon have been staying with John's parents, Bro. Blaine and Sis. Margaret Applegarth while he was gone. We will all be sorry to see them leave as little Shannon has found a place in our hearts. We hope to see them again and wish them God's blessings in all things.

Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy Gehring (Leo) have been spending some time in our area recently while getting all the last minute plans ready for their daughter, Mary's wedding. It has been so nice having them here again, it doesn't quite seem as if they're really "visitors" as they have moved so recently.

Our Sunday School election was held July 17. Sis. Beverly Woodward and Bro. John Rowell were elected. We pray for God's guidance and grace as they carry out their duties. It is sometimes difficult to give up Sunday morning services to teach, but the blessings and rewards are very great for those who give of their time to teach and instruct our young children in the ways of the Lord. Parents, grandparents and the entire church are grateful for the time they give to our young people.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

On the evening of July 10 almost the entire congregation gathered for the annual Sunday School picnic at Bro. Paul and Sis. Milly Butikofers. After the picnic, we enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 13:1

Hospital patients this past month were Eugene Moore and Sis. Edna Gehring (medical) and Bobby Frieden (surgical).

We are thankful Bro. Ed Pulfer's health has improved so he can again assemble with us.

We welcome any visitors traveling this direction while on vacation, to come and worship with us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Joyce Eland

"And seek now ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:29-32

These verses seem very apt for our small congregation in Iowa City. We've truly had our needs supplied richly this last month. Ministers, song leaders, brothers, sisters, and friends to fellowship with, children to visit our Sunday School — all were provided. May the Lord bless each of you who shared with us! Ministering brothers who labored here this last month included Bros. Paul Eisenman (Burlington), Don Sauder (Roanoke), Dale Frank (Oakville), and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

IOWA, LESTER
Alice Metzger

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. It was indeed a day of humble rejoicing when we could assemble in our new edifice for the first Sunday of worship on July 10. We are deeply grateful for those who gave of their time and talents, for monetary contributions and many prayers beseeching divine guidance. Most of all, we are thankful to God for blessing the efforts of so many. We invite brethren and friends from across the land to worship with us now that we can better accommodate everyone.

On July 3, the last Sunday in the old church, we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Cris Schmidgall and Bro. Kent Leman. Sis. Cris will be missed here in Lester where she has lived for several years as she and Bro. Kent will establish their home and attend the Eureka

church. Visiting ministers here for the day were Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka), Noah Miller (Minneapolis) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha). We appreciate their speaking God's Word in truth and spirit. We were grateful also on June 19 when Bro. Jim Plattner was our visiting minister. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace." Romans 10:15.

A baby girl was born on June 29 to Greg and Lori Popkes. The grandparents of Kristi Louise are Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Arend and Darlene Folkens. Bro. Merle and Sis. Shelly Knoblock became the parents of Trevor Lee on July 8. His grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Salome Knobloch and Bill and Sis. Marilyn Messner (Winthrop).

Those who have been hospitalized here were Bro. Henry Kellenberger, Bro. Bill Wulf and Sis. Lois Metzger.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Jerilyn Wagenbach

At our annual Sunday School election recently, Sis. Luanne Beyer, and Bros. Bob Frank, Ron Schmidgall and Al Wiegand were chosen as new teachers. We wish them the Lord's direction, and want to thank our outgoing teachers for their efforts — Sis. Kathy Wyss, and Bros. Gary Schulz and Bob Schrock.

On June 24, Brenda Lynn was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Schulz. She has a sister, Julie, and a brother, Phillip, to welcome her to the family. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz, and Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Joan Lanz.

We were privileged to have many visitors on June 26, among them being ministering Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO). On July 17, we also had a visit from Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank our visiting ministers, as well as all the brothers and sisters who traveled to Oakville to worship with us.

The congregation learned of the betrothal of Sis. Jerilyn Wagenbach to Bro. Joe Yackley (Taylor, MO) on July 17. Their parents are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach, and Sis. Clara Yackley (Taylor, MO) and the late Bro. Perry Yackley. We ask your prayers that the Lord will grant His blessings and guidance to this couple.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Wiegand — DeAnn Wuthrich

We surely want to thank all the visitors that have been with us in this past month. It is such a strength and help when we can get together with others of like mind and faith, and encourage one another. We especially want to thank Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor) for ministering God's word unto us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

Graveside services were held here for Sis. Kathryn Williamson, a former Pulaski resident, who passed away in Elgin, IL on July 7, 1983.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Elma Mogler — Polly Zaugg

Our whole congregation was saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Ida (Messner) Schmidt. We extend our sympathy to her family which consists of Mrs. Marvin (Verna) Bruns (Gibson, MN), Roland Schmidt (Gibson, MN), Dwaine Schmidt (Humboldt), Jack Schmidt (Ottosen), Mrs. Kevin (Sheila) Shaw (Algona), 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chris, and her son, Ervin. Along with many fond memories of Sis. Ida, we remember how faithfully she labored keeping the house of God clean.

Ministering Bros. LeRoy Messner and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) were present at the funeral. Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) spent a blessed weekend with us. One weekend we enjoyed Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and the message he brought us. We were reminded of our precious heritage recently when ministering Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) accompanied Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, who was invited to speak to our annual youth fellowship gathering about our church history. We are thankful for each of the messages laid to our hearts.

Neil Schmidt, son of Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille, has been a hospital patient.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger with a new daughter, Dixie Ann. Teena, Sherri, Randal, Wendal and Brice welcome their new little sister home. Grandparents are Sis. Nima Fehr and Bro. Si and Sis. Della Metzger.

Just recently, Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider rejoiced in the fact that they are now the adoptive parents of Angie

and Samantha. They have all looked forward to this day, and we pray for God's continuing guidance.

Our best wishes go to Shannon Fehr and Margaret Sadler, who recently were united in marriage. Parents are Eldon and Verdell Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Sadler.

A man's leather jacket, size 46, has been left hanging in our church for sometime. Anyone missing it please let us know.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Judy Luginbuhl

"Yesterday mingles for the moment with tomorrow." Winston O. Abbott

Sis. Lois Ehnle has returned home from an extended stay in the states during her father's illness. Grateful once again to our loving Father for providing this time for Sis. Lois to share some special, memorable, and sentimental moments with her father, Bro. Henry Beer, just prior to his return to our Father's eternal home. Bro. Willis Ehnle and Bro. Akito Inoue held a Memorial Service, Sunday, July 3 in memory of Bro. Henry Beer.

Sis. Ellen Gramm and Bro. Curt Gramm arrived in Shioda, June 25. Sis. Ellen spent two days with us before continuing on to Kanazawa to be with her sister, Sally Kaufmann. May her extended four week stay be filled with new experiences, lasting memories, and a deeper understanding of her sister's life in Japan as well as the mission work being done throughout Japan. Bro. Curt was with us one full week helping with some of our work and supporting us in fellowship and prayer.

