



— THE CHRISTIAN HOME —
 "Let brotherly love continue.
 Be not forgetful to entertain
 strangers: for thereby some
 have entertained angels un-
 aware."

Hebrews 13:1-2

— THE CHRISTIAN HOME —
 "For I was ahungered, and ye
 gave me meat: I was thirsty,
 and ye gave me drink: I was a
 stranger, and ye took me in:"

Matthew 25:35

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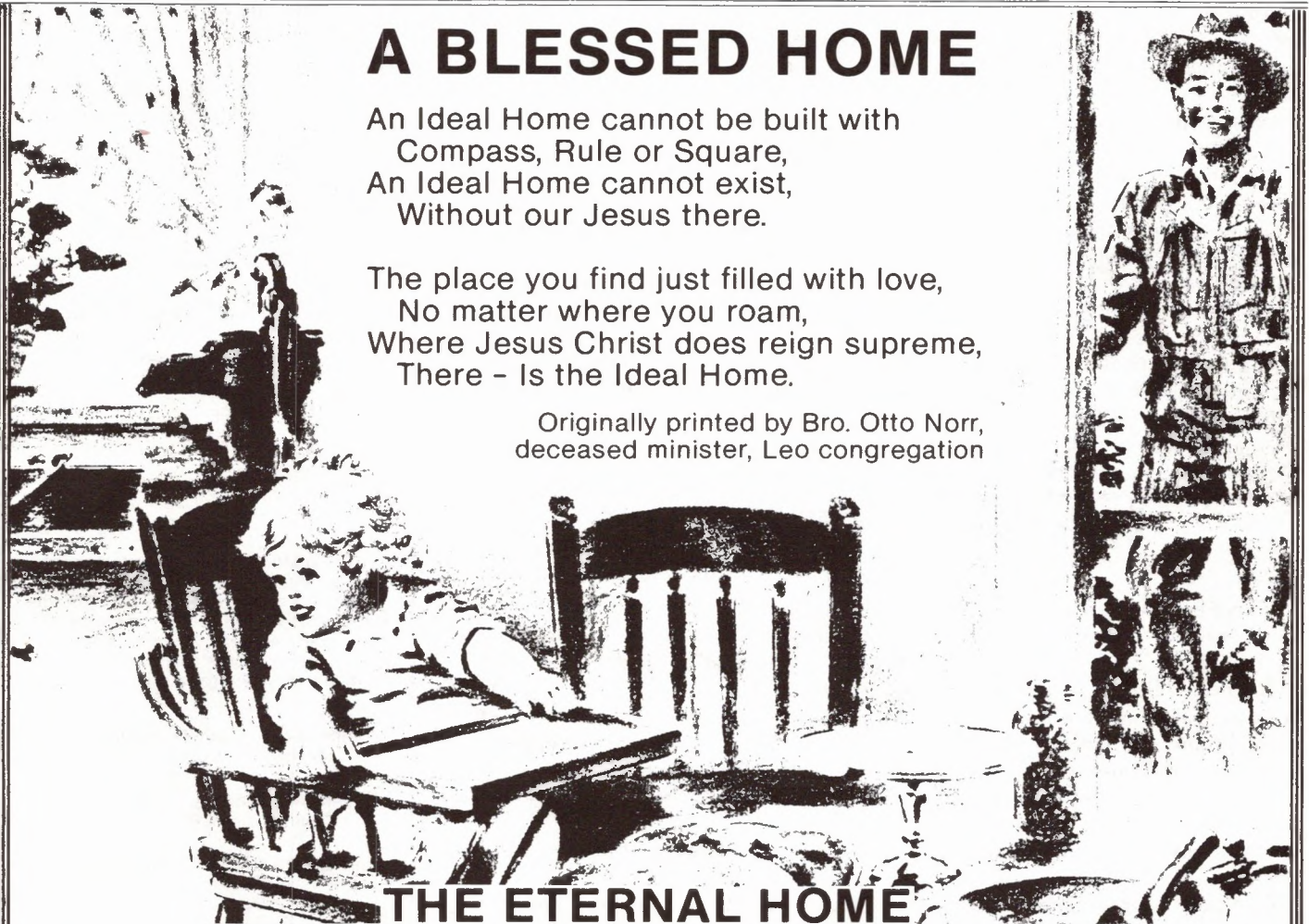
NUMBER 8

A BLESSED HOME

An Ideal Home cannot be built with
 Compass, Rule or Square,
 An Ideal Home cannot exist,
 Without our Jesus there.

