



A father of the fatherless... is  
God in his holy habitation.  
Psalm 68:5

After this manner therefore  
pray ye: Our Father which art in  
heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Matthew 6:9

VOLUME 35

JUNE 1985

NUMBER 6

## *Honoring the Father of Fathers*

Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.  
Isaiah 63:16

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?  
Matthew 7:11

But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.  
Isaiah 64:8

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.  
Romans 8:15



But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.  
John 1:12

... And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.  
II Corinthians 6:18

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.  
Galatians 4:6

Futhermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?  
Hebrews 12:9

# REPORT ON TRIP TO HONDURAS

Two-Room Public School Project — January 11 - 25, 1985

Having served on both the World Relief Committee and the Work Opportunity Projects Committee, our brethren have often expressed that it would be good if we could arrange or create our own projects, rather than support or work through other on-going organizations.

In March 1984, Ezequiel Martinez, whom I met on a second trip to Honduras in October 1982, was visiting the States for a brief period. I invited him and his family to our home in Morton, IL for a weekend. He has been one of our recipients of corn and soybeans distributed to people in Honduras. During his visit in Morton, I asked him about some projects in Honduras to involve our people. He listed nine projects which I brought before the Work Opportunity Committee in Taylor, MO in April 1984. The building of a two-room public school appealed to the Committee and this was then presented to the Elder Conference in August at Lester, IA for approval. Having received approval, it was then considered by the World Relief Committee and further sanctioned. A sketch of the proposed school and material costs had been received for presentation. At the Lester, IA meeting, the World Relief Committee approved \$8,000 for this project for estimated materials cost, contingent to some inflation.

On September 13, 1984, a telephone conference call was held, requested by Bro. John Klotzle to further discuss the status of Work Opportunity Projects. The North Fort Myers, Florida church was then the No. 1 priority. There were eight Work Opportunity Committee brothers contacted on this conference call, and in the discussion of this project, I was appointed to coordinate the Honduras project. I accepted the assignment because of my contacts in Honduras on two previous trips to follow-up on grain shipments and also my acquaintance with Martinez. I then prayerfully proceeded and asked Bro. Jack Krantz to help me coordinate this project, since he and his wife had accompanied my wife and I to Honduras in October 1982. He accepted and helped tremendously to recruit interested workmen, having the project announced from our church

pulpits, and organized our pre-trip meetings.

At this particular time, there were a number of Haiti projects going on which many of our brothers and friends sometimes confused with the Honduras project. From the time of the Lester, IA conference until the end of October, only about six volunteers responded. Bro. Jack and I almost concluded that if there wasn't more interest, the project could easily be dropped. With more concerns and prayers on my heart, it occurred to me that an article in the Silver Lining publication might interest more people. I proceeded to call our Morton correspondent, Sis. Phyllis Farney, to see whom I might contact at Leo, IN to advertise the Honduras project. She gave me Bro. Lynn Stieglitz's name and phone number and I immediately called him. He responded to the idea and asked that I send the sketch and particulars so it could appear in the November 1984 issue of Silver Lining.

Many interested persons called Bro. Jack and me, and most of them had not been aware of the Honduras project until they read about it in the Silver Lining. There was sincere interest shown by many, and there were some regrets by some who could not go on the scheduled date, January 14 - 25, 1985 due to other commitments. The time schedule had to be established by our contact Mr. Martinez, those who responded early, and Bro. Jack and I.

The response was overwhelming as 18 men and 8 wives pledged to go on this trip by the first of December. There were also three college students who inquired about going, but I advised them to set their priorities to remain in school now, and perhaps in the future, other opportunities would occur.

Two informational meetings were held in the Morton church on two Monday evenings in December (2 weeks apart) with all interested people and their immediate families invited. The purpose of the meetings was to provide general information, get acquainted, discuss the project, and make plans for the trip.

Due to the ad in the Silver Lining, Bro. Al Weigele, employed by the

Hayes Travel Agency, Inc. in Perrysburg, OH, offered his help in making arrangements for the trip and he attended our first meeting. He willingly made all the travel arrangements to Honduras. The round trip cost of \$615.00 per person from Peoria included reservations for two nights lodging in the San Pedro Sula Hotel and the round-trip transfer on a bus from the airport to the hotel. The airport is located about 8 miles from the city of San Pedro. The above cost was much less than we could obtain from any Morton or Peoria travel agency for group prices, and would not have included the above mentioned extras. The group left Peoria January 14, 1985 at 7:10 a.m. and arrived at San Pedro Sula at 3:30 p.m. Peoria time.

At the Ft. Lauderdale, FL World Relief Committee meeting held December 8, I could make a status report and an additional \$2,000 was approved for materials for a total of \$10,000 for the school project.

(Continued on Page 29)

## THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

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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.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic  
Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,  
David Bertsch.

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip no. with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips.).

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

# REPORT FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Bro. Andy Hunyady

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

Psalm 34:7, 8

Greetings dearly beloved:

Bro. Vernon Leman gave a very good report of our trip to visit the brethren in the East European countries in the previous issue of the Silver Lining. Many of you have shown deep interest and inquired about the welfare of our fellow believers and conditions in these countries. So, I'll try to describe a few observations that appeared to be of interest to us Americans.

In a three week period we covered a lot of areas in four countries, where customs and conditions vary a great deal.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

After we visited a very dear elder brother, we headed back towards Hungary. As we crossed several small villages, late this Wednesday afternoon, we saw a number of elderly folks all dressed in the traditional black, with black book, Bible or prayer book in hand, going to church. (In a communist country.)

Even with our experienced driver (who made this trip before) we found travel somewhat difficult as most roads in this country are not marked. Travel for foreigners can cost a lot of time, and make it hard to reach the proper destinations on time.

The life of our fellow believers is very difficult in this country and their number is slowly diminishing. We found much love and joy with the dear brother with whom we correspond, his daughter and another sister-in-faith.

## HUNGARY

This is the most prosperous and progressive communist country. The citizens of Hungary enjoy complete freedom of worship, and freedom to travel. Private enterprise has been in practice for a number of years and as a result their economy is rapidly improving.

We attended several churches and found a very good attendance in all. In Budapest, Baja, Ersekcsanak and Szeged, the churches were filled to capacity. Normal capacity of the Budapest church is about 240-260 and in most occasions has up to 450 and 500 present. This of course creates a very serious problem, which the local brethren have been trying for several years to remedy. So far there has been no cooperation from the authorities to issue a permit for expansion, and of course the money matter is a big question too.

In most churches, the pews consist of simple, long wooden benches with no back rest. Worshipers don't seem to mind and each Sunday following afternoon services they stay for singing that can last for several hours. This is a very beautiful and inspiring experience for all.

In Budapest we had the privilege to

hear the examination of a young friend, who was called before the congregation. This is a normal custom, that all new repentant souls be carefully instructed and examined before baptism. On Sunday, April 21, 17 were to be baptized.

Monday, on the second day of Easter, all business places are closed throughout the country in observance of this holiday, commemorating the resurrection of Christ. All churches are open and well attended. This is a great contrast with our "Nation Under God", where business is as usual.

On our last Saturday in Hungary, a group of brethren, young and old, in four cars made a tour around the Lake Balaton and stopped to visit a few small churches, among them the oldest, still in continuous existence, in the city of Keszthely. It was an inspiring experience and we hope some day to return for a longer visit.

Hungary, a country of about 12 million people, last year had about 15 million foreign tourists. For Americans, a strong dollar allows for traveling as an attractive experience.

## ROMANIA

This is a country of great contrast compared to neighboring Hungary. The border guards made a most thorough search of all luggage and personal affects. Recorded tapes, Statements of Faith and several articles were taken away and not permitted in the country. They were to be returned on the way out, but we had plans to exit at another point into Yugoslavia. Finally, after 3½ hours of delay, we were permitted to enter. What a way to cool your spirits! While waiting for the clearance, a number of Romanian citizens were returning from Hungary, where they did some shopping for bread and other badly needed food.

Our first night in a hotel in Oradea, we learned that you must get used to being without heat and hot water. The electricity was so low that following morning we could not use our electric shaver. All street lights and some traffic lights are out, due to low output of electricity.

All private cars during the first three months of this year were banned due to lack of gasoline. Foreign tourists had to purchase special fuel coupons with hard currency, so we had no problems in this area.

Security is very tight all over the

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches  
First Year - August 1983 thru July 1984 - 13,890

### Bibles Distributed - Second Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1984 -	909	909
September 1984 -	749	1658
October 1984 -	686	2344
November 1984 -	1246	3590
December 1984 -	944	4534
January 1985 -	850	5384
February 1985 -	505	5889
March 1985 -	1077	6966
April 1985 -	825	7791
May 1985 -	1052	8843

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind.

country. Every move of a foreign visitor is followed constantly.

We visited several members in small villages and found travel rather difficult as most roads are impassible. We had to park our rented car at the edge of the village and walk as the streets were too muddy or deep. Dry ruts created by tractors made it impossible to enter.

The people are really poor and often go without food for days. We met some very sick and some crippled, who just wept and prayed while we were in their homes. It is almost impossible to describe some of the conditions that we saw. Some of these people receive no pension and some receive 90 lei, or about \$7.50 to \$8.00 and some receive about 200 lei or \$16.00 to \$18.00 a month. The government is about four to five months behind with the pension payments. We just cannot understand how they are able to survive! These dear souls have much love and compassion toward each other and share their goods and help each other. They just cannot fully thank the good Lord for brethren and friends in America who send those life-saving packages to

them. We parted from these dear souls with tears and prayers.

There are no churches open in Romania. Brethren are meeting in small numbers in various homes, always under the watchful eyes of the security. But, a Greater One is also watching and providing their inner needs!

#### YUGOSLAVIA

Here, overall economic conditions are somewhat better than in Romania, but the fast rising inflation is making living conditions very difficult.

The churches are open and due to the very strict military policy of their government, the number of the membership is slowly diminishing. There are reportedly about 13 - 17 brothers in prison, serving 2½ to 5 years. Some are serving their second and a few their third term. This creates a heavy burden and much suffering upon many families. There is a Prisoner's Relief Fund to assist some of these families, but the current inflation makes it more difficult to assist them.

There are some young repentant souls, who are very much aware of the military service they must face, but it

appears that their faith is strong enough to sustain them.

Here, as in other suppressive lands, we need to take their burdens before the Lord in prayers. He alone can provide the faith and grace to go onward and forward.

In most places we were able to hand out some financial help, entrusted to us from the World Relief Funds, that you, dear brethren and friends, so generously and lovingly support and make possible.

On some occasions we did face some very unpleasant situations in Romania, yet through it all we were not discouraged. Many of you, dearly beloved, had called us or wrote to assure us of your support and prayers on this, our mission. Each of us who made the trip, Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), George Hunyadi and James Siladie (both from Akron, OH) and myself felt the Lord's leading and protection in all travels.

Thanks and praise be unto our God for His boundless mercies! We also thank each of you for being with us and near us with your prayers.

## APOSOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME NEED FOR CHILDREN'S HOME ADMINISTRATOR

We are very sorry that the health of our administrator, Bro. Uriel Gehring, has resulted in his message to the board members, that after much prayer he is resigning. Bro. Uriel said he would like to leave the administrator responsibility by August 1. He has agreed to stay until an orderly transition can be accomplished. The board is in the process of prayerfully seeking his replacement. We want to acknowledge the very conscientious efforts and work by Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy for the Home and the children the past two years. We entreat you to join us in prayer for their future and in the board's efforts to find a new administrator.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night, there stood a man of Macedonia, beseeching him and saying, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us.'" Acts 16:9.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10.

The Apostolic Christian Children's Home has been in operation some 9 years since October 1976, thanks to the support of our many brethren and friends, and to our brothers and sisters who have willingly come to fill the staffing needs of the homes. The Home has provided Christian homes, families and love for many children in the past, and is doing so now.

There is now an urgent need for a Children's Home administrator. The qualification requirements for the administrator are:

1. Must be a brother, sound in faith, upholding church order and doctrine, married to a sister of like standing.
2. Must have the support of his home church elder.
3. Must demonstrate administrative ability and understand fiscal policies.
4. Must be able to command respect of children, as well as adults.
5. Desirable age between 25 and 60 years. Consideration will be given to all applicants.
6. Must be able to meet requirements of governing authorities, which include

the requirement of a Bachelors Degree in the Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Medicine, Social Work or related studies.

7. A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview.

Additional information concerning duties, salary, insurance and other compensation, can be obtained by writing or calling:

Bro. Dan Knochel  
30449 Barkely  
Livonia, MI 48154  
313-421-0711

Bro. Brace Wieland  
13034 Cherry Street  
Leo, IN 46765  
219-627-5167

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 mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." Psalms 27:10. There is an ever increasing great number of children

who have been forsaken, and only a small number of Christian homes available to provide for them. The Lord needs willing workers to provide for these young souls.

Bro. David Bertsch  
for the Children's Home Board  
and the Counselling Elders

## NEED FOR NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

The churches in Michigan, along with Toledo, OH, are in the process of constructing a 66-bed nursing home adjacent to our new church on property acquired in Livonia, MI, just outside Detroit.

We have a very attractive wooded site that should provide a very beautiful environment for the occupants of this home.

We have a certificate of need for shelter care, and we have an application to upgrade this certificate to acute nursing care. In constructing the facility, we are making provision for both.

We are in need of a nursing home administrator. Inasmuch as it is a fairly large home and we have no experience, the Board and the selection committee are of the belief that the administrator must have had some experience in the nursing care field. We have received some applications for this position and are very grateful for them; but upon review we feel it would be unfair to thrust an individual into this very responsible position without having some prior experience.

Therefore, if any of our brethren are interested or are aware of someone with the proper qualifications, we would sincerely appreciate your forwarding a resume to either Bro. Phil Bahr, 17366 Westbrook, Livonia, MI 48152 or to myself, Ben Maibach, Jr., 14726 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

We also will be in need of a nursing supervisor and nurses or aids. Here again applications may be forwarded to the above brethren.

We are grateful for the support we have received, and believe it is a privilege to provide help for brethren and friends who are no longer able to care for themselves.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Maibach, Jr.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Judy Luginbuhl

It's not uncommon to hear comments from those around us claiming defeat, self-pity or rejection in order to cope with unpleasant experiences. "I can't do anything right"; "Nobody understands or cares about me"; "That's just the way I am, I can't help it"; "Nothing ever works out right for me"; "Everyone is always on my case" — are some of the more common expressions that have been tossed around. These statements generally tend to overstate the reality of the situation and can have a downward spiraling effect on our mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Our own thoughts and perceptions about ourselves, whether real or imagined, largely determine how we behave or react in certain situations. It is important for each of us to recognize and identify our feelings and empathize with each other. However, if we project negative self-images on our conscious minds, we will become ensnared in the belief that we are helpless.

We must turn statements like "That's just the way I am, I can't help it" to "I'm feeling this way now but I can choose to change". Rather than saying, "Nothing ever works out for me", we can try thinking, as well as saying, "Some things may not work out right, but I can learn from these things and make better decisions for the future".

Recently one of our teenagers became convinced through this negative thinking that it was impossible for her to complete a school project. After discussing her thoughts and feelings, she began to take control and see that she had options. Rather than allowing herself to be defeated, she chose to try to resolve her problem in a positive way and complete the school project to the best of her ability. This incident is just one simple example of how we are trying to encourage our children to think through problems and change negative thought patterns to productive and positive ones.

On a larger scale, our thought patterns have a far-reaching effect on our spiritual life. To confess sin, acknowledge forgiveness, and move on in positive steps toward a closer relationship with the Lord is vital to spiritual growth. We, in our daily lives, must be ever mindful to focus on that which is

good, productive and holy and to be wary of Satan's temptation to fall into thoughts of hopelessness and despair. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8.

We have moved into the new administration building which is located just south of the West House. It is a two-story building of brick construction. Some finishing touches to the interior are yet to be done, but everyone is excited about being moved in. We had our first board meeting here Saturday, May 18.

The top floor includes the computer room, the secretary's office, the administrator's office, two counselling rooms, two storage rooms, one large closet, a bathroom and a lobby. The lower level includes a large classroom, the board meeting room, two bathrooms, storage space and a lobby. The building makes a nice addition to the Home setting. Thank you, volunteers, for your diligent, untiring efforts in making this project a reality.

We have two new boys in the West House, Tom M., age 15, and Bobby W., age 11. We are looking forward to many rewarding experiences with these boys and hope they will benefit immensely from their stay at our Home. It is a privilege to serve their needs.

The upcoming summer looks like a busy one for our resident children. Some will be taking driver education, some will be working through the Job Training Program (formerly CETA), others will have tasks around the Home. Busy hands make a glad heart. Some volunteers for the summer season have already lent their time and talent, and a number more are scheduled. We appreciate them all.

Both Homes plan on a one week vacation the first week in June, before the summer schedule begins. The East House plans on going to the Morton-Washington, IL area, and the West House plans to go to Rittman, OH, and visit some local areas of interest.

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School the week of June 10 - 14. The Sunday school students will have individualized classes, and the adults will have the opportunity to listen to different visiting ministers expound on a given topic each night. The whole week should be one of spiritual enrich-

ment; what a fortunate people we are.

The "greenery" of spring is in full bloom in "Hoosier Land". As one glances out the window of the new office building, many "scenarios" meet the eye. The beans and corn are up, the grass is a gorgeous green, and in the semi-distance, the retirement complex is fast approaching the point where some units will soon be ready for occupancy. The green areas depict the majesty and glory of God, and the building complex reflects the result of many labors being blessed by eternal providence, and the Word is fulfilled, "Praise Him in all things", which we certainly can do. We praise Him for the recent visit of our former houseparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer, and the growing little Baers, Mark and Sarah. It seems as though they still "belong" to the Home staff; how precious are the memories we have of our loved ones.

#### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:1, 2

It is not coincidence that the heads of homes, especially Christian homes, are called fathers. Surely they are like a Rock of Gibraltar, the "hill" to whom the family looks for help, security and advice. When a child is born, it needs the father's strong arms about him for support and security. Later, the child needs the father's hand for support for his first faltering steps. As he grows, the need is for father's voice, his listening ear, his companionship and his firm guidance. Then when the growing up years are finished, there is the important need of father's prayers all through the remaining years of life. All of this comprises a very important mission in life; and on Father's Day in June, so much of this comes to mind. While we can express gratitude to our fathers on their special day, the sincerest gratefulness can only come from living our lives in such a way that our fathers' prayers seem to be answered.

The effects of noble fatherhood (and motherhood, too) is often evident among our residents. When a young man graciously opens a door for a staff member, when a resident shows con-

cern for a staff member who needs to go home because he is not feeling well or when various residents wish us a nice weekend or vacation, we well know that loving guidance has been theirs in their growing up years at home.

To further acquaint you with the scope of our volunteers, we want to mention more of the duties accomplished in the activity department. Spending time with and for residents on a one-to-one or group basis are such things as: writing letters for them, playing table tennis, riding bicycles, going for walks, helping with the various group outings, finishing up residents' projects, making basic project patterns, playing Bingo with them one night each week. Organizing, planning and carrying out an Easter, Halloween and Christmas party annually requires lots of time and energy, but it is enjoyed immensely by the residents. Volunteers often assist staff members on the residents' monthly shopping trips. Whenever a program is given by residents, volunteers assist staff members in dressing and prompting them. Other duties needful to the Home and done by volunteers when possible are: running the rug loom and the smaller loom, sewing strips for the rug loom, providing help with assembling and preparing the A.C. Times for mailing, giving help in the ceramic department, making attractive bulletin boards, assisting in the upkeep and improvements around the Home, assisting with clerk and bookkeeping duties, assisting on and before Benefit Day, cleaning the fish tank and being "sitters" during required staff meetings. Then there are those who conduct "Story Hour" (reading to a class of residents), those who conduct the embroidery class, those who give piano, organ and voice lessons, those who help on swimming outings and those who give many hours quilting and doing other sewing projects. Then there are staff members who give extra hours beyond those for which they are reimbursed. When we consider that all of this is just in the Activity Department, one begins to realize the scope of Volunteer Service.

This has been an unusually balmy spring, making it possible for our residents to spend time out of doors. Somehow they seem to have a special kinship with the Creator through the beauty of nature. Perhaps it gives them a sense of peace, as it does to all of us, especially in the evening when "Day is

dying in the west and heaven is touching earth with rest" (Hymns of Zion #8). As the night falls and the stars appear in the glorious heavens, a quiet peace envelopes the Home and its "family".

Along this line of thought, we wish a special peace to our fathers on Father's Day. Wherever you are, we say with the hymnwriter: "Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away? In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they." (Hymns of Zion #26).

#### **ALABAMA, ATHENS**

**Joan Schrenk**

Jesus has taken a beautiful bud out of our garden of Love; borne it away to the city of God, home of the Angels above. Full blooming flowers alone will not do, some must be young and un-grown; So the frail buds he is gathering too, Beautiful gems for his throne. Jesus is gathering day after day, buds for the palace of Heaven. Gathering buds, gathering buds, wonderful care will be given.

Bro. Tom, myself, our daughter, Laura, and her husband, Jack Pardo, wish to thank each and every one for their prayers and gifts of love shared with us during the hospital stay and passing of our precious Melissa. Those prayers and support surely helped to make the days easier. May God be your rewarder.

School has come to a close now, but our pre-school will be open this summer. We had a good year and pray as our little graduates go on to public school, they will remember the Christian principles taught them.

#### **ARIZONA, TUCSON**

**Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer**

We were very privileged this month to witness the baptism of Steve and Maria Bauer. Our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was with us for this special day and we thank him for his efforts of love. We had many visitors from the Phoenix congregation, which we appreciate so much. I know that everyone who shared in this beautiful event felt a warmth and love that only God can supply. The Tucson congregation is so thankful to be able to call Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria our brethren-in-the-faith.

This month we also partook of holy communion, another very special event in the life of a Christian. Our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was once again

with us and our newest brother and sister-in-faith were given their first opportunity to partake of communion. We thank the Lord for delivering Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb to us and for their safe return home, but most importantly, we are thankful for the time we were able to set aside to be renewed in spirit and greet our fellow brothers and sisters with a holy kiss.

As Father's Day approaches and having just been reminded of our dear mother's place in our lives, I'm reminded of a portion of a poem I once read which contained the lines "so quiet down cobwebs, dust go to sleep, I'm rocking my baby and babies don't keep." The point of the whole poem was that the work we might have to do around the house or on the car, etc., will be there tomorrow, but children grow each day and will someday be gone. Mother's Day and Father's Day are a chance to remember all the times our mothers and fathers put aside their work and took time for us. It's the perfect time to thank God for giving us loving parents whose lives revolved around us and who were there when we needed them most.

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Shirley Luthi**

April 21 was a day filled with rich blessings for our small congregation. With joy we witnessed the baptism of Cherise Strahm after hearing her testimony of how God has worked in her heart and life. We welcome her into God's family.

We were further reminded of God's great love when we partook of holy communion following Sis. Cherise's baptism.

We were thankful for Bro. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA) and his willingness to share God's Word with us during his recent visit.

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**CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD**  
**Ben Ammann**

On Sunday, April 21, we were thankful to have Bro. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA) minister to us. Bro. Carl and his wife, Sis. Emma, were visiting her brother, Bro. Ed Ruehle, and sister, Hilda Ruehle.

Ministering Bro. Glen Hackenjoes and his wife, Sis. Kathryn, were our visitors Sunday, April 28. We thank them also for being with us.

**COLORADO, DENVER**

**Mike Martin — Marlene Leman**

We are thankful that God brought into our midst, Bro. Tim Roecker from the Chicago congregation. We trust he will feel at home and the love that goes therewith.

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe we shall also live with Him." Romans 6:8. Kathy Leman has expressed her desire to fulfill that which Christ has commanded in baptism, having testified that she is dead unto sin.

Dave Schneider, realizing his lost estate and that sin separates us from God, has answered the call of the Lord to repentance. Thank you, Lord!

We are grieved that one of our beloved congregation has had to spend time in the hospital again with heart problems. We pray that Sis. Elizabeth Jivan can receive strength from the Lord.

Also entering the hospital was our beloved Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). We pray for a speedy recovery for him.

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**  
**Michelle Virkler**

"Who is he that cares and watches  
 O'er our life and soul's estate  
 Who is he that thus has drawn us  
 Christ alone, His Love is Great."

Zion's Harp #18

Our Lord and Savior continues to work in the hearts of our dear friends. Ron Bahler (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Aline) has chosen to be united with our dear friend, Bonnie Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge) in holy matrimony. A July 27 wedding is planned.

Sis. Ethel Gerber and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) will be united together. A June wedding is planned. God has surely blessed Sis. Ethel for her past devotion and love to her mother.

Sis. Sue Ellen Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge) will become united with Bro. Greg Gasser (Rittman, OH).

God has surely blessed these dear ones to walk the pathway of life sharing His love together.

On Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, we heard how God has worked in the hearts of six more precious souls: Glen and Dave Bahler (Bro. Owen and Sis. Lois Ann), Linda (Lanz) and Jim Galligan (Bro. Alvin and Sis.

Ann Lanz and the Galligan family), Carole Luginbuhl (Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine) and Jeff Hunt (Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce).

Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner (Crogan, NY) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) assisted Bro. Corbin with our blessed weekend. We trust God will be near our new converts and help them always to remember their first love.

Bro. Vern Lanz was united in marriage with Sis. Deanna Rufener in Rittman, OH. We trust the Lord will shower many blessings upon them.

"And then, what a blissful joy  
 Will bind such hearts together,  
 When after parting's grief  
 They meet again in heaven  
 Who through this earthly vale  
 Did journey hand in hand  
 Joined in the bond of grace  
 By Love's most sacred band."

Zion's Harp #79

As Father's Day approaches, for those of us who no longer can see our dads, face to face, their victories are won and we should rejoice. For those whose dads remain, may we appreciate all that is and has been done for us by them. To have a Christian home, food on the table and shelter and clothing are the necessities of life. If our dads seem to fall short of our expectations, may we ever be reminded they give the very best, and they try. We surely owe them a debt of gratitude and love. As our children grow and need to be nurtured, it is a tremendous responsibility to try to be the perfect father. God has love and is merciful, for He forgave all our sins and imperfections and continues to show His greatness.

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**FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS**  
**Marie Keller — Edna Meister**

The highest example of justice as Jesus saw, is not a judge but a father, who knows his children separately and considers what is right for each one of them and looks always to their good and happiness. God is righteous because He is like a father.

E. F. Scott

Let us look up to our father and our Lord with love and respect for God made them to lead and to help us through life with God's help, and His ways are perfect.

June also brings many other special events. For our children and our grandchildren it means another school year has ended or perhaps they are graduating from school or college. For others it may be a beginning of a new adventure in life such as getting married, seeking a new position in life or just looking forward to summer and vacation time again with the family. Whatever your goal in life, may you always take our Lord and Saviour with you.

Most of our winter visitors have returned north to their homes and families. We miss them dearly, but are looking forward to seeing them again next winter, God willing. We want to thank all the many ministers who gave so willingly of their time and shared with us the Book of Life this past year. May God richly bless them for their labor and effort to help us. Without faithful brethren we could not grow and have our churches and faith that we have cherished for so many years. We look forward to meeting more faithful servants and brethren throughout the year. May God be with you till we meet again.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elaine Gudeman — Elda Martin

It is easy to love Him when the blue is in  
the sky,  
When summer winds are blowing, and  
we smell the roses nigh;  
There is little effort needed to obey His  
precious will  
When it leads through flower-decked  
valley, or over sun-kissed hill.

It is when the rain is falling, or the mist  
hangs in the air,  
When the road is dark and rugged, and  
the wind no longer fair,  
When the rosy dawn has settled in a  
shadowland of gray,  
That we find it hard to trust Him, and  
are slower to obey.

It is easy to trust Him when the singing  
birds have come,  
And their canticles are echoed in our  
heart and in our home;  
But 'tis when we miss the music, and  
the days are dull and drear,  
That we need a faith triumphant  
over every doubt and fear.

And our blessed Lord will give it; what  
we lack He will supply;

Let us ask in faith believing — on His  
promises rely;

He will ever be our Leader, whether  
smooth or rough the way,  
And will prove Himself sufficient for  
the needs of every day.

Author Unknown

It is so easy to trust our Lord when all  
is going well, but when life's trials come  
upon us our faith is tried and proved.  
We are thankful that Sis. Louise Joos  
has had a true and lasting faith that saw  
her through to a faithful and victorious  
end. We sorrow with Bro. John and Sis.  
Mary Lou in the loss of a wife and  
mother. Our hearts and prayers go out  
for them and hope they will take cour-  
age in our Lord's promises to comfort  
and supply their every need each day of  
their lives.

When we follow God's leading, often  
we are led to new places. We rejoice  
that the Lord has brought a new family  
to our little Sarasota congregation. We  
welcome Greg and Sharon Sabo and  
their three children.

Unfortunately, the Lord leads in  
other directions also. Bro. Bob and Sis.  
Dorothy Norr have moved back to Leo,  
(IN) and Bro. John Eisenmann has re-  
turned to his home in Peoria, IL. We  
will miss each one of them, but count it  
our blessing to have had each of them  
with us as long as we did, and pray for  
God's continued guidance and peace in  
their lives.

#### WORD OF THANKS

Phillip and Sis. Marie Bartoni wish  
to thank each and every one for their  
love, prayers and gifts so generously  
shared during Phillip's recent illness  
and hospitalization. He is now back  
home and gaining strength daily.

Please note that June is collection  
month for Sarasota. Thank you.

#### ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Jan Gudeman — Nancy Kaufmann

Our second Annual Mother-Daughter  
banquet was enjoyed by many lov-  
ing mothers, daughters, friends and  
relatives. May this inspiring fellowship  
encourage us all to appreciate our gifts  
of one another, and especially our  
mothers, and to walk more closely with  
Him who created all.

Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN)  
was our visiting minister this month.  
We are always grateful to have visitors

who bring us the precious Word of Life  
in love and sincerity.

We rejoice with Sis. Marsha and  
Chuck Albritton as Chuck has decided  
to begin a new walk with Christ.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of  
a father, and attend to know under-  
standing." Proverbs 4:1. In this month,  
which includes Father's Day, let us  
make special efforts to show apprecia-  
tion for our dear fathers.

Sis. Nate Vogel has had surgery. We  
wish her the Lord's blessing of strength  
and healing.

"We want to thank everyone who has  
remembered our family with cards,  
prayers, visits and food. It is a real help  
to join hearts and hands with Christian  
friends and feel God's love and com-  
fort."

The Jim Kachelmuss Family

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Marilyn Tanner

The greatest joy a human being  
knows is heaven's peace, that nur-  
tured, grows and grows.

Joseph Emms

Our visiting minister this past month  
was Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont).  
We thank him for sharing the  
Words of Life with us.

#### WHAT IS A FAMILY?

It's a father's strength and wisdom  
It's a mother's tender love  
And the innocence of childhood  
Soft and fragile as a dove.

It's a source of joy and laughter  
Jokes and secrets, smiles and tears  
And a wealth of treasured memories  
That grow dearer with the years . . .

It's a constant light that guides us  
And when anything's amiss  
There's comfort in its steady glow —  
But more than all of this

It's a warm and special feeling  
Binding heart to heart forever  
In a spirit of belonging  
Neither time nor miles can sever!

Author Unknown

May we always be thankful for our  
God-fearing parents that love and  
guide us.

Our farewells are extended to our  
dear Sis. Kathy Kieser (Bro. David and



Sis. Shirley) as she will soon leave for Japan to teach kindergarten for two years. Kathy recently graduated from Illinois State University with a teaching degree. We pray she will be watched over and blessed in her new endeavor.

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

#### Kathy Schlatter

The weather was warm and bright; Lake Wapello (near Pulaski, IA), a sparkling blue. The adults appreciated the scene and its beauty from afar as they fellowshiped. The children, on the other hand, were enticed right to the water's edge. They saw only delightful, splashing water and fun-filled activities — no problems. But their parents realized the possibilities and sounded the warning, moving their children back from the dangers.

They say each of us has Parent and Child within us. When we repent, it takes awhile for our spiritual Parent to develop. And for each of us, there may be some areas that we are more vulnerable in, that we might allow ourselves nearer the seductive water than is wise, that our dunking becomes a strong possibility. Therefore, we need to listen to our spiritual parents and those who are strong in our weak areas and move back from the water's edge.

We have been blessed again with saintly visitors. We would especially want to thank these ministering brethren: Bros. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Art Baurer (Princeville) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) also came on a Friday evening to present a topical Bible study on that often misunderstood third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. May this beloved Spirit continue to lead us all in the will of the Father.

Several of our Sunday school students are graduates from the eighth grade: Rozalia Bozzay (daughter of Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka), Jeremy DesCarpentries (son of Bro. Bud and Sis. Kay) and Keith Knepp (son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy). We enjoy and love them so. "Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him (her) that hath it . . ." Proverbs 16:22. May they aspire to this kind of understanding.

We welcome Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger and their three young children, Darin, Tim and Renae (Champaign-Urbana) to our Chicago church family. Bro. Virg has the sincere sup-

port of our congregation to continue in the ministry here. Though leavetakings are traumatic and new beginnings sometimes uncertain, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: . . . a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; . . . a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh . . ." Ecclesiastes 3:1-4. We wish for them a grace-filled adjustment, as we offer our love and prayers to them and their beloved Champaign-Urbana congregation.

Our eighth annual bus trip was to Pulaski, IA. We spent a short amount of time on the way in Nauvoo, IL. While there, some saw the print shop, the blacksmith at work and old homes. Some of us even watched a demonstration on rope being made. Maybe we could compare ourselves to one of the strands of twine used to make up the rope. The rope created will be strongest if the strands, (in multiples of three), are twisted together and stretched with just enough tension, not too much or the strands would snap, nor too little or the rope would be useless. May the Lord bind us together in the cord of love so that our fellowship will reflect His glory, through the strength He has given us. Truly we enjoyed our Chicago companions on our trip to and from Pulaski. While in Iowa, we were able to reach out to more brethren and friends, some well-known to some of us, some newly met, all well-loved. They worked so hard we could never thank them enough. May the Lord bless and reward them for their lovingkindnesses. Once again, our trip was a blessed event, looked forward to for weeks, now tucked away, a prism of memory to shimmer in bright colors whenever we remember our special weekend together with the Pulaski congregation.

We want to express our deepest support and sympathy to Sis. Ruth Schumacher. Her father, Bro. Joe Schumacher, just died recently. May the Lord give her comfort: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Psalm 121:1.

In a sermon we learned of a couch in good condition with a sign on it: "Take me. I'm yours!" Christ our Lord, we were reminded, is also waiting expectantly for souls to "take" Him, for He can belong to us, each one. Not long after that sermon and its powerful message, I saw a bench on Damen

Avenue (available for advertising), which read, "Rent me. I'm ready." I thought of that bench in terms of coming to repentance. We have to allow the Lord to "rent" us, too, and we have to be ready to sacrifice ourselves. As a near seventy year old convert recently said in his testimony when he was asked why he finally repented, "I'd run out of excuses." And so he, too, reached out his hand to the Lord's, ready to come, ready to kneel.

