



"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;"
Ephesians 2:15

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
Galatians 5:1

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NUMBER 7

Freedom . . . From and To!

Freedom from sin, death, condemnation and fear . . .

"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

Romans 6:18

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:2

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:36

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear . . ."

I John 4:18



Freedom to love, serve and walk in the spirit.

"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty . . . by love serve one another . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself . . . Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
Galatians 5:13-16

"For so is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free . . . as the servants of God."
I Peter 2:15, 16

"... Even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness . . . But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Romans 6:19, 22

MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE

Bro. Richard Beery, Phoenix, AZ

"... and there shall be earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Matthew 24:7-8

September 19, 1985, 7:10 a.m. . . . great movements of the earth's surface, causing buildings to collapse and the earth to open and swallow up people, buildings, and all else. Yes, for some, the opportunity to serve their God was gone. We trust that many had sought out God and believed that Christ Jesus died for them and were walking in the paths of truth and righteousness, so they could abide with Him in eternity. Those that did not, will be with the devil and his hosts, where the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not.

If you or I would meet sudden death, where would we spend eternity?

September 20, 1985, 5:00 p.m. . . . again with great shaking and the opening of the earth, many more souls were brought to an immediate end here on earth. They shall either spend an enjoyable or a sad, sad eternity.

A little over two years ago, I spent approximately seven weeks in and out (mostly in) of the hospital from food poisoning. With man's modern medicine and technology, the poisoning seemed too severe for the doctors to treat. Dangling between life on earth and life in eternity, it seemed as though someone was standing by my bed saying, "Are you willing to leave all the nice enjoyable, accumulated things on earth?". After considerable praying and the recipient of prayers, I was permitted to put my earthly house in order. The visits of Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his prayers were a great consolation and support. My prayers were that God would end the terrible pain either by termination of life on earth or restoration to reasonable health. It seemed that at one time I was walking, and walking, and walking up this path where just around the corner were beautiful bright lights and joyous singing. However, I recovered, for God had more work for me to do.

Sometime later, I was asked to distribute quite a large amount of clothing directly to the poor in areas outside our immediate area. Knowing of the special collection branch of the World Re-

lief, I felt the Spirit prompting me to respond in that area. I located the manager of American Airlines, Mr. Zipp, telling him of my convictions and my desire to help the earthquake victims in Mexico City. I inquired as to whether he and his airline would be supportive in my efforts. He offered the transportation of fifteen boxes of clothing at no cost. I then approached the Phoenix, AZ, congregation expressing the availability of an opportunity to help those in need in Mexico. Their generosity produced 20 boxes of clothing, which Mr. Zipp permitted at American's expense.

Two months after the first quake on Wednesday, November 16, 1985 at 1:20 p.m., my wife, Sis. Marie, and I, with 20 boxes of clothing totaling 1,320 pounds and the prayers of many, boarded the plane for Mexico City. At 9:40 p.m., our plane was met by Steve and Mary Corbett. Steve was from Vermont, and Mary from Arizona, both 23-year-old college graduates, who had already committed two years of their lives in service to our Lord. Their primary work lies outside of Mexico City, but they'd come to help relieve the suffering of the quake victims. The boxes we'd brought were to have been prescreened for clearance, but even after hours of arguing with the official, Steve was unsuccessful in obtaining their release. Steve had made a reservation at a moderate hotel, where we resided. The next morning after more hours arguing with customs officials at the airport, we finally obtained the release of the boxes of clothing. Steve informed us that had the boxes been brought into the country as cargo or freight, the Mexican officials would have either gone through the boxes and taken what was of interest to them, or assessed a minimum of 30% of the value for taxes, even though the destination was to benefit the quake victims of their own country.

We arrived in the Morales Tapetio area (one of the thirteen areas with major damage) and placed the boxes in a storage area of Bethel Methodist Church. Morales Tapetio, even before the quake, was a poor area with many unemployed. Many of the living quarters were destroyed by the quake or condemned afterwards, forcing people

to live on the streets, either with temporary shelter or without any protection at all. Prior to coming to Mexico City, we had made arrangements for the purchase of "Hope Houses". These are made of fiber board, to be erected as temporary living quarters. But they didn't arrive in time for us to help erect them. Steve made arrangements with the university to give partial credit to students who would help erect them. Upon their arrival at the border, the Mexican officials again demanded taxes; but as a result of Steve and the American Embassy's efforts, the Hope Houses arrived November 18, 1985. Also included with the shipment were temporary buildings for schools. As a result of Apostolic Christian Church's World Relief, 30 such temporary houses (accommodating 6 - 15 per house), plus temporary schools (accommodating 800 elementary pupils) were established.

Through the World Relief committee (via generous gifts of the members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church of America), Friday, November

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Albert Frautschi
Uriel Gehring
Lynn Stieglitz

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

8, 1985, we purchased blankets, bed linens, diapers and other necessities and handed them out directly to the poor who had gathered at Bethel Methodist Church. The tearful joys we had seeing your gifts in action goes beyond words. The members of the Bethel Methodist were feeding 500 people a day, and all of you were helping to provide the means for them to eat.

Steve arranged with Dr. Garcia, the director of the three remaining hospitals, for us to ride in an ambulance to see first hand three of the most severely damaged areas. Mexico City has a population of 18 million (largest city in the world), 3 million of which had living quarters destroyed or condemned by the quake. Dr. Garcia estimated 500,000 people had no place to live,

and 20,000 were buried. The two largest and most modern hospitals equipped with dialysis and heart monitoring machines had been destroyed. From the remains of these hospitals, Dr. Garcia showed where he had pulled out 15 children, unconscious men and women. We visited restricted areas where entire multi-story apartments, offices, schools and factories had collapsed. Some were cleared and some still remained the graves of the dead.

On Saturday we had a free day in which to reflect on the atrocities of our surroundings and wonder, what if this had happened in Phoenix . . . ?

Sunday, November 10, 1985, Steve and Mary helped us to distribute diapers to mothers with babies in their arms. Most of the babies had on little

or no clothing, and were either wrapped in a blanket or a cloth. That afternoon, we boarded a plane to return to Phoenix, trusting that God would give us understanding, wisdom and direction to deal with the situation we had just left. (Continued on Page 29)

MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE

Sis. Jan Heinold, Washington, IL

Bro. Richard has asked me to put down a few words expressing my impressions of the work begun here in Mexico City. He explained the factors that prompted World Relief involvement and his own personal desire to be an instrument in God's hands. Steps then were taken as doors opened. I can only confirm that the people God has led us to appear to be truly sincere and dedicated Christian people. I had the privilege of hearing the testimony of one of the men who told me of his conversion and it was both inspiring and encouraging to see how God could work in the heart of this one soul living in total darkness. The need here is real, both physical and spiritual, and appears to be a wonderful opportunity presented to our brethren. It became apparent that we may have more than just an opportunity to share our time and money, but also the privilege of sharing the blessings of our faith, our families, and our country. My prayer is that we can be worthy ambassadors for Christ in this needy land.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Greetings in our precious Saviour's name.

Many of our brethren from our congregations have been active in giving and distributing the Bible. Many accounts have been heard of the blessings realized in visiting the homes, rest homes, prisons and rescue missions, when inquiry and request has come from someone wishing to have a Bible or Testament. Many requests come from individuals who have sight problems, where a large print Bible or Testament enables them to read again. We now have the KJV of the Bible on cassette tapes for those persons who can no longer see. For the blind, we have sets of braille Bibles in stock, ready for those needing a braille Bible.

During the past two years, 24,702 Bibles and Testaments have been shipped to our congregations for distribution by our brethren.

Contributions to the Bible Fund for Bible distribution can be sent to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and requests for Bibles and Testaments can be sent to Elder Bro. David Bertsch.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890

Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812

Bibles Distributed — Third Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1985 —	876	876
September 1985 —	1369	2245
October 1985 —	1259	3504
November 1985 —	1088	4592
December 1985 —	1610	6202
January 1986 —	1068	7270
February 1986 —	1283	8553
March 1986 —	2174	10,727
April 1986 —	1051	11,778
May 1986 —	967	12,745
June 1986 —	4625	17,370

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testament, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

CHILDREN'S HOME COUNSELING POSITION

This full-time position in our family/team program offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity to work with a dedicated Christian staff serving abused, neglected, and disturbed adolescents. Responsibilities include individual, group, and family counseling, intake screening, liason work with outside agencies, and consultation to staff.

This position requires that the brother or sister have at least a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or counseling (includes guidance counseling).

For further information on job description, salary, and benefits, contact Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator, A.C.C.H., Box 151, Leo, IN 46765; (219) 627-2159.

Your brothers in faith,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

MICHIGAN AND TOLEDO, OH HOME ADMINISTRATOR

We are grateful to God that finally after a long wait, we have received approval from the Michigan State Building Department to proceed on our nursing home building located on our church property in Livonia to the west of Detroit.

Foundations are in, and we expect to proceed as soon as possible to take advantage of the summer and fall weather.

This 66-bed institution is in dire need of an experienced home administrator. Our first priority is to have a qualified member of our faith in this position of great trust.

If you know of anyone who has qualifications or capabilities for this very important endeavor, or if you personally feel qualified, we would sincerely appreciate your contacting Bro. Mark Bahr at 34507 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48018, who is chairman of our selection committee.

Our brotherhood in Detroit would especially welcome another family into our congregation. We trust the Lord will provide the proper individual to assist our congregations in this our God-given responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Maibach, Jr.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

It's official, summer is here, and it has arrived with a sense of suddenness. How sudden is sudden? In the twinkling of an eye; as lightning rends the sky; in a moment of time — all these axioms are somewhat descriptive of suddenness, but none of us can really describe it. We know that yesterday is suddenly gone, tomorrow has not yet arrived, so "Let us rejoice in today, it is the day the Lord has given us." There are so many things to rejoice in, especially if we are in Christ Jesus our Lord. To gaze into the eastern sky and view the sun breaking through the early morning dawn, and then spread her life-giving rays to a waiting earth who swallows up her goodness; to gaze up into the sky at high noon and see and feel the sun in all her dazzling brightness; to gaze into the western sky in the evening and see the orange ball slowly sink into oblivion amid the clouds — suddenly another day is ended.

Very recently we visited Pikes Peak and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and SUDDENLY one realizes the power of the Word of God by which they were created. The mountain tops, some snow covered, caress the horizon with an awesome pattern, reaching ever heavenward, but never touching the blue of the sky. There is a sudden ending of the mountain tops and a sudden beginning to the sky area. How great the contrast! The Word of God can suddenly change our lives if we believe it and become obedient to it — this is the greatest miracle of all.

For their summer vacation, the East House enjoyed a trip eastward. Some points of interest were camping out in cabins at a state park on the Ohio-Pennsylvania state line, fishing, swimming, hiking, visiting Niagara Falls on the Canadian side, and visiting Sea World near Cleveland.

The West House chose to go south to the Cumberland Mountains for their vacation where they enjoyed hiking, White river rafting, horseback riding and swimming. They spent their first Sunday at the Wolcott, IN, church and their second Sunday at the Lexington, KY, church.

Thelma W. was our high school graduate this year. We enjoyed meeting her family at her reception in the East House basement. This is another stepping stone on the stairway of life for



PUBLIC DONATION AUCTION APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME LEO, INDIANA

SATURDAY, AUG. 16 — 9:00 A.M.

**HANDMADE QUILTS, COMFORTERS, AFGHANS,
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APPLIANCES, ANTIQUES (Good Condition)**

CHINA

RSP — 3 Handled Basket (very, very rare),
Water Pitcher (very rare),

Tankard (very rare), 9¼" Fruit Bowl

RSP - RM — Ivory & Salmon Teapot (very rare),
2 Scalloped Lily Bowls (mint condition, very unusual),
10½" Gold-Trimmed Jeweled Bowl (unusual),
Large 12½" x 7¼" Bread Tray (unusual),
Large Two-Handled Ivory & Salmon Sugar & Creamer,
11" Scalloped Bowl

**CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS & MANY OTHER
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Starting at 8:00 A.M.)**

**LUNCH SERVED
(Starting at 8:00 A.M.)**

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PHONE 219/627-5138

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you, Thelma — treasure it as such. Thelma is presently enrolled in our Independent Living Program.

Most of our children are employed in the Job Training Program, working at various jobs in the community. Those not in the Job Training Program are assigned jobs on the grounds. Along with their summer work, Mike T. is taking piano lessons, Bob W. and Jeff J. are going to basketball camp, and Ayne spent a week at summer camp.

A few weeks ago, we had a car wash and garage sale. They were held simultaneously — the car wash in the church parking area and the garage sale at the break house adjoining it. Both were a great success, and the monies we earned were used for the children's vacation. Consideration is being given to making this an annual event.

Our garden is producing well, thanks to our chief agronomist, Bro. Chuck Fehr. We are enjoying cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, radishes, etc. Produce fresh from the garden is always so good.

The Vacation Bible School program was held June 20 at the fellowship hall, concluding a week of Vacation Bible School. It was well attended, and our junior high boys, Bob W., Jeff J., Russ S. and Mike T., participated in the evening's presentation of songs and recitations.

We have ten new piglets following mother pig in the pasture and enjoying the great out-of-doors.

Our volunteer summer program is moving along nicely — thanks to every participant. So far, Sis. Marlene Steffen (Bluffton) has spent two weeks tutoring in the classroom. Sis. Debbie Blunier (Eureka, IL) is here this week specializing in pottery and crafts. Also, Bro. Nathan Gerber (Bluffton) is here for the summer helping out in maintenance and recreation. We are anticipating some special guests; a brother and three sisters from Hungary plan to spend a few days with us.

The most recent church presentations about the Home were at Detroit, MI, Wichita, KS and Denver, CO. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home.

We are busily preparing for our Tenth Annual Auction and Sale, set for August 16. Once again, we need your help in order to make it a successful, God-honoring event. If you are able to donate items and/or to do volunteer work during the time of the Sale, please

contact your local Children's Home representative.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

There is excitement in the air today at the Home for the Handicapped. It is the day for our annual Field and Track Day where each of our residents who wishes to do so may compete for a ribbon or medal for doing their best. And, everyone is a winner. It makes me think of the only area of life where we all can be winners . . . being a true child of God by rebirth. No matter what happens in life . . . illness, financial setback, tragedy . . . we are still a winner and the rewards of His promises sustain us until the victory is won at death.

We enjoyed a nice day at Six Flags in St. Louis, MO, with about 24 of our residents. Leaving early, we had a continental breakfast on the bus, a delightful lunch in Six Flags picnic area, checked out the sights and then came the always enjoyable and exciting time of stopping at McDonalds for our evening meal.

On June 13, we welcomed a new resident, Becky Huber, to our Home. Becky is the daughter of Vernon and Judith Huber. She lived with her parents at Quincy, IL, before coming here. Becky was born in Quonset Point, RI, January 26, 1965, while her father was in service. She has one brother, Bruce, and a sister, Brenda Winget. She has three nieces. Becky enjoys watching TV, writing and drawing, listening to cassette tapes and the challenge of the "Search a Word" books. Eating pizza, hot dogs, ice cream, meat loaf and cornbread bring her delight. We are happy to have Becky as resident No. 101. We hope she will soon feel right at home here.

Plans are being made at this time for our annual Fourth of July family picnic. This is a nice time for residents' families to get better acquainted.

Some of our residents are sporting new shoes as Edwards Shoe Store from Peoria came to us with quite a few styles, colors and sizes. This service is appreciated by the Home and the residents as evidenced by their pleased looks.

Another outing coming up will be our annual singing (and lunch) at the Floren Streitmatter farm near Brimfield. Each year the young people of that area arrive at the farm and person-

ally see to it that each resident has a wonderful time. Petting the animals and choosing a few flowers for a corsage are encouraged. We appreciate this very hospitable group to say the least.

Summer is fleeing as usual. Because of the good rains, our flowers are so beautiful.

The following poem expresses the joys of . . .

AN OLD FASHIONED GARDEN

Give me an old-fashioned garden
With hollyhocks and rambler rose,
A trellis with a seat beneath
Where honeysuckle grows.

Give me a fountain bird bath
Where warblers come to play
And tarry for a while to sing
A little roundelay.

Give me a summer afternoon
With butterflies and bees
Sipping honey from the flowers,
While zephyrs stir the trees.

Give me soft, fleecy clouds
Adrift in azure skies.
Give me all these and I will be
Quite close to paradise.

Gladys Harp

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We have been blessed with a lot of good spiritual fellowship. A bus load from Chicago, IL, joined us for Memorial Day weekend. We enjoyed the weekend so much as there were visitors of all ages to get to know. We treated them to a "Southern-style fish fry" Saturday evening and then enjoyed singing praises to our Lord. Sunday Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Lenny Meyer ministered to us. After sharing a potluck meal at noon we enjoyed more singing and fellowship. Many friendships were made and I hope everyone felt as blessed as I did.

Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) brought a truck load of items for our World Relief Distribution Center. Bro. Gary Garman came with him and helped with wiring the electricity in the building. We thank them for their time and effort. Bro. Dave showed his slides of Haiti Wednesday evening. We saw the conditions of their country and once again I realized how much I take for granted. We should be willing to

give of ourselves and our time, as well as our money. God has given us so much and instructed in the Word to have a willing attitude and to love everyone!