The place you find just filled with love,
 No matter where you roam,
 Where Jesus Christ does reign supreme,
 There - Is the Ideal Home.

Originally printed by Bro. Otto Norr,
 deceased minister, Leo congregation



THE ETERNAL HOME THE HOME OF THE SOUL

O where is the home of the soul to be
 found?
 Who knows its true shelter where
 comforts abound?
 What city of refuge will offer a place
 That sin cannot enter the soul to
 disgrace?
 Nowhere, nowhere do we behold
 On earth such a city of blessings
 untold.

How blissful the rest in that city so fair,
 Where, dwelling with Jesus, the soul
 has no care!
 The sounding of harps in those
 mansions above
 Do bid the soul welcome in heavenly
 love.
 Rest, rest, rest, rest, heavenly rest,
 I long to embrace Thee, to be with the
 blest.

So leave this poor earth if that home
 thou wouldst see,
 The home of the sainted from sorrow
 made free,
 Jerusalem, city resplendent in gold,
 Wilt Thou to the soul all thy beauties
 unfold?
 Truly, truly, Thou art the goal,
 Where rest is the portion of ev'ry pure
 soul!

Hymns of Zion #229

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Bill and Cheri Blunier

At the edge of our woods here at the Home stands a tree that has weathered many a storm. It's a peculiar tree because of a split in the trunk about six feet above the ground which forms a gap until higher where it grows back together. Thirteen years ago, at the Dedication Service of the first Group Home, this same tree was likened to the lives of the children we work with. Like the tree, some children's lives are left with big gaps when families are torn apart. Our goal then is to see those gaps closed and see young lives again made whole.

As we reflect on the past four years we have spent here, we are amazed at how quickly the time has gone. We have shared so many varied experiences with a great group of children and fellow staff members. We believe that God has given us this opportunity to learn a great deal about ourselves as well as those children we have had under our care. Each experience in the relationships we have formed have been building blocks in our lives.

Our aim has been to give what we could to help these children grow, but looking back, it seems they have given much more in return. In accepting the challenge, we have discovered new insights that have served to strengthen

our marriage and family. The addition of our daughter, Emily, to our home has really been a positive experience this past year. As the other children watched her develop, much of their attention has been focused on her instead of themselves. She has surely been the cause of many smiling faces.

Seeking to establish a firm, constant, and stable family environment, we have seen progress made in damaged lives. With God's continuous help, we have tried to provide the love, support, and security some of these children never knew. Realizing we can't replace their parents, we've simply tried to bridge the gaps by teaching them the ways of the Lord. It's encouraging when we see children responding to God's love.

As the Home grows, it is our prayer that God will continue to work in the hearts of those who desire to share His love for children in need. We thank God for the memories and experiences we've shared here and feel that our lives are much richer as a result.

Two new residents have recently arrived. Lisa S. (16) is living with the Gerbers in the East House and Penny Gibson (15) is with the Bluniers in the West House. We welcome them.

Preparations are in full force as we near this year's annual auction and sale which includes the dedication and open house for our new group home.

The new house is nearing completion as a flurry of volunteers have continued to work toward the open house deadline. The children are busy making craft items. Each of us really looks forward to this exciting day due to our individual part in it, and the Sale's importance to our on-going operation.

The summer jobs are nearing an end. Laura C., Bob W., and Jon B. have been involved in the County Job Program. Lisa S., Mike K., Penny L., Andrea H., and Penny S. have detasseled corn.

Many volunteers have given of their time and talents to help with our summer program. Becky Aberle (Altadena, CA) recently arrived to help in the houses and especially in the office for the next two months. Brothers have assisted in woodworking projects with the boys, while many sisters have helped with 4-H projects, cooking and freezing fruits and vegetables for the coming year. Thanks to each one for your efforts.

EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR

AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is an opening at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home for a brother or sister with a degree in education or a related field to serve full-time as the coordinator of the Home's educational and vocational programs.

Responsibilities include individual tutoring, liason work with the public schools and development of summer educational and work programs. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a teacher to work with teenagers and Christian staff members. We can see this position expanding as we focus on vocational programs for our teens and as we increase our total capacity by 50% when our new house is completed.

If you have the educational qualifications, please pray about applying for this position.

Compensation includes salary and living expenses, plus excellent fringe benefits. For more information, call or write one of the brothers listed below.

Your servants in Christ,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

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THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130).

Sanctification

"... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5: 25-27).

Sanctification is defined as being set apart for a sacred service, a holy use. When the firstborn of Egypt were destroyed, the Israelites were set apart, for the death angel saw the blood and passed over their households. It is a great privilege to be thus called of God and marked or set apart for holy use. But with that gift also comes a very significant responsibility. "... unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48).

Sanctification begins with faith in Christ (Acts 26:18) which results in an imputed righteousness. The Word (John 17:17) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16) then further sanctify and purify our hearts and lives. This is a practical sanctification which involves the application of scriptural principles to all aspects of our attitude and behavior. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1). This practical holiness is not an option for the believer. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

Where do we stand today with regard to sanctification of spirit, soul and body (1 Thes. 5:23)? Do we abhor sin or have we allowed worldliness to re-enter our heart? Do we read things we shouldn't or dwell on evil thoughts? We must yield to God and not to Satan's lures: "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:14). This

means we should not think about how we may please our flesh. We are told the wall around the New Jerusalem separates the ungodly from the godly. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth..." (Rev. 21:27).

If we allow an evil thought to become a strong imagination, we may go on to delight in it and finally consent to it in word or deed. It has been said that we should "withstand the beginnings," just as we most effectively deal with weeds in a garden when they are young and shallow-rooted. If these invasive plants are allowed to remain for a period of time, they become deeply rooted. They take the nourishment from the fruit and, like evil thoughts, if left unchecked they ultimately choke out all that is good (James 1:14-15).

It is very clear that the early church was truly set apart for Christ. However, through the ages of time there have been many changes in the attitudes and lifestyles of professing Christians. Years ago many took the stand of being non-combatant. The Anabaptists in Europe were persecuted for this but never took the sword. However, World War II brought a relaxation of this standard, and it became common even for "fundamental" Christians to bear arms. Historically, honoring the Lord's day by abstaining from labor and commerce was a widespread practice. This has deteriorated a great deal in recent years. We are thankful that our brethren keep the Lord's day holy and rest from their labors.

Many other churches formerly did not believe in going to movies. Gradually they relented and said their members could go to the "good" movies. Now many allow themselves to go to any of them. Entertainment becomes a refuge from a disturbing conscience. God tries to convict souls, but they drown it out

by one sport after another, one movie after another. The influences of television programming and Hollywood eventually manifest themselves. Divorce was common in Hollywood many years ago; now it is common in our society. In adornment there have also been many changes. Yet the Bible says "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart..." (1 Pet. 3:3-4). After all we are not to please the world but are set apart to glorify God. In the Word, painting the face is associated with corruption. (Ezek. 23:40).

There has come to be little difference between professing Christians and unbelievers in many aspects of lifestyle. What has happened to biblically based practical sanctification which truly sets the believer apart from others? We need to prove that our allegiance is to the Lord and not the world. In Him are the true pleasures, not those that satisfy the flesh but those which satisfy the soul's need (Ps. 16:11).

We must not only pray but watch. We must watch for trends in our own heart and withstand the beginnings. We must realize that we are in a real battle, greater than the battle of Gettysburg or Bunker Hill, and better is "he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32).

Sanctification should occur in every phase of our lives, our personality, our thoughts, our lifestyle, and our outward appearance (2 Tim. 2:19-21). We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, both of which belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:20). "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work" (2 Thes. 16-17).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Recently, we heard a sermon about giving God the leftovers — our leftover time, our leftover money, our leftover energy to serve. We were reminded that when we have company we get out our best dishes, a good tablecloth and we shop for the best food varieties that will not only look appealing, but taste good. We go to much effort. Then we were challenged to think how we treat God. Does He get our best time, our best donations, and our best energy to serve? Do our work and our pleasures consume us to the degree that we only have leftovers? Because God is always there, do we tend to take advantage of His goodness and faithfulness to us? I suppose we all find ourselves guilty of

servicing Him leftovers at times. But, let's not be discouraged. Today we can try again to give our very best.