But lately, because of the way death and disease have captured different ones in our own families and others we know, I thought of a combination of those two imperatives: "Take me. I'm ready!" It is our comfort that those who have died even felt that way — so ready to go. We pray for us all that whatever our lot, we can peacefully say, "Take me, Lord; I'm ready," day by day, hour by hour, for none of us knows what the time is on our earthly clock.

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

#### Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Two couples in our congregation have been blessed with 50 years of married life and are thankful the Lord has led them thus far. An open house was hosted by the children of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Elsie Bauer April 28 at our fellowship hall. The following Sunday, May 5, was a special day for Bro. Joel and Sis. Mary Hofbauer in which many gathered in their honor also at our fellowship hall in remembrance of their anniversary. We wish both couples' God's blessings in the future.

Our prayers ascend to our Lord above for many of our loved ones this month who have had sickness, pain or surgery. So many times we have found that through trials and suffering we are brought closer to our Saviour and how wonderfully His grace and tender nearness are there to help us in times of need. Indeed that is why the Apostle declared that He would rather glory in his infirmities, that the power of Christ would rest upon him . . . for when he was weak, then he was strong. Those we remember lovingly and prayerfully are Sis. Verena Knapp, Sis. Anna Marie Young, Sis. Esther Neukomn, Sis. Margaret Rudin, Bro. Wayne Hauptli, Franklin Rocke and Greg Martin, who is presently as Mayos.

As we think of the graduates, we pray that whatever they seek for vocation or higher learning, that it may be done according to the Lord's will and not

their own. May they seek guidance and instruction from the Lord in the days and years ahead. Graduating from high school are Leslie Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou), Sis. Denise Kaufmann (Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldine), Deanne Krumwiede (Ron and Sis. Shirley), Greg Rudin (Gary and Elizabeth), Judy Walder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Wilma) and Joe Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy).

In the book of life you are writing  
You alone are the one  
Who can write upon those pages  
A true record of what you have done.

The day the last page is finished,  
It is certain you cannot know,  
So think wisely of what you are writing;  
Try and make it worthwhile as you go.

When the diary of life has been written  
And is finally yellow with age;  
When all the deeds of your lifetime  
Have been entered upon each page;

Will the acts that before you are listed  
Be things that you are proud to  
review  
As there on the desk of eternity  
The diary shall be opened anew?  
Virginia Oliver

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Joan Schrock — Tammy Knapp

"Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy  
today,  
For a soul returning from the wild;  
See! the Father meets him out upon the  
way,  
Welcoming His weary wand'ring child."  
"Ring the Bells of Heaven"  
Gospel Hymns #622

We welcome another convert into our congregation. Sandy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) started repenting this month. We pray that she will feel the prayers of those who love her, and with the grace of God, make a good beginning.

This month we were privileged to hear the reading of the memorandum by our elders. No matter how many times we may hear it, we can gain something from it. It is based on holiness and how it is not an option in our life but a requirement. One thing brought out that would help us all be

more holy is to only do things that we would feel comfortable doing if God were right there in person. Even though God is always beside us in spirit, we tend to forget this as we go about our daily activities. Let's not grieve Him by our actions.

Assisting our Elder Bro. Bob with the reading of the memorandum was Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). Also, Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) came home for a visit to share the Word with us. May God bless this Word we have heard, and may it help us to live fruitful lives.

As the end of school approaches, a milestone is reached in the graduates' lives. Our graduates this year are Connie Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley), Rhonda Payne (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein), Jeff Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and Todd Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary). May God guide them as they choose their careers, and may He help them to choose Him as their Savior.

We are thankful our Bro. Joe Schrock is recovering from his recent hospitalization. How we take our health for granted until it is taken away from us.

### THE SECRET HEART

Across the years he could recall  
His father one way best of all.

In the stillest hours of night  
The boy awakened to the light.

Half in dreams, he saw his sire  
With his great hands full of fire.

The man had struck a match to see  
If his son slept peacefully.

He held his palms each side the spark  
His love had kindled in the dark.

His two hands were curved apart  
In the semblance of a heart.

He wore, it seemed to his small son  
A bare heart on his hidden one.

A heart that gave out such a glow  
No son awake could bear to know.

It showed a look upon a face  
Too tender for the day to trace.

One instant, it lit all about  
And then the secret heart went out.

But it shone long enough for one  
To know that hands held up the sun.  
Robert P. Tristram Coffin

May God bless our fathers for all the kind and loving efforts that they have put forth towards our lives.

May God bless everyone for the love and many kindnesses shown us during my recent hospitalization. Especially, the many prayers offered in my behalf which made possible God's healing power and my recovery. It was so deeply appreciated.

Carl and Millie Schieber

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

#### Ruth Ann Getz

We have just recently remembered the mothers in our land and now we give special commendation to the fathers. What special obligations parents have to their children that the Word of the Lord be not neglected. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." We can be very thankful for parents who did value the teachings of the Lord and whose lives taught us that those teachings were precious indeed.

We have three sets of parents who have had additional children placed in their care — gifts from our very God! May there be mutual blessing for parent and child as these children grow in stature and grace.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue Braun welcomed Rebekah Louise April 22. Grandmothers, Sis. Cecelia Braun and Sis. Mary Jane Hirschey, as well as Philip, Timothy and Matthew rejoice in her birth.

Joshua Wayne was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen May 6. Jordon is his big brother and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Kathryn Steffen are the grandparents.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger are now parents to Trisha Lyn, born May 11, as well as to Rachel, Neal, Gary, Kay, Robert, Daniel and Chad. Harold and Sis. Emma Blunier (Roan-

oke) and Bro. Nathan Kellenberger are the grandparents.

Bro. Tom Moser (Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeanette) and Sis. Dawn Mengler (Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mengler) were united in holy matrimony April 21, and as the Word teaches us to rejoice with those who rejoice, so do we. May they strengthen one another in the Christian pathway that together they can be mighty warriors for the Lord.

"When a Christian dies, precious is the prize!" We can't help but appropriate the words of this song, "The Death of a Christian", to our beloved Sis. Rose Goll when we reflect upon her life. She knew much of sorrow and pain (she was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, two daughters and three sons besides all of her brothers and sisters) and yet she grew sweeter with each new trial. To know her was to love her and in sharing her life experiences with you she would often say with true conviction, "It was the Lord who helped me, I tell you!". She passed away at the age of 92 April 30 after a brief illness, and is survived by one daughter, Lillian Davis. She leaves us with fond memories of her steadfast faith and her ready smile.

Precious is the prize when a Christian dies!

Bro. Richard and Sis. Judy Klopfenstein are bereaved in the death of Richard's mother. We wish to extend heartfelt sympathy and trust that supporting prayer will help to comfort them.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Bertha Lauber also have experienced the death of a loved one, Sis. Frieda Ruch (Milford, IN). Frieda was 98 years old and Bertha's only remaining family member. We trust the Lord will not leave them comfortless, because we know they follow after Him.

Hospitalization was required for a number of our brethren. The Lord has been good and has restored health enough for all but Bro. Albert Scheitlin to return home and we sincerely thank Him for His goodness. Those who have been ill besides Albert are: Bro. Nate Steffen, Bro. Glen Braker, Bro. Herman Haas, Bro. Albert Schambach and Kevin Schifferer (small son of Glen and Shirley).

As a reminder to the Elgin congregation, subscription fees will be due and payable in July. The fee is \$7.00 per year and checks can be made out to:

Ruth Ann Getz

Route 1, Box 219  
West Dundee, IL 60118

## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Kathy L. Rocke

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Our hearts were saddened to hear that Sis. Verda Hodel Blunier passed away April 21, but we are thankful she could be relieved of her bodily afflictions and find rest and peace in those beautiful mansions above. We pray that God will truly comfort her dear helpmate, Bro. Vernon, and her children, Sis. Lola (Bro. Stan) Stoller, Bro. Dale (Princeville), Kawin, Bros. Ted and Myron (Eureka). She also leaves four brothers, Bro. Roy (Gridley), Gerald, Bros. Bill and Jim (Roanoke) and four sisters, Sis. Mildred Aeschleman and Sis. Malinda Gerber (Roanoke), Sis. Norma Bauman (Goodfield) and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka).

The family of Sis. Verda Blunier expresses heartfelt thanks to all for their love and prayers and kindnesses shown during the extended illness and since the death of their loved one.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bros. Willis and Melvin Stoller in the loss of their sister, Sis. Agnes Rocke (Roanoke).

Also, Bro. Ed Rocke and Sis. Ruth Schumacher have our sympathy as their brother, Parnell Rocke, passed away May 12.

May the Comforter visit each one who has been bereft of a loved one and provide the healing balm.

First-time parents are Loren and Mary Zimmerman. They welcomed Adair William April 19. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Hartman (Congerville).

Jayme Lee, born April 16, is the new daughter of Dave and Lisa Zobrist. Tara is glad for her new sister. Farrel and Connie Salyer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Caroll Zobrist are Jayme's grandparents. May God bless these dear young families.

Sis. Ginny Blunier, Sis. Freida Knepp, Sis. Laura Getz and Sis. Shirley Leman were all hospital patients this past month. We are thankful that they are all home. May God grant

added strength each day as He sees best.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life." Zion's Harp #237. On April 28, Sis. Lisa Leman and Bro. Mike Knecht exchanged wedding vows. May God be the Head of their new home. Parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman and Richard and Janet Knecht.

We are thankful for the following ministering brothers who came and fed us the Word of Life; Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest). May they be blessed for lending themselves in His service.

Saturday evening, May 4, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of Jeff and Lisa Banwart. We were also thankful that Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) could be with us. The following day we welcomed Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa into the fold. May He grant them much grace to walk this earthly pathway in truth and sincerity. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart.

Our high school graduates are Sis. Lena Hangartner, Dennis Schumacher, Ben Wiegand, Bob Wiegand, JoEllen Wettstein, Marlene Wettstein, Diane Blunier, Lisa Knobloch, Gail Rocke and Carl Rothgeb. May God direct their pathways as they go out into the world seeking employment or schools of higher learning.

"My son hear the instruction of thy father..." Proverbs 1:8. How thankful we should be that our fathers instructed us in Godly ways and instilled within us a knowledge of the path to salvation. As we seek to honor our earthly fathers, we should keep in mind that we, as God's children, have also a heavenly Father to honor.

Life is a vase to which we add a flower each day.

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

### Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

A new baby has blessed the home of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner. Carlton John was born April 22 and has a sister and two brothers to welcome him, Katie, Matthew and Neil. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Mary Schwind (Roanoke) and Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner.

We rejoice that God is still calling souls, as we have four new converts. They are Stephanie Scheiler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice), Wendy Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores), Doug Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna) and Lila Schmidt, whose parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). We wish each one the grace to overcome sin and be truly converted; thus we find true peace and happiness in walking with our Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL). Their visits were surely appreciated.

As a congregation, we welcome a new family, Bill and Sis. Barbara Mashburn and their three little boys, Nathan, Troy and Ryan. They have recently moved here from St. Augustine, FL and are making their home here in Fairbury.

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

##### Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

We thank the ministering brethren who have faithfully brought us God's true Word. Visiting us this month were Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield). Our cups were filled to overflowing as we were reminded of our duties as we walk this path of life to heaven.

Many have endured bodily afflictions this past month. Hospital patients this month were: Sis. Anita Sohn (Bro. Emil), Sis. Ida Kaisner, Sis. Sherri Kelson (Bro. Paul), Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Sis. Nathalia Wenger, Sis. Martha Huber and Bro. John Stoller (Sis. Patsy). May we remember these dear ones in our prayers.

Brian Waibel (Eldon and Marge) has heard God's call to repentance and turned his back on the world. May he surrender his all and build a firm foundation on the solid rock of Jesus.

Our hearts and minds were drawn back to Calvary as we partook of holy communion. May we go on with added strength to walk closer to our Lord each step of the way. We thank Elder

Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for lending themselves and assisting our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman.

Our high school graduates this year are: Tess Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta), Dan Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Scott Friedman (Henry and Sis. Marge), Devra Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty), Angie Kaisner (Larry and Cynthia), Barbara Kupferschmid (Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin), Troy Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne), Ben Leman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna), Lisa Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary), Tim Maurer (Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann), Stephanie Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine), Amy Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean), Kara Schladenhauffen (Gene and Sis. Velma), Brian Schrof (Vernon and Angela) and Roger Steidinger (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn). May they each one seek God's guidance as they journey on in their lives.

A dad is a special blessing —  
so kind, so strong and wise,  
The first to give encouragement,  
the last to criticize —  
A dad's the first to lend a hand,  
the last to turn away,  
The one who always seems to know  
the perfect thing to say —  
The special things about him  
are cherished more each year —  
A dad is a special blessing,  
so wonderful and dear.

Author Unknown

As Father's Day draws near we are reminded of the special blessings of our fathers. We are thankful for our Christian fathers and their loving guidance through the years, but how much more is our love for our heavenly Father who gave us our earthly fathers.

Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts wish to thank everyone for their gifts, cards, flowers and meals and expressions of love and concern for Leona while she was hospitalized in both Fairbury and University of Iowa hospitals. May God bless each one.

Note: Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider are the parents of a deaf child and are interested in having any deaf adults or deaf children contact them.

James Schneider  
Route 1, Box 94  
Forrest, IL 61741  
815/657-8798

Reminder: July is Silver Lining dues collection month for Forrest.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Pam Wiegand

Faith of our Fathers, oh wonderful thing  
That causes our hearts and our voices  
to sing  
They bore many hardships, they  
conquered the foe  
These Fathers who lives a long time  
ago.  
The freedom to worship, as we do  
today,  
Was bought with a price that our  
Fathers did pay  
We take it for granted, this priv'lege  
so sweet.  
Not pausing to wonder what makes it  
complete.  
For if it were not for the Fathers like  
you  
Who thru' the past ages have carried it  
through  
This freedom of worship, painstakingly  
bought,  
Would be but a mem'ry (though  
carefully sought).  
We thank you for helping, this gift, to  
preserve  
For teaching and preaching, the true  
God, to serve  
Faith of our Fathers, how marv'lous  
and true  
And all just because of Fathers like you.  
Elna Grimm

I am so thankful for the wonderful father I have. I wish him and all fathers another blessed Father's Day.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin recently celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. What a beautiful accomplishment that must be, especially in this day and age. May God continue to bless Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie in their future years together.

Congratulations to Mark Knapp and Dana Micca who were married May 4. May they also have 50 years, and more, together as one.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL).

Goodfield subscribers, don't forget your collections are due this month.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

The familiar story of the pool of

Bethesda illustrates the compassion of our Lord when He healed the lame man. This man who was crippled for 38 years had been one of a multitude of disappointed souls. Each time the waters moved, another person got there first. The reward was limited, as it only went to the winner — until Jesus came.

Likewise, in this earthly life, whenever there are winners in contests, races or other successes, there are usually many more losers.

Jesus offers us a much better way. We do not have to compete against each other, but rather the more who will join in the heavenly race, the better. In the spiritual contest, no one is glad to see another lose, but we all encourage and wish each other well. We do not exalt one above the other, but in lowliness of mind we each esteem the other above ourselves. In the world it often becomes necessary for someone else to lose in order for us to win. But in the body of Christ, we are perfectly joined together and we are all pulling for each other.

All who seek and earnestly desire to obtain salvation can be winners. There is no limit to the grace of God and His unspeakable gift of love to mankind. Whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely. Years ago when there were many souls repenting in one of our congregations, and there were many baptisms, the elder brother remarked, "although there was such a large 'catch', nevertheless the net did not tear." (Marching to Zion, p. 134). The grace of God has no limit, it is offered freely to all.

The crippled man did not reach the water first; he did not succeed when he had to compete with the others, nevertheless, the Lord had mercy on him and he was healed.

Because of His grace and mercy, we too can leave the disappointments of this life behind and be healed. Some of us will fail when we strive for earthly rewards, but none of us need fail of the saints' reward. "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

May we all seek to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. Then at the end of our earthly life we may joyfully say as did the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the

faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." II Timothy 4:7-8.

In this world, when we think of success, it seems there is only room at the "top" for a few. But the eternal crowns of righteousness are laid up for everyone who will love the Lord and serve Him faithfully.

We were blessed by the visits of ministering brothers, Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lucille Hofmann at the death of her husband. Silas Hofmann, 83, passed away May 18. Also surviving is his son, Silas Hofmann, Jr. (Humeston, IA); his daughter, Lorraine Weier (Fort Wayne, IN) and his sister, Lena Hofmann (Morton).

#### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Audrey Martin

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1

In Old Testament times, the people of God had to sacrifice the very best animals they had to please God and for a covering for their sins. Since Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins, we no longer have to bring animals for an offering. We are still asked to bring a sacrifice, though, which is acceptable to God. That sacrifice is our self. We are to give ourselves totally to God's will. And, if we do this, it is still only a reasonable service for God. Are you presenting your body a living sacrifice each and every day?

This was the message of Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) at Bible study. We also enjoyed God's message on humility by Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) also came to tell of our brethren over seas who do not enjoy all the freedoms we have in America. May we all do what we can for God in whatever place we have been given. We also heard how important our traditions are to give order to our lives from Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign). We want to thank each for the time spent with us.

Summer school is in session at ISU, and we are looking forward to having Bible study every other week beginning May 17 at Schroeder 244 on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We appreciate all who come to worship and learn with us.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

##### Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Bro. David, Sis. Debra and Jaron Huber welcome into their hearts and home, Eric David. Eric was born April 10. His happy grandparents are Bob and Betty Zimmerman (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Bertie Leman (Morton, IL).

It was with solemn heart, deep humility, gratefulness and thankfulness that we partook of holy communion April 20. May we daily go out to Calvary's Hill and continue to be thankful that Jesus died and suffered on the cross so we could find our salvation and true repentance through His shed blood. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Roy Sauder (Peoria, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for coming and helping serve holy communion. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

It was with heavy hearts that we bid Bro. Fred, Sis. Kathi, Jessica and Jarad Hermann, "Farewell." They have moved and will be making Philadelphia, PA their home church. May God continue to bless them. Morton's loss is Philadelphia's gain.