We are presently looking forward to the arrival of Sis. Margie Heintz from Rockville, CT and Champaign, IL, who will be assuming the position of our new Shioda American Kindergarten teacher. It's encouraging and strengthening to see God working, convicting hearts to continue in the work He has begun here. Many thanks to Margie for being willing to listen and follow the prompting of the Spirit.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Marie Inoue

This past month we bid farewell to Sis. Vicki Ramseyer. The teaching sisters spend every third Sunday with our assembly, and we always enjoy the special fellowship. She recently shared

her slides of Liberia, Africa, taken while visiting some Peace Corp friends there a number of years ago. The lack of facilities there should certainly make us more thankful for our blessings. One example is plenty of water. Only three cups were allotted for a shower. Water was often used several times. May the Lord bless Sis. Vicki for her love and service here. We also thank her family and home church for sharing her with us.

A short time visitor to our area was Bro. Curt Gramm (Gridley, IL). We especially enjoyed his participation in our church services and fellowship.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle of our Shioda Church in the passing of Sis. Lois' father, Bro. Henry Beer. He was able to visit here in the early days of our fellowship, and though his lips are now silent, we know that God will remember his prayers for many loved ones.

KANSAS, BERN
Linda Esslinger

We appreciate having Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) as our visiting minister.

I'm sorry that Faron Strahm's name was omitted in the list of graduates from high school.

A bundle of joy came from heaven to the home of Sis. Gerty and Bro. Dennis Esslinger of July 10. She has been named Ariana Jo. She has two older brothers, Anthony and Ashley, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Sis. Julia Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger.

Sis. Marie Grimm was hospitalized in serious condition for a time. We are glad she is able to assemble with us again. Sis. Emma Hanni was also hospitalized as a surgical patient.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT
Jamie Marti

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Ps. 127:3. Jamie Olivia was born July 1 to Joe and Sondra Chapman. Big sister Marla welcomed her home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn.

Congratulations to Bro. Jerry Bahr who graduated from college as a medical technologist.

Our many thanks go to Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA) who visited us on July 3 and willingly ministered the Word of God to us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

This month we were privileged to have with us and hear Bro. Earl Kilgus and his wife, Sis. Arlene (Remington, IN). It is a real blessing to hear God's Word and know it is given in the same spirit. It doesn't matter whether it comes from the mouths of our local ministers or from a visiting minister.

Our hospital patients this month are: Sis. Jenny Schrock, still in the hospital in Harper, and Sis. Laverne Roth, who is at home now.

We are happy to have assembling with us, Shawn, Lynne and baby Sarah Johnson (Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow). They have recently moved back to Kiowa and we are delighted to have them here. We pray for God's blessing on their family.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jill Luthi

Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

St. John 4:35

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

St. Mark 4:28

With wheat harvest now over and the cutting of corn nearing, these two verses came to mind. This year the Lord has abundantly supplied us with the needed rain to bring forth great harvest, even greater than what was expected. We have to truly rejoice, as other states and countries have suffered either floods of raging rivers or drought, yet we were blessed.

God has answered a prayer for our small congregation, as we now have added an additional family to our church. We welcome with open arms, Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and their seven children (Washington, IL). Bro. Randy has taken the position of administrator of the Madison Manor. We pray that the Lord may ever be near them and with Bro. Randy in his new vocation.

At this writing, we want to keep in mind and pray for our elders as they meet again to discuss the various problems and privileges we have. Our highest blessing and privilege is to be a child of Gods, and a brother or sister-in-faith! May we each remember the

Elder's Conference, August 19 at Gridley, IL.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

We thank Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) for bringing us the Word of Life. May the Lord bless him in his work.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Fanny Bahr and Sis. Lena Steiner.

We offer our sympathy to the Bro. Joe Steiner family on the death of his granddaughter, Marla George of St. Petersburg, FL. Special sympathy and prayers are offered on the behalf of Marla's mother, the former Alma Jean Steiner. May the Lord draw nigh unto her and be her comfort.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Recently celebrating our independence in America reminded me of how God has truly blessed our nation. We sometimes forget just how privileged we are to live here and to be able to worship God in freedom. It is so easy to take for granted the freedom we have in America. We seem to live life so easy compared to the communist countries where Christians are persecuted and suffer for their faith in Christ. In our Wednesday night Bible Study we have been studying I Peter in which Peter brings out a lot about Christ's suffering and the sufferings a Christian may face. He also instructs us how to handle this suffering, "Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." I Peter 2:21.

Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA) was a visiting minister this month and preached God's Word of truth. Bro. Glen, Sis. Sally and their children visited our congregation on June 26.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Some of the sisters conducted a Bible School for the young children this past month. The theme of their lessons was "Growing in God's Way" and they learned about the fruit of the Spirit. Hopefully they retained some teachings that they will put to practice, as we all should let God's instruction change our lives.

Sometimes it seems so hard to change certain things in our lives. But when God reveals these faults to us we must realize the victory is in Christ and "I can do ALL things through Christ

which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. I believe the key is "through Christ" — it is His strength and power that wins the battle — not our own. That may be why so many times we fail in overcoming bad habits and the little things God dislikes — because we try to do it on our own, we rely on our own strength. The only way to have victory is in Christ, because He has already overcome all sin and won the victory for us.

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick" James 5:15. We continue to pray for Sis. Ruth Yackley who is recuperating at home from surgery. We miss her presence and fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

"And Jesus said unto them, 'Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.'" (Mark 1:17)

On July 8, 1983, Jesus called to his loving arms one of His little fishermen, Frederick Joseph Oesch, Jr., at the tender age of 10. Freddie was called home after being hit by a car in front of the family farm. He leaves behind a host of memories which have touched the hearts of the Alto congregation. Through his death, we have witnessed a testimony of faith in our Lord in the lives of his parents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna, which has shown us a love and a trust in God that has no boundaries. We wish to extend our loving sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna, as well as Freddie's sisters Jennifer and Anna; along with his grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch and Harry and Helen Thornberg. May God wipe the tears from your eyes and put His comforting arms around you.

"If we could see beyond today
 As God can see;
 If all the clouds should roll away,
 The shadows flee;
 O'er present griefs we would not fret.
 Each sorrow we would soon forget,
 For many joys are waiting yet
 For you and me.

"If we could know beyond today
 As God doth know,
 Why dearest treasures pass away
 And tears must flow;
 And why the darkness leads to light,
 Why dreary paths will soon grow
 bright;

Some day life's wrongs will be made
 right,
 Faith tells us so.

"If we could see, if we could know,
 We often say,
 But God in love a veil doth throw
 Across our way;
 We cannot see what lies before,
 And so we cling to Him the more,
 He leads us till this life is o'er;
 Trust and Obey."

Unknown

Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) was with us at this time. We especially want to thank him for his labors of love.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Wieland

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 We trust Sis. Doris Knochel has turned to this refuge in her time of trouble, as she has experienced illness requiring hospitalization. We wish her His strength to fight this physical struggle as well as the spiritual struggle.