Our preschool graduation was held May 30. We spent many hours practicing, but it was well worth the effort. The children performed well. I'm sure God was smiling down on us from heaven. The church was filled to overflowing with parents, relatives and friends. Fifty-one children participated in the program. Some of them will be going to public school kindergarten, but many will be returning to our preschool. We have around 50 children enrolled in our summer program, some of which are with us only for the summer. Sis. Lisa Huette (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Joan Hanson, and her daughter, Gretchen (Urbana, IL), have been volunteers this summer. We thank them for their willing hearts and pray that they felt a blessing while they were here.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) also ministered to us. We heard many good teachings from Luke 10. We should love others enough to die for them. Christ was the perfect example. He took the sins of the world on Himself and died so we might be free from that sin. We need to get our priorities straight and not be concerned with the cares of this world. Jesus told Martha to stop fretting about meeting human needs and to be concerned about salvation and then witnessing to others. We may not be able to do great things to help others, but we all can pray and prayer changes things.

Do you mean I'd really receive what I pray for?

I don't believe that!

Well, if you don't believe it, of course you won't.

Doubt is easy.

Belief, true faith, is an intent sort of life.

It demands concentration, determination, single-mindedness, discipline of the heart and spirit.

If you really believe, God can do anything for you or through you because you'll be that kind of person.

By Gladis and Gordon DePree

We have had other visitors from Mansfield, OH, Phoenix, AZ, and Tremont, IL.

Thirty of us traveled to Cissna Park, IL, June 7 - 8. We enjoyed the fellow-

ship so much. It was special for me, personally, because it was like bringing my new church family home to meet my former one. I enjoyed watching the two congregations interact and share the good things God has done. Many friendships were made and God's love was very evident. May God bless the Cissna congregation for their hospitality.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

Ministering Bro. Clarence Yackley preached Sunday morning, April 27. Bro. Yackley encouraged us to put on our spiritual armor and live the life the Lord expects of a believer. Having served 40 years, Bro. Clarence will continue his ministering duties other than pulpit preaching. May the Lord continue to bless His servant as he discontinues some of his duties.

A Thank You. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Linda Yackley are grateful for the many gifts, cards, letters and phone calls received since relinquishing some of his duties.

Our Sunday school junior and senior classes enjoyed fellowship with the Tucson classes May 25. There was a church dinner and singing later that evening.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson), who assisted in Bro. Todd Zollinger's baptism, and Bro. Glen Hackenjos who visited May 25.

We praise the Lord Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery were able to take clothing and World Relief supplies to Mexico. Our churches will be doing construction work in areas most devastated by the earthquake in Mexico.

Don and Beth Cooke are the proud parents of little Aaron. Eileen Kaufman (Cissna Park, IL) is his grandmother.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 (a time to mourn). Sis. Clara Zollinger (recently of Phoenix) passed away June 12. Her funeral was June 15 in Rittman, OH. Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf, Bro. Ed, Sis. Dorothy and Sis. Linda Zollinger flew back to Ohio for the service.

In June, a reception was held for the following graduates: Nurses' Training, Sis. Suzy Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley), high school, Lex Beres (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), eighth grade, Bob Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon), Doug Feller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen), Justine Gramm (Bro. Jim and Kathy), Wendy Klopfenstein (Bro.

Dave and Sis. Lou Ann), Kari Niemeyer (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois) and Gabriel Hill (Susan Suever).

On June 15, we rejoiced when we learned of the engagement of Sis. Suzy Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley) to Bro. Stan Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). May the Lord bless the happy couple as they make plans for their future Christian home.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sis. Esther Sutter has moved to Peoria, IL, and is now making her home at the Apostolic Christian Home. Sis. Esther has been a part of our congregation for a long time, and we will all miss her. May the Lord bless her in her new home.

Our Sunday school recently traveled to Phoenix for a weekend of fellowship. As always, our students enjoyed themselves and we appreciated the opportunity to spend time with our brethren in Phoenix. Our love and thanks go to the Phoenix congregation for their efforts towards the weekend.

The Phoenix choir recently traveled to Tucson to sing for us. Choir members and their families spent the day with us. Both the singing and the fellowship were a blessing to us all.

Our temperatures are in the 100's as summer is upon us, but the Lord has seen fit to supply us with rain.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Shirley Luthi

A prayer for God's blessings goes with our fond farewell as Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Sabo, along with their new son, Ferenc Pierre, relocate in Bluffton, IN. They will be greatly missed among our flock.

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley Luthi welcome their new little son, Daniel Reuben, into their home. Daniel's grandparents are Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Morris, MN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA).

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic — Sherise Strahm

Only by God's bountiful grace, guidance and instruction, Denes and Joy Fulop and Rose Jevremov testify of peace with God. Lord willing, we joyously await their baptisms July 6. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised." Hebrews 10:23.

Last month the good Word was delivered to us by ministering Bros. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) and Jon Kovanovich (Phoenix, AZ). We rejoice in the continued support shown through the ministering body and many visitors. Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Bros. Peter Petrovic at (619) 489-5165 or Elmer Getz at (619) 484-2702.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." Isaiah 40:28, 29. Verses such as these are found throughout the scripture. They indicate that the meek shall inherit the earth and that if we become faint and realize that we have no strength, such as Joe Hohulin and Greg McLaughlin have found, that we, too, shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Lord willing, Joe will go back to his home church, Roanoke, IL for his testimony service and baptism the weekend of June 29. Greg will be given opportunity to give his testimony and be baptized the weekend of July 27, as God wills. We thank God for working in these two dear souls and pray for their faithfulness.

We are thankful for Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) for teaching us about the need, especially in a large city, for evangelism — the teaching and living of God's Word. May God bless them both.

While here, Bro. Uriel blessed us with a report on the Children's Home. The seemingly most important part of his report is that children need a good strong family core. We also were led to believe that the Home is in need of our prayers and our support as volunteers. Anyone wishing to do volunteer work there can contact their local representative is Bro. Mike Martin.

We regret that little Jacob Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) was back in the hospital, but we're thankful he's able to be home again. We pray that God will take care of him and his family. Also we wish a speedy recovery

for Craig Fehr (Terri) as he has had surgery on his eyes.

We bid farewell to a dear brother who was one of the first residents here, became converted here and helped to get our church established here. Bro. Lee Ruegsegger has moved back to his home church at Bay City. We wish him much grace and spiritual strength as he fills his place in the church there.

As life progresses, every so often we need to take a look at who's doing the standing. If we find that we think God can handle the big things and that we can help Him out on the little things, we are still headed for a fall. God set it up so plainly that it is by His strength we stand and by His strength alone. Of course, it doesn't mean that we stand idly by. Just be sure that no matter what the calling or decision to be made, that it is of God; then, by the power of God, allow nothing to stand in the way. Because one must forsake all for God.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

We tarry in this blest and tranquil union
And thus united speak the farewell
word
Ye loved ones, now the parting hour is
nearing
The Farewell greeting sounds in one
accord
Our hearts are yet in close communion
beating
In Jesus' name we bid the farewell
greeting

Zion's Harp #114

We all said our parting farewell to Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo who have touched all our hearts. Bill and Gail, with their lovely children, Erin, Macy, Michael and Bobby, have returned to their home church of Morton, IL. While we will all miss them, we surely wish them God's grace and guidance.

Love of all gifts is the greatest
Which the spirit does bestow.

Zion's Harp #37

Our dear friends, Stephanie Bucher and Jon Beyer, were united in holy matrimony May 31. Jon recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Stephanie is a recent graduate of Bay Path Jr. College, Longmeadow, MA. Stephanie is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and

Sis. Diann and Jon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Beyer who reside in Arizona. Jon and Stephanie will make their home in Hawaii where Jon is stationed.

I place myself in Jesus' hands
And there abide forever.

Zion's Harp #177

We rejoice with our dear friends who have begun their walk with the Lord: Scott Zahner (Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Clara) and Glenna Reutter (Bro. Alden and Marion). May they hold fast to their heavenly call and truly experience the new birth.

Three new little bundles have been added to our congregation: Deborah, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman; Matthew, son of Phillip and Karen Luginbuhl; and Jenna Lynn, daughter of John and Sue (Dowling) Luginbuhl.

And when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:24

We had the pleasure of receiving communion May 19. It is always a special time for us to search our hearts and cleanse ourselves of all unrighteousness and renew the vows we made in baptismal waters. Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) assisted Bro. Corbin in serving us the Lord's Supper.

We had the privilege to have in our midst the following visiting ministers this month: Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). We appreciate their visiting us and their messages of wisdom and spiritual enrichment.

We pray for those who have been hospitalized this month or in the care of a physician: Sis. Jan Boynton, Sis. Eunice Bahler, Bro. John Ruch, Bro. Emmanuel Zahner and Sis. Lynn Hoffman.

I came across this wonderful reading from our holy scripture:

Delight thyself also in the Lord; And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:4, 5

It all sounds so easy — please the

Lord and he shall grant us the desires of our heart!

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
 WASHINGTON**
Ed Aeschleman

Ministers serving Washington, D.C. Sunday, June 8 were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We surely thank these brothers for their labors in bringing the Word of Truth to this outpost. There were about 20 in attendance.

Services are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month in the Washington area at the Westpark Best Western Hotel about a half mile west on Route 7 off the Tyson's Corner exit from the I-495 Capital Beltway. Services start at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you will be in the area, please try to schedule your travel so you can attend.

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE
Terri K. Huber

We were delighted to be visited this month by three couples who have lived in Fort Lauderdale and worshipped with us in the past. Ministering Bro. Ken Lawson and his wife, Sis. Sharon, who moved to Minnesota this past winter, came back for a visit. Bro. Ken brought us the Word on Sunday. That afternoon we had a church supper in the park and enjoyed fellowshiping with Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon again.

Bro. Hans and Sis. Kathy Schuon also spent a short vacation in Fort Lauderdale this month. Bro. Hans and Sis. Kathy are now living in Atlanta, GA, after spending a year with us here in Florida. We truly miss their family and pray for them and for the small congregation in Atlanta.

Bela and Monica Tar made one of their periodic visits from the west coast of Florida, where they moved last year. We're glad they remember us and are reminded that we, too, can be blessed by visiting others, such as our churches on the west coast.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

We have much to be thankful for this past month! Once again we had visiting ministers: Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). They gave us much to fight the fiery darts of Satan!

Brian and Cindy Beer have received a bundle from heaven on May 30. She is welcomed home by two brothers,

Brian and Brent, and a sister, Katie. Grandparents, Bro. Vic and Sis. Dotty, are glad to welcome their tenth grandchild! What a blessing a new life is in the home, and what responsibility as parents and grandparents to raise that child in the way of the Lord.

We heard on this past Father's Day of the love of Abraham and the story of the prodigal son. We don't find that Abraham's son fought him when he bound him on the altar. As parents, we sometimes sense resentment from our children, but we know that God will judge us all by His Word, written thousands of years ago, no matter what the world says! We know this world belongs to Satan. We are just passing through, and the less we pick up of this world, the better servant of God we will be! May we all, by the grace of God, make this our aim in life.

Many have graduated this past month. We wish them God's blessings. May they choose the way of the Lord so they will receive the honor of eternally living with Him, rather than serving Satan, as his reward is everlasting fire!

Little Dathan is back home again, and Lord-willing will not have to return to the hospital till July 8 when he will start his treatments. After the second treatment they will be able to tell whether or not to continue. We should continue praying for him and all that are sick. We just heard of our dear Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger's car accident in Kentucky. We surely never know when our departure from this life will take place, and only pray God's will be done. Keep them ever in your prayers. May God be with you till we visit once more.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera Martin

We again are so thankful for our summer rains after a long dry season. We are reminded of Job 5:8 and 10. "I would seek unto God and unto God would I commit my cause: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields." As the rain supplies our earthly needs so does the Word which has inspired our ministers and visiting ministers to shower us with messages for our spiritual needs. We were thankful to have among them our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and ministering Bros. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

We want to thank Bro. John and Sis.

Lucille Heiniger for all their love and time which they (and many others) have devoted to the World Relief projects. They have recently left to take some of the items up north for the summer. We are sorry to hear that they have been involved in an automobile accident and are both hospitalized in Kentucky at this time. We pray for a speedy recovery. Also, we thank the brethren who drove to Kentucky to collect the items which they were unable to deliver.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1. These were the thoughts of young Dathan Eisenmann after several months in the hospital and away from church. He has been through severe pain and tests and seems to be an inspiration to all of us. We are thankful to see his smile again. May we always be excited and glad to go into the house of the Lord reverently. Dathan's plans are to be home for about a month and then will have to return to Gainesville for more treatment.

Bro. Frank Krszogacin and our friend, Jim Cambern, have both been recent surgical hospital patients. They are now home and we are looking forward to have them assemble with us again. May they ever put their trust in Him. For blessed are all they that put their trust in him. Psalm 2:12.

**ILLINOIS,
 BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

GOD BLESS AMERICA . . .

As our nation celebrates its independence, let us thank God for our precious freedom. May our country continue to be "dependent on God" as it was "founded on Him".

Helen Bauer is home from the hospital after a fall in her home. Our thoughts and prayers are for God to grant her strength during her recovery.

We have two births to announce this month. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp are parents of Dustin Earl born May 30. Alesa and Lucas welcome their little brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena Knapp (Cissna Park) and Ella Cargill (Gridley) and C. W. Cargill (West Plains, MO). Great-grandmother is Sis. Elizabeth Knapp (Cissna Park).

Rachel Louise was born June 11 to

Randy and Ann Anderson. Grandparents are Elmo and Edie Franklin and Willie and Edna Anderson. We wish each family God's blessings.

Our vacation Bible school was held in June. It is such a blessing to see little children so eager to hear of Jesus. For the Bible class, special topics were presented to the students by the following ministers, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington). We wish to thank them for sharing their time and service with our young adults.

We sincerely thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch for lending his services to us this past month.

At our semi-annual business meeting, Bro. Jeff Thames and Bro. Mark Huber were elected as Sunday school teachers. We offer our support and prayers to them. We wish to thank Bro. Ivan Stoller and Bro. Ray Bauer for their dedication as they served as Sunday school teachers. Bro. Ray Bauer will continue as superintendent.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

A precious daughter, Sandi Gayle, was born May 22 to Ralph and Jenny Joos. She has two brothers, Tyler and Jeb, to welcome her. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lorene Joos and Norman and Hilda Rouse.

On June 14, Mark Rumbold and Stephanie Francis were united as one in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta and John and Connie Francis. May God be near to them as they walk the path of life together.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Simon Wagenbach (Tremont). We thank each one of these brothers for the special love and kindness they have shared with all of us.

WHEN CHILDREN PRAY

When little children kneel to pray
I think God is not far away,
And softest prayers their lips intone,
I think reach up to heaven's throne.
And blest are parents day by day,
Who teach their children how to pray,
For children's prayers are always heard,
When offered up in children's words.

And every little child that prays
Redeems the earth in countless ways,
For children, kneeling, lisping prayers
Are of all gifts our nation shares,
The sweet hope, the promise grand
That God will bless and spare this land.

Perry Tanksley

May we always be thankful for the freedom that we have in this country to worship and pray as we wish.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

None is the captain of his ship, the master of his soul as the author of "Invictus" proclaimed. We are all servants, willing or unwilling, aware or unaware. We serve one and only one of two possible masters. Satan, on the one hand, does not care whether we think we serve the Lord as long as we actually serve sin. However, he will give us battle as long as we live when we allow Christ, and Him crucified, to change our heart, our mind, our soul. Christ is the gentler Master. He will not force us to follow Him, yet He can give us all power in His Spirit when we do. Thus the Lord exhorts each one through the words of Peter, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." I Peter 1:7-9.

Our brethren are so willing to support one another. Ministers who come visiting know they will be the instruments and speakers for the Lord in that day and still come, giving us example after example of service and faithfulness to the Lord and His people. Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin), Art Bauer (Princeville) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) brought the Word and were such examples in this past month.

"Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life . . ." Zion's Harp #237. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann married his and Sis. Judy's older son, Bro. Brad, to Sis. Cindy Herrmann, daughter of Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean, in Princeville June 1. This lovely family day was enhanced in that Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy's daughter, Luann, had finally given in to all the conviction

of the past year and started repenting the Sunday before. Among his tender exhortations to the beloved couple, Bro. Dale emphasized the importance of being a virtue finder rather than a fault finder: "... Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8. Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy will be in Champaign as he finishes his degree in electrical engineering at the U. of I. We wish them a growing, abiding love and a combined life plan set in the will of the Lord.

Three weeks later in Congerville, June 22, Bro. Brent Stoller (Chicago), son of Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily, Princeville), married Sis. Kay Roth, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline. Elder Bro. Joe also married his son and new daughter-to-be, reminding them of the importance of love: "Love, of all gifts, is the greatest Which the Spirit does bestow." Zion's Harp #37. In this wedding, too, appreciation was expressed for the blending of the two families who gave their son and daughter to each other in the Lord. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love . . ." John 15:10. As Sis. Kay will be new to the Chicago area, we hope to be helpful in her adjustment to suburban life. We are thrilled at the Lord's work in Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay's lives and wish them "blessing, peace and mirth" Zion's Harp #237, vs. 4, as they begin another Christian home. We acknowledge this is always a responsibility and an outreach in a world which has too few such homes. Lord, be gracious unto them.