Henry Carius was called into eternity. His funeral was April 29. May God comfort and bless his wife, Viola, his family and friends.

We witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Sara Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sarah, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Phil Rapp (Henry, Jr. and Sis. Berniece) May 5. We wish them God's blessings as they are now "one in Christ Jesus" and will walk life's narrow pathway together. May Christ be the Head of their home. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) who were with us to share in the joys and blessings of the day. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Alfred Carius was quite suddenly called into eternity. His funeral was May 11. May our heavenly Father com-

fort and bless his wife, Sis. Salome, his family and friends.

May we continue to uphold those loved ones who are in the hospital, shut-in and/or ill in their homes. May they ever feel our prayers and our heavenly Father's nearness.

—————  
**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Margo Marx — Susi Herman**

**WHAT MAKES A DAD**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
 The majesty of a tree,  
 The warmth of a summer sun,  
 The calm of a quiet sea,  
 The generous soul of nature,  
 The comforting arm of night,  
 The wisdom of the ages,  
 The power of the eagle's flight,  
 The joy of a morning in spring,  
 The faith of a mustard seed,  
 The patience of eternity,  
 The depth of a family need,  
 Then God combined these qualities,  
 When there was nothing more to add,  
 He knew His masterpiece was  
 complete,  
 And so He called it . . . Dad.

Anonymous

As Father's Day approaches, remember to let the "dad" of your life know how much you appreciate all he has shared in your life. "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord . . ." Genesis 18:19. To all fathers: We wish you an enjoyable and blessed Father's Day!

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) for visiting us and sharing the precious Word with us.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent time in the hospital: Bro. Phillip Hoerr, Bro. Chip Hemmer, Sis. Lena Schwab, Sis. Emma Hoerr, Sis. Berniece Grose, Elsie Stickling, Opal Wright and Darrell Eastman. May God continue to be with them and all those who are shut-in or sick. May we remember them in prayer.

We are rejoicing with the wonderful change the Lord has brought in the lives of five of our dear friends. Todd Schafer (Sis. Barb Schafer), Brad Parrish (Faye Parrish), Eric Schneider (Norv Schneider), Kristi Wilcox (Bro. Adam and Sis. Margo Marx) and Aimee Hoerr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr) have given their hearts to the

Lord. May the peace of God fill their souls.

Bro. Chip Hemmer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian) and Sis. Lori Hermann (Bro. Rich and Marilyn), feeling it is the Lord's will, announced their engagement. They are planning a June 16 wedding. We rejoice with them and pray that God will bless them as they plan this special day.

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

**YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY —**

For thinking before acting,  
 For hearing before judging,  
 For forgiving your enemies,  
 For being candid and frank,  
 For helping a fallen brother,  
 For being honest in business,  
 For thinking before speaking,  
 For being loyal to your church,  
 For standing by your principles,  
 For bridling a slanderous tongue,  
 For harboring only pure thoughts,  
 For sympathizing with the afflicted,  
 For being courteous and kind to all.

Author Unknown

—————  
**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Marjean Lehman**

**"FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"**

"Faith of our fathers! living still  
 In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,  
 O how our hearts beat high with joy  
 Whene'er we hear that glorious word!"

"Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,  
 Were still in heart and conscience free:  
 How sweet would be their children's  
 fate,  
 If they, like them, could die for thee!"

"Faith of our fathers! we will love  
 Both friend and foe in all our strife:  
 And preach thee, too, as love knows  
 how,  
 By kindly words and virtuous life:"

"Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
 We will be true to thee till death!"

Hymns of Zion #85

Once again we were blest with visiting ministers who encouraged us to seek the kingdom of God. They were: Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Bro. Wally Ramsier

(Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria), Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). May they each be blessed for their willingness to speak the Word.

It's graduation time! Our high school seniors will be graduating and going on to further their education or find employment. We wish them the Lord's guidance and blessings. Those graduating from our Princeville congregation are: Sis. Deanne Graham, Linda Stahl, Beth Streitmatter, Regina Streitmatter, Colleen Knobloch, Rusty Rumbold, Greg Siebenthal, Mark Streitmatter and Tim Wagenbach.

"Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God."  
 Joshua 23:11

April 22 was the birth date of Heide Rose Herrmann, daughter of Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose (Streitmatter) Herrmann. Heide was welcomed into the family circle by grandparents: Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther Herrmann and Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmatter (all of Princeville). May God bless each one as they share in this new little addition to their family.

Surgical patients from our congregation this past month were Bro. Ezra Rumbold and Sis. Lucille Rumbold. May they be restored to good health according to God's good will.

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Blunier in the passing of Bro. Dale's mother, Sis. Verda Blunier (Eureka).

"Faithful until 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 journey's o'er."

Zion's Harp #105

We express our sincere sympathy to the family of Sis. Louise Joos who passed away May 11. Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. John and her daughter, Sis. Mary Lou. Sis. Louise will be missed in our congregation. May Almighty God send His Comforter to heal and bless those who have felt the sting of death.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,

even as others which have no hope.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thessalonians 4:13, 14, 17, 18

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Carol Knapp — Carol Rumbold

Four families have been blessed with precious, healthy babies, as fresh and perfect as a springtime flower. On April 17 Rachel Lea Feucht arrived on her daddy's birthday. She is welcomed by her family, Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol, Matt and Jenny, and grandparents, Bro. Walt Feucht (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke). Amy Beth Schwind was born April 18 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Schwind. She is a sister to Andrew, and a grandchild to Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Ellen Schwind (Roanoke) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat Landes (Morton). Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet Lemman happily received Benjamin Bake into their home April 21. Benji's sister is Melissa and his grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Ann Lemman (Eureka) and Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp (Congerville). Now embarking on new careers as parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Tammy Lemman. Making this possible was Tyler John, who arrived May 2. Tyler's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Myrna Lemman and John and Sis. Sarah Diggle (all of Roanoke). We wish these four families many joys as they live and grow together in Christian homes.

Our congregation is thankful for the recent conversions and baptisms of two young men. Bro. Mike Barth (Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae) and Bro. Chris Lemman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge) were joyously received into the family of God. May their desire to serve their God always be a strength in the church. We rejoice with their families.

Recently hospitalized and now recuperating at home are Bro. Harry Lemman and Sis. Clara Braker.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Scherer in the deaths of her brothers, Henry and Al Carius.

Sis. Agnes Rocke, 77, passed away after a brief illness. We especially ex-

tend our sympathy to her daughter, Carolyn, and her granddaughter, April, with whom she shared her home. Sis. Agnes was the wife of the late Bro. Joe Rocke. Her family included six brothers, Clarence Stoller (Marquette Heights), Floyd Stoller (Washington), Lester Stoller (Peoria), Bro. Vernon Stoller (Burlington, IA), Bro. Willis Stoller and Bro. Melvin Stoller (Eureka); and two sisters, Sis. Edna Stoller (Eureka) and Sis. Stella Zimmerman (Morton). May God comfort their hearts.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Andy Lemman, 88, who passed away. His wife, Sis. Margaret (Ehnlé), cared patiently for him. He is survived by a son, Don and a daughter, Sis. Mardell Aeschleman (both of Roanoke); three brothers, Bros. Joe and Wilmer (Roanoke) and Bro. Irvin (Morton); and two sisters, Sis. Anna and Sis. Mary (both of Roanoke). May they look forward to a reunion someday.

The switchboard of heaven was surely operating at capacity as innumerable prayers were constantly ascending for our Sis. Betty Hodel during her sudden illness. We know that prayers were being offered in her behalf not only by the Roanoke congregation, but also by the community, and many other congregations across the nation where her need was known. God has answered our prayers by sparing her life. We are so thankful to Him, and we continue to remember her, her dear husband, Bro. Bill, and her family in our prayers. If it be God's will, we pray yet that her recovery may continue. We look forward to having her assemble with us again.

We thank Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford) for joining us at the time of our recent baptisms.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

#### Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

Once again we have those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized this month. Bro. George Frank spent some time in the hospital but is now able to be home again. Sis. Minnie Sauder suffered a heart attack and has spent several weeks in the hospital. We hope Sis. Minnie will be home soon, as we miss her cheerful countenance. Simon Wagenbach III (Simon, Jr. and Sis. LaVonne) has also been hospitalized for knee surgery. We miss Sis.

Emma Getz who has been confined to her home for several weeks. We wish for her God's healing power so that she may be back with us again soon.

We welcome two new babies this month. Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch have a new daughter, Lindsey Kay, born April 27. Lindsey has one brother, Kevin. Grandparents are Aaron and Iris Gschwind and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Amy Koch. Another pair of happy parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser. A son, Brett Jarod, was born to them May 18. Brett is welcomed home by a sister, Carmen. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser (Tremont) and Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser (Bradford). Sis. Barbara Dill welcomes her first grandchild, a daughter born to Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Champaign).

Our congratulations to Bro. Merle and Sis. Iva Getz on the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. Many of us recently attended an open house for them.

It is the time of the year again when we have many graduating from school. Our 8th grade graduates are: Teresa Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette), Jon Hangartner (Jerry and Sis. Melba), Stephanie Holmes (Marshall and Sis. Phyllis), Andrea Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane), Anita Prather (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carolyn), Jim Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), David Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann) and Todd Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella).

Those graduating from high school are: Marla Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn), Susan Frank (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam), Janet and Joyce Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene), Troy Martin (Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy), Keith Michel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen), Ted Pflederer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee), Anna Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann), John Sauder (Charles and Sis. Miriam), Jay Schmidgall (George and Grace), Robin Schweigert (Willard and Della), Tim Uhlman (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor) and Nathan Zuercher (Bro. Curtis and Sis. June).

Wherever life would lead our young people, we wish them God's many blessings.

Father's Day again approaches. We are very thankful for all our wonderful Christian fathers and husbands. May the Lord bless them all.

**ILLINOIS, URBANA****Cheryl Mangers**

At our annual business meeting, April 25, the following brothers and sisters were elected into offices: Bro. Justin Koch and Sis. Joyce Young, Sunday school teachers; Bro. Dean Herrmann, trustee; and Bro. John Wiegand, usher. May God richly bless each one for their willingness to accept their new responsibilities. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm also encouraged us to reestablish and revitalize our commitment to Christ as we prepare to take holy communion.

Saying goodbye to Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger, Darin, Timmy and Renae was extremely painful Sunday, April 27, as they have been in our midst 12 years and were so much a part of us. Their willingness to completely surrender their all to their God and to be led by His will and not their own was a beautiful example for each of us. Bro. Virg has labored from the pulpit here in Urbana since December, 1974. May God richly bless his labors of love and his willingness to be used by God to feed and nourish our little flock. We thank God for allowing their lives to be a part of ours and ask that continual blessings be theirs in their new home: 307 Appian Way, Vernon Hills, IL. Love will continue to bind us together.

"God will provide" was confirmed in our hearts and minds the first Sunday after Bro. Virg's departure when we were blessed with three visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO). We thank God for sending them into our midst as it was such a blessed Sunday. Also laboring this past month in our midst have been Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL).

Words cannot describe the special blessings and love felt one for another at our communion services May 8. Our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm reminded us that it could be the last time we partake of holy communion in our present church building. Also contributing to this special "time" was the presence of Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin, who gave so much love and time in helping us get started in Champaign-Urbana. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) expressed his gratitude as a parent for the church. Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary

Metzger returned to partake of communion with us. We thank God for this blessed memorable evening.

We rejoice in the birth of Meg Christine with happy first-time parents, Dewayne and LaRae (Zehr) Dill.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON****Sally Plattner — Ellen Cox**

This month was one of birth, death and rebirth in Washington. Bro. Rob and Sis. Lilly Pfaffman brought their new son, Caleb, to church. Everyone loves to watch the tiny ones develop and grow. It's good to remember to utter a prayer for each one that they may someday be reborn, outside their mother's womb, in Jesus.

Sue Ruppert experienced rebirth in our Lord and shared a ringing testimony with us. Her tears and account of how Jesus transformed her life gave a spiritual lift to the church here.

We were sorry to lose Bro. Henry Simon. As one of his sisters put it, "We wouldn't wish him back, we're just sorry he couldn't stay longer."

The following is a thank you from them:

"We wish to thank the many dear ones for their deeds of kindness during the illness and death of our dear Bro. Henry. There were calls, visits, cards and food. Generous contributions in memory of our brother were given to the Peoria Home and to our church. May our heavenly Father richly reward you."

His Sisters

The visitors this month included Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Roy Sauder (Peoria), Ed Ringger (Gridley), Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria). Bro. Ken spoke to us on prophecy at two of our semi-monthly Bible studies.

We also had a business meeting this month. Our new Sunday school teachers are Bro. John Ricketts, Sis. Beth Unsicker, Sis. Judy Witzig and Sis. Carol Schick. Our new trustee is Bro. Lynn Kipfer.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON****Carolyn Meyer — Eunice Fiechter**

May 4 was the wedding day for two young people in our area, Eric Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena) and Marcia Dunwiddie (George and Nancy). We trust God to bless their marriage with His presence and direction.

We have had a number of engage-

ments announced. Sis. Lou Ann Aschliman (Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice) is engaged to Bro. Keith Kaehr (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lucille). Both are from our Bluffton congregation. Sis. Kim Aeschliman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene, Bluffton North) is engaged to Bro. Dave Bertsch (Sis. Fran). Sis. Rachael Gerber (Bro. Vernon) is engaged to Bro. Jim Isch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne). Rachael is from Bluffton North and Jim is from our congregation.

Bro. Tobias Steffen, 80, passed away from this life into eternity. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Hilda; two daughters, Sis. Flossie Stoller (Bro. Ramon) and Joan Elliott (William); and one son, Robert L. Steffen (Sis. Nova).

Babies bring a new joy into the home when they arrive. Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Kaehr's home was blessed with Sarah Marie, born April 28. Her grandparents are Sis. Pat Kaehr and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch. Lindsey Nichole was born to Kelli and Kent Lesh. Her grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Carolyn Meyer and Ray and Roberta Lesh.

Our hospital patients for this month were Bro. Jerry L. Gerber (Sis. Ann), Sis. Dorothy Frank (Bro. John), Sis. Evelyn Pease and Rick Krill (George and Mildred).

A graduation breakfast was held at the fellowship hall in honor of our high school graduates and their parents from both Bluffon and Bluffton North. Last year's graduates were the hosts for this special event.

Father's Day is celebrated in the month of June. Those of us who were blessed with Christian fathers have had good examples to follow. All fathers (and mothers) have a responsibility to teach their children how to live in the Lord so that they will be ready to die in the Lord. We are thankful for all Christian fathers.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH****Cindy Geisel — Virginia Rauch**

May is graduation month. We have several who are graduating from our area schools. They are Deanna Dubach, Jill Frauhiger, Darlene Gerber, Gary Gibson, Bro. Chris Honegger, Kim Moser, Kristi Neuenschwander, Rob Troxel and Terri Troxel. We want to wish them all God's blessings and guidance as they graduate from high school.



July 14 is the wedding date set for Sis. Kim Aeschliman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene) to Bro. Dave Bertsch (the late Bro. Harvey and Sis. Fran). We wish them God's blessings as they look forward to a new life together in the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is still working in the hearts of men. It is so good to know that men are also receptive to His call. Our new convert is Ty Pond. We wish him God's grace as he turns his life over to God.

We have had several who have been hospitalized and shut-in this past month. Sis. Mary Baumgartner (Bro. Herman) and Sis. Deb Fiechter (Bro. Kent) and Bro. Howard Baumgartner are recuperating. Sis. Emma Gerber (Bro. Elmer) was also hospitalized as was Ashley Meyer (infant daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) with burns. We are happy to report she is recovering nicely. We wish them all God's healing hand.

Sorrow visited our congregation this past month. Kara Nicole (infant daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen Reinhard) passed away to be with Jesus as one of His little angels. Our love, prayers and sympathys are with the family during this time of sorrow.

Along with rain, we get sunshine. On April 28 we were privileged to spend a blessed evening partaking in holy communion. It was good to be reminded of our Lord's crucifixion and His resurrection and plan of salvation.

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen came and ministered to us during communion and also on the following Sunday, April 29. We thank him and his wife for visiting us. We welcome them back any time.

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

We remember you, dad, for the ways you provide and take care of us. We are sorry when we forget the hard work and long hours you put in each day. We never hear you complain, though, and somehow we realize God must be blessing you. We can tell it because of the willing heart you always have.

It is with great joy that we look forward to upcoming baptisms. Randy Wuethrich and Bob Dooley have found peace with God and wish to share their testimonies and become children of God. We are so happy for them.

Our Francesville congregation had a singing to welcome Bro. Jason and Sis.

Wendy Williamson to our area. We pray they will feel right at home here.

Our mothers and daughters were honored this past May 11 with a special brunch and program. We want to extend our thanks to the ladies in our JOY circle who made it so special. We also want to thank the group of sisters who sang to us so beautifully.

Sis. Miriam Metz was in the hospital and we are glad she is feeling well again.

Our congregation enjoyed a nice weekend when Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH) ministered God's Word unto us. We want to thank them for visiting us.

Our seniors are anxiously looking forward to their high school graduation day. We want to congratulate them and wish them God's perfect hand of direction. They are: Angela Albrecht (Carol Albrecht), Beverly Boehning (Dick and Phyllis Boehning), Braden Gutwein (Bro. Elden and Sis. Mary Lee), Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B.), Brenda Huber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty), Michelle Neihouser (Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois), Lori Nuest (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane), Lisa Pfladderer Knobloch (Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma), Michael Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette), Kelly Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth), Tim Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna).