We were encouraged by the Word brought to us through Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit). We were reminded that the desire to resist Satan must be present before the victory can occur.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

We are overwhelmed with the joy and love that fills our hearts when we can come together in peace to share in the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here recently to assist our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in serving communion. He told us of the necessity of partaking of communion as a reminder of what our Lord did for us on the cross of Calvary. Just as the Israelites were instructed to keep the Passover each year to remind them that God provided for their freedom from bondage in Egypt, so we are instructed to share the Lord's Supper as a reminder of Christ's shed blood, which frees us from the bonds of sin. Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) also shared this blessed weekend with us. We thank these ministering brothers and their families for their labor of love.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19-20. We are thankful that God brought Lazarus Padale into our midst from the Rural Gospel Medical Mission of India. We could truly feel his love and concern for all of mankind as he spoke to us of the work in India. It is humbling to hear of the lepers, the starving people, and those who worship idols, never having heard the story of Christ. We take these blessings too much for granted. We realize our responsibility to pray for and support those who are less fortunate.

Once again the Lord has touched hearts with His love and grace, bringing them to repentance. Rosanne and Magdalene Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher, Kitchener, ONT) have answered His loving call. We pray that they will fully surrender to His will, and allow Christ to guide them as they work out their salvation.

Many thanks to the Toledo Sunday School for coming to spend a day of fellowship with us at our Sunday School picnic on June 25.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

The summer months find people on vacation, and we have had many visitors. We thank them all, and enjoy the special fellowship that is found in visiting with brothers and sisters from other congregations.

On July 3, most of our congregation traveled to Lester, IA to witness the marriage of Sis. Christine Schmidgall (Minneapolis) and Bro. Kent Leman (Eureka). Those of us who were not able to attend were with them in spirit. May they be blessed with Christian joy as they begin their life together.

The weekend of July 9 and 10 was a very blessed one for our church. Elder Bros. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) were able to assemble with us. They were here to baptize Richard Miller, our new brother-in-faith. We wish to welcome him into our fold. Also here was Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville). We would like to thank him also for bringing God's Word to us. The same weekend we listened to the reading of the memorandum, and shared the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. We then had a potluck supper.

We are thankful that Bro. Nathan

Stoller (Bradford) and Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) were with us this month to bring us their timely message.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Rhonda Zeltwanger
Jan Schock**

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers again this month. They were Bros. Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauderdale), Marvin Leman (Bradford), Carl Hartman (Sabetha), Virgil Metzger (Urbana) and Elder Bros. Alfred Bayler (Wolcott), Leo Moser (Lester), Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend). May God bless them and their families for their gifts of time and love.

Our dear Bro. Gary and Sis. Leslie and little Jacob have moved to Apple Valley and will be attending the Minneapolis, MN Church. We will miss them and it is hard to part, but we know the Minneapolis Church will love them. May God be with them and in their adjusting to a new home, church and job.

Amanda Jo Evink is the first daughter for Roger and Mary Evink. Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and big brother, Cory are anxious to help raise her. Steve and Deann Heintzelman are first-time parents. The name they chose for their little boy was Jerod Steven. Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Spohr are his grandparents. We have a tremendous job raising these children that the Lord has entrusted to us. It is only with His help and guidance that we can do it.

Camille Lesmeister and Wayne Spohr (Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Spohr) are engaged to be married. Also Kenneth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane) and Sally Marie Blankers plan to marry. May God help them to establish homes of love for each other and for Him.

Sis. Mabel Zeltwanger and Sis. Clara Miller have been hospital patients this month. We need God's healing in our lives and have to pray for our physical bodies too. May He keep us in the palm of His hand at all times.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt**

Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss and his dear wife from Forrest, IL spent a weekend with us here at Winthrop. We thank him for ministering to us and

sharing Christian fellowship with all of us.

Sis. Carol Ann Messner had a farewell singing for Sis. Mary Ann Thiem. Sis. Mary Ann has recently sold her home and is moving to Peoria, IL. Our loss will certainly be their gain! We wish her God's grace and endurance in her new home. May she remember us often with visits.

We want to extend our sympathy to Marvin and Verna Bruns, and family, over the death of their dear mother, Sis. Ida Schmidt (West Bend, IA). Sis. Ida lived here in Winthrop for many years, before moving to the West Bend area. Sympathy is also extended to the family of Bro. Henry Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). His wife, Sis. Sarah (Messner), is related to many here at Winthrop. May the Lord comfort them all in their lonely hours; knowing He is just a prayer away!

Michael and Sally Heikkila are the proud parents of their first baby, a boy; Seth Michael. Maternal grandparents are Lloyd and Sis. Dorothy Jacobson (Winthrop). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle announced the engagement of their son, Craig Dapper, to Linda Portner (Hutchinson, MN). A spring wedding is being planned.

Bro. Cornelius Messerli was hospitalized for tests this past month. Bro. Walter Messner broke his hip while in the hospital. He recently had hip surgery. He is healing, but recovery is slow at this time. We pray God will give him and his loved ones strength and grace, to face each day anew. God promises: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be!" Deut. 33:25.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Hohulin — Sandra Marti

As I sit down to write this, rain is lightly falling to refresh the earth. Likewise, we have received showers of blessing this past month with several visitors. On June 19, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka), were with us to bring forth God's Holy Word. Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) shared of his time on July 10 to bring forth inspiring messages from God's Word. We certainly thank these brothers for their labors and trust that God will ever guide them.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger welcomed their first child on June 20. Keith Ray's grandparents are

Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker. As parents are entrusted with little ones, may they seek God's guidance in bringing them up.

Bro. Dean Marti underwent open heart surgery on July 7. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. We're thankful that he is recuperating and hope he can soon return home.

The following note was handed to me.

We wish to thank all of you for your prayers on our behalf and your expressions of love and concern with visits, cards and gifts, while Ray was in the hospital and since his returning home. May God bless you all.

Ray and Marilyn Luthi and family

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

"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

We rejoice with our new sister-in-faith, Eleanor Zimmer. We are truly thankful for the hospitality and love of our Taylor congregation as they welcomed Sis. Eleanor the weekend of July 17. We wish her the Lord's continued guidance.

We want to thank Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) for bringing us the word this month. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

We appreciate the vacationers who have spent a Sunday with us and want to extend a welcome to anyone in the area to worship with us. Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. Call Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227 for further information.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

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

THE VOICE THAT BREATHED O'ER EDEN

The voice that breathed o'er Eden,
That earliest wedding day,

The primal marriage blessing,

It hath not passed away:

Still in the pure espousal,

Of Christian man and maid

The Holy Three are with us,

The threefold grace is said.

Be present, gracious Father,

To give away this bride,

As Eve thou gav'st to Adam,

Out of his own pierced side:

Be present, blessed Jesus,

To join their loving hands,

As thou didst bind two natures,

In thine eternal bands:

Be present, Holy Spirit,

To bless them as they kneel,

As thou, for Christ the Bridegroom,

The heav'nly bride dost seal;

O spread thy pure wing o'er them;

Let no ill pow'r find place,

While onward to thy presence,

Their hallowed path they trace.

Hymns of Zion #196

June 19 was the wedding day of our Sis. Louanne Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Jeff Gramm (Bro. Robert and Sis. Nola, Gridley, IL). We trust God will bless this couple as they establish their home in Gridley and we will look forward to Louanne and Jeff's visits back "home" to Taylor.

We thank visiting elders and ministers for sharing God's Word with us — Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), and ministering Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS). "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." Romans 10:15.