We have another brother and sister who are a blessing to us. Sebastian and Kathy Loos shared their testimony with the church and were joyously welcomed into the fold, to share in our fellowship as members of the body of Christ. We pray that the Lord will uplift them in all their trials and keep them in His perfect peace. We rejoice to have them walk onward and upward with us.

We have two tiny newcomers to welcome also. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lynnette Lang were blessed with Phillip Raymond May 30. His brother Michael and grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang (Tremont, IL) and

Walter and Helen Ripple (Dallas, TX) are other helpful, happy family members. Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Stevig are delighted new parents. Erin Jean was born June 5. Bro. Keith and Sis. Alice Stevig (Morton) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Dorothy Walder (Cissna Park) are the thankful grandparents. We wish both families the Lord's strength and guidance as they strive to do the Lord's will for the new souls He has entrusted to them. They have our love and prayers and we need theirs.

Several church and Sunday school activities filled this month. This year over Memorial Day weekend we took our annual bus trip to the Athens, AL, congregation. We were again given a safe journey, a song-filled journey, a joyous journey of precious fellowship along the way. And from the fresh fish and hush puppies fried for us Saturday night to adult Sunday school, the beginning of life on the Lord's way for Luann Eisenmann, and more and more singing, the Lord ministered to us through the Athens congregation. We are so thankful to them and to the Lord for our "thousand sacred sweets" Tabernacle Hymns #203, vs. 3, in one weekend. On June 8 our annual Sunday school picnic was the usual delight to young and not-so-young. The food was plenteous, the weather perfect and the playground and conversations leisurely, but lively. God is so good. Vacation Bible School is also a time eagerly anticipated by the children. It's an opportunity to learn more and do more for Jesus and a chance to be with church friends more during those two weeks. Many teachers and helpers and those who provide snacks are to be commended for their extra work. But the children, our future church, make it all worthwhile. The Bible class and the congregation, as part of VBS, appreciated Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger's coming to speak on the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I SHALL NOT WANT".

It doesn't seem so long ago they started Sunday school and spoke in the Christmas program with such zeal and sincerity of the "sheep with the curly hoin (curly horn)." Now they are tall, capable high school graduates, headed for higher education. Rick Meyer, son of Bro. Lenard and Sis. Charlotte, will be attending the U. of I. in Champaign after his summer trip to Germany. Rachael Plattner, daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne, plans to work

during the summer, attending ISU, Normal, in the fall with a planned major in business. Those who graduated from eighth grade and are entering high school this fall are Michelle Hodel (Bro Merle and Gayle), Lance Pfeifer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy), Karl Plattner (Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne) and Penny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria). We want to express our congratulations and our love and prayers to all our graduates.

The clouds bring rain in summer skies, and here on earth, tears dim the eyes. In heaven angels may rejoice, yet here on earth grief chokes the voice. The heart weeps softly for one gone, but Christ knows of a second dawn. Accidents have claimed the lives of Sis. Paula Bahr's brother and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary Metzger's nephew. Sis. Marie Kulyan has lost a son-in-law. Bro. William Stahl (Princeville), father and grandfather of Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl and their children, also died. Only the Lord can give growing power to a seed or healing to the body cells. Likewise, we plead with Him to use His comforting presence and promises which alone give hope and balm to these bereaved. May we of the body be willing to listen, to talk, to be silent or whatever may be most helpful to each one in sorrow at a particular time. May they know our sympathy by our more fervent love.

Our daughter was recently told she had a "Rassi smile". Afterward she mentioned that statement, questioned it ("Do I really?"), thought about it and filed it as a special memory. Now how did I know the last two? I remember when I was a few years older than she is now, and a great-aunt of mine told me how much I looked like her sister, my grandmother. I tried to picture my grandmother young — and failed. But somehow, I trusted my informant — and like our daughter, knew more certainly I belonged to the family. Even though I couldn't see it, another who knew the family well could. I have always treasured that memory and warmed my heart there many days. I expect Katrina to do the same. Why do I mention all this? Well, Satan doesn't want us to feel we belong to Christ's family even though we know it. Being human, we need to be reminded of our family attachments. When we see love, humility, peace, long-suffering in our Christian family members, we need to tell them of the special ways we see

Christ in them. These specific reminders are never for the building up of pride, but for a defense against the devil: "I am a child of the Savior, and He has been seen working in me." And when we find and speak of virtue in others, that helps us to strive with more zeal ourselves to show the world that we are true sons and daughters in His family. Are we known members of His family?

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Elaine Sauder — Myrna Weerts

Our Sunday school children enjoyed Vacation Bible School June 9 - 20. Classes for nursery through eighth grade were held each morning and four evening classes were held for our Bible class students and young members. Friday evening, the 20th, we are looking forward to hearing the program of the children telling us what they have learned during Vacation Bible School.

Funeral services were held by our ministers Sunday, May 25, at the Knapp Funeral Home for Ida L. Eberhart, 84, formerly of Cissna Park, who died Friday, May 23, at Colonial Manor Nursing Home, Danville. Survivors included one brother, Eugene Sullivan, and many nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Ida Eberhart and to Sis. Anna Hari and Sis. Lucille Walder in the passing of their sister-in-law.

June 7 and 8 was a blessed and enjoyable weekend as a good sized group from the Athens, AL, church visited us. A supper and singing were held at the fellowship hall Saturday evening. Sunday they left for their long trip home after having a light meal after church. For many, it was their first trip to Cissna Park, and we welcome them back in the near future.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton). We thank them for giving of themselves in laboring for the Lord.

Bro. Ed Schambach was taken ill while visiting Cissna and was taken to the Paxton Hospital. He was there for a week and then transferred to an Elgin hospital. Cleo Fuller was a surgical patient. We wish them God's healing power and a full recovery.

Our Bible class and several other visiting Bible classes spent the day as guests of the Eureka Bible class May 4.

They had a blessed and enjoyable day in Eureka.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

We are thankful that our Sis. Suellen Ott is home from the hospital recovering from her car accident. Thanks be to God for His protecting hand.

Our congregation was blest to have so many young brothers and sisters from many miles come to spend Memorial Day weekend with us. Those visiting ministers who labored on our behalf were Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO).

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides
Where two join hand and heart
We find a threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

On Saturday, June 14, Bob Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou) and Lisa Springer (Dayton and Wilma, Eureka) joined heart and hand in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life as one.

On June 15, we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois) to Bro. Larry Wettstein (Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna, Eureka). We welcome Bro. Larry into our congregation and pray that God will bless their lives together. Visiting ministers bringing the Word to us were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka).

As we think of Independence Day, we truly want to thank our heavenly Father for the blessed freedom we have in this country of ours. May we never take it for granted.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Our youth recently participated in Vacation Bible School and the annual

Sunday school picnic. We sincerely thank each dear brother and sister who put forth efforts in this great responsibility. We especially thank Bro. Bob Schambach and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger whose terms in Sunday school have expired. Bro. Charles Kellenberger and Sis. Kathy Schifferer were chosen as our new teachers. May each one be encouraged to sow the precious seed in the tender hearts of our dear children. Let us continue to pray to the Father that it may bring forth pleasing fruit to His honor and glory.

Our church family has been blest with two new babies. Bro. William and Sis. Lana Schifferer rejoice with their new baby girl, Jean Nicole. Gary, Katie and Kenda are made happy with their new sister. Grandparents are Edward and Sis. Dorothy Schifferer and Louie and Sylvia DiPirro.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger as well as Bryan and David joyfully received little Diana Jean May 19. Diana's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Wava Steffen and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger.

On June 12, our first annual Benefit Day was held at Resthaven. We could feel the love and blessings of God as we labored together in this endeavor. We also deeply appreciate the help and support of the Chicago brethren.

Bro. Edward Schambach became quite ill while visiting with Cissna Park brethren and had to be hospitalized in Paxton, IL. We are thankful he could return home with a fair measure of health and trust the Lord will continue to bless.

Sis. Lillian Foell submitted to surgery and again we thank the Great Healer who alone can restore.

We share heartfelt sympathy with Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat Schifferer and his mother, Sally, in the sudden and unexpected death of their beloved one, Jon Bahr (Gridley, KS). We also extend sympathy to Laura Getz in the passing of her brother, Herbert Stettner. May they feel the love and comfort of God.

On Saturday, June 14, Dean Schifferer (Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat) was united in marriage to Susan Chapman (Robert and Judith). We wish them the Lord's blessings.

We are so grateful for visiting and home ministers who share God's holy Word. We sincerely thank Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park) for his labor of love.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

"Though outwardly they all in Adam are brothers, Who carry his likeness by nature indeed; They suffer the illness of flesh as all others;"

Zion's Harp #58, vs. 1

Our hospital patients this past month have been Sisters Melba Mangold and Jane Stoller (Bro. James A.) and Bros. Harvey Banwart and Robert Wiegand. May God restore renewed health to them as is His good will.

"In Jesus I will trust alway; In Him I live and pass away."

Zion's Harp #247

Bro. Ed Rocke passed away May 25. We extend our sympathy to his sisters, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Ben) Schumacher, and Helen Swing and Wilma McCanless (Eureka), Sis. Nettie Knapp (Goodfield), Sis. Clara Knapp (Morton), and brothers, Lawrence and Wilbur (Eureka), Walton (Washington), Milton (Arkansas) and Richard (Geneva).

Bro. Sam Schmidgall and Sis. Ruth (Bro. Lester) Martin have our sympathy in the passing of their brother, Bro. Benjamin Schmidgall (Tremont). May God comfort all who have felt the sting of death, and may His spirit provide for each need.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall welcomed Douglas Mikel into their hearts and home May 20. Marla is his sister and grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall, all of Eureka. May God bless this little family circle with His grace and wisdom.

"This union of our hearts, shall stand in grace through Jesus."

Zion's Harp #79

We witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Larry Wettstein and Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Congerville) June 15. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna Wettstein. They will be assembling with the Congerville congregation.

Mark Schmidgall and Lisa Fenner have announced their engagement and are making plans for a November wedding. Their parents are Bill Fenner (Metamora) and Helen Fenner (Washington), and Bro. Marvin and Sis.

Dorothy Schmidgall. May God direct them as they make plans for their life together.

We thank Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for lending himself in the Lord's service June 15. May we always remember our ministering brothers in prayer as they stand to speak the truth.

Sis. Reka Hoerr wishes to thank everyone for their cards and prayers while she was in the hospital and since she has returned to the "Home". God bless all of you for your love.

Vacation Bible School was held the first two weeks of June. We pray that all who had a part in this important undertaking will be blessed. Surely we can plant and we can water, but only God can add the increase. May the seed of faith have been planted in the tender hearts of our youth.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

Communion services were held Wednesday evening, May 21. We thank Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) who assisted our Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler and retired Elder Bro. Josh Broquard. It was a very impressive evening, and may we strive to remember, each day of our lives, what Christ has done for us.

The engagement of Bro. Anthony Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma) was announced to Sis. Lila Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae, Winthrop, MN) June 8. They are planning an August wedding, and we wish them God's guidance and blessings.

Our hearts were touched and our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol Kafer in the loss of Sarah Marie, who died at birth June 16. She is survived by one little brother, Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Kafer.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast
There by His love o'er-shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest . . .

Hymns of Zion #218

Reminder — Fairbury Silver Lining collections (\$7.00) are due in August.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, FORREST Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

"A CHILD LOANED"

"I'll lend you for a little while, a child of Mine," He said.

"For you to love, the while he lives and mourn when he is dead.

It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three

But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for Me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and tho his stay be brief

You will have lovely memories, as solace for your grief.

"I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return,

But there are lessons taught down there, I want this child to learn.

I looked the wide world over in My search for teacher true,

And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labor vain,

Nor hate Me when I come to call, to take him back again?

"I fancied that I heard them say, "Dear Lord, Thy will be done

For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run,

We'll shelter him with tenderness,

We'll love him while we may

And for the happiness we've known, for ever grateful stay.

But should the angels call for him much sooner than we've planned

We'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand."

Our community was saddened by the sudden tragic death of Kenton Schneider (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita Schneider). We sympathize with the beloved family as we will also miss Kenton in our Sunday school. Besides his parents, Kenton leaves to mourn a sister, Kathy, and a grandmother, Sis. Kathryn Schneider. Many were the loved ones who came to share this time of sorrow with the family. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bob Walder (Congerville) and Art Bahler (Fairbury). Ministering brethren here were: Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Virg Metzger (Chicago), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN), John Steiner (Oakville,

IA), Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Marvin Leman (Bradford).

Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith) was our only hospital patient and we're thankful she's able to assemble with us again.

We thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) who have visited us and shared the Living Word with us. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Our beloved Sis. Carrie Roth is now residing at Fairview Haven Nursing Home. May God continue to provide for her every need as He has in the past.

Vacation Bible School was held June 9 - 13. It is always heartwarming to see the eagerness of our children wanting to know more about Jesus. May God add the increase to the seeds that have been sown.

On June 16, our congregation gathered at Forrest Park to enjoy our annual Sunday school picnic.

Sis. Judy Kemp would like to express her sincere thanks for the gifts, cards and prayers during her illness. God bless you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you dear ones for the out-pouring of love and concern shown to us at the time of our dear Kenton's accident and death. We can hardly comprehend the tokens of love — the food, phone calls, cards, prayers, memorials and the wonderful words of encouragement shared with us at this sad time.

He was such a special gift and we miss him, oh, so much, but believe and have the hope that he is happy in the Master's bouquet.

May each of you feel God's love in the future and may He bless you richly for the love you have shown to us.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita Schneider
and Kathy

Grandma, Sis. Kathryn Schneider

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

Why is it strangely difficult to reflect our own shortcomings and mistakes? Why is our nature so quick to notice that which seems to be wrong with others?

HELP ME TO SEE MY FAULTS

Help me to see the truth about myself, however bitter that truth may be.

Help me to see my faults and not be overpowered by their number. Help me not to be discouraged by their gravity. (Keep me from a futile monologue of my mistakes. Let me remember, and be thankful, that I have virtues too!)

Lord, give me the sense to see my faults and the courage to attack them. Not all at once, but one by one, starting with my worst. Then, when I have that one pretty well under control, to proceed to the others.

Give me the will to do this, Lord. And the strength and the patience to keep on trying even when I fail.

Be tolerant of me in this struggle — and help me to be tolerant with myself.
Marjorie Holmes

"Thy word, O Lord, forever is the mirror where we see our faults and duties as they are, our likeness unto Thee."

Zion's Harp #142

Two young lives were joined as one as Shelley Hostetler (daughter of Ray and Joan Hostetler) became the wife of Ben Rokey (son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Phillis Rokey). We wish them God's blessing and every joy in their new life together.

"Signs of the Times" was the theme of our adult Bible school program. We are deeply appreciative of the efforts of Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) as he instructed us to "Stop" and realize that we are in the "last act"; Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) as he instructed us to "Look" into God's Word and note all the prophecies that are being fulfilled; and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana, IL) as he encouraged us to "Listen" more to God's spirit and to use its calming effect against inside wars — our inner conflicts. Thanks, too, to our Goodfield junior choir, our Goodfield choir and the Gridley brothers who provided us with uplifting melodies in their song worship.

Our two hospital patients were Joan Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand) and little Curt Musselman (Gary and Patti Musselman). We are thankful both of these children are home and doing well.

"What glorious state to be a lamb of Jesus, to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace..." Zion's Harp #11. We rejoice that Jenise Zobrist, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis Zobrist, has experienced God's redeeming

grace and is waiting for her baptism.

A precious daughter, Mindy Sue, arrived June 10 and gladdened the hearts of Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie Wyss. Her brothers, Joshua and Justin, are anxious to care for her. Her happy grandparents are Paul and Evelyn Snellenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Shirley Wyss.

We are very grateful to these visiting ministers for their special messages of God's love: Bro. Todd Feller (Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR).

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Russell and Sis. Jane Des Carpentrie in the loss of her father, Darwin Frank, formerly of Roanoke.

Deep sympathy flows also to Clara Dreyer whose sister, Anna Weishaupt (Morton), passed away. May God send His comfort to all who grieve.

Sis. Viola Wagner wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and deeds of kindness while she was in the hospital and after returning home. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

How happy we are to welcome two dear souls into the family of God. Bro. Carl and Sis. Lola Schlipf gave their testimony of faith and were baptized June 18. Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) was with us for this special occasion and we appreciate his labor of love.

We were also renewed in our most precious faith as we remembered the death and suffering of our Lord and Saviour. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) was with us to share holy communion May 21.

May 30 was graduation day for our three high school seniors. George Gramm (Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie), Phil Kiefer (Bro. Dick and Sis. Louise) and Scott Kiefer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb) are now moving on to adulthood with new responsibilities and important decisions to make. We encourage our young people as well as all of us to "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.

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 9 - 13 with the program and open house after church June 15. The theme was "Ye are the Light of the World".

The children learned several verses from the Sermon on the Mount and sang five songs which described the blessed light of our Saviour and our duty to shed His light afar by our daily walk of life and the kind deeds we can do.

Sis. Anna Klopfenstein has been hospitalized for surgery. At this time she is progressing well in her recovery.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). We are surely blessed by the dear brothers who labor among us teaching and preaching the truth of God's Word. May we all hold up the arms of our ministering brothers by our prayerful support and loving esteem.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Kieser

It is hard to believe how quickly this summer is passing. The joy of it all is that with each passing second, we are that much closer to meeting our heavenly Father.