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

A little boy did something he knew he shouldn't at the urging of a friend. "You should turn a deaf ear to such temptation," his mother scolded. In tears the boy protested, "but Mommy, I don't have deaf ears!"

"Temptations discover what we are." Daily confrontation with temptation is part of the price of being human. When we think of temptation, we oftentimes think of something "big", like stealing or cheating someone or adultery. But in God's eyes, sin is sin, as listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness and orgies; which of us have not been guilty of at least one on these since our conversion? I know I have.

But while you have no say in the

matter of whether you will be tempted (because you will be), you do have much to say about the outcome. For there will always be an "escape route". God has promised this in I Corinthians 10:13. God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Paul exhorts us to look to the Lord, because a temptation, however slight it may be, will straightway overcome us if we rely on our own strength. When God has received you under His protection, you have no cause to fear, provided you depend entirely on Him. For surely this would be a type of deception if He were to withdraw His aid in time of need, or if He were on seeing us weak and ready to sink, to lengthen out our trials even further.

If God has promised a path of escape when temptation strikes, then the real issue is not "Can I emerge victorious?" You can! Rather, the questions are: "Lord, am I willing to look for your path of escape? When I find it, am I willing to use it? And once I've used it, am I willing to resist the urge to leave a forwarding address?" Where there's a willingness, there's a way!

Excerpts from Timeless Insights

Elder Bros. Loren Stoller and Alfred Bahler gave of their time and efforts in serving us communion. We were so blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our friend, Paula Pearl. Paula has been attending our church while in school at Franklin College. We wish her God's grace and love in her continual Christian journey. Bro. Ralph Levy (LaCrosse) and Sis. Edye Mayer (Bro. John) were hospitalized during the month of May. On Mother's Day, Bro. Ed Alt expounded on Proverbs 31 and reminded us how thankful we should be for our Godly Christian mothers and wives.

I apologize that these announcements were missed: Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky Pearson are proud parents of their first boy, Benjamin Andrew, born February 26. His grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Edye Mayer, and sisters, Kristine and Stephanie, have showered him with lots of hugs and kisses. Our friend, Dot Lee, gave birth to her first child, David Dea 'Ngelo April 7, Easter morning. We pray these precious boys can be taught and nurtured in God's ways.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE****Connie Knobloch — Debbie Nuest**

All those who gathered together on the evening of May 4 received a special blessing. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) assisted Elder Bro. Ed in serving us holy communion.

This past month we enjoyed and were thankful for the visits of the following ministering brothers and their families: Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton), Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott). We are also thankful to have Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman and Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller in our midst again, as they have returned from their winter homes.

Our dear friend, Enos Cadwalader, has turned his back to the world and is repenting. We wish him an extra measure of God's grace and strength, as he is recuperating from heart surgery.

We were sorry to hear that Bro. Ralph Levy had heart surgery. Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) had the misfortune of falling while at play and broke his arm. May the Lord's healing mercies be upon them.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank are the thankful parents of Kate Elizabeth, born May 5. Emily is very happy with her little sister and so are grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman (Eureka).

We want to express our sympathy to our dear Sis. Lizzie Pfladderer on the loss of her brother, Bill, who passed away after a lingering illness. Sis. Lizzie is moving to Parkview Haven in Francesville. We want to wish her God's blessings and look forward to visiting her at the home. Due to a job transfer, Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry and Craig and Stacy Fritz are moving to Lexington, KY. We also wish them the Lord's blessings and hope they will return to visit us often.

Father's Day is a day set aside to show love and respect for our fathers. May God richly bless each one.

**INDIANA, LEO  
Thelma Schlatter**

"An unknown author, writing about his own father, expressed in poetic form some thoughts with which many of us will identify: 'His shoulders are a little bent, His youthful force a trifle spent, But he's the finest man I know, With heart of gold and hair of snow. He's seldom cross and never mean;

He's always been so good and clean; I only hope I'll always be as kind to him as he's to me. Sometimes he's tired and seems forlorn, His happy face is lined and worn; Yet he can smile when things are bad; That's why I like my gray-haired dad. He doesn't ask the world for much — just comfort, friendliness, and such; But from the things I've heard him say, I know it's up to me to pay for all the deeds he's done for me Since I sat rocking on his knee; Oh, not in dollars, dimes or cents — That's not a father's recompense; Nor does he worship wealth or fame — he'd have me honor Jesus' name."

**Our Daily Bread**

On May 4 Jeremy Lynn came to bless the home of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz. His little sister, Amanda Joy, and grandparents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister (Bluffton) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz, are happy to welcome the new addition to the family circle.

Sis. Mary Lantz was recently hospitalized for surgery. Prayers continue for her complete recovery. He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5. That is a beautiful promise for all to claim especially in times of illness, loneliness and other of life's trials.

We welcome Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Norr back to our Leo congregation. May they be blessed with health and joy as they serve Him here.

"I arise today, equipped and fortified to meet life's problems, with:

God's strength to pilot me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way of life before me,  
God's shield to protect me."

Apples of Gold

**INDIANA, MILFORD****Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser**

Times of illness are always difficult, but how sweet for God's children to claim the promises He intends for His own. "Casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7. Sis. Betty (Bro. Maurice) Beer is recovering at home following a recent surgery.

Our congratulations go to Bennett Wuthrich, a high school graduate this spring. His parents are Bro. Alan and Kathy Wuthrich.

Bro. John and Sis. Carol Hurd have announced the engagement of their

daughter, Gina, to Kevin Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith, Syracuse. May God supply special joys for Gina and Kevin on August 10 and each day that follows.

Sis. Mary Good is a new resident of the RN Nursing Home. Her address is now 316 Woodies Lane, Bremen, IN 46506.

In Titus 2:3 we read, "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness . . . teachers of good things." This verse brings Sis. Frieda Ruch to mind and we recall times of sweet fellowship with her. God called her to be with Him May 13 at the age of 98. May He comfort her family with His presence and loving memories. Her sons are Elmer (Constantine, MI), Fred (Warsaw) and Robert (Milford). The four daughters are Sis. Lena Beer (Mansfield, OH), Katherine Longcor (Goshen), Wilma Birkey (Bristol) and Lea Frush (Warsaw). Her sister, Sis. Bertha Lauber, resides in Elgin, IL. Sis. Frieda's husband, Bro. Henry, preceded her in death in 1949.

Being a father is an awesome privilege. It is a fortunate child indeed whose dad has determined his priorities with God's help.

**THIS LITTLE FELLOW'S DAD**

I may never be as clever as my neighbor  
down the street.

I may never be as wealthy as some  
other folks I meet.

I may never have the glory that some  
other men have had.

But I've got to be successful as this  
little fellow's dad . . .

There are dreams that I have dreamed  
that I'd like to see come true.

There are things to be accomplished  
before my walk on earth is through.  
But the path my heart is set on is to  
lead this little lad.

And to make myself successful as this  
little fellow's dad . . .

It's the one thing that I dream of — it's  
the task I think of most.

For if I fail this little fellow, there's  
nothing else to boast.

For all the wealth and fame I'd gather,  
my future would be sad.

If I fail to be successful as this little  
fellow's dad . . .

I may never gain earth's glory — I may  
never gather gold.

Men may count me as a failure when my business life is told.  
But if he who follows after is a Christian, I'll be glad.  
Then I'll know I've been successful as this little fellow's dad . . .  
Author Unknown

What a special blessing to have a father who loves the Lord . . . one who always had an empty lap for a little girl . . . a dad who faithfully supplied all the material needs though his concern for her went far beyond those things . . . a father who provided such security by his quiet stability . . . an earthly father whose loving Christian witness makes the heavenly Father seem so real and reachable . . . I'm forever grateful!

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler**

I was standing in Tiffany's great store in New York, and I heard a salesman say to a lady who had asked him about some pearls, 'Madam, this pearl is worth \$17,000.'

"As I looked around that beautiful store, I imagined them bringing all their stock up to my house, and saying, 'We want you to take care of this tonight.' What do you think I would do? I would go as quickly as I could to the telephone and call up the chief of police and say, 'I have all Tiffany's stock in my house, and it is too great a responsibility. Will you send some of your most trusted officers to help me?' You would do the same, wouldn't you?"

"But I have a little boy in my home, and for him I am responsible. I have had him for nine years, and some of you may have just such another little boy. I turn to this old Book and I read this word: 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' It is as if he had all the diamonds and rubies and pearls in the world, and held them in one hand, and just put a little boy in the other, and the boy would be worth more than all the jewels. If you would tremble because you had \$17,000 worth of jewels in your home at one time, how shall you go up to your heavenly Father and your son be not with you?"

J. Chapman

For those of us who are still in the years of training our children, may this thought help put our responsibility in the proper perspective.

Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay

City, MI) lent himself to preach the word to our congregation.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Pauline Laidig**

It was a most enjoyable Sunday when Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) came to minister to us, and brethren from Latty, Milford, Akron and Morton also joined us in a blessed day of fellowship and worship. We also appreciated the message brought to us by Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo) on Mother's Day.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Mae Schumacher, and her sisters and brothers, in the passing on of their sister, Clara Klopfenstein (Mishawaka, IN); and also to Bro. El Schumacher, whose brother, Bro. Joe (Eureka, IL), has gone to his eternal home.

We share concern with Sisters Mildred and Ernestine Meister, in the serious illness of their sister-in-law, Edith Meister (Elmer).

Sis. Mae Schumacher spent a little time in the hospital recently. We are always thankful for the wisdom the Lord gives to our doctors; nevertheless, we pray His will may be done in all of our lives.

We certainly want to pay a special tribute to the fathers and daddys this month. May they be inspired to fill their roles even more zealously.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Patty Bucher — Cheryl Bucher**

Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee and in a day of salvation have I helped thee; and I will preserve thee.

Isaiah 49:8

We 'preserve' our faith when we bow before our Lord God in prayer, praying for guidance and direction, and then humbly following His bidding for our lives. Going to church and hearing God's blessed Word preached in its truth, is another way of 'preserving' our faith. We were privileged to have Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) with us this past month. Their messages were wonderful, stirring our hearts for a greater communion with our Lord. We pray God's richest blessings on those brothers who are called to serve as vessels for God in our behalf.

Our Mother-Daughter Banquet was held May 16 at Shorewood Forest. The setting was so lovely, peaceful and

truly perfect as we fellowshiped together. It seemed appropriate to sing "the Christian Home" as the Christian home revolves around our mothers. With them as living examples for our lives, we are shown how we should live and serve our God. There are so many who don't have the privilege of living in a Christian home or having a God-fearing mother. We should always be thankful for our many blessings, but especially our Christian homes.

Our very first Vacation Bible School will be held June 11, 12 and 13. We feel so blessed to be able to have our own Bible School. In past years we have always been invited to be at LaCrosse and Francesville for theirs. Many of our congregation took advantage of this opportunity and we humbly thank the LaCrosse and Francesville brethren for so lovingly including us. We would extend the invitation back to them or anyone else who would like to gather with us for Vacation Bible School. We always enjoy company.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler**

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) share the Word with us. We thank the Lord for providing willing brothers to proclaim the Word.

As we commemorate Father's Day, let us give thanks not only for our individual fathers, but also for the fathers of our faith.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Edith Massner — Dixie Messner**

It was a real encouragement to have Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Bill Funk (Garden Grove) here recently. It touched our hearts to have retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller here too, and even hear his voice in prayer.

We are grateful for all our visitors, but want to express special thanks to the "Oakville Groups" who come whenever they can. (Someone was kind enough to make out a schedule for a few families to come every Sunday.) May God bless you for your efforts, and please continue.

Little Sara Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) was in the hospital, but seems to be doing well again.

Kirk Massner (Ken and Rose) graduated from the School of Dentistry. We wish him well in all he decides to do.

Bro. Jess and Sis. Bertha Eisen-

mann were in a car accident. Sis. Bertha is to be dismissed from the hospital today. May God continue to bless and provide for them as they look to Him.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die . . .

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Our small flock has witnessed both this past month.

On May 6, a time to be born came to Monica Marie Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy). Melissa, Jerry and Aaron welcomed their new sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend) and Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer.

On April 30, a time to die came to Bro. George Butikofer (Sis. Eleanor). Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Eleanor and her son, James, and family.

Our heavenly Father has reserved the date of birth and date of death for Himself, but has entrusted us with the time between. Let us seek His grace to use these years wisely to His honor.

On May 12 Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) assisted our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer in serving us holy communion. Our humble thanks go out to both Bros. Ed and Paul.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee  
 Through Thy blest sacrament, which  
 we

Partook, that joined in heart and hand;  
 To Zion's realm and holy land  
 We journey on.

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

To Father, Son and Spirit praise  
 For help and guidance on our ways!  
 Thou givest power from above,  
 Hast chosen us, through Christ, in love  
 To be Thine own!

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5, 6, 7

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Denise Duckworth**

"O, Spirit of God's strength and might,  
 Create in us new life and light;

O, join us all in heart and mind,  
 That access to God's throne we find  
 Within Thy light!

"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."

Communion Hymn  
 Zion's Harp #200

We were again reminded of Christ's suffering and sacrifice as we took communion. That same weekend, we listened to the reading of the memorandum. Special thanks are extended to Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer and Wayne Fehr for lending themselves throughout the very special weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington). May God richly bless them all for their efforts.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Alice Metzger**

Extensive damage occurred to our church edifice April 21 when a tornado struck the Lester vicinity at 6:30 in the evening. There were no injuries as no one was in the building at the time. There was water damage also as heavy rains followed the storm that lifted a portion of the roof. On that Sunday we had been blest with messages by Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ben Wyszong (Sabetha, KS).

Sis. Flora Metzger was called to her eternal home on April 25 after a long illness. We all mourn her passing but are thankful for the assurance that she has gone to a better home prepared for God's elect. She is survived by her children, Sis. Kathy, Keith, Charles, Mike, Lyle and Dick, as well as daughters-in-law, grandchildren, two sisters, one brother, many relatives and friends. The family wishes to express their gratitude for the many kind and thoughtful gifts, prayers and visits extended to them and their mother.

Greg and Lori Popkes became the parents of Melinda Sue May 4. She has one sister and her grandparents are Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Mr. and Mrs. Arend Folkens.

Betsy Doorneweerd broke her arm in five places when she fell from a slide on the playground. She is the daughter

of Sis. Marlys and Bro. Butch. Hospital patients have been Bro. Henry Kellenberger and Suzy Gerber (Jim).

We appreciated the presence of Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Bro. Doug Grimm April 28. Bro. Gene took part in the funeral service for Sis. Flora. The family and all of us found comfort in his message.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**

Out onto Calvary's hill,  
 Where Jesus died I'll go,  
 To hear the words He speaks,  
 To see Him in His woe.

Zion's Harp #89

These are the words that come to mind when we think of our Lord's suffering and death for us. We were privileged to partake of holy communion in remembrance of Him on a Saturday evening. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz. Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) was also here and we wish to thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

Aaron Jacob joined the family circle of Bro. Curtis and Sis. Kathy Frank May 14. Ryan, Christy and Lanae complete the circle. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Bernice Frank and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz.

Graduation: A step forward to an unknown and challenging future. And for our seven graduates, we whisper a deep and fervent prayer that God, the Giver and Creator of all knowledge, will bless and guide them in all they strive to do. Our high school graduates are: Sis. Stefanie Marti (Bro. Erv and Sis. Teresa), Linda Gerst (Bro. Connie and Sis. Roletta), Nancy Belsley (Fern and Richard), Lisa Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby), Renee Baird (Sharon and Alan), Chuck Massner (Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch and the late Bro. Bill Massner), Monte Lanz (Bro. Robert and Sis. Jean).

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**DeAnn Wuthrich**  
**Mary Jane Knapp**

The engagement of Bro. Ken Teubel (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma) to Sis. Sarah Yoder (Bro. Devon and Sis. Laveille, Gridley, IL) has been announced. We pray the Lord will bless them as they make plans to share their life together.

Sally Teubel graduated from high school. May God keep His protecting hand over her wherever life's path may lead her.

Bro. Richard Teubel wishes to thank all for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while he was in the hospital. May God bless each of you.

#### IOWA, WEST BEND

##### Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

Here is a special "thank you" for our dads since Father's Day will soon be here.

Thank you Dad for the wonderful times  
That you and I have shared,  
And all the precious little things  
That let me know you cared.

Thank you for your loving touch  
That has always been my guide,  
And for showing me how to weather  
lives storms  
By taking them in a stride.

We are very thankful to our heavenly Father for calling a dear soul to repentance. Fred Traub, Jr. has heeded that call. Our prayers have been answered as we often remembered him and the many loved ones that assemble with us. Fred has been seriously ill with cancer.

Several have been hospitalized or required minor surgery. Sis. Edna (Earl) Banwart, Sis. Corrine Traub, Jeremy Schulz (Don and Debbie), Anita Meyer, Sis. Clara Bruellman and Bro. Earl Banwart. We always want to remember those who have been ill.

Roy and Angie Metzger have been blessed with a new little son, Luke Benjamin, born May 1. He has a brother, Dallas. Grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger and Ronald and Verda Chrischilles. Little Luke had to be transferred to a Souix Falls Hospital for a time, but is home and doing fine now.

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

##### Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

May is the month of pastel colors here in our land and we thank God for His lovely creation. We were also thankful this month for the visit of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder (Champaign-Urbana, IL). Their participation and fellowship in our assembly and later at a picnic at a fishing spot with the Shioda brethren was appreciated and enjoyed.

Bro. Saburo Utsuki thanks each one

for the wishes extended to him on his 85th birthday. He is now undergoing tests and special treatment, and we're sure he'd appreciate your prayers.

#### KANSAS, BERN

##### Linda Esslinger

We appreciated having Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) minister God's Word.