Hospital patients, Shelly Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth), surgical; Kevin Knapp (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis), medical; and Bro. William Cottrell, surgical, are home again and on the mend. Those who received Emergency Room treatment were Stacy Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine), Roger Sutter (Sis. Charlene), Tami Grimm (Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona), and Wendy (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp). "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell welcome a little grandson, Nathan Andrew, born June 22 to Sandi (Cot-

trell) and Dale Cramer (Columbia, MO). "You do not have to 'live' close to 'be' close. Loving, thoughtful, imaginative grandparents really live in the hearts of their grandchildren." Elva Anson.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

On Sunday, June 19, Bro. Corbin Bahler, his wife, Sis. Virginia and many others from Rockville spent the day with us in Union City. We were also very pleased to have Bro. John Bahler and Sis. Julia with us once again. The word was spoken in its power and truth and a special blessing was ours as we shared Holy Communion together. We are very appreciative to God and to all who helped to make this a special day for us.

Richard Diggelman, his wife, Helga, and son, Kevin arrived home from Saudia Arabia where Richard is assigned with his work. They will spend several weeks with Richard's parents, Bro. John and Sis. Mary and visit friends and relatives before returning to the mid-east in August.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Earl Gerber (Forest). Bro. Earl was with us on Wednesday evening, July 6, at Naumburg, and on Sunday, July 10, at Croghan. Through his words, directed by the Holy Spirit, we were reminded that we are all members of the Body of Christ and each one is needed to serve in their own capacity in the church. To remain a part of the Body we must be a branch of the true Vine, Jesus Christ. May we all strive daily to follow the truth and example left for us in the word. We are thankful that loved ones visit us from time to time and are willing to be used in God's service. We enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Earl, his wife, and traveling companions, and the many others who have visited us.

Three new babies have been welcomed this month. On June 20, Matthew Norbert, was born to Norbert and Joanne Farney. His little playmate will be his sister, Renee, and his grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Farney, and Phil and Gail Beyer (Lowville). Bradley Virkler will have a little brother to play with as he and his mother and father, Loren and Gloria, welcomed Daniel Sidney on June 23.

Their grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler, and Jesse and Betty Farney (Beaver Falls). Dean and Joyce Greenwood welcomed their third child on July 15. Heather Ann has a brother, Scott, and a sister, Tonya. Grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Elvera Martin, and Everett and Lola Greenwood (Copenhagen).

At this writing our hospital patients are Sis. Leona Farney, Sis. Cora Farney, and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Pernal Virkler. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of them. May they look to God for comfort and strength during their trying hours, and may a measure of health be granted to them according to God's will.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Our many thanks go out to Bro. Earl Gerber for his visit and ministering to us the Wednesday evening of July 6 and Sunday, July 10. May he come again soon.

Sis. Pearl Colgrove has been able to return home from the hospital and Sisters Iva Poling and Maude Pelton are in the hospital.

Funeral services were held July 12 for Bertha Allbeas, 84 years. Her home was in Marcellus, NY. She is a sister to Sis. Rosella Schulz. Services were conducted by Elder Bro. Robert Beyer.

Our Sunday School and Church picnic was held Saturday, July 16, at Wet Stone Gulf. The fellowship was enjoyed by all.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl have opened their hearts and welcomed into their home Don Roberts. We also welcome Don to assemble at church with us. He is employed in the Nick Amster Workshop for the Handicapped.

Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener have a new baby girl, Kristin Emily. The little one is also welcomed by two sisters, Mary Beth and Susan. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener (Mansfield).

We are glad to be having Bro. Keith and Sis. Diana Ifft worshipping with us at Akron. They have recently moved to Cleveland as Bro. Keith, who is a doctor, is working on a neurology residency program at Cleveland Clinic.

We appreciate having visiting elders

and ministers: Bro. Joe Ramsier, Bro. Robert Walder, Bro. Loren Stoller, Bro. Ron Steiner and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl.

Sis. Olga Trostle is home from the hospital after having surgery.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

We were privileged to hear the Word brought forth this month by visiting Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Ken Knapp (Taylor).

A new address to note, Sis. Beatrice Hans has moved from our area to the Eureka Home.

Beatrice Hans
 610 W. Cruger
 Eureka, IL 61530

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Riggensch
Cheryl Wenninger

Faithful unto death remain!
 For the crown of life be striving.
 Break through bonds of woe and pain,
 In His promise e'er confiding,
 Which through grace is kept in store
 For thee when thy journeys o'er.
 Zions Harp #105

We are thankful that Sis. Laura Stoller was faithful unto death, as the Lord called her Home following a brief illness. We will miss Sis. Laura, as she was such a good example to us, but we are assured the Lord knows best. Surviving are three daughters: Sis. Roberta, Sis. Emily, Sis. Evelyn Hackenjos (Bluffton); a son, Bro. Lyle (Bloomington); two brothers, Bro. Lawrence and Bro. Walter (Eureka); and six sisters, Sis. Elizabeth, Sis. Dorothy (Chicago), Alma Baum (Minnesota), Margaret Kercher (Denver, CO), Sis. Evelyn Gudeman and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall (Eureka).

Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) shared his slides of India with us recently. It made us all more thankful of our rich heritage, as we could see those who do not have the things of life that we enjoy. It also made us realize the responsibility that we now have, for we know that where much is given, much will be required.

Those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized or met with accident are Todd Wenninger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb); Sis. Ollie Laukhuf; Sis. Marian Zeltwanger; and Bro. Bruce Rosswurm (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen

Whitman). May they ever feel our prayers.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Walter Rager and Bro. Gene Fetter (Toledo); Bro. Walter Steffen and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford); and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington). We are so thankful that these brothers are so willing to be used of God and we pray that they will be blessed for their labors of love.

I ASKED

I asked God for strength,
 that I might achieve,
 I was made weak that I might learn
 humbly to obey . . .

I asked for health,
 that I might do greater things,
 I was given infirmity,
 that I might do better things . . .

I asked for riches
 that I might be happy,
 I was given poverty,
 that I might be wise . . .

I asked for power,
 that I might have the praise of men,
 I was given weakness,
 that I might feel the need of God . . .

I asked for all things
 that I may enjoy life,
 I was given life,
 that I may enjoy all things . . .

I got nothing I asked for —
 but everything I had hoped for,
 Almost despite myself,
 my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among all — richly blessed!
 Author Unknown

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

They that dwell under His shadow
 shall return; they shall revive as the
 corn and grow as the vine. Hosea 14:7

We have had very hot days these past few weeks. Sunday closed with heavy showers, the plants in our garden were beaten down before the pelting storm and one place in particular which we so admired for its beauty and loved for its fragrance was exposed to the pitiless storm. The flower fell, shut up its petals, dropped its pretty head; and

it seemed through our eyes that its beauty was gone.

The night passed and morning came, the sun shone again and morning brought strength to the flower and it again regained its glory. We wondered how it took place, this feeble flower coming into contact with the strong sunshine and gaining strength. So it is with our lives, when we are weary and beaten down with the heat and trials of the day, how refreshing to go to the word of God and through reading and prayer can gain strength to press onward and forward.