This past month we were blessed to have Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) speak to us on "Sensativity to Needs of Others" and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington) speak to us on "Materialism". May God richly bless them for their efforts. Bible studies in July are the 10th and 24th. Everyone is welcome.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Sis. Teresa Leman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Rod Blunier (Bro. Wally) were united in holy matrimony June 1. They have now become as one in Christ Jesus. May our heavenly Father continue to richly bless them.

Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser welcome Brittany LeAnne into their hearts and home. Brittany was born June 3. Her grandparents are Cliff and Marilyn Kaufman and Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne Kaiser. Her great-grandmothers are Hyla Lamont, Sis. Lillie Kaiser and Sis. Marie Kaufman. Her great-grandfather is Bro. Fred Huette.

Sis. Mary Hauter has been called home. Her funeral was June 4. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

We welcome two more dear souls into our most precious brotherhood. We heard the testimonies of faith of Jan Domnick (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale) and Allen Rumbold (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Kay) June 7 and

witnessed their baptism June 8. We welcome them as our sister and brother-in-faith. We wish them God's blessings as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD

A meeting was held quite far from earth

"It's time again for another birth,"
Said the Angels to the Lord above,
"This special child will need much love."

His progress may seem very slow,
Accomplishments he may not show
And he'll require extra care
From the folks he meets way down there.

He may not run or laugh or play
His thoughts may seem quite far away.
In many ways he won't adapt,
And he'll be known as handicapped.

So let's be careful where he's sent
We want his life to be content.
Please, Lord, find the home who
Will do a special job for you.

They will not realize right away
The leading role they're asked to play
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger faith and richer love.

And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for this gift from Heaven.
Their precious charge, so meek and mild
Is Heaven's very special child.

Author Unknown

Our very special loved one, Katherine Baer, 28, was called into eternity. Her funeral was June 9. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Emma Dale, her family, Sis. Pamela, Sis. Christine (Bro. Greg) Kaiser, Steven and Douglas and her many other relatives and friends. Katherine suffered from Muscular Dystrophy all of her life. Now she can exchange her cross for a crown.

Anna Weishaupt was called into eternity. Her funeral was June 16. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

We want to wish Sis. Beth Mott and Bros. Ken Baum and Dave Ploussard God's blessings as they will teach our children and young people in Sunday school. They are our future church.

May God add the increase.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL), Vernon Lemam (Eureka, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for ministering God's holy Word unto us. May God richly bless them and their families for their labors of love.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Marty Belsley and their children, Nicole and Marcus, have moved from Morton and relocated in Aledo, IL. Bro. Roger has assumed the position of administrator at the Georgetown Manor Nursing Home in Aledo and they plan to attend church in Burlington, IA. We wish them the Lord's blessings as we bid them farewell.

At the same time, we are so happy to welcome back Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathi Hermann and their children, Jessica and Jared, as they have returned from Philadelphia to make Morton their home.

We are also joyful to welcome back Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo and their children, Erin, Macy, Michael and Bobby, as they have returned from Connecticut. We are so thankful to have both of these precious families back in Morton. We wish them God's blessings in their endeavors.

The family of Kathy Baer wishes to express our sincere thanks to those who were so kind to us during the loss of our loved one. The deeds of kindness and comforting words will always be remembered. May God richly bless you.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

Vacation Bible School was held during the week of June 9 - 13. Visiting ministers were Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), John Hartman (Fairbury) and Ted Witzig (Morton). We trust this effort will be fruitful and that all who participated will be blessed accordingly.

We rejoice with Sis. Rachael Meister (Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda), Sis. Julie Woerner (Bro. John and Sis. Judy), Bro. Jesse, Bro. Matt and Bro. Mike Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce) who became our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. After giving their testimonies of faith, they were baptized May 25. May God truly be the Head of their lives and

bless them as they walk the heavenly pathway.

June 8 was the beautiful wedding day for Sis. Carol Messner and Bro. Ron Christ. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Vi Messner and Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ (Princeville). May God's blessings be upon their new home.

On Father's Day, June 15, the weather was as lovely as the wedding of Bro. Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B., Francesville, IN) and Sis. Jill Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their lives as one in the Lord.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). They shared many teachings from the Word with us and we heartily thank them for their labors of love.

Ella VonBergen wishes to thank all her friends and relatives for their prayers, flowers, cards, gifts and telephone calls while she was in the hospital and since she returned home. She also sends a special thank you to the nurses and doctors for their thoughtful concern. "May God bless you all!"

Barbara Herman was confined to the St. Francis Hospital for 45 days and is now back home. She wishes to thank all of her many friends and loved ones of the church who were so kind to remember her with prayers, gifts, cards and visits. It was very much appreciated.

May we continue to pray for the loved ones who spent time in the hospital and all who are shut-in or ill. May God extend His healing hand to each and every one.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Marjean Lehman

"Here the ransomed souls shall treasure all His good in boundless measure, And praise God in full accord. Hallowed words! Most precious teaching! Unto all the world are reaching, sweet Evangel of our Lord."

Adoration, Zion's Harp #190

We express our sincere thanks to the ministers who visited us recently. They are Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna

Park) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago). May God's blessings be upon His Word and His servants.

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

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

O God of Wisdom,
Hymns of Zion #286

On June 1 we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Cindy Herrmann (Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy, Chicago). May God's blessings be upon them as they walk life's pathway together.

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.
He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well."

Creation, Hymns of Zion #207

Kevin Michael was born to Sis. Margie and Bro. Stan Schick May 18. Grandparents are Bro. Peter and Sis. Mabel Weber (Peoria) and Herbert and Sis. Helen Schick (Princeville). Little Kevin was welcomed home by big brother, Andy. May God bless their family circle.

"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

A breakfast was held at the fellowship hall June 8 in honor of the high school graduates. They are Rachel Feucht, Peggy Knobloch, Joanna Herrmann, Linda Martin, Sis. Crystal Streitmatter, Tammy Wieland, Phil Baurer, Brad Herrmann, Tim Martin, Tim Rumbold, Ron Streitmatter and David Berchtold. May God bless their endeavors either in seeking employment or in seeking higher education.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23, 24

A meeting was held May 28 concerning the election of new Sunday school teachers. Bro. Larry Baer, Bro. Sam Martin and Bro. Bruce Stoller will replace Bro. Mike Menold, Bro. John Schaffer and Bro. Harold Steiner. Also, Sis. Kathleen Stoller, Sis. Kay Siebenthal and Sis. Cheryl Herrmann will replace Sis. Carol Baurer and Sis. Teresa Martin. May the Holy Spirit instruct the teachers as they work in God's vineyard.

Thank You Note: A special thanks to my relatives, ministers, friends, neighbors and my family for the prayers, flowers, gifts, cards, phone calls, visits and food brought in during my stay in the hospital and since returning home. Everything was greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Lucille Rumbold

"Lord in Thy presence naught is lacking, no wish denied, but all is right; Transformed to love is all my burden, the yoke is eased, the load seems light. For in Thy stillness nothing threatens the soul amidst earth's woe and pain. To me Thy grace shall be sufficient, the cross shall be my greatest gain."

The School of the Cross, #66

Hospital patients this month have been Hank Bowdoin, Katherine Baer, Sis. Lucille Rumbold and Harvey Stahl. May the healing hand of God restore according to His will.

Reminder: July is the month for the Princeville Silver Lining collection.

"Obedience is the fruit of faith; patience, the bloom of the fruit."

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

Summer time is a special time of the year. Our children are at home with us and what an opportunity we have to not only teach them in ways of helping us, but to teach them spiritual things. This is also vacation time. When we plan a vacation, let us always remember to take the Lord with us.

Brothers recently elected into Sunday school were Bros. Ken Hodel, Rob Luginbuhl and John Getz. Brothers elected to our Bible class were Bros. Dave Hodel and Tim Hoffman.

Visiting ministers this month were:

Elder Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS). We appreciate these brothers sharing the Word with us.

On June 1, Bro. Rod Blunier (Bro. Wally) and Sis. Teresa Leman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria, Morton) became one in the Lord. May God be ever near them as they establish a Christian home.

Funeral services were held here for Sis. Nettie Zimmerman. She is survived by one brother, Bro. Louis (Roanoke); four sisters, Sis. Lillian (Alph) Witzig and Sis. Adella Kiefer, both of Gridley, Sis. Fanny Lanz (Arthur, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Anna Gudeman (Cissna Park).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Rich and Sis. Madlyn Fehr whose brother Mike Fehr passed away.

Another little boy was born May 28 to Joe and Terri Carr. He was named Lucas James and is a brother to Joshua and Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel and Dr. and Mrs. Richard White (El Paso, IL).

Welcoming home another sister June 7 were Jennifer and Staci Hohulin. Parents of Amy Catherine are Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Hohulin. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Gridley).

We rejoice with our new convert, Dennis Roth (Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna). We look forward to the day he will be added to the fold.

We are thankful that Virginia Wiedman has been able to return to her home following a stay at the hospital.

Thank You: I wish to sincerely thank my relatives, friends and neighbors for all the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to all the ministers who came so faithfully to visit me while in the hospital. May God bless all of you for your love and kindness.

Sis. Dorothy Pfister

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

"My Country, tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing."

(America)

In this month we again celebrated our country's free birth. Perhaps we

can think back to our forefathers who came from lands afar to this land of opportunity. They appreciated the liberty of this land and kept it untainted for their posterity.

Our congregation was saddened by the deaths of two precious souls.

Bro. Ben Schmidgall, 68, passed from this life. Our love and sympathy go to his wife, Helen. We are thankful he could feel the need of his soul's salvation and could become our brother several months before his death.

Sis. Katie Oertle, 97, passed away as our oldest member. We extend our sympathy to her family as all will miss her quiet and loving way.

We are happy for first-time parents, Bro. David and Ann Dill. Brent Alan was born June 14. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill.

Little Melissa Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) was hospitalized for a short time but is home again awaiting surgery.

Bro. John Huette would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, visits and all other deeds of kindness shown during his recent hospitalization and since returning home. God will bless each and every one of you.

ILLINOIS, URBANA
Cheryl Mangers

Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Zimmerman have been blessed with a precious bundle from heaven. Born May 31 was Laurel Marie.

We welcome Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock into our fellowship who have moved here from Leroy. Also making our community their first home after their marriage are Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy (Herrmann) Eisenmann.

The week of June 16 marked Vacation Bible School here in Urbana. No other kind of instruction could be more important.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Evelyn Ringger — Lucille Isch

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

Bro. Gary Fiechter and Sis. Stacey Cook were married by Elder Bro. Orville Ringger. Their parents are Her-

man and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter and John and Marcia Cook. Two engagements recently announced are Bro. Matt Sutter to Sis. Cammy Steffen and Sis. Beth Meyer to Bro. Mike Heinold (Valparaiso). Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Janice Sutter, Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl Heinold.

There was an unexpected funeral service for Dr. Fred Sprunger, Optometrist (Berne), who died suddenly while on vacation. He was the husband of Mary Jane (Troxel) Sprunger. Our sympathy goes out to Mary Jane and the family.

The hospital patients were Sis. Helen Stoller (Bro. Henry), Sis. Rene Gerber (daughter of Lee and Jenny), Cliff Anderson (Marie) and Sis. Sylvia Isch (Bro. Joe) who had knee surgery. Also hospitalized were Sis. Dorothy Frank (Bro. John) and Clint Kaehr (child of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan).

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Homer Reinick (Toledo, OH), Bro. Carroll Gerber and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North).

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Psalm 34:11. Vacation Bible School was held each morning for 2 weeks with 409 children attending classes from nursery to 8th grade, including the children from Bluffton North. Both churches were invited to the program at the conclusion of Bible school. Bibles were presented to all 8th grade graduates. Each class sang several songs and shared some recitations. Then with beautiful singing, all classes together lifted their young voices and filled the church with heart-stirring songs praising God! May God bless all these precious children and keep them in His care.

Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jodi Pfister are the happy parents of their first son, Lance Wayne. During the same week, Bro. Chris and Sis. Shari Pfister welcomed their first son, Kyle Wade. The happy grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rosie Pfister, Bro. Arlen and Sis. Susie Gerber and Bro. Richard and Sis. Arlene Stoller. May these precious little bundles be a blessing to their families.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"Behold, how good and how pleasant

it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

How good it is when that unity can be extended from one congregation to another, even from nationality to nationality. Sunday, June 15, Bro. John Ombody (Budapest, Hungary) ministered to our congregation through Bro. Miklos Bozzay (Chicago, IL) who interpreted from Hungarian to English as Bro. John spoke. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo) has also ministered with us this past month. We would like to express our thanks for their services and extend a warm welcome to them and their families to return any time.

We offer sincere wishes for God's blessings on Tim Franklin and Rowena Reinhard (Bro. Richard and Sis. Bertaline) as they begin their walk together, united as one in holy matrimony. We also pray for grace and guidance to Rowena as she begins her new walk with Christ. Greg Kaehr is also in our prayers as he, too, has chosen to serve God. Praise to God that He is still calling sinners to come home.

Congratulations go to Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber and to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer on the arrivals of their first grandchildren: Brittany Nicole Funk (Daryl and Rachelle) May 27 and Alyson Carole Yeates (Rich and Sonya, Texas) May 30. May the homes of these families abound with love and joy.

Ending thought: Your word is one thing you can give, yet always keep.

"Tranquilizing Gems"
 by Dennis Roth

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

Peace, perfect peace, In this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?

To do the will of Jesus, this is rest. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?

On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.

Peace perfect peace, with loved ones far away?

In Jesus keeping we are safe, and they.

Peace, Perfect Peace,
 Hymns of Zion #26

Life finds us all in different circumstances. Yet, in Christ, no matter where we may be led, if that "perfect peace" fills us, all is well.

Two of our precious friends have sought the Lord in repentance and testify of having the peace of God in their hearts. We anticipate hearing the testimonies and witnessing baptisms of Valerie Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam) and Jan Gutwein (Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine) in the near future.

Our desire is that each of our graduates who were recently given Bibles at the annual graduation program can also experience God's peace throughout their lives.

Those who graduated this year are: Stephanie Albrecht (Carol), Curt Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky), Deann Anliker (Bro. Earland and Sis. Liz), Sis. Jill Bogart (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor), Charmin Ehrlich (Charlie and Bonnie), Sis. Tammie Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Heidi Gutwein (Bro. Fred and Sis. Madeline), Michelle Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda), Mike Linback (Bro. Larry and Sis. Connie), Dynelle Pelsy (Bro. Leon and Sis. Mabel Wuethrich), Barb Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette), Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) and Don Vogt (Bro. Don and Sis. Pam).

On a recent Sunday we were blessed with quite a few visiting brothers and sisters. Among them were ministering Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and their wives. We thank them for their service and for sharing God's inspiring Word with us.

Our best wishes are extended to Tim Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna) and Sally Pfledderer (Les and Rosie) who were united in marriage Saturday, May 31, at the fellowship center.

On Sunday, June 15, many gathered at Peoria, IL, to witness the wedding vows of our Bro. Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B.) to Sis. Jill Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy, Peoria). We welcome Sis. Jill to our Francesville congregation and wish them the blessings of a home filled with God's love.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ad Gutwein (Bro. Nate) as she has been hospitalized.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

School is out and summer has begun. Vacation Bible School was held June 9 - 13, with the children presenting a

program of songs at week's end. Our theme was, "Jesus, I Love You".

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler visited us recently. We enjoy these occasions and appreciate the dedication of our elders and their interest in us.

Bro. Tom Freed experienced another bout of illness, but is now at home. We pray he can regain his health soon.

High school graduate, Jane Bradford, has moved to Indianapolis from Toledo, OH, to join her family here before beginning fall studies at Indiana University.

As our nation celebrates Independence Day and the Statue of Liberty's anniversary, we pause to reflect on the faith our forefathers placed in our Lord as they carved this great nation from the wilderness. We are grateful for the many freedoms we enjoy because of their courage and faithfulness.

We are also so thankful for Christ's invitation to experience freedom from the burden of guilt and sin through belief in Him. As Christians, our lives are released from the fears that immobilize and discourage. Our lives can unfold with wonderful possibilities to serve Him because we have been freed from external condemnation.

In John 8:31, 32, Jesus spoke to the Jews who believed on Him: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Debra Nuest — Sandy Heinold

At this time of year the LaCrosse congregation looks forward to Vacation Bible School. On Monday evening, Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North) spoke to us concerning "The Seriousness of Sin". Wednesday evening, Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) spoke on "The Call of God" and on Friday, Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) spoke concerning "The Value of the Church". We so appreciate these faithful brethren lending of themselves in sharing the Word with us. Sunday afternoon the young classes expressed in word and song what they learned these three evenings.

Carol Nuest (Bro. Richard and Sis. Garnet) met with an unfortunate accident involving a fire in their home. After being hospitalized, Carol is recovering very well.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

On July Fourth we are again reminded of the blessing of freedom we still enjoy in these United States. As we sing and pray, "God Bless America", may we be keenly aware many peoples across the world do not have the privilege of freedom of worship, freedom of choice, freedom of speech. May Christian voices be heard in support of truth and right by those in places of governing responsibility.

Bro. George and Sis. Helen Zimmer have experienced double loss recently in the passing of two of her sisters, Bertha Ehnle (formerly of Peoria) and Idola Best (Nappanee). Earthly partings cause pain; but our Father speaks comfort to His children, and friends share in sympathy.