Recently we had communion service in remembrance of the Last Supper.

Bethany Edelman (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) jumped out of a tree and broke her leg. She is on crutches and getting along fine.

#### LIFE'S LITTLE BLESSINGS

So many of life's little blessings today will come unnoticed and slip away.

While we continue to grumble and fuss,  
Ignoring the good God who gave them to us.

How much happier our lives would be,  
If instead of complaining, we'd just stop to see

The numerous blessings He gives us each day,

Which lighten our burdens and brighten our way.

Note: Silver Lining dues are due in July.

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

##### Judy Bahr

Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

St. Luke 11:9

May, 1985, graduates from Pittsburg State University were Sis. Cheryl Miller (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller) BBA in Economics, Larry Bahr - BBA in Marketing, and Sis. Judy Bahr - MS in Elementary Teaching. They are the son and daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr.

A church potluck was held Sunday afternoon, May 19, as a fond farewell to Sis. Lynne Fischer and Greg and Kara Snyder and boys. Sis. Lynne is moving to Phoenix and Greg and Kara are moving to Stilwell, KS (Kansas City). Our small congregation will surely miss them but we wish them God's blessings as they relocate.

Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was our visiting minister. We always ap-

preciate it when Bro. John brings the family home. May God bless them.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

##### Vola Young — Doris Bahr

Will you not come to Him for all?  
Will you not "taste and see"?  
He waits to give it all to you,  
The gifts are free, the words are true!  
Jesus is calling, "Come unto Me"!

These beautiful words were written by Frances Ridley Havergal. She wrote poetry, prose and hymns. One familiar song written by her was "Take My Life". Her writings were filled with the Living Word of God. She could recite by memory the entire New Testament, Psalms, Isaiah and the Minor Prophets. Her short life of 43 years was spent in service to the Lord.

Sis. Eileen Bahr is recuperating from surgery.

On May 1, many from our congregation and some from Lamont gathered at Steve and Sis. Marilyn Owens' new home for a housewarming. May God be the influencing force within their home.

The following weekend, we, of the Gridley and Lamont churches, hosted several young members from various other churches.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

##### Lori Aberle — Patti Knobloch

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."  
Proverbs 3:5, 6

God's Word is a never-failing source of direction if we only search it. May Bro. Jim Schrader trust in God to direct his paths as he graduates from Kansas State University.

This past month we were privileged to have many visitors with us to hear a Bible study given by Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) on Revelations. Singing was held at the apartment of Sis. Maria Schrader, Sis. Lanette Meyer and Chris Strahm. Our annual spring picnic was held May 1. We appreciated the good turnout of visitors.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

##### Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

It is always so nice to have the school year come to an end and to have our

children home with us. It is the time of the year that we see the children graduate from high school and junior high school also. Each stage of our lives is a new adjustment period, and with God's loving hand to guide each of us, we can continue on to new goals with enthusiasm. Our high school graduates are Linndy Frieden (Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie Frieden), Elaine Allenbach Johnson (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois Allenbach) and Kim Neal (Lowell and Diane Stucky). May God guide each of these graduates in this new stage of life.

Bro. Jeff Frieden and Bro. Richard Guthrie are both home from the hospital.

Bro. Sam Schupbach and Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel are in the Kiowa Rest Home.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr invited our congregation to their home for our monthly singing and Bible study. We had our services outside and enjoyed the beautiful spring evening. It is wonderful to enjoy our brothers and sisters in Christian fellowship.

### KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

#### WHAT GOD HATH DONE

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

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

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

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

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

Jean Jones

Elder Bro. Gene Marti was with us recently. We read together from the book of Revelation and it was refreshing to hear of the Worthy Lamb slain to redeem the world. What a day to look forward to when we can see Christ and be with Him forever.

### KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

The weekend of April 20-21 we had visitors from other congregations come to Wichita for a weekend of fellowship. It was an enjoyable time together. Visiting ministers were Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS).

April 28 Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were visiting ministers. May the Lord bless each of them.

On May 3, we had our annual Mother/Daughter Dinner. It was a fun time for all of us gals to get together.

Mother's Day this year was an extra special day for one of the mothers in our congregation. Sis. Dora Young celebrated her 90th birthday on Mother's Day. Many of her large family came to spend the day with her. Sis. Dora is a very special part of our fellowship. She makes it to church almost every Sunday. Although she is in a wheelchair, the Lord has enabled her to remain in her own home. Dora is a person who loves everyone and always wants to know how you are doing. May the Lord continue to bless her.

Visiting ministers on Mother's Day were Bro. Clarence Yackley (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS).

In our Bible study on Wednesday nights we are beginning the book of Exodus which centers on Moses and the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. This historical event parallels the deliverance from the power of sin by and through Jesus Christ.

Egypt was a place of captivity and bondage. This relates to the spiritual captivity and bondage to sin and death that the unbeliever is caught in.

Then the Red Sea experience freed the children of Israel from slavery. This represents the redemption from sin we receive when we place our faith and trust in Jesus and His shed blood.

Then at Sinai they received spiritual learning. God spoke to them and gave them His Word and instructions on how their new life was to be lived. We,

also, after we place our trust in Jesus Christ, must seek growth in God's Word, in prayer and in fellowship with others.

Even after going through this process of redemption and sanctification, the children of Israel didn't live in the fullness God wanted them to. They, through fear, doubt and unbelief, failed to rely on God's power to conquer what was ahead. They refused to go and take over Canaan, so they remained in the wilderness and wasted 40 years of unfruitful living. As we, when we fail to put our trust and exercise our faith in the Lord to help us and work through us, find ourselves aimlessly wandering in our own inadequacies. We aren't living victoriously as God desires us to.

But then came Canaan and the victorious conquering and occupation of it. When the children of Israel put their trust in God and let Him do the fighting they were victorious. So can we be when we put our faith in God to empower us through His Holy Spirit. He is the only one strong enough to handle life for us and to make us victorious and conquerors. Praise the Lord for the great deliverance He has provided.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Bro. Lester Huber

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

II Corinthians 9:8

At the present state of life on every hand it seems economically, domestically, at home and abroad, conditions are shaping up to try the Church, the Child of God to the point of desperation. It makes one think of Jesus' solemn unanswered question, on His return will He find Faith? Yet, perhaps in the history of man there has probably never been a time of more instruction on Christianity on television, radio, literature, books, etc. Christians are turning to, listening to and reading, yet the Cults are actually growing as never before. Statistics are proving that most Cult converts have come out of some church.

Paul said though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. I Corinthians 4:15, 16. It

is the "Land Mark" of the fathers that is set up, not to be removed. May God help us to stay with inspiration of the "Sincere Milk of the Word", that the eternal Father has preserved and sealed with His own blood at Calvary. Who are we that such a heavenly Father would die for??? What is man that thou art mindful of him?

Let us reminisce this Father's Day on the Father who's faith was mixed with the pure Word of God. Hear Ye! The instruction of a father and attend to know understanding. Proverbs 4:1.

Again we express our thanks and appreciation to our ministering brethren, Bro. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis, IN) and all those that came with them. May the Lord richly bless them for their ministry of love and the efforts put forth in coming.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

Our little flock has had joy mixed with sorrow this past month. Two precious souls have been brought into the fold. We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Jill Steffen (Carl and Sis. Myrna) and John Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat) on May 11 and 12. May they both put their trust and confidence in the Lord to direct their path of life.

Melissa Diane Pardo, precious nine-month-old daughter of Jack and Laurie Pardo is now walking hand-in-hand with Jesus in that beautiful city where there are no tears. We share their sorrow as do the grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens, AL); great-grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delilah Schrenk, and many relatives. May God be near you all at this time of loss.

Ruth Ann Hope Oesch, born May 3, is the third little blessing for Sis. Michelle and Bro. Tom Oesch. She joins brothers, Tommy and Matthew. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva. We share their joy over this new bundle of love.

High school graduates this year are Penny Desotell (Sis. Louise and Harold), Luke Schutte (grandson of Sis. Virginia Schutte) and Jeanine Overholt (daughter of Darleen Goodwin and granddaughter of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough). Congratulations and may you follow God's many examples when choosing the future path of your life.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized this past month. Those in the hospital are Bro. Jerry (Sis. Lois) Wieland, Sis. Mildred (Bro. Jesse) Hodder, Sis. Naomi Ramseyer, Sis. Minnie (Bro. Ed) Freidinger and Mark (Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy) Ramseyer. May the Lord provide His healing hand for each one.

On April 28, the engagement of Bro. Ken Schlatter and Sis. Pam Wieland was announced. May the Lord bless this dear couple as they plan their life together. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Margaret Schlatter and Bro. Howard Wieland.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," Ephesians 5:19. A weekend of singing hymns and spiritual songs was enjoyed by our congregation when the Detroit Choir visited us. We thank them for coming to spend time in Bay City.

Once again, it is time for graduations in our area. Our high school graduates are: Troy Schafer (Robert and Barbara) and Sharell Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie). May the Lord bless each one in their future careers and plans.

As Father's Day approaches, may we each feel a special love for our fathers, as described in the following poem.

#### BEST WISHES TO A "MODEL" DAD ON FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is one of those days  
When dads like you deserve some  
praise,  
And this is coming just to say  
You're wished a happy Father's Day,  
And you're so dear and thoughtful, too,  
More dads should be "modeled" after  
you.

Helen Steiner Rice

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

Our best wishes are extended to Gabriel and Marianne (Szasz) Burgos as they were married May 4. We wish them every happiness and blessing, trusting that they can feel God's nearness and love as they begin life together.

We were saddened to hear of the passing away of Victoria Stoinoff May

9. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Martha (Joe) Szilagyi and Sis. Vi (Jim) Barton and their families in the loss of their sister, and pray that God's comforting Spirit can be with them.

The Detroit choir visited Bay City over the weekend of May 4 and 5, and were truly blessed with their fellowship and love. A sincere thank you to all the Bay City brethren and friends for all they did to make the visit such a memorable one. Our church enjoyed a Sunday evening recently of the choir's inspirational singing also. We appreciate the choir sharing with us. In so many ways our church has been blessed with having a choir within our congregation. We pray that God can always bless their efforts of love and continue to inspire others through their songs of praise and fellowship.

Mother's Day took on a special meaning for Dawn and Duane Ness with the birth of their first child, Erik Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel and Frank and Esther Ness (Washington, IL). May their family circle of love ever grow and be blessed with God's richness.

Bro. Joe Szilagyi was hospitalized recently and we are thankful to have him assembling with us again.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) here one Wednesday night. We appreciate him sharing God's Word with us.

The weekend of May 18 and 19 was an inspiration to many. We were privileged to share in the testimonies and baptisms of Andrea Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sance), Roseanne and Wanda Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret). Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City) was here as was Elder Bro. Ference and Sis. Ilonka Denes (Hungary) who are grandparents of our new Sis. Andrea. Bro. Andy Hunyady came from Columbus, OH and translated for Bro. Ference as he shared with the provings and the Sunday afternoon service. The entire weekend was a blessing and we rejoice with our new sisters-in-faith.

"Behold I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest . . ." Genesis 28:15. Our hearts were touched to bid farewell to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper as they are moving to the Elgin, IL area. They have been a blessing and support to us in many ways and we will feel their absence. May God's countenance abide with them always.

**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Barbara Olson**

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

What a blessing it was to receive holy communion May 10. Much appreciation is extended to our Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), assisted by Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL). May God richly bless them for their labors of love. We wish to thank them for sharing the Word with us.

Our annual meeting was held May 5. Those elected to new offices and positions were: Sunday school teacher - Sis. Nancy Messner; substitute - Sis. Josephine Esterling; trustee - Bro. Don Esterling; usher - Bro. Don Esterling; substitute - Bro. Perry Virkler; World Relief Sewing - Sis. Josephine Esterling (to be assistant to Viola Aupperle); children's craft night - Sis. Charlene Luthi (to be assistant to Sis. Nancy Messner). The offices and positions take effect September 1, 1985. May God bless all of you in your new duties and may all your efforts be done to the glory of God. We wish to sincerely thank those who served these offices and positions in the past.

We have elected three brothers for our church building committee: Bro. Rob Schmidgall, Bro. Perry Virkler, Bro. Ken Schmidt; and Bro. John Olson to serve as treasurer. May they be faithful in their duty and serve the congregation's best interest by putting God first in everything.

Our high school graduate this year is Karla Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine). We wish her God's blessings as she plans to further her education. Also graduating are Lori Virkler, U. of M. Technical College, and Eric Virkler, University of Northern Colorado (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol). We wish them both God's blessings. Earthly knowledge is good if we have the wisdom from God to use it according to His will.

A most hearty welcome is given to Dave Schmidgall (formerly from Forrest, IL) who will be worshipping with us. We hope he will soon feel very much at home here.

Blessed doubly by becoming grand-

parents twice within a week were Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall. Their daughter, Bev, and her husband, Tom Broms, along with brothers, Olaf and Bjorn, welcomed Elise Edith April 23. Their other daughter, Debra, and her husband, Gary Wray, welcomed Crystal Ann April 26. How thankful we can be for God's precious gift of a child.

With June here and summer bringing such beauty to the earth, let us also honor our fathers.

**IMPRESSIONS OF A FATHER**

How blessed are the children  
 Who in their fathers see  
 The tender Father-love of God,  
 And find their way to Thee.

Johnson

Thought - The best inheritance a father can leave his children is a Christian example.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Hildegard Koehl**  
**Rhonda Zeltwanger**

Why is it that the unrighteous sometimes prosper at the expense of the righteous, and God doesn't seem to do anything about it? Isn't He concerned? Doesn't He want the Righteous to prosper? Don't misinterpret God's seeming inactivity today! He is neither unconcerned nor impotent to judge the unrighteous for their wickedness. He is simply longsuffering in withholding deserved judgment in order to give men and women every possible chance to turn to Him in faith. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

Alan J. Schmidgall is a popular boy at the home of Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall. Paul, Beth, Rita, Mary, Lori and Lisa are all eager to welcome him, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall and Bro. Warren and Sis. Louise Hartman (Fairbury, IL) are thankful for this perfect grandson. Dale and Betty Noordmans have a new baby daughter. Her name is Amy Jo. She is welcomed by a sister, Melissa, and grandparents, Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley Nohl. May God guide us all as we raise our children.

Sis. Doris Koehl and Sis. Clara Miller have been hospital patients this month. God has extended His healing

powers to both of them and they are able to assemble with us.

Mark Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara) and Tammy Hennen are engaged to be married. We pray that God can be part of their plans and their lives together.

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Koehl and their family. Sis. Lois' father, Floyd Roberts, passed away recently. Mary Braker also passed away. May God be especially close to their loved ones at this time.

Sis. Marge Koehl has moved to Morris and we are thankful to have her assemble with us. We hope she will feel our warm welcome and may we help each other grow in His love.

Bro. Ferd Tohm would like to thank all of those who remembered him during his recent surgery and recovery. May God bless each one for their kind deeds.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Wanda Messner**  
**Mary Lou Schmidt**

**PRAYERS ARE THE STAIRS**  
**THAT LEAD TO GOD**

Prayers are the stairs we must climb every day.  
 If we would reach God, there is no other way.  
 For we learn to know God, when we meet Him in prayer;  
 And ask Him to lighten our burden of care —  
 So start in the morning, and though the way's steep;  
 Climb ever upward, 'til your eyes close in sleep —  
 For prayers are the stairs that lead to the Lord,  
 And to meet Him in prayer, is the climber's reward!

Helen Steiner Rice

We certainly rejoice with Lila Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae and Gene) who has started down a new pathway of life; walking hand in hand with the Lord. Lila recently moved from our congregation here at Winthrop, to Fairbury, IL. May God lead, guide and direct her in her new walk of life!

Our annual Sunday school election was held in May. Our new teachers are Bro. Mark Schmidt, Bro. Marlyn Messner, Sis. LeAnn Messner and Sis. Joan Burlingame (substitute teacher). We



pray the Holy Spirit will inspire each of them, as they strive to teach our youth.

Sandy Miller (Sam) was hospitalized for surgery this month. We pray God will add His wonderful healing touch.

With the 4th of July nearing, we found this special poem quite fitting.

### GOD BLESS AMERICA

America the beautiful, may it always  
stay that way —  
But to keep "Old Glory" flying, there's  
a price that we must pay . . .  
For everything worth having, demands  
work and sacrifice;  
And freedom is a gift from God, that  
commands the highest price . . .  
For all our wealth and progress, are as  
worthless as can be;  
Without the faith that made us great,  
and kept our country free . . .  
Nor can our nation hope to live, unto  
itself alone;  
For the problems of our neighbors,  
must today become our own . . .  
So in these times of crisis, let us offer  
no resistance;  
In giving help to those who need our  
strength and our assistance —  
And the stars and stripes forever, will  
remain a symbol of:  
A rich and mighty nation; built on faith  
and truth and love!

Helen Steiner Rice

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Anna Lou Mattix

On April 21, our small flock obediently remembered our Lord's unselfish love and supreme sacrifice when we partook of holy communion. When reflecting on how Christ's body was cruelly broken for our sakes and how His precious blood was spilt for the remission of our sins, is it really asking too much of us to remember His death and suffering? It seems that pausing from the fast-paced activity of this life to seriously reflect on what Christ has done for us refocuses our sights on our heavenly goal, resets any misguided priorities, and prompts us to purge our lives of anything separating us from God. Yes, we are indeed thankful that Christ commanded us "this do in remembrance of me".

Again, we wish to thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Sam Huber, Bros. Lloyd Kraft, Ben Wysong and Charles Sinn who unselfishly proclaimed to us the Word of God this past month.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Braker — Becky Marti

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Marie Stewart who is in the hospital at this time. We are thankful that Bro. Dean Marti has been able to return home from the hospital. We pray that God will continue to provide the needed grace and strength for all those who are ill.