O faint heart, storm beaten
This rain will gleam tomorrow
Flame within the columbine and jewel
on the thorn
Heaven in the forget-me nots
Though sorrow now be sorrow,
Yet sorrow shall be beauty
In the magic of the morn.

God has sent his healing strength and has permitted Sis. Frances Gage to assemble with us again after recently having gone through surgery.

Sis. Elda (Bro. Alvin) Riggerbach was hospitalized this past month and at this writing is somewhat improved.

July 10 many attended the annual Sunday School picnic which was held at Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauders. An afternoon and evening fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended and we thank them for sharing their home for this event.

The engagement of Randy Beer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Pat) to Sherry Lee Ann Priola has been announced. The wedding is planned for Aug. 6. We wish them much happiness as they take this important step in life.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Janette Blough
Florence Hartzler

We all rejoice in that we have four new souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Joy Gasser, daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope; Glen Maibach, son of Bro. Alph and Sis. Helen; Greg Stoller, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette; and Kevin Rufener, son of Bro. Chet and Sis. Roma. May they receive much grace as they begin their new lives.

Bro. Karl Beery and Blanche Ritzman were hospitalized recently. May our Lord see fit to restore them to good health once again.

Funeral services were held for Clara Bachman who was a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home. Her sister, Oma Stalter survives.

The engagement of Dan Steiner and Denise Berg was announced. Dan is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner and Denise's parents are Merle and Arlene Berg.

Bro. John and Sis. Riki Gerber are the parents of a new little boy named Tyler Kip. Ty has a little sister, Mandy, and his grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber and Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Latty).

Donna and Jim Calame are first-time parents with the birth of Erica Lynn. Erica's grandparents are John and Sis. Margaret Calame.

Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold welcome a new little girl, Joy Marie, into their home. Joy has one brother, Doug, and two sisters, Amy and Jill, to help care for her. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Joan Hartzler and Bro. Carl and Sis. Erma Ingold.

We will surely miss our dear Sis. Ann Gasser who is leaving our congregation to move to the Philadelphia area where she will be employed as a teacher for the handicapped. We pray our Lord will bless her and we know that our loss will be a gain to our Philadelphia congregation. Sis. Ann's parents are Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie Gasser.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Mary Ann Weigele
Josephine Rehklau

We are in the midst of quite a heat wave here with hot, muggy days and not much relief from heat at night. In one of our recent sermons, the minister reminded us that the measure of heat and discomfort we feel now is small compared to what the Word of God reveals we will feel, if we are not ready when He calls.

On Thursday evening, July 14, our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and his wife, Sis. Lorene, visited us. They brought with them Lazarus Padale from India, who is in our country to visit and observe our various churches.

Hospitalized for tests recently were Dorothy Stevens and Sis. Lydia Schlatter. We are happy to see them back among us at church.

It is our prayer that God will guide the hearts and minds of the brethren as they meet this month for the annual conference.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Barbara Moser

LETTER FROM A FRIEND

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friends; I hoped that soon you'd want Me to walk along with you, too. So, I painted you a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited — you never called. I just kept on loving you.

As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face — trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of Me; I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to work — you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and My tears were the rain.

I love you. Oh, if you'd only listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the blue sky. The wind whispers My love throughout the treetops and spills it into the vibrant colors of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize how I care.

My Dad sends His love. I want you to meet Him — He cares, too. Fathers are just that way. So, please call on Me soon. No matter how long it takes. I'll wait — because I love you.

Your friend,
Jesus

On Sun. June 5, Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor, MO) were with us. Thank you, Bro. Roy for the pictures and story of your trip to India. Also for your ministering unto us. May god richly bless you in your labor of love.

We thank all the loved ones who have made the trip to Oregon this summer. It has been a foretaste of the joys to come when we all get to heaven, if we stay true and faithful unto life's end.

. . . Brethren, pray for us, that the

word of the Lord may have free course.

II Thessalonians 3:1

Just as God's call has come to you
To enter harvest fields anew,
We ask His blessing on you there
As we remember you in prayer.

Anon.

There will be more POWER in the
pulpit when there is more prayer in the
pew!

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"Faith of our father, living still . . ."

We sang these words together and knew they were true. Our rich heritage was made clearer to us as Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) brought to mind many interesting events of the past. Many of the Silverton church and many of the Portland congregation were gathered together in the Portland Church dining area where we had enjoyed a potluck supper together and attentively listened to Bro. Perry give a "preview" of our church's history book, which should be completed and published sometime this fall. What we heard was a glimpse into the lives of some of the people who have gone on before us and have kept the faith. We are pleased that our church felt it would be good to have these experiences recorded and we eagerly await the publication.

We have been enjoying our summer visitors and want to thank them for putting Silverton in their plans. We especially want to thank Min. Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) for ministering unto us. We were happy to have Bro. Jim, Sis. Myra and their sons share their Sunday with us. A potluck supper and singing was held at the home of Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi, where we were able to enjoy the fellowship with brethren from near and far.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

Bro. David Gasser, his wife, Sis. Gail, and their family (Valerie and Nathan) moved to Boston where David will do some special work and research at Harvard University. Their last Sunday with us was June 26 and while they will be gone only a year, we miss them already. May God richly bless them in this new experience and bring them safely back to us.

As evidence of God's willingness to

hear and answer our continued prayers for an increase to our small congregation, Sis. Ann Gasser (Rittman) has accepted an employment offer in Philadelphia and now worships with us at the Philadelphia church. We gladly welcome Sis. Ann and trust that God will bless her efforts in her new employment capacity.

Elder Bro. Robert Beyer, his wife, Sis. Edna and others from the New York churches visited Philadelphia on Sunday, June 19. We were strengthened by the power of the word humbly proclaimed and thankful for Bro. Robert's service in officiating in the holy sacrament of Communion. It was truly a blessed day enjoyed by all.

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz

The all day meeting at the Country Church was well attended on June 26. The exact number present could not be given but at least there were 350. The weather was perfect, the good folks from the Sardis church were in charge of the serving of refreshments, etc. and did a marvelous job. According to the list of those registered, 22 churches were represented, Mansfield, OH, Rittman, OH, Sardis, OH, Eureka, IL, Chicago, IL, Latty, OH, Akron, OH, Princeville, IL, Bluffton, IN, Croghan, NY, Leo, IN, Forrest, IL, Sarasota, FL, Lester, IA, Congerville, IL, Cissna Park, IL, Detroit, MI, Bay City, MI, Lamar, MO, Roanoke, IL, Columbus, OH, Rockville, CT.

Ben Maibach of Detroit, MI was the main speaker with the Bros. Delbert and Ken Indermuhle from Sardis assisting. Following the afternoon service a get-together was held at the home of Sis. Joyce Indermuhle.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shiever of Danvers, IL, and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Martin of El Paso, IL, remained over night and took the tour of Viking Glass Company on Monday morning, also visiting briefly with members of the Emma Barth family.

Miss Margaret Witschey has been a medical patient in the local hospital for several days.

Elza Ritz is a medical patient in the local hospital for several days. Mr. and Mrs. John Witschey of Charleston, WV, visited with the Witschey families here recently.