The congregation was blessed by the visit and message of Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

We welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich and family to our fellowship. They came from Peoria to work in this area during the summer months.

A farewell dinner was given for Bro. Al and Sis. Marjorie Frautschi. We have enjoyed their Christian fellowship through the years. We'll miss them but wish His blessings in their new home in Phoenix, AZ.

We would like to say "thank you" for the many kindnesses shown us during my recent surgery and confinement. Your prayers, cards, gifts and visits were appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Dorothy Norr

Vacation Bible School closed with a picnic supper and program. Children and teachers shared alike in the rewards and joys of a busy week.

Bits of This and That:

He who lives for himself runs a very small business.

If your Christianity doesn't work at home, it doesn't work. Don't export it!

"A little explained,

A little endured,

A little forgiven . . .

And the quarrel is cured."

The best men are still at the best — men. Don't get your eyes on any human as an ideal to follow. Keep your eyes on the Lord.

Sometimes He takes away our props so that we learn to fully lean upon Him.

Compassion is to have someone else's hurt in your heart.

If Christians cannot see eye to eye, they can still walk arm in arm.

Kindness cannot be given away; it always comes back.

Kind words shine in the memories of others like morning stars.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser

May 24 marked 50 years of married life for Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Haab. Their family and friends honored them at an open house for this very special milestone in their lives. May each new day bring them more blessings from God.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) were recent visiting ministers. We thank them for their concern for fellow believers. Bro. Alfred also was present to help our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer serve communion at a later date. I Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come."

Our theme for Vacation Bible School in June was a question and answer, "Who Can Do Anything? Nobody But My Lord!" Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), John Reinhard (Bluffton), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) were our guest speakers. They used a variety of scripture and biblical characters to repeat the theme's question and give us the resounding answer from the Bible. We were blessed by their ministry and appreciate their special effort in preparation.

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalm 61:1-2

Esther Weldy has been in the hospital recently. We'll be glad when she's able to worship with us again. Mike Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) has spent time in the hospital recovering from a bicycle/car collision. We thank God for protecting Mike and blessing the healing process. Sis. Naoma Beer (Bro. Theo) was a patient in an Indianapolis hospital. We're thankful that she is back home with us again.

Even when we find ourselves in circumstances beyond our understanding or control, we can praise God. It is at

such times that our praise, our "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15) pleases our heavenly Father the most. What a thankful spirit we can have as His children. We have the assurance that God knows the beginning from the end and He is ALWAYS in control.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

"Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered for they are gone forever."

Author Unknown

The truth of these words reaches deep into my heart every time I read them. How many golden hours I have let slip away in which I haven't invested some worthy value in. Oh, to be free from the constant temptation to procrastinate.

Our priorities were brought into sharper focus as we gathered every evening during one week this month to attend our Vacation Bible School. We heard exhortations on the theme, "The Love of God". God loves us . . .

by giving us the power of choice
by giving us trials and sorrows
by giving us the signs of the times
by giving us Christian companions
by giving us the calling to repentance

These were the five evening topics ministered to us by Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana, IL). One of the brothers fitly spoke about a common struggle in the Christian life.

"Most of us can confess at some time or other that we have longed to do something for Christ but oftentimes we are looking for a big job . . . one that might bring us some glory and praise. Yet the Savior tenderly reminds us to seek first the kingdom of heaven and that simply means trying to possess Christ-like attitudes and characteristics in our daily lives and daily interactions with people. Can we truly say that we heartily love all those around us with a Christ-like love or are we being overcome by bitterness from those who have wronged us? By striving to receive grace to overcome these pestilent heart attitudes that serve to destroy us, we can then begin to fill the

job that Christ has called all of us to do first, namely, presenting a Christ-like image to a sin-sick world."

We rejoice that Jane Hilton (Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker (Roanoke, IL) submitted to the Spirit's promptings during this special week and came to church in repentance the final evening.

Bro. Earl Gerber also ministered to us this month.

As of this writing, our oldest brother-in-faith, Jake Bahler is hospitalized in a rather weak condition. We miss him as he always sat up front in our assembly, but we desire to submit to the Lord's timing for his life here below.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

Thy word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are,
Our likeness unto Thee.

Hymns of Zion #142

On May 26 we were richly blessed by the ministry of Bros. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Walter Rager (Toledo, OH). It was impressed upon us that just as a mirror is very necessary in showing us if we are properly dressed and combed or if we need to make improvements, by looking into God's Word, diligently, we can see how nearly we reflect His image, and where and how we can, and should, become more like it. On the following Sundays it was our privilege to have Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North) bring inspiring messages to us. We also enjoyed the fellowship of all of the ministering brothers' wives and those who came with them.

"God's Plan Revealed" is the theme of our V.B.S., which will be held soon. We are anticipating a blessed time of learning and understanding the teachings of the Lord, for the children. The adults are looking forward to having Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington) speak on the topic, "Walking By Faith" (Thursday evening) and Bro. Dale Eisenmann's (Chicago, IL) topic on Friday evening is "God's Will In Our Lives". We are to be favored on Thursday evening by the singing of a group of brothers (Remington and Wolcott) and on Friday evening by a group of sisters (Milford). The efforts of everyone in

helping make our V.B.S. so meaningful is appreciated very much.

We have missed having Bro. Mark, Sis. Kristie, Jonathon, Cecily and Stephanie Meyer in our midst as they felt the need to move closer to Mark's place of employment (Fort Wayne). May the Lord bless them in their new location.

Matt Mangold (Mike and the late Sis. Marge) has graduated from high school and plans to enter Southern Illinois University in the fall. We will miss him, but trust the Lord will watch over him.

Sis. Mildred Meister, who submitted to surgery, and was quite ill, is home again and is gradually improving. She felt the prayers of others helped in her recovery.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Peg Huber — Cheryl Bucher

When we let God lead us, He often leads us to new places. We welcome Bro. Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell and their children, Andrew and Ariane, to our congregation. Also, Sis. Annie Hodel has moved here to continue her studies at Valparaiso University. New beginnings are many times uncertain, so we wish them all God's grace in all their adjustments.

Our high school graduates this year are Krissie Kimmerer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Susie) and Jacqueline Rossi, daughter of our friend, Peggy Rossi. This is a great milestone in their lives. May God guide them as they choose their careers, and may He also help them to choose Him, as their personal Savior.

We are grateful that John Sanders has given his heart to the Lord. We pray that he will feel the grace and love, through our prayers, for him.

Bros. Kent Heimer, Jim Rinckenberger and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann were our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Jim shared many valuable exhortations with our Sunday school teachers. We thank God for all the spirit-filled messages we received.

Travis Huber was injured in a three-wheeler accident and sustained a fractured hip. He spent almost a week in the hospital but is home now. We thank God that he wasn't hurt more seriously.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike Heinold (Bro. Vic and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Beth Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet, Bluffton) whose engagement was an-

nounced recently. May the Lord bless this dear couple.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

God loves us by giving us teachers of His Word. We were privileged to hear many teachings during the week of Vacation Bible School hosted by the Remington church. The theme, "A Demonstration of God's Love", was expressed in many ways.

Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) was our visiting minister this month. May God richly bless him for sharing the Word with us.

Two dear brothers in our congregation were laid to rest. Bro. Albert "Pep" Oberlander, 84, passed away June 3. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Virginia, and three children, Allen, Judy McGill and Wanda Hysong. May the family circle feel the comfort and assurance of God's love.

Bro. Dan Reel, 88, passed away June 20. He is survived by four children, Byron, Ivan, Don and Carolyn Price. Our sympathy is extended to them and their families.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

This month our country celebrates its 210th birthday. May we offer a special prayer of thanks to God for the blessings of freedom. It is so easy to take them for granted since most of us have never experienced anything different.

We were recently refreshed again by the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with this duty. Let us remember that these exhortations are not the laws of man but are teachings and guidelines from the Word of God.

Our three evening sessions of Vacation Bible School proved to be a real blessing for the entire congregation this year. Our theme was "Heaven Is Our Goal". We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) who spoke to us on "Stand Up For Jesus", Bro. John Schmidgall (Oakville), who spoke on "Love" and Bro. Dale Moore (home minister), who spoke on "Trust and Obey". Each evening was a real blessing.

On the weekend of June 8, Bro. John Steiner and his family (Oakville) came to worship with us. We appreciate all our visiting ministers and wish them

much grace as they continue in service for the Lord.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Glen and Sally Funk

We thank Elder Bro. Lester Hartter and his wife for coming and spending a Sunday with us.

We were not successful in recruiting help for Bible school, but we went ahead and had a very blessed week. We had 27 children attend. After hearing the children sing at our program Friday evening, one cannot help but feel it is worth the time and effort. Some of the children expressed their disappointment in not having VBS for two weeks, but we felt that with our shortage of help, one week would be best.

We want to mention that although we do not have Wednesday evening services, we take turns meeting in homes and singing. If any one is going to be in the area, please call and join us in our fellowship.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Our congregation rejoices with Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst as they welcome two new children to their family, Dawn, 6, and Johnny, 2½. Tim, Shari and Amy are very excited about having a new brother and sister. We all look forward to getting to know them and seeing them grow up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".

Two brothers have recently found employment in the Iowa City area. Bro. Stan Zimmerman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Madlyn), formerly from Roanoke, IL, and Bro. Brad Gramm (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola), formerly from Gridley, IL. We wish them many blessings in their new homes and jobs and welcome them to our little (but growing!) congregation.

We were reminded in a recent sermon that if our cup of joy is ½ full, ⅔ full or even 9/10 full, we can't share it with others. But if our cup of joy is overflowing, we can't help but share it — it just naturally spills over onto those around us. If we find our cups lacking, where can we go?

What a source — "God"! What a supply — "His riches in glory"! What a channel — "Christ Jesus"! It is your sweet privilege to place all your needs over against His riches, and lose sight of the former in the presence of the latter. His exhaustless treasury is

thrown open to you, in all the love of His heart; go and draw upon it, in the artless simplicity of faith . . .

Streams in the Desert, p. 159

We all have "equal access" to this source of joy — it's free for the asking.

There's a fountain free; 'tis for you and me.

Let us haste, O haste to the brink;
'Tis a fount of love from the Source above,
And He bids us all freely drink.

Will you come to the fountain free?
Will you come? 'tis for you and me;
Thirsty soul hear the welcome call;
'Tis a fountain open for all.

Gospel Hymns 1#770

We would like to thank all of our visitors this month, especially ministering Bros. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for spending time and sharing their love with us. May God bless them all.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

"The Sunday school is our delight. We love it more and more. 'Tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more." (Hymns of Zion). Thursday evening, June 5, we gathered at church for our annual Sunday school picnic and the following weekend our high school students attended the annual Youth Fellowship at Morris, MN. These were always special times in our lives and we know the students appreciate the many efforts put forth in their behalf. May God bless those teachers who so willingly give of themselves to teach the youth and may He bless the hearts of the youth as they receive the teachings of our Lord.

Bro. Doug Grimm was in our midst June 5 and we appreciate the Word brought to us. We were reminded of what our forefathers have done for us that we might be the recipients of the blessed faith we have today.

Sis. Donna Metzger, a surgical patient, and Neil Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie), a medical patient, have both recovered nicely and we are thankful they are home and among us once again.

On May 12, a daughter, Justine, was born to Scott and Dawn Moser. Paternal grandmother is Lydia Moser. On May 21, first-time parents, Lyle and

Loris Metzger, welcomed a son, Lee David, into their home. On May 26, a daughter, Brittany, was born to Bro. Merle and Sis. Shelley Knobloch. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Salome Knobloch and maternal grandparents are Bill and Sis. Marilyn Messner (Winthrop, MN). A son, Bradley Christopher, was born June 7 to Mike and Donna Barber. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch. First-time parents, Doug and Kathy Knobloch, welcomed a daughter, Candra Lynn, born June 13. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch. May God richly bless these couples as He has again touched their lives with His love.

Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement of Bro. Stan Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther) and Sis. Sue Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley, Phoenix, AZ) was announced.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

It seems that the summer months are just flying by. Here it is already July and we daily seem to have to run air conditioners. It just seems like yesterday that I had to put on snow boots and a heavy winter coat before I left for work in the mornings. Yes, the old cliché that time just flies by is really true. We just need to make sure that in our fast-paced world, we take time out to give God the time He has asked of us.

We have recently celebrated the 85th and 90th birthdays of two dear sisters-in-faith. Sis. Hattie Schrock has reached 90 years of age and we are so thankful that she can still live in her own apartment and come to church every Sunday. Sis. Hattie is the widow of our late Elder Bro. Noah. Surely God has blessed her and for that we are thankful. Sis. Bertha Wagenbach, my dear grandmother and great-grandmother to over 100 offspring, observed her 85th birthday this past June. Grandpa Wagenbach, or Bro. John to most, is Grandma's dear departed husband. We all miss Grandpa, but we know that if we stay true and faithful, we will meet him in heaven one day. We are certainly thankful for the inspiration of faith and love and, most of all, the examples of true obedience that our elderly brothers and sisters represent.

We have been blessed to have Bro.

Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) minister unto us.

We have recently held our Sunday school elections in Oakville. Bros. Walt Gerst and Brian Wiegand and Sisters Janet Gerst and Kathy Wyss are our new Sunday school teachers, replacing Bros. Keith Kuntz and Kent Grimm and Sisters Norma Massner and Lu-Ann Beyer, whose terms have expired. May God direct them and bless them for their efforts.

I hope this won't be veering too far from the church news, but one night when I came home from work, I noticed a poem that mom had stuck on the refrigerator called "Three Cheers For Large Families". It caught my eye because, being the oldest of seven brothers and one sister, I sometimes find it hard to cheer about large families. As I read this poem, deep gratitude washed over me — surely God has blessed me to be a part of a large family.

The author of this poem was obviously from a large family when he or she was inspired to write:

THREE CHEERS FOR LARGE FAMILIES

Three cheers for large families,
wherever they roam,
For children and spouses make a house
a home.
Three cheers for the fights and the
noise and the spills.
For raising "an army" is one of life's
thrills!
Let's hear it for sinks full of dishes and
pots.
And baskets of dozens of "only one"
socks.
Let's hear it for presents of popsticks
and glue,
Made by small fingers for wonderful
you.
A toast to the braces and budgets and
bills,
And all-night vigils through measles
and chills.
To Christmas excitement and presents
to share,
And thanks at each mealtime for God's
loving care.
To pets of all species and spots on the
rug,
Hand-me-down clothing and toddlers
to hug.
And then come the proms and the
dating and cars,
And the heart failure wondering where
they all are.

A toast to us parents, we "salt of the earth",
 Who know what we're in for with every new birth.
 But who still wouldn't trade for all the world's treasures,
 Our "giant-sized" brood with all of its pleasures.
 So if your house, like my house,
 resembles a hive.
 Count your blessings . . . you are truly alive!

Note: I wish to thank everyone from far and near, that remembered me on my 90th birthday with cards and gifts. It helped to make it a special day. I enjoyed them all. May God bless you.

Sis. Hatti Schrock

IOWA, PULASKI

Sarah Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp

(Not reported last month: Once again we extend a humble thank you to Elder Bro. Ed Lanz for assisting our Bro. Russell Wuthrich in sharing with us the blessed sacrament of holy communion. We were reminded that we are to examine ourselves in preparation for the Lord's Supper, and although we should do this daily, it takes on special meaning at communion time because we feel so unworthy. May God bless the servants who are called upon to carry out these special and holy duties.)

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Irene Musselman and Sis. Mary Wiegand and their families in the loss of their brother and grandmother respectively.

May God richly bless Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) for allowing himself to be used in God's service when he ministered to us June 8. We so appreciate the efforts of those who stand before us, when many times we know they feel of themselves they would rather not.

At the time of this writing, Kristi Cruikshank (Lowell and Sis. Billie) is a medical hospital patient. May God grant her a speedy recovery.

On May 31, Bro. Ben and Sis. Patrice Metzger welcomed into their family a precious daughter, Heidi Ranae. Also happy to have a sister is her brother, Jeff. May God bless the four of them richly.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We were privileged to have Bro.

Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) for our midweek services May 20. We appreciate the brothers who are so willing to share their time to teach us.

On May 24 and 25, we could rejoice with Sandy Schmidt (Jim and Sherry) as she brought forth her testimony, was baptized and welcomed as our new sister-in-faith. Sis. Sandy attends services at Dallas, TX. Among our visitors were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Wherever He may guide me,
 No want shall turn me back;
 My Shepherd is beside me,
 And nothing can I lack.
 His wisdom ever waketh,
 His sight is never dim,
 He knows the way He taketh,
 And I will walk with Him.

A. L. Waring

Hospital patients at this time are: Eli Gerber (Pearl) and Sis. Clara Bruellman (Bro. George). Sis. Jesse Fehr had the misfortune to fall and break her wrist. We pray for God's healing hand on them.

Our best wishes are extended to Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt (Denver, CO). A wedding reception was held May 25 for them at our fellowship center. Sis. Betty Schmidt and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) are their parents.

"The blessings of the Lord be upon you."

Psalm 129:8

This is our wish to two young couples who will be married this coming weekend. Tim Banwart (Bob and Kay, Sioux Falls, SD) and Pam Nelson (Don and Judy, Ogden) will be married June 14. Sis. Twyla Schmidt (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Jim Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi, Morris) will be married Sunday, June 15.