The family of Sis. Charlotte Banwart wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of love and kindness, cards, letters and prayers since Charlotte's illness. May God bless you.

We extend a special invitation to anyone vacationing in our direction this summer to worship and fellowship with our congregation here in Lamar.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

Age is like a mountain high;  
Rare is the air and blue —  
A long, hard climb and a little fatigue  
But, oh! What a wonderful view!

Author Unknown

Bro. Adolph Gerst, 94, formerly of Canton, MO, passed away April 16, at the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria with funeral services conducted by our local ministers and burial in the Taylor Church cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Emma, who makes her home with a granddaughter in Smyrna, GA, and the Yackley families in our area.

Yea with Thee, Lord, I'll continue  
As in pleasure, so in grief;  
And in daily consecration  
Unto Thee my life I give.  
For Thy summons I am ready,  
And Thy final call await;  
He can welcome death who daily  
All to Thee doth consecrate.

Zion's Harp #205, vs. 4

We're thankful that both Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori) and Bro. Robert Hoerr (Sis. Emma Dee) are recovering satisfactorily after accidents which resulted in several days in the hospital. Sis. Dona Grimm (Bro. Roy) received an encouraging report regarding her eye problem and at this time no surgery is scheduled.

"Cast all your care upon Him: for He careth for you".

I Peter 5:7

Midweek service, May 1, was a spec-

ial evening when we could gather together and enjoy a message from God through one of His servants, Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We were encouraged to count our blessings and appreciate what God has done by sending His Son who "willingly" gave His life for us so we can share eternal life in heaven with Him. A beautiful challenge was given each of us to take stock and note the areas in our everyday lives where we have room for improvement and, if we "really" want to improve, God is ready and waiting to help. May there be a special blessing for all the brothers who minister God's Word "in season and out of season".

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out".

Acts 3:19

Cathy Massner, niece of Sisters Emma Dee and Ruthie Hoerr, has felt her need of repentance and has answered God's loving call to "Come Follow Me". Cathy is formerly from Detroit and has recently moved into our area and found employment here. We welcome Cathy and pray God will shower His grace and love upon her in this all important step in her life.

"To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part."

Connie Plank (Buddy and Barbara) and John Miller (Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Quincy) exchanged marriage vows Saturday evening, May 11 in Quincy, IL. May God bless this couple as they establish their home in our community.

A special tribute to "Mothers" on their day, May 12. "Fond Memories" of those who have gone on before and an opportunity to show our love to those we still are fortunate enough to have.

### MY ROSE

My rose is white, your rose is red;  
Your mother lives, but mine is dead.  
And looking on your red, red rose  
Which you wear, ah, so happily,  
I wish some lucky wind that blows  
Would bring my mother back to me,  
That I might take her hand again  
And press it so tenderly.  
I would dry the tears and ease the pain  
That in her life she bore for me.  
That chance is yours, not mine, tonight;  
Your rose is red, but mine is white.

Your rose is red and mine is white,  
And yet, when I kneel down tonight  
To say my prayers as shadows creep,  
"Now I lay me down to sleep" —

The same sweet prayer I used to know,  
And live in days of long ago.

My mother will come back to me,  
My head will rest upon her knee;  
Her hand will soothe my furrowed brow,  
And I will know some way, somehow,  
My mother lives, she is not dead,  
And my white rose will turn to red.

E. Howard Cadle

"A mother is the only person on earth who can divide her love among ten children and each child still have all her love."

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Our faithful visiting ministers during the month were Bros. Dan Stoller, Kevin Ryan and Everett Gerber who came with their families and many others from Rockville, CT. We are so grateful for the fellowship, support and the precious Word of Life which is brought to our small group of believers by these, our dear brethren.

The Union City church building was built during the early 1890's and is now approaching 100 years old. It sets in the heart of what is now a rather congested business/residential area which is presently inhabited primarily by Hispanic people. The building is of frame construction and its architecture, while simple, includes high gothic windows which is suggestive of the era in which it was built. While the building was well maintained over the years, it became evident that there was a need for some fresh decorating and minor renovations. A plan for the work that needed to be done was developed and implemented by the Rockville congregation. A large number of brothers, sisters and friends from Rockville, CT, Union City, Croghan, NY and Philadelphia, PA, supplied the skill and labor. The work, which included some repair, carpeting, painting, wall-papering and cleaning was carefully done to preserve the old charm and beauty of both the inside and outside of the building. The work is now almost completed and the Lord's blessing was surely felt by all who labored. We know it will continue to rest on all who worship there in the future. Perhaps Bro. John Diggelman, who is now 90 years old and has labored in the minis-

try there for many years, summed it up best when he exclaimed, "A miracle has been performed!"

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Our congratulations and best wishes go to our high school graduates this month. They are Michael Virkler (Nat and Sheila) and Scott Widrick (Gilbert and Betty).

Congratulations are also in order for Chris Virkler and Susan VanNest who were married May 4. Their parents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler and John and Kathryn VanNest. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home together.

On Sunday evening, May 12, we gathered in the Naumburg Church to say goodbye to Bro. James and Sis. Linda Beyer, Adam and Jaime. They left this week to make their home in Rockville, CT. We also wish them God's guidance and blessings in their new surroundings.

### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

We had a farewell gathering at the church Sunday, May 12, for Bro. James and Sis. Linda Beyer who intend to make their home in Connecticut. We had a song service, refreshments and fellowship. We are sorry to see them leave but we surely wish them God's guidance in their new undertaking.

A singing for Sis. Pearl Colgrove's birthday was held at the Extended Care of Carthage Hospital where she is now residing.

### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them . . ." Matthew 18:19. This condition to establish God's Word for us on earth is to be in agreement. Zechariah 4 also portrays agreement to move our mountains: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit . . . O great mountain . . . thou shalt become a plain . . ." At the time of Zechariah, the Israelites had returned from captivity and begun to build their temple. Because they got resistance from local people and a decree of the Persian king, they stopped and were discouraged. Zechariah stirs them into faith, and said it is not the might of the Persian king, nor the power of their enemies, but by God's Spirit, they can

cry 'Grace' to the mountain of resistance to move it. His vision had two olive trees, who are two witnesses; for in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. One witness is Jesus, an advocate in heaven; the other is the Holy Spirit, an advocate on earth. The two trees supply oil which uses the two branches, also included in the vision, to empty the golden oil. Oh, that we could be as the two branches, the anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth — and two that are in agreement on earth that establishes God's Word and brings His promises to pass.

Mark and Debbie Palitto were blessed with a baby girl they named Christina, who has two sisters, Angela and Carla. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Martha Palitto.

Our young people, including the upper Sunday school classes, favorably favored mothers to relieve them of the work load for the lunch on Mother's Day. They did a beautiful job of preparing, lovingly serving the food with extra treats, and cleaning up.

Susan and Karen Ritzman, daughters of Bro. and Sis. Bob Ritzman, were injured in a freak auto accident, both getting bones broken. Our prayers are with them for their recovery.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

Do we praise and thank the Lord each day for our freedom of worship? In these United States of America, going to church seems so simple and matter of fact, but there are places such as Yugoslavia in which young men are imprisoned for their faith. Places all over Russia where Bibles aren't merely a hotel service, but often as scarce as one to a whole congregation. It's difficult to fathom such a shortage, but what an incentive to memorize scripture this would be for us to have possession of the Living Word only one night per month. Still, we needn't wait that long; there's probably a Bible at our bedside or perhaps in a desk drawer or on the table. Wherever the location, it's within reach. Let's hide God's Word in our hearts daily as we meditate thereon, not forgetting to continuously thank him for this privilege, which is, to us in America, so readily accessible.

Here it is summer already and the year is almost half behind us. Of course, we could say it's half ahead,

too. Many visitors have come to share and fellowship with us these past months, and we, in Columbus, have appreciated every one. It's difficult to explain those joyful glances we exchange each time a carload of brethren pull into our parking lot on Sunday. We just praise the Lord, He always provides for our needs.

Last month we listened to Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) expound God's Holy Word. We thank these brethren and all those who journeyed to be with us on the Lord's Day.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

#### Les Manz

Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in serving us communion. As we broke the bread and drank of the cup, we were reminded of the Lord giving His body and shedding His blood to cover our sins.

Also, serving us by giving us God's Word this month was Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN).

After a fall which resulted in a broken ankle, our Sis. Elizabeth Spangler spent some time in the hospital recovering.

### OHIO, LATTY

#### Laurie Stoller — Patty Gerber

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. They shared with us insights in God's Word. Those faithful servants who ministered to us were Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO).

Jesus knows thy sorrow. Knows thine ev'ry care; Knows thy deep contrition, Hears thy feeblest pray'rs; Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all thy grief; Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief. Hymns of Zion #74.

Jesus knows the sorrow felt by friends and family of Bro. Carl Sinn. After a lengthy illness, he was called Home to be with the Lord. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Tootie; two sons, Bro. Stan (Sis. JaNahn) and Tom (Kim); two daughters, Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Ray) and Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob, Rittman); two brothers, Bro. Ray (Sis. Ann) and Bro. Walter (Sis. Renee); and one sister, Sis. Minnie. Also surviving are his parents, Bro.

George and Sis. Clara. Although we are glad that Bro. Carl can rest where there is no pain or sorrow, we extend our sympathy to the loved ones who remain here.

Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom) and Sis. Maria Heffner were hospitalized recently. Also, Sis. Sally Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Esther) was injured in an auto accident. We are glad to see that each are beginning a recuperation and hope that they can keep their spirits up as they grow stronger.

Jackie Gerber (Jack and Mary) and Tim Yenser (Russ and Susanne) are planning a wedding in June. We wish them God's guidance as they prepare for marriage.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### Linda Morrison

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Lena (Bro. Dave) Beer. Her faithful mother of the Milford congregation was called home to be with her Lord and Saviour. She has walked many years with Him. We want Christ to save us from our sins; do we allow Him to be the Lord of our lives, are we in the center of His will? In Matthew 7 we are reminded: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord . . . And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you . . ." If Christ is the Lord of our lives we will do His will each step, not walking in our own strength, in our own way.

Hospital patients this month have been: Sis. Freda Beer (Bro. Ben) and Sis. Hermine Beer. Sis. Freda is again able to assemble with us. Our prayers continue in behalf of Sis. Hermine that God will give her the needed patience to accept His will for her life at this time. The sun always seems brighter after days of clouds; it takes sunshine and rain for there to be growth.

A number from our congregation participated in packaging food boxes for Romania. There was a minister from Romania present. He said he had seen many wonderful things in America but the packing of the food boxes was by far the most wonderful. He commented that he has seen those in Romania take the food out of the boxes and now he has seen those in America putting the food in the boxes and it was like shaking hands across the ocean by way of the food contained in the boxes . . . "That which ye do to the least . . ." Matthew 25:40.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Judy Stoller — Verla Stoller

"But let a man examine himself, and

so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." I Corinthians 11:28. On April 27 our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and deacon Bro. Henry Dotterer, along with Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and deacon Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), served us holy communion. It is such a blessed time as we recall how much Christ suffered on our behalf. How unfathomable is His love for all!

Do we appreciate Christ enough? Do we willingly, without complaining, bear our cross? "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24. Five dear souls have picked up their crosses and are willing to follow Christ. Having given their testimonies Saturday night, Lois Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce), Charlene Indermuhle (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas), Shelly Rigenbach (Bro. Glen and Sis. Louise), Jeff Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen) and John Klotzle (Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane) were baptized May 19 and became our sisters and brothers-in-Christ. Lending themselves in these labors were Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) as well as our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and deacon Bro. Henry Dotterer.

Other ministering brothers who were with us are Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Ernest Graf, Paul Gasser and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Ken Indermuhle and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We are glad for all our visitors as well as our beloved brothers who labor in our behalf.

On May 5 we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Vern Lanz (Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Deanna Rufener (Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma). We are glad for them and wish them God's richest blessings. We surely will miss our dear sister.

Bro. Greg Gasser (Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie) and Sis. Sue Ellen Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge, Rockville, CT) believing it is the Lord's will have announced their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

Five treasures from heaven were sent to us this month. On April 10, Chuck and Robbin Winkler received their first child, Nicholas Ray. Sis. Betty Winkler is Nicholas's grandmother.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler were blest with their first son, Tyson Thomas. Their daughter, Trudie, as

well as grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller (Latty, OH) also share in their joy.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer and their children, Jodi and Mark, welcome Michael Richard into their hearts and home. Also happy for another grandson are Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann Widmer.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre welcomed their second daughter, Jennifer Ann, on May 10. Stephanie will be glad for a sister to play with. Jennifer's grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser.

Frank and Ginny Hilty are glad for a daughter, Alicia Marie. Daniel will welcome her also. Alicia's grandmother is Sis. Ruth Hilty.

We all from time to time experience trials in life. They are much easier to bear when we have faith in God to believe He will carry us through. Those hospitalized were Harold Bauman, Cheree Lorentz (daughter of Ken and Annette and granddaughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Rowene Howell), Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Bro. Gary), Eric Ramsier (son of Keith and Regina and grandson of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma), Bro. Steve Maibach and Bro. Don Walder (Sis. Martha).

We also sorrow with those in our congregation who have lost loved ones and wish them God's comforting touch. Sisters Grace Marty (Bro. Raymond) and Irene Gasser have lost a sister, Selma Henderlong.

Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) now has a father, Bro. Carl Sinn, awaiting her arrival in heaven when they can be together once more.

Under the Lord's direction we have chosen the name of the new church which we are building to be The Apostolic Christian Church of Smithville, Inc. It is progressing quite well and we hope to have it completed within a few months.

Another precious soul, Gwen Stoller (Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta), has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God grant her daily grace as she begins a new life with Him.

Those who have reached a milestone in their lives and are graduates are Mark Acker, Renee Boltz, Mary Emch, Sis. Joy Gasser, Bob Hartzler, Dan Hartzler, Chris Hilty, Bryan Keiper, Jeff Lanz, Larry Landis, Andrea Maag, Becky Riegenbach, Sheila Rufener,

Rachel Smith, Dwight Steiner, Kathy Stoller and Lynne Uhler. May God guide each one in the decisions they will have to make.

May we all pause to think of our fathers and how much they have done for us. "Faith of our fathers! living still" Hymns of Zion #85. May this faith always continue that Christ will, indeed, find a "remnant" here when He returns.

We extend our wishes for God to go with Sis. Mim Gasser as she leaves us to return to Elgin, IL. Sis. Mim has spent the winters with us as she attended Akron University, but will now return home after she graduates.

#### OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

"If any man speaks let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." I Peter 4:11. We give sincere thanks to visiting ministers Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) for sharing their time and selves for God's work.

Sis. Terry and Bro. Gary Zollinger have been blessed with the arrival of a new baby girl. Charla May was born May 7. Bridget, Ben, Joey and Jamie welcome home their new sister.

Once again time is here for remembering our fathers. As we honor our fathers on this special day, let's remember to take a special moment to honor our heavenly Father who loved us so much that He sent His only Son into the world to die as our Saviour, so that we could live. He is the Supreme example of Fatherly love.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO

Frances Laidig  
Josephine Rehkla

Dear Saviour, in a world confused by strife,

We need Thy strength which Thou brought to life,

We need the sincere truth of God which Thou taught,

We need the vision Thy disciples caught;

We need the warm compassion of the heart

That Thou were always willing to impart,

Forgiving, loving all who came Thy way,

Gentle Jesus, we need that so today. Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene) spent Sunday, May 5 with us. We thank them for their visit.

Bro. Joseph Fetter is in the hospital. We pray that God will, again, give to him a measure of good health.

Sis. Lanna Harmon (Bro. Douglas) will complete her course at the University of Toledo in June. She will then receive a Bachelor's Degree in Education. May she find teaching, with the help of the Lord, to be a rewarding experience.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Congratulations and best wishes to the six students who have reached various levels of education this year. Graduating from 8th grade is Vicki Hari (Phil and Sis. Sharon) and Monte Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee). Vicki will be attending North Marion High School next year and Monte will be at Gervais Union High School. Those graduating from high school are Troy Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) from Silverton Union High School; Richelle Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) from Gervais Union High School; and Amy Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) from Woodburn Union High School. Amy plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in Salem and study to be a medical assistant. Richelle plans to take accounting at Western Oregon State College. Graduating from Oregon State University with a BS in Microbiology is Janet Rush (Leroy and Rose). After her August wedding to Jack Kuenzi, she plans to serve one year's internship at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland before going to work as a medical technologist.

A graduation singing/reception is planned at the Molalla home of Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginny Cooper. It is hoped that God will bless each of these dear graduates with purpose and enthusiasm as they reach these academic goals and step into the next area of endeavor.

#### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ann Gasser

As mentioned last month, Bro. Fred Sis. Kathi, Jessica and Jared Hermann have now moved to our area and are a welcome addition to our congregation. We also anticipate the arrival of Ed Baer (Princeville, IL). He has accepted a position in the construction industry

and will begin late in May. Plans are for his wife, Connie, and son, Keith, to join him in several weeks. We enjoyed their visit last month when Ed had interviews with several companies.

While we are wishing these two families a pleasant transition, we also think of Pat and Steven Banwart who are going back to Iowa after having been with us nine months. Pat will graduate from medical school and begin an internship in Des Moines; Steven will be attending Roosevelt High School. Our love and prayers for them will continue.

Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler was here in May and holy communion was celebrated. We think of our Saviour and His apostles practicing this ceremony and its meaning for the church today.

**Note of Thanks...** We wish to thank our many friends and loved ones for their kind expressions of sympathy and for their prayers on our behalf at the death of our beloved Sandra. May God bless and reward each of you as only He can.