The severe hot weather hit this area

the past two weeks and has been hard on crops and the elderly people.

Silver Threads

THE DASH BETWEEN THE DATES

Memorial Day was over now
All had left and I was alone.
I began to read the names and dates
Chiseled there on every stone.
The dates which showed whether it
was Mom or Dad
Or daughter or baby son.
The dates were different but the
amount the same
There were two on every one.
It was then I noticed something.
It was but a simple line.
It was the dash between the dates
Placed there, it stood for time.
All at once it dawned on me
How important that little line.
The dates placed there belonged to
God
But that line is yours and mine.
It's God who gives this precious life
And God who takes away.
But that line between He gives to us
To do with what we may.
We know God's written the first date
down
of each and every one
And we know those hands will write
again
For the last date has to come.
We know He'll write the last date down
And soon we know, for some.
But upon the line between my dates
I hope He'll write "well-done".

Lucille Britt

SLEEPING AT HARVEST

Too long I've lain me down to sleep
And prayed the Lord my soul to keep.
I should awake before I die
And realize time is passing by
And rise and go and tell the lost,
Despite my plans, despite the cost.

Too long I've laid me down to sleep,
While multitudes about me weep
And utter cries of dark despair,
And no one ever seems to care.
My life is short and soon I'll stand
With sinners' blood upon my hands
Unless I wake before I die
And realize time is passing by.

FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

Today, upon the bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair, I envied her – she seemed so gay. When she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle. She had one leg, and used a crutch. But as she passed, she smiled . . . Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two legs, the world is mine!

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm. I talked with him – he seemed so glad. And as he left he said to me, "It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind." Oh, God, Forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes, the world is mine!

Later, while walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play. I stopped a moment, then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?" He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he couldn't hear. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two ears, the world is mine!

With feet to take me where I want to go – With eyes to see the sunset's glow, With ears to hear what I would know . . . Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I'm blessed, indeed – the world is mine!

(Taken from an unknown source)

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED . . .

God touched our weary bodies with
His power,
And gave us strength for many a try-
ing hour
In which we might have faltered, had
not you
Our intercessors, Faithful been and
true.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED . . .

God touched our eager fingers with
His skill,
Enabling us to do His blessed will
With scalpel, suture, bandage;
better still
He healed the sick, the wounded,
cured the ill.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED . . .

God touched our lips with coals from
alter fire.
Gave Spirit fulness, and did so in-
spire
That when we spoke, sin-blinded
souls did see;
Sin-chains were broken; captives
were made free.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED . . .

The "dwellers in the dark" have
found the light.
The glad, good news has banished
heathen night.
The message of the cross so long
delayed
Has brought them life at last Be-
cause You Prayed.

Charles B. Bowser

LOVE OR INFATUATION

Infatuation is instant desire. It's one set of glands calling to another. Love is friendship that has caught fire. It takes root and grows — one day at a time.

Infatuation is marked by a feeling of insecurity. You are excited and eager, but not genuinely happy. There are nagging doubts, unanswered questions, little bits and pieces about your beloved that you would just as soon not examine too closely. It might spoil the dream.

Love is the quiet understanding and mature acceptance of imperfection. It is real. It gives you strength and grows beyond you — to bolster your beloved. You are warmed by his presence, even when he is away. Miles do not separate you. You want him near, but far or near, you know he is yours and you can wait.

Infatuation says, "Be patient, don't panic. He is yours. Plan your future with confidence."

Infatuation has an element of sexual excitement. If you are honest, you will admit it is difficult to be in one another's company unless you are sure it will end with intimacy. Love is the maturation of friendship. You must be friends before you can be lovers.

Infatuation lacks confidence. When he's away, you wonder if he's cheating. Sometimes you even check.

Love means trust. You are calm, secure and unthreatened. He feels that trust and it makes him even more trust-worthy.

Infatuation might lead you to so things you'll later regret, but love never will.

Love is an upper. It makes you look up. It makes you think up. It makes you a better person than you were before.

THE RICHES OF LOVE

The treasures of earth are not mine,
I hold not its silver and gold:
But a treasure far greater is mine;
I have riches of value untold.

Chorus

The treasures of earth must all fail,
Its riches and honor decay,
But the riches of love that are mine
Even death cannot take them away.

Chorus

Compared with the riches of love,
The wealth of the world is but dross;
I will seek but Christ Jesus to win,
And for him I count all things but loss.

Chorus

Come, take of the riches of Christ,
Exhaustless and free is the store;
Of its wonderful fullness receive,
Till you hunger and thirst never more.

Chorus:

Oh, the depths of the riches of love . . .
The riches of love in Christ Jesus!
Far better than gold, or wealth untold,
Are the riches of love in Christ Jesus.

PILGRIM'S PROCESS

As nearly as I can tell, most Christians as well as secular people today are goal-oriented. It fits the American style. The less-popular option is to be process-oriented, which I personally think is the better way to go. Just getting there is not all that counts, but how you get there and what happens to you and to others along the way.

A couple of decades ago the Cunard Steamship Company advertised its cruises with the words "Getting there is half the fun." Maybe so. But I can tell you that sometimes getting there is no fun at all. Especially if you are imprisoned in the middle seat of a Boeing 747 for 14 hours between San Francisco and Hong Kong.

Even on five-hour Los Angeles/New York flights, a valiant effort is made to narcotize passengers with food, drink and motion pictures. I could never quite understand the logic of shutting the window curtains on the reality of the Grand Canyon outside so that Hollywood's latest make-believe would show up better on the screen inside.

That's not too surprising, though, because that is the way we often run our Christian lives. We get so absorbed

with where we think we're going that we shut out sights and experiences, both glorious and painful, along the way.

The priest and Levite on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho were goal-oriented. On their minds were things other than a mugging victim. Perhaps important things. Maybe they were on their way to conduct all-Jericho evangelistic meetings or to lead a seminar on the family or to kick off a hunger campaign.

The Samaritan of the parable was process-oriented. He, too, was on his way to Jericho, and for him getting there was not only less than half the fun but probably three-quarters of the pain. He saw not only the road, but the ditches alongside. He didn't pretend that he had not seen what he saw. He didn't try to convince himself that his goal down the road was more important than a deed of mercy to be transacted then and there.

In stopping and stooping he was not taking time out from his life; he was living his life.

Goals are points in time. Process is time itself. If winning were all there is to a baseball game, it would need to last only one inning. Golf would take only one hole, a 100-yard dash no more than 15 feet. Obviously, in sports, a large part of the game is the playing, the savoring, the enduring, the lasting. Is it not as true in our Christian walk?

In one of his books, William Barclay tells the story of a group of people in the Scottish Highlands who were talking about heroism. Everybody, they said, sooner or later must practice some kind of heroism. A brash young man in the group turned to an old woman who looked ordinary and serene; he did not know that life for her had been a series of tragedies. "And what kind of heroism do you practice?" he asked lightly. "I?" she replied. "I practice the heroism of going on."

Bravo! Going on — lasting — is heroic. We demonstrate so little staying power. Most often we want to leapfrog, bypass, shortcut the process, when the process is what life is mainly about.