Our annual Sunday school election was held and those elected were: Bro. Leland Metzger (Sis. Kathy) to the 11th and 12th grades, Bro. Gary Schneider (Sis. Sue) 9th and 10th grades, Sis. Sharon Fehr (Bro. Jim) 4th grade and Sis. Lonnie Metzger - pre-school. We thank those brothers and sisters who have completed their terms: Bro. Larry Fehr, Bro. Dennis Fehr, Sis. Sue Schneider and Sis. Twyla Schmidt.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

This month we were happy to have Sisters Carol Sauder and Donita Marti (Bloomington, IL) with us. We are thankful for the love and warmth they brought with them. It is our hope that they experienced a special visit here.

The beauty of God's creation reveals the greatness of His unending love for us. The words of Helen Steiner Rice so clearly express that thought.

Each time you look up in the sky
 Or watch the fluffy clouds drift by,
 Or feel the sunshine warm and bright,
 Or watch the dark night turn to light,
 Or hear a bluebird gayly sing,
 Or see the winter turn to spring,
 Or stop to pick a daffodil,
 Or gather violets on some hill,
 Or touch a leaf or see a tree,
 It's all God whispering, "This is Me . . .
 And I am Faith and I am Light
 And in Me there shall be No Night."

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

Here in Japan we had much rain earlier this year and blooming flowers and returning swallows are late. Now the rainy season is here, but it seems dry and we worry about the water supply this summer. However, believers have many blessings in the Lord, and we trust Him in all things.

Sis. Carol Sauder and Sis. Donita Marti visited here. We were sorry it was not easy to walk for Sis. Carol. She showed us wonderful faith and God's love through her daily life. Sometimes the Christian life is hard, and we often have to ask for God's grace and strength and thank Him as Job in the Old Testament.

A Bible teaching we learned this past month was from James 4:3 about prayer. Sometimes we ask "amiss" because of our wrong deeds or ill feelings we have toward our brother. God deals with us through our hearts and before we can expect God to answer our prayers we must "clean out" areas that need improving.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

Gina Strahm (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan) was hospitalized with very severe burns from a backyard accident. Bro. Dean also received burns in the same accident, but less severe. Clinton Strahm (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Ellen)

broke his arm in a farm accident. Bradley Strahm (Alpha and Sis. Mamie) suffered a broken toe in another farm accident. We are happy to report that everyone is getting along fine.

Carol Visser and Judd Meyer (Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis) have announced their engagement. A September 13 wedding is being planned. We wish them God's blessings as they take this important step in life together.

We were happy to have Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita) as our visiting minister.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Teresa Bahr

Our high school graduate this spring was Todd Robb, son of Steve and Sis. Gayle.

The Lord provided a beautiful day, May 25, for the wedding of Bro. Jerry Bahr and Sis. Maria Schrader in Lamont, KS. We wish them many happy and blessed years together in serving their Lord.

We are thankful for the blessing of recent visiting ministers, Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

KANSAS, GRIDLEY Vola Young — Judy Kraft

The hearts of many have been touched and saddened by the loss of two young men, Jon Bahr and Jamey Beyer, who were killed in an auto accident May 21. Jon W. Bahr was born October 2, 1962. He leaves his parents, Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Eileen Bahr; two brothers, Bro. Jeff and Sam Bahr; one sister, Sis. Paula Bahr; and many other relatives and friends. James "Jamey" Beyer was born October 10, 1966 and is survived by his parents, Willis and Betty Beyer; one sister; five brothers; and many other relatives and friends. Both of these loved ones grew up in the Gridley community. We feel a sense of loss and loneliness for these individuals. May we look to Christ, realizing that He suffered on the cross and endured death alone for our salvation, and He knows what it is to suffer and feel alone. Thereby, because He knows, He is able to comfort us by His presence.

The love you've shown us in the loss of our son has overwhelmed us. We were given "The Footprints of God" and feel, indeed, He "carried us" through your prayers, letters, cards and many deeds of kindness. It's im-

possible to thank you each personally as we'd like to; your sharing helps.

Rudy and Eileen Bahr We also extend sympathy to Sis. Leona Kraft, due to the recent death of her brother, Henry Lehman.

May 18 was the wedding day of Bro. Mark Kraft (Sam and Carol) and Sis. Mary Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty). How wonderful it is that they have God to look to for guidance and direction in their new walk of life. We welcome Sis. Mary to our congregation.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

On the weekend of May 31, we hosted the bi-annual Youth Fellowship meeting of the Kansas churches. There were approximately 136 children and sponsors in attendance. There is much work and preparation involved in planning these fellowship meetings. Every bit of work is worth it, to see our young people sharing a weekend with old and new friends, and to be able to share in God's Word and feel His love. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson presented the Saturday evening message to the children. He also had the Sunday school lesson Sunday morning. We are so fortunate to have so many who are interested in our children's future. We would like to thank each one who attended, for coming to share in Christian fellowship. Also, we would like to thank everyone who helped with the activities, whether it was in opening your home to our company or in helping with the food preparation or in any other capacity. It takes the prayers and willing hands of many to host the Youth Fellowship weekend.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Jeff Bahr's brother, Jon (Gridley, KS). It is so sad to hear of one so young passing from this life. If we will put our sorrow into God's hands and say "Thy Will Be Done", He will comfort us.

On May 21, God called another soul from this life. Elisza Gudeman, mother of Sis. Kathleen Schrock (Bro. Bill), was called to eternal rest. Elisza lived in Medaryville, IN, at the time of her passing.

Our special love and prayers go to both of these families as they experience this time of grief.

Diane Stucky has been our only hospital patient this month. We need to remember her in our prayers. She is at home at the present time.

KANSAS, LAMONT Jill K. Luthi

Ready to suffer grief or pain,
Ready to stand the test;
Ready to stay at home and send others,
If He sees best.

Ready to speak, ready to warn,
Ready o'er souls to yearn;
Ready in life, ready in death,
Ready for His return.

Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.

Hymns of Zion # 124,
vs. 1, 4 & chorus

What few words with so much meaning! A recent tragedy in our small communities of Gridley and Lamont brought back to me these two verses. Two young souls were taken from this earth. To many of us, they were cousins, and to many more, they were friends that we grew up with. Our hearts go out to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Eileen Bahr and Willis and Betty Beyer (all of Gridley), in the loss of their youngest sons, Jon Bahr and Jamey Beyer. When a death occurs, there always rushes through everyone's mind, "If only . . ." The loss of these two young men has indeed taught me a lesson to not be in such a haste or rush and forget to say "hello" to them. Haste makes waste only when I'm trying to catch up with time. It is easy to forget that once I'm behind time, I will always be behind time . . . unless somewhere along the road, I make up for the lost time. We all are somewhat guilty of not taking (or should be making) the time to simply give those few words of "hello", "how are you?", and to greet everyone with a firm handshake to let them know that we do care about them — especially their soul's salvation.

The evening in which my parents and I went over to visit the families, the moon was in full phase. After such a gloomy day full of clouds, the sky was so bright and clear. The moon glowed so brightly in white. I had to think of the verse in which the Lord said: "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow" Isaiah 1:18. Tears it brings to think of the love that God has for us all!

With a short stay in the hospital, Jenny Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane)

had a tonsillectomy since the last writing. It is of a glad report to say that Jenny is doing fine after being a very sick girl for a few days.

"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

II John 8

An early reminder: The Silver Lining dues of \$7.00 will be collected in August. Thank you!

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

Isaiah 55:6

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

The summer months are filled with many earthly tasks. As I work outdoors, the beauty of God's handiwork is so fresh and vivid. He has created everything so perfect! The gardens are producing many wonderful vegetables this time of year. God has even perfected their growing and harvest seasons. He doesn't allow everything to become ripe at once. If He did, we couldn't handle the harvest. Even so in our spiritual garden, God doesn't allow the cares, temptations and trials to come upon us all at once; else we couldn't handle them; but He sees and knows our every need and provides accordingly. I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but 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 to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

This past month we elected four Sunday school teachers. They are Bros. Tim Hartter and Kevin Grimm and Sisters Cornelia Aberle and Sharon Strahm. May grace, wisdom and Godly instruction be with them as they teach our children the way of Truth. Bro. Willard Bahr has been reelected as our Retirement Home Representative.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman are thankful to have a tiny, new rosebud in their care. Little Amy Jo was born to them May 22. She has two brothers, Brett and Scott, to welcome her. Cliff and Sis. Barb Edelman and Sis. Betty Schmidt (West Bend, IA) are the happy grandparents.

We extend a sincere welcome to Bro.

Dale and Sis. Lili Koehl and son, Barry, as they move here to Sabetha from Morris, MN. Bro. Dale has found employment in our area. It warms our hearts to have them worship with us. We need the fellowship of kindred hearts in these evil days as Satan continues seeking whom he may devour.

Believing it is God's will, Sis. Lori Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) shall become the bride of Bro. John Baumgartner (Les and Leora, Bern) June 22. We certainly wish them God's manifold blessings in their life together. May we, as the bride of Christ, adorn ourselves in holiness and Godly fear as we await His coming.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

Near the small Kansas town of Woodbine is an old family cemetery almost obscure from the casual passerby. As a matter of interest, one of the living descendants, now a grandfather himself, visited the cemetery with several of his children and grandchildren. Among the gravestones was one hand hewn marker with an epitaph which reads, "Jedith born 1906 - died 1912". Underneath, as if a postscript had been scratched by the use of a crude tool, "Our little angle".

As revealed at a recent family reunion, this gravestone was hand-carved and engraved by a grieved father, who meant one thing and wrote another by misspelling the word, angel. He was describing how he felt about his six-year-old daughter, who had died from acute appendicitis.

One definition for the word angle, as seen in Webster's Dictionary, is "a measure of the amount of turning necessary to bring into coincidence with or parallel to another." Far different from this definition of the word, angel, "a message originating from God in His aspects of Truth and Love." OR IS IT?

Jesus answers the question of Jedith when he said, "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven". The question still remains, what is the measure of the amount of turning necessary to bring a man into harmony with God? Is it the witness of the death of a child dearly loved and the longing to be reunited again in heaven, or the gentle wooing of the Holy Spirit by the Word of God?

For those who have been turned and have overcome, God will write in His own hand a new name upon a white

stone. Perhaps it will indicate how many lives this one has influenced to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ to be in harmony with God, the Creator.

Our Bible study group just completed the study of Galatians, a message to believers to keep going in the same direction in which they were turned when they received the message of Truth and Love through the Lord Jesus Christ and a strong exhortation to live and walk in the Holy Spirit of promise which will be evidenced by the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The next study in the fall will be on the Book of Psalms.

We were thankful to again share the communion cup with our fellow believers. Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Samuel Anliker served us here after a teaching on the value and meaning of communion. We were also blessed this month by a visit from Bro. Uriel Gehring and his family from the Leo, IN Children's Home. We would welcome any travelers during this vacation season who would so kindly visit our Wichita church.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

Excuse my oversight, but John Schlatter and Jeanette Overholt were among our 1986 graduates.

We are planning a big reunion the weekend of June 21-22 and trust all will go well and blessings will be received by the score!

Our Vacation Bible School is set for June 23 - 28. It will be our first and hopefully not our last. A special thank you is extended to all those participating to make it a joyful and memorable event for our children.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

"A Christian's demise leads to Paradise. After days of tribulation, he will find his full salvation. Death the way supplies, unto Paradise". The Death of A Christian", Hymns of Zion #248. Sis. Muriel Rylance passed away May 27 and leaves her remaining loved ones an assurance that she will spend her eternity with Jesus. We extend sympathy to her husband, Marshall, her daughters, Sis. Connie Pashak, Sis. Darleen Cluff, Sis. Lynn Kimmerly; her son, Jim; and each of their families.

Greg Munsel (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Delores) and Lynette Wright (Bro. Gary and Sis. Shirley) exchanged wed-

ding vows that united them as one. We wish them a life of experiences that will demonstrate God's love for each of them.

Ministering brothers this month included Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ray Schlatter (Toledo, OH). "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" Isaiah 55:11. May these brethren be encouraged by the promise in God's Word that their labors will bring forth fruit.

June 16 - 20 was a special week for us. Our Vacation Bible School provided an opportunity for the young children to learn more of Jesus, the unconverted to consider their relationship with Jesus, and the converted to renew and deepen their commitment to serving Jesus. Our topic for the week was Faith; the daily subtopics included, Faith To Follow, Assurance of True Faith, Inspiring Faith, Teaching the Faith and Heaven. We thank the ministering brethren who visited us that week. They were Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Aaron Steffen (Alto), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We pray for converts and rededicated lives after a week of intensive consideration of the mind and ways of God.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

Our congratulations are extended to our graduates this spring. Our high school graduates are Sis. Manuela Denes, Alan Gleichman, Eric Gudeman, Phil Haines, Karen Kaisner, Sis. Candi Knochel, Julie Martin and Sis. Harriet Orscik. Our Canadian grade thirteen graduates are Ted Orscik and Steve Varga. May they feel the direction and blessings of God in the years ahead.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalm 37:3, 4

We rejoice once again to see another soul turn to God in humbleness and prayer. Joanne Fortenbacher (Sis. Margaret and Bro. Walter) has heeded the Lord's loving call and has begun

her walk with Him. We pray for God's continuous grace and guidance in her new life.

We want to welcome Leon and Jennifer Wieland and their sons, Jonathon and Jarret, to the Detroit area from Defiance, OH. Jennifer is also on chemotherapy treatments and we trust they can feel the love and support of our brethren here.

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7. Sis. Jackie Barton (Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi) has been hospitalized and our prayers reach out to her and her family that they can feel God's nearness and strength in the days ahead. Bill Shaw (Sis. Helen) broke his arm and is recuperating at home. We trust he can be blessed with health and recovery. Also, Bro. Walt Bauer (Sis. Hilda) met with misfortune at work and we are grateful God spared him from greater harm and injury. May he feel God's presence with him always.

We are grateful for the following ministering brothers who came and fed us with God's precious Word: Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI). Bro. Uriel also shared a presentation regarding the Children's Home. May God bless them all for bringing forth God's message of love.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

"YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE"

Towering above New York Harbor is the Statue of Liberty, a symbol of hope for the oppressed people around the world. For nearly 100 years, that stately lady, with freedom's torch held high, has welcomed refugees from across the seas.

There is another monument that offers spiritual freedom to burdened souls everywhere. Its shape is that of a Roman cross. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ, the God-man, hung there, His body bruised and His arms outstretched. Those who saw the awful scene must have been repelled by it. Yet from that accursed tree has come an invitation to poor, tired masses who languish in spiritual bondage. The One who suffered there was more than a symbol of liberty. By dying in our place, He purchased our freedom from

the penalty and power of sin. A "yearning to breathe free" runs deep in the hearts of people everywhere. But only those who know Christ as Savior and Lord are free indeed!

Sunday, May 4, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Rob Schmidgall was elected Sunday school teacher and the assistant is Bro. Jim Tilbury. Bro. Perry Virkler is our new trustee. Bro. John Olson will serve as usher and the substitute is Bro. Jim Tilbury. World Relief Sewing is handled by Sis. Delores Sauder and assistant is Sis. Kathryn Olson. For children's craft night, Sis. Julie Fehr was elected. May God bless all of you in your new duties and may all your efforts be done to the glory of God. We want to sincerely thank those who served in these offices and positions in the past.

We truly appreciated the brothers who gave of themselves in Haiti this year. We enjoyed the slides Bro. Rob Schmidgall and Howard Lauwagie (Winthrop, MN) shared with us. How thankful we can be to live in America with its abundance.

His call we obey as Abram of old,
Not knowing our way, But faith makes us bold;
Wher-e'er He shall lead us, The way He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us; "The Lord will provide!"

Zion's Harp #86

We heartily welcome into our congregation Bro. Dale Strassheim (formerly of Milford, IN) and his family. We are very thankful to have a new family with us and we hope that Bro. Dale, Sis. Carol, Angie, Brian, Eric and Alison will soon feel very much at home.

We would like to thank the Morris, MN, Sunday school for hosting the Youth Fellowship Weekend June 7 - 8. May God richly bless all of you for your labors of love.

Our dear Sis. Alma Baum fell and injured her ankle. We pray for God's healing and hope she will be able to fellowship with us again very soon.

Please remember that August is collection month for the Silver Lining in Minneapolis (\$7.00).

Thought: True freedom is found in bondage to Christ.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl**

Bro. Jim Wulf and Bro. Rob Schmidgall shared with us a slide presentation of work being done in Haiti. We are glad these brothers took time to share this information with us, so we can better understand conditions in other countries.

May 31 - June 1 we hosted the Apostolic Christian Heritage Reunion. In 1983, this group traveled to many European countries together. It was a blessing to be able to renew acquaintances once again. We all enjoyed the special love and fellowship throughout the weekend.

On June 7 - 8, we hosted the Youth Fellowship gathering. We had among us many of our youth from neighboring Sunday schools. Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was our guest speaker. Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Bro. Jon brought this verse to our attention after he had done a survey at what age we are the most likely to repent. Statistics show that after the age of 25 our chances of repenting drastically drop. We very much appreciated Bro. Jon's talk with our youth. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was also among us.

Seeking the Lord with young and tender hearts are Jill Koehl (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda), Sara Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Dwayne Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Eric Koehl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen), Paul Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), Gail Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Gary and Sandy Fehr. Our hearts are overflowing with joy that these dear souls have turned to the Lord through repentance. May the Lord bless them with grace to meet their every trial and temptation.