The Robert Clauss family  
The Kenneth Schwartz family

### Honduras . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

The people who committed themselves, by the first of December, to go to Honduras were as follows: Rudy and Evelyn Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT); Gene and Evelyn Hangartner (Roanoke, IL); Jeff Zimmerman (Forrest, IL); Don Kaiser (Tremont, IL); Denny Stoller (Remington, IN); Charles and Doris Neuenschwander (Indianapolis, IN); Harold and Mildred Hodel (Metamora, IL); Nelson and Mary Ellen Martin (Metamora, IL); George and Isabelle Bauer (Paxton, IL); Homer and Virginia Blunier (Forrest, IL); Stan Knapp (Congerville, IL); Willis Knapp (Congerville, IL); Ken Hohulin (Morton, IL); Sam Hohulin (Eureka, IL); Fred Roecker (Morton, IL); Jack Krantz (Morton, IL); David Jones (Morton, IL); Francis and Verna Rother (Morton, IL).

At the second group meeting held in Morton in December, it was decided that Bro. Willis Knapp and I should leave three days ahead, on Friday, January 11, to make certain that materials would be available and pave the way for the group of 24 which was to leave on January 14.

Round-trip arrangements were made accordingly with Bro. Weigele

for the travelers from their nearest airport. Mr. Martinez was also in the States for several weeks and fortunately was planning to return to Honduras January 11. Bro. Willis and I met him in New Orleans airport and the three of us flew to San Pedro on the same flight. This gave us time to visit and discuss the project before arriving on the school site. We arrived safely at the San Pedro airport, and were met by Mr. Mario Guevara, an associate of Mr. Martinez who had leased a Toyota van for our use for 13 days.

From the airport, we drove 102 miles to Siguatepeque (pop. approx. 40,000) and it was already dark upon arrival. We had supper together at the Central Boarding House. After supper, we went to Mr. Martinez's home as his house guests for 3 nights. On Saturday morning, January 12, we made the first trip to the school site approximately 5 miles from the city, a mountain village called "El Pacayal". This village has approximately 25 families living in shacks or huts having only ground floors. It seemed that each family had 5 or 6 children of school age. These people had been praying for three years that a school might be built in this village. Children walked over four miles one way to school.

Upon arrival at the school site on Saturday morning, we found the building was already measured out and the footing was dug. This was indeed a great help to us. We immediately began checking the dimensions and height of the ground on all four corners. A transit instrument was not available to measure the height of the four corners, therefore, Bro. Willis used instead a 48 inch level and sighted the height by a measuring stick, and he found that the ground sloped about 30 inches from the opposite corners. As a result, rock fill was necessary and block row adjustments made so that the building would be level. With some help from the villagers, about 80% of the footing boards were installed the first day on the site. Cement blocks, sand, lime and cement, rock for fill was coming to the site. The city of Siguatepeque furnished a Ford dump truck. Action on the site was accelerating and the villagers now believed that their prayers for a school were answered.

The second day, Sunday, we were served breakfast by Etelia Vega. She and her husband make their home with Mr. Martinez. Mr. Martinez's wife,

Laura, remained in the States so their youngest son, Jonathon, could receive speech therapy. After breakfast, Mr. Martinez, Luis and Etelia Vega left for church. Their church services are in the Spanish language. Bro. Willis and I returned to our bedroom and listened to a one-hour taped sermon by Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). He was our guest minister in Morton on Good Friday evening. It was an inspiring message of the crucifixion of our Lord and His death on the cross.

(Continued in next month's issue of the Silver Lining.)

### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

that are temporal and that are not very valuable. We are only here on earth for a few short years, and we can never, never attain anything that will compare with the glorious things that the apostle Paul saw when he was carried up into the third heaven. He saw things in paradise that he said were not lawful for him to speak of. He heard unspeakable words . . . unspeakable words. I have trouble pronouncing words in the Japanese language sometimes, but these words were unspeakable by anybody in the human body. We cannot begin to express those things that are eternal, those wonderful things that God has prepared for His people.

Now, I do not know how you look at religion. I do not know exactly how you look at your faith. I believe that there is a tendency to repent, come into the church, be baptized, and feel that now you're all set. I want to tell you that you are not all set! You are still tempted on every side, and you need to persevere. We all need to go on to higher levels of spirituality, or we are sunk! The world will crowd in on us and say, "Those people stick by themselves, and they don't care about the rest of the world. They are so clannish that they have forgotten the rest of the Gospel."

Even those who do not follow Jesus Christ know something about the Bible, and they can tell whether we are coming close or not. Therefore, we should never be so satisfied that, once we ourselves have come into the Gospel and into the family of God, we are thereby complacent and satisfied ("I am in and I am safe").

I am very confident that you should have the assurance of salvation, but I do not think that you should rest on

your laurels, spending your time, energy and talents for the things that will be burned up on the day of judgment. Only those things which are like precious stones, gold and silver will last forever, will stand the test of the judgment of the saints. On that day, you and I will wish that we had done better! I know for myself, I will wish that I had done better.

Oh God, if you had given me one inkling of what is beyond the shores, how much more gladly would I have served Thee, how much more gladly would I have denied myself all of the material things and lived as Jesus taught.

Of Jesus it is said, He had nowhere to lay His head. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had tremendous capabilities. He could have collected much money for His healing. He could have been the King of Israel, and He could have conquered the Roman empire. He could have gone down in secular history as the greatest man who had ever lived, as one who had conquered the armies of Rome and of Caesar. Jesus Christ said that if He spoke the word, legions of angels would come to His rescue, but His kingdom is not of this earth. Neither is your kingdom of this earth, nor is my kingdom of this earth. We need to catch a glimpse of the glory that Paul saw when he was caught up into the third heaven.

Are we interested in the fine clothes which we wear? Do we have the best? Are we keeping up with the Jones's, and all the rest of it? Beloved, that is not what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. We are to be crucified with Christ. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; . . . and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

Paul said that he didn't care about earthly things. They could all be taken and if he had Christ, he would be satisfied. If he died from lack of food and God permitted it, he would be satisfied. In fact, he said that he would rather be with the Lord. Nevertheless, he said, "to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Philippians 1:24.

This is the kind of faith which we need as individuals, as a Leo congregation, and as an Apostolic Christian brotherhood, or we're sunk and simply going the wrong way. It is time that we take inventory and understand that it

is only those things which are eternal that really count for the believer in Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we deny that we believe by the very way we live. You cannot explain it when people who believe in Jesus Christ act as though they believe in this world. There is no reasonable explanation why people who really believe in Jesus Christ are caught up with things that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul tries to drive that home. He says that he will glory in such a one as is caught up in the heavens. It was said of him, Paul says, that his speech is despicable, and that the Corinthians don't like to have him come to see them. Possibly he had an eye affliction, or there may have been something about his personal appearance that was not so nice. (The next time you go to our Home for the Handicapped and see people who are not so nice to look at, remember that Jesus Christ loves them.)

In the inner depths of our hearts, in the rock bottom of our hearts is what counts. How much of your heart have you reserved for yourself? Or, have you said, "Take it all. I surrender completely." Only then can we hope to reach the level of spirituality that God wants us to have.

God is looking for men and women who are willing to sell all, who know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. He can hardly find people who love Him, and who live as though they love Him. It is so easy to say, "Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ." Yes, it is easy to bow our heads, to fold our hands and to follow the norms of deep humility. I say that the greatest humility is to surrender to Jesus Christ. Don't give me all your words, and don't give God all your words. Give Him your life! Give Him your heart! That is the language that He wants to hear. He doesn't need all your verbal expressions. He did not like the verbal expressions of the Pharisees. He wanted them to be right in their hearts. He wanted them to be dead unto self and alive unto Christ. I believe that that is what Jesus Christ wants in you and me today. May God help me to be further surrendered to Jesus Christ. May we together give ourselves to a higher level of service, of devotion and of love for our brothers, sisters and fellow man.

"For though I would desire to glory, . . . I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of

me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me." II Corinthians 12:6. Paul said that because he had been caught up into the third heaven, the people might think that he was a wonderful person. They might think that he was above them, the apostle said, and he could glory in that. But, he said, ". . . there was given to me a thorn in the flesh." II Corinthians 12:7. He told them that he, too, had sufferings. It was not all victory.

We want the victorious life. We want the glorified life. But in order to get the victorious life and the glorified life, we must be willing to die. We must be willing to die when we come to Christ, and we must be willing to die daily. This is not always easy because those around us do not generally advocate such a thing. People may say, "He has become a radical. He has become carried away. He should fit the norm. He should follow the procedure." But this is not the whole thing.

To be sure, if we appear haughty, if we appear very proud, that is against us because the Bible teaches us to be humble. The Bible teaches us about many things such as head coverings, proper apparel and that our beauty should be on the inside. This is good, but if you make that the issue and leave out the complete surrender to Jesus Christ all through your life, it is not certain that God would be happy with us. We are not sure that He would then say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23. We are not sure that He would say, "I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat . . . Naked, and ye clothed me . . . I was in prison and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:35, 36. We have much thinking, much praying and much work to do.

The apostle Paul said that ". . . lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." II Corinthians 12:7. The apostle Paul spoke of an affliction which he called a thorn in the flesh. We do not know what that was, but if I were to guess, I would say that it was an eye affliction. I notice that in Galatians it says, "I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me." Galatians 4:15. But regardless of what it was, it was a thorn in the flesh.

Paul thought something such as this: "I've healed many people by speaking the word in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and I'll fix this affliction. Dear God, please cure me of this affliction; I pray it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen." He did that three times and nothing happened. Then he heard the voice of God saying, "My grace is sufficient for thee." II Corinthians 12:9.

That is the message this morning. God's grace is sufficient for us if we'll take it. Do you know that we only take a fraction of the grace He offers us? God offers us grace that overflows. It can make us pure, holy, devoted, godly and indifferent to the things of this world. Most of us take only a little of that grace, enough to have our sins forgiven, and then let it go because we like the things that we see about us. Advertising is very intense, and the peer pressure in our communities is very intense. Only those who are devoted and on their knees, I believe, will keep in mind that the things that really count are those things that are eternal.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." The apostle Paul was beginning to get the picture. God said, so to speak, "If you were so strong yourself, you would not be so dependent upon me. Therefore, be satisfied. I'll let you suffer. I'll let you bear this, because it gives me the "in" that I want. This gets me into your heart, into the innermost depths where, otherwise, I fear I would not be able to get. Because you were educated at the feet of Gamaliel, you were a leader of the Jews. You are a very capable person, and unless I break you somehow and keep you broken, there is a possibility that you would begin to think that you are 'somebody'."

God kept Paul broken from the day that He met him on the road to Damascus 'til the day that he died. He said, "I am now ready to be offered . . . there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness . . . not (for) me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Timothy 4:6, 8.

"A crown of righteousness," Paul said. I do not particularly care about a crown, but if I'm suppose to wear one, fine. However, whatever it is, we are shown that we are to be rewarded according to the way we are dedicated to God on earth. Those who are Christ's will receive a reward according

to how dedicated they were to His Gospel. There will be many whose works will not stand the test of the fire. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us that those works will be burned up.

It is time that we begin to get into our heads, and into our hearts, and into our minds that we as a group of believers should be willing to live in rags if it would help us to serve Jesus Christ. We should be willing to walk; we should be willing to go back to the simple life if that would help. We do not believe it would help, so we have automobiles and many other modern conveniences, but we must be careful that these things do not detract from living as though we had nothing. Paul said, ". . . having food and raiment let us be therewith content," and also, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." I Timothy 6:8 and Philippians 4:11. These things we must remember, and we must live them in our lives.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." II Corinthians 12:9. The apostle Paul said something like this, "If that's the case, if that is what you tell me, dear Lord, then I've got sense enough to know that this is the best way. Just empty me further so that I can have more of you." Paul said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in mine infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

This word power is wonderful. Power. Power is very much sought after. In our society if you are powerful, you can tell people what to do. You can walk into a place of business, and you can say I'll lay down so many millions of dollars or whatever it is. If you have money, you are powerful; and you can use that for good or for evil. But from the Gospel of Jesus Christ we want spiritual power. We want power that lets the Spirit flow through us without being jammed up. It works like the Soviet Union trying to jam up the Voice of America. The Soviets get on our wave lengths, and they jam it. Every time you try to listen to Voice of America from a foreign country, here comes all that static. And it's the same way with us. Every time that God wants to come through us, that the Holy Spirit wants to flow through us, there we are - all jammed up with all this static, and He can't get through. We've

got to get rid of it. We've got to have free communication. We've got to be so dead and crucified that nothing interferes. Then the Holy Spirit can work through us. Without that we are really being jammed up in our spiritual lives. The apostle Paul came to understand that, and then he said that he was happy to be very weak so that the power of Christ could rest upon him.

In reviewing what we've been talking about this morning, we first read Jeremiah's lament. He was referred to as the weeping prophet, and we know that he had a very, very bad time. He refers to Jerusalem as a lady who had lots of trouble, as one whom the enemy came in and ravished. He mourned for his people. How could they do such terrible things? I am sure that many of us say, "My country, my country, my country . . . how can they do such terrible things? What has happened to the United States of America? It is going the wrong way." But we must never despair. We must be more dedicated, more consecrated and more completely surrendered so that we can do all we can to turn this thing around.

We, as a group of believers in our brotherhood, must become more and more dedicated. Every decision that we make should keep us on the path that brings Christ the most glory regardless of personal will or desire in the matter. You and I are dead! Only what God's Word teaches that His will is, what the Holy Spirit tell us, and what the brothers and sisters in consultation with us help us to understand is God's will, counts.

If it's God's will for us to die today, let us be willing to die. The day may come when our government will not be so benevolent, and we must decide whether or not we are willing to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, especially when the antichrist appears and there shall be the mark of the beast. We had better be ready with our hearts set on heavenly things so that we can smile and say, "I'll never do it. Take your food and take your material things. I will never worship the antichrist." Only in this way can we be sure that we will stand the test when the time comes.

Let us take home with us today the words of the apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Take it! He has it overflowing; He has it in great abundance. Is your heart so empty that His grace can fill it?

FEB 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER

EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. WILLIS EHNLE OF SHIODA, JAPAN

at the Leo, Indiana Congregation

Text: Lamentations 1:1-17 & II Corinthians 12

I greet you very warmly in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of the true and living God. And I hope today, as we gather together to worship Him, that we can remember that we should emphasize those things which are eternal. Jesus Christ is the Son of the true and living God. He died for us and rose again. By comparison, everything else fades into insignificance.

May God bless His good Word as we read from it this morning. Jeremiah is often referred to as the weeping prophet. He found it very difficult to see his people go the wrong way, and we find it very difficult to see our country go the wrong way. We also find it very difficult to see our families or our churches go the wrong way. Although we like to emphasize living a very joyful life, I suppose that sometimes weeping is the order of the day. But I have been greatly comforted, when I found myself weeping, that in the Psalms we read, "... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Psalm 30:5. How glad I am to waken in the morning with the joy of the Lord in my heart.

Jeremiah had not done anything wrong, but he was very sorrowful because of what was happening to his country and to his people. He was of a mind that he must hang on, that he must endure, and that he must persevere. I think that this idea of persevering is very important in our Christian lives today. I think that we will profit from every trial if we hold on. We either let things pile on top of us and overwhelm us, or else we pray and climb on top of our problems and go higher up the ladder of spirituality. So I hope that we all are absolutely determined that everything that comes our way will be used as a rung on the ladder to go higher. Too many people are

going down the stream of sinfulness, and are even turning away from the Lord.

This morning we will talk about the grace of God and His words to the apostle Paul: "My grace is sufficient for thee." II Corinthians 12:9. It is a great comfort to know that we need not sink in despair no matter what the situation is.

The apostle Paul was favored with very special revelations from God. As we begin this chapter, we see that he speaks of the experience of a Christian man which took place about 14 years previously. He is evidently speaking of himself. In the Holy Scriptures, the first person pronouns are seldom used, if ever. The apostle John did not say, "I, John, was sitting beside my Lord, and I leaned on His breast." He said, "There was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved." John 13:23.

The apostle Paul said that there was "a man in Christ above 14 years ago." II Corinthians 12:2. There is no doubt in my mind but that he is speaking of himself. I suppose that he was probably speaking of a time when he was stoned, persecuted for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can read in The Acts of the Apostles that at Lystra Paul was stoned and dragged out of the city as dead. At that time, his spirit may have actually left his body and ascended into the third heaven where he saw and heard things that were unlawful for him to speak of. All he said was that he was in paradise, but that it was beyond him to express it, and that furthermore, he was not allowed to. So, we believe that the apostle Paul left his body and soared off into space in a moment of time, and that he saw the glory of God and the things that God has prepared for those who are true and faithful in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we depart this life, the thing that will count is whether we are in Christ or out of Christ. This is the determining factor when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, as we all shall do. There is no escaping the judgment seat. We may escape judgment for our sins, and this we expect, but we shall all be rewarded according to what we have done, whether it be good or bad. This is the teaching of the Holy Scriptures, and you and I shall give an account of how we have lived after coming into the family of God. That which happened before coming into the family of God, we believe, is under the blood of Jesus Christ and is gone forever. It's as if it had never taken place.

Now we take much comfort in that the Lord Jesus Christ is our great high priest. We are taught in the letters of John that "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, . . . the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. So the objective of a true believer is to walk in the light, and to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. Nothing else really counts.

We may have some experiences such as Jeremiah had. It may not always be that we can smile every day, but I certainly recommend that you always try to smile. And I certainly recommend that in every Christian home you sing a hymn every day. I do not know how you run your homes, but for me, I am determined to sing a praise to the honor of God every day. That's not too much to do, and it's for my own good. If you will do it, it will be for your good.

And of course we should read the Bible every day, and we should pray every day. We must keep up our spiritual lives; otherwise, the things around us will crowd in upon us, and gradually we will become concerned with things

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