John Bunyon did not call his book *Pilgrim's Destination* but *Pilgrim's Progress*. He could as well have called it *Pilgrim's Process*. In the book, Christian was shaped by the road he traveled. He became ultimately what he was becoming all along. Jesus told Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I

will make you to become . . ." (Mark 1:17). It was not a promised overnight transformation. Every step along dusty Galilean roads, every encounter with need, every response to happenings, would be a bit of becoming.

Even in our attempts to shortcut and anesthetize, we are becoming. When we shut our eyes, stop our ears, try to shield ourselves from feeling our own pain or that of others, we are becoming. By his reaction to interruption, the Levite — as well as the Samaritan — was in the process of becoming a little more of something he had not as fully been.

Don't we, when we are goal-oriented, resent distractions and intrusions? The goal-oriented disciples tried to "protect" Jesus from some children who were drawn to Him. Jesus told the disciples the kingdom of heaven was not only around a distant turn in the road; a little sample was right there in front of them. The disciples didn't know it. They thought to serve the Lord by irritably defending worthwhile goals, completely missing the need to demonstrate love and sensitivity in the process.

In our evangelical world, there is no lack of big projects. There is only a lack of big people who can work for God without trampling others along the way. The assumption too often is that if the goal is noble, the means need not be.

Goals are important. The process is not less so. It would be sad if the shining goal were spectacularly achieved but the way was littered with human debris put there by distorted zeal that had no room for the Christ the goal was meant to serve. But is it possible for a road littered with human wreckage ever to lead to a Christ-serving goal?

Although some ends are never reached, means are always reached. Which causes me to wonder whether the process itself shouldn't be the goal. These are things I plan to think more about. Could we think about them together?

Stan Mooneyham

Jan. 1982

World Vision

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter.

HIGHER GROUND

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Chorus

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Tho' some may dwell where these
abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

Chorus

I want to live above the world,
Tho' Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

Chorus

I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

Chorus:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

WHERE HE LEADS I'LL FOLLOW

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

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

List to His loving words, "Come unto
me!"

Weary, heavy laden, there is sweet
rest for thee;
Trust in His promises, Faithful and
sure;
Lean upon the Savior, and thy soul is
secure.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

We read today about the author of this gospel. We are thankful that Matthew responded as he did, and that he penned these beautiful accounts of Jesus. These accounts have been read and preserved for two thousand years, and they will stand even though heaven and earth shall pass away. We read that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my (God's) Words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. They have stood thus far. They have been read and re-read many, many times. Many people have been saved. Many people have

worked out their soul's salvation by reading the gospels and learning about Jesus. Jesus was their Saviour, and He can be our Saviour today. When Jesus said, "Follow me," there was power in those words. There was power in the words that He said to the sick man, "Arise and walk." With Jesus, power is endless. It is endless.

So it was. Matthew responded to His call and he followed Jesus.

"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, . . ." Matt. 9:10. Matthew seemed to be a man moderate or above moderate means. Anyway, he was able to prepare a dinner or a feast for Jesus, and he invited Him to his house. "Many publicans and sinners

came and sat down with him and his disciples. And then the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?" Matt. 9:10, 11. The Pharisees were always in the front. They were always the critics. They were always trying to find fault as they did here. "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?" Jesus was often criticized, was He not, even though He had all the power and the might that He needed. "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Matt. 9:12. Sometimes we say of those who are critics or fault-finders, "Maybe they are sick. Maybe they need a little care themselves, and we should be concerned about them."

"But go ye," He says. "and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9:13. That was the purpose and the mission of Jesus in this world. God saw the deplorable condition of the world and knew that the world needed a Saviour. God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus. All who believe and put their faith and trust in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

"Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." Matt. 9:14, 15. Jesus Himself was that Bridegroom.

Jesus said, "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse." Matt. 9:16. We cannot patch up, so to speak, our old lives. We must make a new and good beginning, a right beginning. We must build on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ when we repent. It is an absolute necessity that we confess our sins, that we want to do what is right, and that we want to give our whole heart to Jesus. We must love Jesus with all our strength and with all our might.

If we try to "patch" our old life (garment), it will perhaps be made worse. It won't stand. We must build our house upon the Solid Rock so that

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Leo, Indiana

LOCATED — 10 miles N.E. of Fort Wayne, Indiana on Road No. 1 to Leo, then 1 mile east on Leo-Grabill Road to Klopfenstein Road, North ¼ mile — Watch for Signs in Leo and Grabill.

Saturday, August 27, 1983

BAKED GOODS, CRAFTS, PLANTS, ETC.
Starting at 8:00 A.M.

HANDMADE QUILTS, COMFORTERS, GRANDFATHER CLOCK,
AFGHANS, ALL SIZES, DOLL HOUSE, HUMMEL PLATES, MISC.
Starting at 9:00 A.M.



ANTIQUES — CHINA, Some Rare — to be sold at 1:00 P.M.

R.S. PRUSSIA RED MARK — 11" white bowl, lily pattern, 6 inserts, 6 darts; 9½" pink bowl with red and white roses, green trim embossed gold flowers on edge; sugar and creamer scalloped gold rims, ornate handles, wild roses on white; 9½" pickle dish, gold scalloped rim, open handled ribs to center; 13" dresser tray, open handles, snowballs on beige and apricot base, gold scalloped trim; 10" bowl, pink peonies on white satin base with gold scalloped trim; covered sugar and creamer, very ornate, gold trimmed, each has four feet, scalloped top with pink roses on white satin; 9¼" bowl green and gold rim, very scalloped, white base with green leaves and white flowers; large 11" bowl, 5 indented panels on scalloped rim, lily flowers on white base; 13½" bun tray, 2 open handles, six floral panels embossed around bouquet of roses; covered sugar bowl, 2 open ornate handles, 4 green darts to top, 4 leaves from legs; sugar and creamer, open handles, scalloped rim, white and pink wild roses on white base.

R.S. PRUSSIA UNMARKED — 10¼" bowl, yellow and green roses and pansies, gold trim, scalloped rim; celery dish 12" oval scalloped rim, cream and green base with open handles and rose bouquet.

R.S. TILLOWITZ — 9¼" bowl, beige with white and yellow daisies, gold rim.

R.S. GERMANY — 10¼" bowl with six sauce dishes, apricot and pink flowers, 9¼" scalloped bowl, white with apple blossoms.

FRENCH HAVILAND LIMOGES CHINA — several sets.

Also other antique items.

Other items too numerous to mention.

LUNCH SERVED STARTING AT 8 A.M.

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when the winds and the storms come, it will stand. Everybody must endure storms. All of our homes at one time or another are invaded by sickness. We have no control of these things, but it is important that we have Jesus to call upon to help us through.

He gives another example here: "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved." Matt. 9:17. So it is.

If we have put forth effort and have made an investment, whether we are canning fruits, vegetables, or as it says here, making new wine, we use new bottles. It will be held better. Maybe the wine would be in the bottles for a long time. The longer, sometimes, the better; and then both are preserved, the bottles and also the wine.

While Jesus was preaching, one who had a need came to Him. It says here, "... there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live." Matt. 9:18.