The engagement of Wayne Moser (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion) and Dena Hintermeister was made known to us. A September wedding is being planned.

Gary Moser and Kathryn Schafer were hospitalized this past month. We hope they are feeling the healing mercies from above.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Hazel Moser (Bro. Joe) and her family in the loss of her brother, Bro. Ray Anliker (West Bend, IA). Bro. Ray had

been suffering from cancer.

June 14 was a special day for Dawn Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen) and Doug Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl) as they solemnized their marriage vows. May the love they feel for one another now continue to grow over the years.

The children of Bro. Henry and Sis. Anna Nohl will host an open house 50th anniversary reception August 23 at the Hancock Community Center.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt**

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:23, 24

Two engagements were recently announced. Dwayne VanDeest (Sis. Nancy and Dick) is engaged to Dawn Weller (New Ulm, MN). The wedding date is set for July 19. Sis. Lila Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae and Gene) is engaged to Bro. Anthony Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma, Fairbury, IL). Their wedding date is August 17. May God be with these two couples as they make their future plans.

On June 1, the teachers and children enjoyed being at the park together during our annual Sunday school picnic.

We want to thank the Morris congregation for hosting the annual Sunday school picnic for the five area churches. If we labor for our Lord, God will surely add His blessings. Many fruits and blessings have been harvested from having our children fellowship together.

Sis. Nancy VanDeest, Bro. Cornelius Messerli, Sis. Georgia Messner and Cory Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) were our hospital patients this month. All are at home and feeling well.

What will tomorrow bring? The answer is yours to form. For tomorrow's a flower, with its roots in today!

We have four college graduates this year. Jason Messner (Sis. Carol Ann), Sandy Messner (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn), Mona Bruns (Marvin and Ver-na) and Paula Dapper (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcella). May they look to God

for guidance as they form their tomorrows!

As we had our spring church cleaning this past week, I thought of our spiritual house cleanings. Our spiritual houses must be kept spotless constantly; it is not something we can wait to do in the spring and the fall!

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Becky Marti — Janice Stoller**

So many times in our lives, we find ourselves becoming so busy and preoccupied with our various duties, that we don't always keep our priorities in order. Right now in our community, we are in the busy season, but let us always strive to remember which things should remain as the most important.

Sis. Charlotte Banwart was a hospital patient this past month and we do continue to remember her in prayer.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Sam Anliker in our midst recently. May God bless his efforts. After church services, Bro. Sam conducted the funeral service for Henry Lehman at the funeral home. We offer our sympathy to the family who mourn his passing.

Once again, we welcome Bro. Wayne Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brian Wiegand (Eureka, IL). We are glad to have them in our midst for awhile this summer. We also welcome any visitors who may be passing through this summer.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart****I THANK THEE LORD**

I thank Thee Lord when day is done
For one more hour, one more sun,
For one more time to live and love,
To share each blessing from above.
I thank Thee Lord for gentle hands,
For beauty shining o're the lands
For air to breathe, for time to pray,
I thank Thee Lord, for one more day.

Written by P. Emune

Submitted by Sis. Marie Butikofer

We enjoyed our annual Sunday school picnic and program June 1 at the fellowship center. Graduates recognized at this time were: Lori Bostrom (Sis. Roberta), Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), Grant Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy) and Julie Howlett from high school; as well as, Kim Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois)

and Bro. Greg Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy) from college.

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

James 1:5

"O Lord I know not where to turn
Or what Your path may be,
So grant me wisdom to discern
What "You" would have for me."

DJD

He is wise who takes God for a teacher.

We enjoyed having Bro. Kenny (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Mardell Dietz and family visit us June 8 and may God bless Bro. Kenny for bringing us an inspired Godly message.

Rebecca and James Hilst (Gurnee, IL) are the new parents of a little girl, Caitlin Sin Hei", who was born August 13, 1985 in Korea and arrived in the States May 2, 1986. Grandparents are Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel, Mrs. Ruth Hilst and the late Paul Hilst (Mendota, IL).

"Blessed be the hand that prepares
A pleasure for a child,
For there is no saying
When and where it may bloom forth."
Debra Crowe

A happy conclusion to the first Vacation Bible School was enjoyed Wednesday evening, June 18, when children and teachers displayed their crafts and recited verses that were learned within the short period of time that this was in session. Thanks to all who helped in any way to organize and may God bless their efforts.

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

Proverbs 22:6

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers during the past month included Bros. Kevin Ryan and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Don Gude-man (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN). Their labor of love and timely messages were greatly appreciated.

Richard Diggelman, his wife, Helga, and son, Kevin, spent almost two

weeks in the area visiting relatives, including Richard's parents, Bro. John and Sis. Mary Diggelman. They have now returned to their home in South Korea where Richard is stationed with his company, Eastman Kodak.

We are all very happy for our dear friend, Bill Graf, who has found peace with God and awaits baptism July 6 in Akron, OH. Bill lives in Brooklyn, NY, and attends the Union City church. Once again we can thank God for His mercy and love and we look forward to greeting Bill as a brother-in-faith.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

On Saturday evening, May 24, we gathered in the Croghan church to hear the deliberations of the conference. We were again so lovingly reminded of our duties and responsibilities to God, to our church and to our fellow men. May we each strive more diligently to follow the advice of our beloved elder brethren.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

"After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24, 25

As the Lord commanded us in His Word, we were able to assemble around His Word and share holy communion together Sunday, May 25, in the Naumburg church. May we each be strengthened by this holy feast and live each day more Christ-like. We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for giving of himself for us on this weekend. We also thank our other visiting ministers the same weekend, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and their traveling companions for sharing their time with us.

On May 21, Mark and Leah Hitchcock welcomed little Ben Clinton into their hearts and home. Shannon is happy for a little playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Farney and Clint and Doris Hitchcock.

Our sympathy is extended to Harriet Lasher, Sis. Celia Virkler and Louis Beck and their families. Their son and brother, Leslie Beck, was called from

this life after several months of illness in California. Sis. Celia and Louis were able to spend a few days with their brother before his death.

Bro. Chester O'Brien and little Buffy Graves (Floyd, Jr. and Linda) were our hospital patients this month. Bro. Chet has returned to the home of his daughter and we miss him in our assembly. We are glad Buffy is back in church again.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

A blessed weekend was enjoyed by all when we were able to assemble at Croghan Saturday evening and listen to the reading of the conference memorandum. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here with us for this occasion. We also had visiting Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH).

On Sunday we assembled at Naumburg and in the afternoon we partook of holy communion.

Elder Bro. Aaron and Bro. Jim could not stay with us for the evening service, but Bro. Paul was able to stay. We thank the Lord for giving us such a blessed time and also thank the dear brethren for coming.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. James 3:18. This verse states fruit to be sown; whereas we think that seed is sown. James 3 tells us how to sow fruit and not just sow seed. It lists six uses of our tongue: Two uses have power to direct: Just as a bit in a horse's mouth directs their whole body, and as a rudder on a ship directs it aright against the waves, we ought to speak the Word that directs others to righteousness.

Two uses have power to destroy. Fire and a poisonous animal destroy and we can say things to set others on fire inside that they go on and are destroyed.

Two uses have power to refresh: A fountain can refresh and a fig tree gives fruit that refreshes; and we ought to be as a fig tree or a bubbling fountain speaking the Word that refreshes.

If we want a fig tree, we sow a seed; but when we sow the Word of peace, we don't sow a seed, but the whole fruit. Oh, that we are speaking the Word that refreshes through sowing fruit.

Congratulations to Bro. Andy and

Sis. Teresa (Bakos) Hunyady for their Golden Wedding Anniversary July 18. May the Lord continue with blessings on their years together.

Kelly Luginbuhl, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Marvin Luginbuhl, is home after having corrective surgery on her foot. May the Lord grant a speedy recovery.

Bro. Homer Reineck and Bro. Andy Stoller blessed us with inspiring sermons.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

The Columbus congregation has grown a little more this past month. We're so glad to welcome Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Miller, along with their children, Brandon, Paul, Jordan and Ashley, to our fellowship. They have recently moved from the Rittman area and are settling near Columbus. We'd like to thank them for doubling our Sunday school class.

Another blessed addition to our congregation came in the form of a baby boy born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Karen Laparo May 25. Craig Emerson was welcomed home by his brother, Mike, and sister, Christy. We thank the Lord for this healthy child and wish the family God's continued care.

On a sad note, Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp, recently welcomed to Columbus, will be leaving for Dallas, TX, soon, as Bro. Randy is being transferred for more training within his company. We're sorry to see this couple go, but know the Lord can use them wherever He directs their steps.

Last month we were so delighted to have a group from the Bloomington area come to visit us over the weekend. Our thanks and love go to those brothers who shared God's Word with us: Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), their dear wives, families and all our visitors. We extend our gratitude for such a special and uplifting time of Christian fellowship.

It seems when people move to a small church area, they become an integral part of the group as there are so few. If God should direct that they must leave, there's an empty spot left in the hearts and in the gathering of the congregation. We know God's will is best, for He giveth and He taketh away. Even when our dear ones move, we can be encouraged by the bond of Chris-

tian fellowship. Some words which convey this message were written as follows:

Friends are friends forever
If the Lord is Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
For the welcome will not end.
Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime is not too long
To live as friends.

Michael W. Smith

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

The engagement of Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) to Sis. Cheryl Wenninger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Josephine, Latty) has been revealed to us. We wish them a full measure of God's Spirit in the time of planning and in their lives together. As she will make plans to be adorned as a bride to please him, so they both (and we all) must make plans to be adorned as a spiritual bride to please our heavenly Bridegroom on judgment day.

Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) visited us this month and brought us God's Word. May the Lord be the rewarder of these brothers, and may His Spirit always guide their tongues, and those of all our ministering brothers.

Thanks to all of you who remembered Sis. Frances Dotterer with cards, gifts, help and prayer during the recent illness and death of her brother, Louis Levy.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard

Teach me, Father, when I pray,
Not to ask for more,
But rather let me give my thanks
For what is at my door.
For food and drink, for gentle rain,
For sunny skies above,
For home and friends, for peace and joy,
But most of all for love.

We were thankful for all the labors of love of our ministering brethren, Bros. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Victor Bauman (Smithville), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We were lovingly admonished and reminded of how slyly Satan works his way into our homes and how important it is to in-

clude God in our every activity and to have Him present in our homes as the Unseen Guest.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Hilda Wenninger, Robert Stoller (Brent and Jodi), Sis. Carol Eisenmann (Bro. Bill) and Bro. George Sinn (Sis. Clara). We are thankful that God has answered our prayers and has granted renewed strength to their mortal bodies.

We rejoice with Brock Stoller and his parents with the arrival of Robert Eugene. He was born April 11. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Ellen Stoller.

"I want to do Thy will oh Lord, I want to do Thy will . . ." sang the children at our annual Bible school program. May we always desire to serve Him both young and old.

The engagement of Sis. Cheryl Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine) to Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Juliet, Junction) was announced. We pray that God will guide them and direct them as they plan to join pathways in September.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee;
The Lord make His face shine upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee,
And give thee peace. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #23

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Sis. Millie Matthes has been moved from a local nursing home to the Apostolic Home at Rittman. Sis. Clara Wahl, formerly of Mansfield, is Millie's official welcoming committee. We are thankful to Clara for helping Millie make the adjustment to new surroundings.

Vacation Bible School is now a blessed memory for all that took part. Visiting brothers for the adult class were: Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville), Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). We were admonished and exhorted to walk our Christian life in our community and in our work place in a manner which would be pleasing to God. We are the light and the salt of the earth. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good

works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

Did you read the article in the Readers' Digest, "My Daddy Will Save Me"? The last lines of the story the little girl commented, "Oh, I knew my daddy would save me. And he did." It reminds us of our heavenly Father, He is willing and able to save all mankind from their lost condition; may we be willing to send out the lifeline.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

Awake, Thou soul's first inspiration;
Let watchmen stand before the temple
door!

With constant zeal and firm devotion,
Against the enemy they do implore.
Their pealing calls throughout the
world resound;

Salvation, Lord, in Thee alone is found.
Zion's Harp #111

Those who visited us and brought the Word of salvation to our congregation this month were Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo, OH). May God ever bless them and may they know that their labors are not in vain for God promises His Word will not return unto Him void. Isaiah 55:11.

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
Zion's Harp #46

In the past month there have been those who have suffered sorrow and those who have suffered pain. We extend our sympathy to the family of our Sis. Clara Zollinger, who was allowed to lay her armor down and can now rest safe in the arms of Jesus. Those who have now laid their mother to rest are Bro. John (Sis. Marge) and Joe of Rittman; Bro. Ed (Sis. Shirley) of Phoenix, AZ; Sis. Martha Dotterer (Bro. Henry) and Sis. Marian Hartzler (Bro. Joe) of Rittman; and Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf (Bro. Alvin), Sis. Dorothy and Sis. Linda Zollinger of Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Carl Gasser (Girard, OH) and Bro. Arthur Gasser (Smithville, OH) are Clara's brothers.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Adele Ickes, who has now laid her son, Donald Ickes, to rest. May you find comfort in God and in the many precious memories you have.

Those who experienced pain during the past month and were hospitalized were Jon Widmer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann) and Bro. Donald Walder (Sis. Martha). We are thankful they are both recovering and wish them a full recovery.

May 31 was the wedding date of Pat Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma) and Craig Baran (Mr. and Mrs. John Baran, Garden City, MI). John and Pat will be living in the Detroit area at 41440 Bellridge Blvd., Belleville, MI 48111.

On June 21 Judy Rufener (Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna) and John Wachtel (Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wachtel, Rittman, OH) were united in holy matrimony. Their address will be P. O. Box 1184, Alexander City, AL 35010.

May God bless both of these couples as they start their lives together. May they find that He is always with them no matter where they may go.

Also, Sis. Monica Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva, Akron, OH) and Bro. Bill Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores) started their life together June 22. May God bless their marriage and help them in their life together.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

When God's children join together for the purpose of studying His Word and sharing His love in Christian fellowship, it is certain to be a blessed time. We have completed Vacation Bible School and we want to thank Bro. Ben Hartzler (Smithville), Bro. Melvin Beery and Bro. Emmet Gasser (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty).

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

We were also blessed this month with visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Eugene Pamer (Akron). We wish to thank these brothers as they continue so willingly to feed the flock through the ministry.

As the celebration of our independence approaches (or has already passed by the time of this printing), may we truly thank the Lord for the great gift of freedom in our country. We tend to take this for granted and lose

sight of the unfortunate people in other countries where this freedom is not experienced.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

What is happiness? True happiness starts with peace with God. We may think we are happy when we are enjoying the pleasures of this life, but that kind of happiness doesn't last, because those pleasures only last for a season. When we are at peace with God, we can have the hope of life eternal. That is true happiness.

It is with joy in our hearts that we can write the news of another soul who desires this peace. Alice Greenbank (Ken) has turned her back to the world in repentance. May she continue to seek God's grace and guidance in each step she takes.

This past month, we have been privileged to have four visiting ministers. They were Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ray Schlatter (Toledo), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3. Brad Carl has come to join the family of Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle. Paul and Jeni are glad for a playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Tootie Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Irvin and Sis. Jane Klotzle (Rittman).

Last month we neglected to write that Becky Zollinger (Dave and Sis. Mary Ann) graduated from high school. May God richly bless her as she takes another step in life.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Josephine Rehlau
Frances Laidig**

As July 4 approaches, it reminds us again of our independence here in America. We have the freedom to worship God as we choose (the most precious gift), to vote for the leaders of our country and to live and work wherever it seems best for us, regardless of creed or color. All these and many more are special gifts from God for which we are thankful. In the patriotic hymn, "America the Beautiful", written many years ago, the last four lines of the first and fourth verses read: America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.

It pleases us to know the founders of

our country recognized the importance of God's grace and the need for brotherhood. We pray that God will continue to shed His grace on us and that we as Christians can help our country by showing love toward one another.

Summer has arrived and with it many interesting changes. School is out and the children look forward to doing other things including Bible school (which all of them seem to enjoy), summer jobs, summer studies and vacations. The farmers are anxiously watching their crops, hoping for favorable weather and mothers, no doubt, pray for patience to guide their exuberant children. Let us keep a prayer in our heart for a blessed and safe summer for everyone.

Jane Bradford (Sis. Gail and Bill) has left Toledo to join her parents in Indianapolis, IN. Our best wishes go with her.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Jason and Wendy Williamson

We are thankful Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) could be with us June 8 as they served communion and read the memorandum. It was a time for us to reflect how Christ gave of Himself so we can have eternal life.

We are thankful to have another addition to our congregation! Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bradford, IL), a traveling nurse, will make a temporary home in New Brunswick, NJ. During her stay here we are glad to have Sis. Mary Ann assemble with us. May God richly bless her work.

Congratulations to Paul Aeschleman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy) as he graduated from the University of Delaware. Paul will be traveling with a group of bicyclists across America this summer from the west to the east coast. May God direct Paul safely back home again.

Elections were held for Sunday school teachers for the upcoming year. Bro. Jerry Isch, Sisters Ann Gasser, Gail Gasser and Wendy Williamson will begin teaching July 1.