Again we see a man with faith, do we not? He had to have faith to come to Jesus and tell Him his trouble. He said, "My daughter is even now dead;" but he knew that if Jesus would come and lay His hand upon her, she would live. "And Jesus arose," He didn't delay in this case, "and followed him, and so did his disciples." Matt. 9:19.

"And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned himself about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour." Matt. 9:20, 21, 22.

When Jesus reached His destination, when He came into the ruler's house, He saw many people lamenting. In those days, professional people came in to lament and mourn, and the people were making noise. Jesus was not pleased with this kind of activity. "He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth." Here again, they mocked Him. "And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid

arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land." Matt. 9:24, 25, 26.

Again, Jesus performed a miracle because of faith. We also need faith, do we not? All of us need a large measure of faith. We read further on of another example. Jesus encountered two blind men who followed Him and cried out, saying, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us." Matt. 9:27. We likewise have to cry, do we not, and pray?

As we read tonight in the Psalm, David knew where to find refuge in time of trouble. He said, "I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaint before Him: I shewed before Him my trouble." Ps. 142:1, 2.

Likewise, we oftentimes have to cry and pray to God as David and the two blind men did. The blind men said, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us." Jesus was again compassionate. He said to them, "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" Matt. 9:28. They wanted to see, and they said, "Yea, Lord." "Then (Jesus) touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." Matt. 9:29. Again, an example of faith.

Often, as precious souls come from the waters of baptism, the elder who baptized them will say, "You are baptized in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and according to your faith, be it unto you." We are baptized, are we not, according to our faith? It is according to us how we receive it and how we will live it.

Then, we read of the two blind men that "their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it." Matt. 9:30. But these men were so glad that they could again see, that they "spread abroad his fame in all that country." Matt. 9:31. They couldn't keep it to themselves, even though they disobeyed Jesus who had told them that they should tell no man. They couldn't be quiet. They couldn't keep silent about something that was so good.

The last example that we read about was "a dumb man possessed with a devil" who was brought to Jesus. "And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." Matt. 9:32, 33. Never so in Israel. We can believe that it was never so. Maybe it has never been so since Jesus walked in the land of Galilee.

"But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils." Matt. 9:34. See? Again the Pharisees stood saying, "He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils."

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Matt. 9:35. Certainly we have to say that God created us, you and I. He knows every part of our organs, whether it is the eyes, or the ears, or the mind, or the stomach, or legs, or feet, or our hands. Nothing is impossible since God created us and knows the intricacies of our bodies. We are thankful that even today miracles are performed. People are healed from diseases.

I think of myself. One of my own doctors told me not too long ago that if I had had my sickness ten years sooner, I would never have made it. Again, thanks be to God! All praise and honor belong to Him! We are thankful that we are living in an age of many medical accomplishments. We know that a lot of money is being spent in research so that people can live longer, and can enjoy life longer. These are all benefits that God allows to happen.

At the end of the chapter He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Matt. 9:37. How true that is! There are so few people who "put themselves out". But the harvest truly is plenteous.

There are millions and millions of people upon the face of the earth, and a lot needs to be done. There is much that can be done. There is no end to what can be done. We can always find something to do if we look for it, and if we have a little ambition within us.

Jesus said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:38. Maybe this comes at a good time. In our Morton congregation, perhaps we need more help in the ministry. Maybe we have a shortage in the ministry today. A few years ago, we had more ministers. Could we fill those empty spots? Maybe more work could be done in the name of God, the Father and His Son, Jesus, because the work is here. We need help and we need everybody's prayers.

May God bless you, one and all.

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SERMON BY BRO. FRANCIS J. ROTHER OF MORTON, IL

Text: Psalm 142 and Matthew 9

As we review the chapter that we have just read, we can see the compassion that Jesus had for all His people, for people who were sick, troubled and in need of help. Jesus was always ready to receive them and help them. What a wonderful thing it is, my dear hearers, that we have a Saviour like Jesus to be our Guide, our Way and our Captain, and that we may be His followers. We can be thankful for the many precepts and examples that He set, and for the many sermons that He preached. We can learn from them. We can also prepare ourselves for the eternal abode which is being prepared for all people who believe and put their faith and trust in Him.

As we look through this chapter, I think that we can classify it as a "chapter of faith". We have to have faith to believe, do we not? If we don't have faith, we don't believe, do we? So faith is essential.

We also want our faith to increase. We want to grow stronger in our faith. We should not let our faith deteriorate. It is an endless job because Satan is always about, cunningly trying to disturb us and destroy us. It is important that we resort to prayer. Surely, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31.

Jesus was not here upon this earth very many years, and He took advantage of every opportunity. Here we find, "He entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city." Matt. 9:1. Capernaum was a city where He often lodged and where He spent many hours. The people in Capernaum loved Him. They knew Him, and so He frequently went to "his own city," Capernaum.

While He was there, ". . . they brought to him a sick man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer; thy sins

be forgiven thee." Matt. 9:2. We observe that the people who were carrying the man with the palsy had a measure of faith. It says here, ". . . and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy . . ." Jesus could see into the men's hearts. He could see into the heart of the man who was sick. They all had a measure of faith. They came to Jesus because they had a need and were in trouble, and they received help.

It is well, is it not, if our friends, brethren, and relatives, pray for us. Many times we are helped by the prayers, the unknown prayers. People pray because they have faith and want to help us. We can be thankful that people will pray for us in time of trouble.

The men of whom we read carried the man sick with the palsy. They wanted to help him. Perhaps, before they brought this man to Jesus, they had a prayer upon their hearts, hoping and trusting that Jesus would do something for him. It was accomplished. As we read, we see that Jesus welcomed this group. Seeing their faith, He said to the sick of the palsy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." What a blessing it was to have Jesus say, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

"And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth." Matt. 9:3. There are always some who will mock. Those who do not believe in Jesus will say, "This cannot be . . . this is impossible." The scribes said, "This man blasphemeth." Jesus could see into their hearts. "Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?" Matt. 9:4, 5. It did not matter to Jesus for He could do either. Jesus had the power to forgive sins, and He had

the power to make the man arise and walk again. Through Him we know all things are possible. He can do anything.

We have to have patience many times and have to pray many times. Our prayers are not usually answered in a moment of time. Sometimes it takes weeks and months, even years. But, if we have patience, God will bless us. This man was blessed! He was blessed after Jesus asked, "For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins are forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, then saith he to the sick of the palsy, Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house." Matt. 9:5, 6. The man's friends didn't have to carry him back on his bed as they had brought him in. Now, he could take up his bed and go back to his own house. It was a wonderful miracle, was it not?

Likewise, miracles can happen today if we have faith such as the men had who brought this sick man to Jesus to be healed. The man who had been healed arose, and departed to his house. When the people saw it, they marvelled. They glorified God that such a power, such a miracle, had been performed before men.

Jesus then went on. "And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." Matt. 9:9. Matthew did not delay. His response was immediate. When Jesus said, "Follow me," he arose and followed Him.

Other disciples, Peter, James and John, were fishermen. They were fishing when Jesus saw them and invited them to follow Him. They did so; they followed Him, and eventually became fishers of men.

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