"Stand fast therefore in liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, . . ." Galatians 5:1. The city of Philadelphia has played a major role in molding the country's religious freedoms. This historic and industrious city has much to offer the vacationer, historian and those seeking employ-

ment. Philadelphia is growing rapidly as a city and as an Apostolic Christian church community. We invite you to include us in your vacation plans, employment possibilities and always in your prayers.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

America! Land of the free. We are indeed a privileged people to have such freedoms in this land that God has blessed.

To be truly free is to bury the old man of sin, repent and be converted. We are in bondage if we yet walk in sin.

As God's children, let us not take our freedoms for granted, because as easily as they are given, they can be taken away.

Mexican Earthquake . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

On January 4, 1986, the World Relief Committee assembled in Phoenix, AZ, for their annual meeting, at which time I made a full report of the situation and of my experiences in Mexico City. After my report, I was asked to monitor the balance of funds on hand of approximately \$150,000 to be used for rebuilding and replenishing the area of Morales Tapetio. In view of the extent of the damage, we would select 2 or 3 Vecindads, or neighborhoods, each consisting of 14 - 25 families on which to concentrate our efforts. Our action was to: 1) Reconstruct buildings and homes lost; 2) Provide essential necessities not obtainable due to unemployment; 3) Assist in stabilizing the victims' lifestyle by helping them to once again become self sufficient. With many prayers, it was concluded that a trust fund be established to purchase ground for building and constructing the buildings needed. The Mexicans would repay as they were able. Their repayment would then be used for social work.

In view of the government expropriation amount of the properties and the uncertainty, January 15, 1986 seemed to be a magical date set for clarification of permits to refund with private or governmental funds. Thus on February 6, 1986, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman and Sis. Marie and I returned to Mexico City to update ourselves on the situation. We were met at the airport by Gallo and Joanne Vasques. After many hours visiting, we could sense a different attitude that caused consternation or uneasy feelings in my heart.

Friday morning, February 7, Gallo, a minister of a local church, told us of several families of his congregation that had suffered much damage. He asked that we share our monies with them to be used at their discretion. One of the couples, Luis and Marissa Delgado, took us on a tour so Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola could see some of the damaged areas firsthand. We distributed some food to one mother of three children, whose home had been destroyed while she'd been on her way to work and her children on the way to school. She had not learned the whereabouts of her children until two days after the quake; they were safe. She and her children had lived separately in friends' homes from September through January. Now they were together living in a scantily furnished apartment with little food. They eagerly welcomed what Luis and Marissa had brought. The necessity was present but the amount of assistance caused additional uneasiness and dissatisfactions in our hearts. Again we prayed to God for direction as to where to place our funds and help that would be the most good. We decided to leave this area and once again visit Steve and Mary Corbett in the first area we'd witnessed the extreme damage. We happened onto an English speaking taxi driver who drove us to Cuaulta, Morales, where Steve and Mary lived. The driver professed to believe in God, the Lord Jesus Christ's birth and death on the cross for our sins, and that through repentance and by following the teachings of the Bible, we could have eternal life. How marvelous the Lord brought him into our lives.

On Sunday morning, February 9, 1986, we had services in Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola's hotel room. We realized that it is not necessary to go to the mountains, or to the temple, but anywhere, anytime, when we ask for the presence of the Spirit, God has promised it to us. After services, and with no particular plan in mind, we felt motivated to return to the Morales Tapetio area. How rewarding it was to again see some of the people from before. They embraced Marie, hoping and praying that relief was forthcoming. Obtaining telephone numbers of the group leaders, we left. We returned the next day and were taken to Omar Condonado's office in the Bethel Methodist Church, where he brought us up-to-date on the situation. That evening we returned to

the U.S.A.

With additional information and contacts via telephone conversations to Mexico City, I called Omar and informed him I would return as soon as possible. Omar grew silent, then said he was sorry, but he was so happy he couldn't speak. Pleading with American Airlines, I was able to get a reduced airfare, so that by Friday morning, I was again returning to Mexico, this time alone, save God as my protector. Omar met me and we went to his office, where we zeroed in on the vecindos that we hoped to help. Realizing there were so many vecindos, we revisited one where the people were still living on debris and in tents and even in the streets. I felt moved to commit the funds for reconstruction there. Daniel, the leader of the vecindos, with tears flowing down his cheek, said "Gracious, and God bless you". That evening, I was invited to a home of one of the fourteen community business teams, who were helping to direct the people of Morales Tapetio and two other areas. These teams were composed of doctors, architects, lawyers, etc. They will set up and monitor a trust for us and other groups providing funds. I was overjoyed when this meeting was begun and closed in prayer.

Saturday, I met with the World Vision representative in Mexico City, with the intention of persuading them to relinquish one or two of the Vecindos that they had zeroed in on. I reminded them of the work our World Relief Committee and Work Project Teams have shared with them in other areas, but they refused, asking us to release our funds to them to share at their discretion. I declined.

In conclusion, a proposal from Omar is being drawn up outlining the specific areas and specific uses, so within a reasonable time schedule our funds will be distributed. It is hoped our World Relief Work Projects committee will provide laborers, carpenters, masons, etc., for the rebuilding process.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

ment; and they were affrighted." Mark 16:5. The angels that are among us and about us could have been used by Jesus when He was on the cross, but there was a plan that had to be fulfilled. There was love that had to be poured out. There was a cup of love that needed to be swallowed. When we have true love for each other, we experience

that love.

Often we say that love has no bounds, but love can be blind. We need to understand what sort of a love we have in our hearts. We must come to the Lord with a true love. If we stumble through life in a blind love, it could be misled by Satan.

We need to bring Satan into our conversation occasionally, don't we, beloved? We need to know who He is. He is the one who wants to keep the tomb closed. He is the one who wanted to seal the tomb, and without question prompted those men to think, "Let's seal this man, Jesus, because He said that He would rise again. Let's prove Him wrong."

Satan has no power over the Lord, because Christ was victorious over death and grave! Satan is already defeated! Doesn't that bring a thankfulness within our hearts? But that doesn't automatically take care of you and me. It has all been accomplished, but you and I must take what is offered.

We can read in II Kings in the sixth chapter about an axe that a man borrowed to hew down a tree. While hewing down the tree, the axe fell off the end of the handle and fell into the water. The man began to lament immediately and said, "It was a borrowed axe."

He began to worry. He said, "I borrowed this instrument and now it is lost. I have to take it back again. I'm afraid."

Elisha came by, and he cut down a limb and threw it into the water. That axe head began to float. He looked over at the young man and said, "Reach out with your hand and take it."

Isn't that like salvation? That which was given to us is life! We borrowed it for a time, but we have to give it back again. God is going to demand it from us. He wants our life back, but He has given us a period of time wherein we can think, "Do I want to give my life back to the Lord? Do I want to run scared all the days of my life? Do I want to be afraid of the tomb? When I look out on the cemeteries and drive through them, do I want a fear to come over me? Or do I want to rejoice that Christ has victory over death and grave?"

Since He loved me so, I have claimed salvation through His sacrifice. By following Him through repentance, forgiveness of sins, and conversion, I have a promise of life eternal.

It's there, just like that axe head.

That wood that was thrown into the stream represents the cross. Elisha caused the axe to come up so that the young man just needed to reach out and take it. The Word tells us that salvation is there for the taking.

What joy must have filled the man's heart to know that when he was through with the axe, he would not have to go back and say, "I'm sorry. I lost it." And we don't want to say, "I really haven't loved You from the very core of my heart. I have wasted my time and my talents although the opportunity was there." It's here this morning!

"And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here . . ." Mark 16:6. He was trying to tell them, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen!"

"... behold the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6. Evidence! Look! You can see it! That's what Thomas needed, didn't he? The Lord told Thomas to look at His hands and feel the wound in His side.

We read that the disciples did not immediately believe. Even Peter couldn't fathom that such a great victory could be accomplished through His Lord. For a time, he walked faithless.

But we read, "tell . . . Peter." Tell that man who had walked on the water; tell Peter that Jesus had risen from the grave. Tell that man who had denied Him three times, cursed, and said, "I know not the man," when the pressures came and the forces of Satan encompassed him. Matthew 26:74. Peter fell beneath the load because he was flesh and blood, and could not stand alone.

The Lord said, "tell . . . Peter." When he was told, Peter must have thought, "How can this be? The Lord Jesus whom I said that I don't know still cares for me!" He said, "tell . . . Peter."

Beloved, I don't know how to express love as I'd like to, but if that isn't love, what is? We also were steeped in sin, and denied Him with our lives. We were rebellious toward Him, and yet He reaches out His arm (even this morning) and says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are (weary and) heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

Now there is no greater love than that. There is no greater love! And it is for all of us . . . for each one of us!

There is something that hurts my

heart. When we hear young folks say, "Well, someday I will repent, but right now I am going to have a good time in life." Is that really the way you want to be?

You know, we begin laying the groundwork very early in life. I think that many people loved Jesus when He was in the carpenter shop with His father, carving little things and making the little things that He did. They began to observe this great Man of Galilee. When He took the sawdust out of His eye, when He was in the temple at the age of twelve, people began to come close to Him.

It was Simeon who said, "Now lettest . . . thy servant depart in peace . . . for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Luke 2:29, 30.

We're not ready to die until we experience salvation. We're not ready to go anywhere. We don't even like to go to work on Monday mornings without the Lord. We are afraid. We are affrighted, but if Jesus goes with us, we are comforted. We are strengthened.

How many young men have gone into battle? Sometimes we forget about the days when I was young, and we prayed for those in the armed forces of our nation. We forget about the times we sang, "Farewell, farewell" as our young men marched off to war. We forget about those things. Many a young friend went away, and after not too long a time in bootcamp, came back and said, "I repent". Oh, what wonderful days they were, even in the darkest times of our lives.

How many mothers and fathers may be seated among us this morning who have given up those children, young men. They know how it is to hurt. But they also know how it is to love, and to have a resurrection morning.

We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of what we have done. We shall all arise again. Those in Viet Nam, those at the bottom of the sea, the Elvis Presleys, the Hitlers, all will have a resurrection morning. Your loved ones, our loved ones . . . we shall all have a resurrection morning. What a joy to believe that if we love the Lord.

What are we doing with our lives, dear ones? Let's analyze them. Let's look very deeply into the core of our hearts. Let's ask ourselves questions, as people have asked of old.

Many, many people have loved the portion of scripture: "If a man die, shall

he live again?" Job 14:14. Why, most certainly he will! Because Jesus lives!

When He was here upon this earth, Jesus brought a young maiden at the very tender age of twelve back to life. She sat up in bed because Jesus walked into her room that morning and said, "Arise," and she arose.

There was a young man already dead and on the way to the cemetery to be lowered into the earth as the preparations had been made. Jesus stopped the procession and said, "Young man, . . . Arise." Luke 7:14.

"I am the resurrection, and the life . . . whosoever . . . believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26.

Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus where there was weeping and sorrow. Martha said, "I know that he (my brother) shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:24. Jesus had to reaffirm her and said, "I am the resurrection," meaning that it could take place right then if she would believe. And she saw it happen. Lazarus arose from the dead.

When are we free from death and grave? The day that we learn to know Jesus Christ. That's when we arise.

There is a joy that fills a Christian's heart. Sometimes it is written deep within the heart, but it is always there. Regardless of what happens here upon this earth, because Jesus arose, we already have risen in faith. Though my earthly house should be dissolved, I have a home not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

Job said something like this: "Though they destroy my body and worms eat my skin, yet with my eyes shall I see God." That's because of His resurrection. That's because of the hope that He has given through His Son, so that you and I can believe in Him this morning.

Or, we can consider what we read here: "But he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16. What a harsh statement! "They that believe not are damned." Who of us, then, can stand before this Saviour, this Risen Lord, and have anything to say in our own defense. If we have not accepted Him while there is still sand within the hour glass of our life, we shall be damned. We shall be damned eternally, cast away with Satan and his hosts.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their

part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8.

Beloved, we have so much to be thankful for. We have the Word of God, and we have a Risen Lord! We need to be thankful that we have a mind with which we can decide what we want to do with our lives. We can decide what sort of life we want to give back again to our Lord when He asks of us, "What have you done with that talent that I have given you? What have you done? Did you hide it? Did you wrap it up? Were you afraid to step boldly to the cross of calvary and there see the shed blood of your Saviour? The shed blood, but also the tremendous love that flowed together with the pain.

It's easy to accept His atonement this morning, in fact, at any time in our life. We will not have conversions this morning in the great numbers which they did in Acts, but I always have the faith and confidence that God will draw us aside and speak to us. Sometimes it is through the death of someone we love. He draws us aside as He did Peter and the other disciples where they sat together in the upper room. He loved them, and He loves us.

The Lord wants all of us to be with Him through eternity. He has no delight in the death of a sinner. He wants us all to be there. He simply lets the decision be made by us.

Next Easter, if it comes, may there be a rejoicing deep within our hearts, and may we be able to say, "Yes, I have walked this past year with my Lord." Or, "I have walked thirty, fifty, seventy years." We have brothers in Tremont ninety-some years old and they would recommend it as those here would recommend it: "Just come, and taste, and see that He is good."

For who of us knows when the day of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be. When He next appears, He will claim His own.

Those of us who have believed in His resurrection and in the saving power of His blood, shall fly away to be eternally with Him. We will begin a wonderful life in the streets above, and reach out our hands to those whom we love. We will shake that old fisherman's hand, and say, "Peter, I read of you in the Word! Oh, what a man you are!" We will shout, "We have been saved by the grace of Jesus Christ!"

Sermon edited for publication
by the Silver Lining Staff

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SERMON BY BRO. GLENN E. DILL OF TREMONT, IL

Text: Mark 16:1-16 & I Corinthians 15:1-19

The many wonderful readings that we have had thus far this morning speak to different people in various ways. Words which touched me immediately were: "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." I Corinthians 15:18. Would it not truly be terrible if after entering this world as infants, we would be cradled by our mothers, loved by our fathers, taught by our Sunday school teachers, respected by our companions and then perish?

Life in this world ends for all of us. For some it ends at a very early age. Perhaps we may think it far too premature, but it is not so in the eyes of God. God knows all things. He knows when the fruits are ripe, and He is a great pruner of His orchard. He knows when to pluck those fruits, so we don't need to question that.

But we do need to ask ourselves, "When my race is ended, how will it be for me?" Although the Lord had no beginning and has no end, concerning His earthly ministry He knew how it would be. He didn't become overly involved in the things of this world. Did you ever think of that? Jesus said, ". . . that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16:15.

He wasn't overly concerned. He said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests . . ." Luke 9:58. Oh, He must have watched them many times. He loved them. He said that they had their nests, but the Son of man had not so much as a pillow whereupon to lay His head. But He wasn't discouraged by that, because He was looking forward to a resurrection. He was looking forward to the time of atonement for sin. (In Revelation we read that only the Lamb was found to be worthy).

In Old Testament times, the priests went into the holy of holies once a year to offer a lamb sacrifice, and its blood

was poured out for the forgiveness of sins for the people. But the law didn't provide for a permanent burying of sin. A permanent atonement had to be through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. So He came upon this earth, and we enjoy celebrating both the time of His birth and that of His resurrection from death and the grave, bringing our thanks and praises to God.

This morning let's think about some of the reactions of the people who were present at the time of the Lord's death. What is our reaction when life leaves and we stare at death?

Death must be dealt with. All of us have seen it, and if the Lord carries, we will see more of it. Death is a graduation from this temporal body into an eternal body. It is the graduation morning that we all have been waiting for; but we have some homework to do before that time, don't we, beloved?

Let's read about that first wonderful resurrection morning. "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary, mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him." Mark 16:1. What a tremendous love they had for this Jesus who had walked with them and talked with them. They had seen the miracles that He performed. There was a love in their hearts that death could not change. They didn't flee from Him; they had love!

They had sleepless nights and then, when the sabbath was over, they ran to their Lord and Saviour whom they loved. They wanted to come for His body. They knew that with Him there was peace, quietness and eternal life.

Small wonder that they came early in the morning. How many times do we arise early from our sleep when there is a heavy burden in our mind? When we awake, it immediately penetrates our thought, and we carry it all day long

until we come to the point that we give it to Jesus and tell Him, "Lord, I can't cope with it, but you can."

How wonderful it is that God gives us this knowledge. We wonder, "Where does it come from?" It is almost too hard to realize that He loves us, that He gave us a church (as we have here), and that He provided us with His Word.

Think about it. The Word is a lamp before our feet, and a light on our path. Only an individual who is stiff-necked in heart, mind and soul, will err. Those who become crushed in heart will find life and eternal hope.

"They said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" Mark 16:3. Oh, what small vision men have of who God really is! They tried to hem Him in . . . they tried to close Him in. They rolled a small boulder in front of the door, and they brushed their hands and walked away; they said, "We have victory".

Who do we think God is? Who do I think God is? Oh, they had such a small concept of God. Such a frail God, so small that they could conquer Him.

The Lord said something like this to Job: "Where were you when I fashioned the mountains, and when I hung the earth in space?" When Job began to complain and lament, God said, "Job, where were you? I didn't need you, Job, to do that. I'm God. I created the hill on which I gave my Son. I made heaven. I made earth." He made you and He made me. We become so small in our thinking, and then we don't bring honor to God.

"When they looked, they saw that the stone was (already) rolled away." Mark 16:4. But we're not amazed at that, are we, beloved? The stone was rolled away.

"And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right hand, clothed in a long white gar-

(Continued on Page 30)