Oakwood Estate is presently awaiting an inspection by Public Health. After this process is completed, four people from the Home for the Handicapped will move in. Then, another inspection will occur and after all regulations are met, the remaining eleven people will move to Oakwood on a scheduled plan. Most staff have been hired and are awaiting opening day. Dedication services will be held August 7.

Randy Mogler and Evie Blunier prepared a turkey dinner with all the trimmings at Oakwood for all those people who will live there. This was an enjoyable experience for all as they worked

together before and after the meal, doing various household jobs. They enjoyed using their home together for the first time. Oakwood is a lovely home, but the loveliest of homes is nothing if God's love and presence are not there.

Birthdays for September are: Marlene Esslinger (8); Angie Massner (9); Marta Graber (9); Mike Culkin (10); David Taylor (13); Janet Christensen (16); Lester Miller (16); Lois Egli (19); Glenn Getz (20); Jim Maupin (24); and Ethel Borinstein (29).

Repair and remodel of our activity rooms, which suffered the most of the storm damage, is almost completed. Soon these rooms will be in full operation. Church services were started again in July and our residents welcome this fellowship time.

Our summer of heat with no rain has taken its toll on our corn crop. Only time will tell the amount of damage that has been done. Certainly, this has been another reminder that by God's hand we are fed. It is also of His mercy that we are not consumed. Great is His faithfulness! (Lamentations 3:22, 23)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

We have enjoyed several volunteers who have given of their time and talents to help us. Sis. Beth Beery and Rachel Winkler came from Rittman, OH, for a week and Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka, IL) spent 2½ weeks with us. Sis. Marilyn Reinhard (Latty, OH) and Beth and Dawn Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) also were here for a week. They all helped teach the children while the teachers took turns enjoying vacation time. Also, Bro. Greg Schumacher and Mark Schumacher (Washington, IL) volunteered their time to do some odd jobs around the church and school. We want to thank each one for giving so freely of their time. May God bless them all.

The children are continuing to learn about God's wonderful world. We will be learning about animals for the next three weeks.

The summer will be over before we know it and we'll be getting ready for a new school year. We hope that we will be full this year but currently have quite a few openings. May God's will be done. As always, we ask for your prayers.

CALLED TO SERVE

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS and widows IN THEIR AFFLICTION and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

Here, at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we sense a real urgency about the work that James described. Since our Home opened in 1975, the Lord has given us opportunity to provide a Christian family home for nearly 70 troubled young people, temporarily or permanently "fatherless." The demand for our family-like placement alternative has increased so that we are operating at capacity and must turn away many children in need of help.

The Lord has burdened our hearts to respond to this growing need. As you may know, construction is nearly completed on our third family residence, with capacity for eight youths. As a result, we have several new openings for staff positions:

- A Married Couple To Serve As Houseparents OR
- Single Sisters To Serve As Houseparents In An All-Girl House

These are challenging and rewarding opportunities for mature and committed couples and single people to work as a team with a dedicated and unified staff of brothers and sisters, striving to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of young people. No experience is necessary. We will train you. Qualifications include maturity, a love for children, and a commitment to serve.

Compensation includes a cash salary and living expenses, plus excellent fringe benefits. Interested couples or singles are encouraged to contact either of the brothers listed below for more information.

Your servants in Christ,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

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ALABAMA, ATHENS**Marilyn Walder**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN). We thank them both for their dedication to the Athens church. We always look for-

ward to their visits. Other visitors were from Leo, IN, St Louis, MO, Alto, MI, Rittman and Latty, OH, Eureka, Goodfield, Chicago, Fairbury, Forrest, Cissna Park, Princeville, Champaign, and Washington, IL. A bus load from Fairbury and Forrest was with us for the

4th of July weekend. The bus load plus several cars and vans visited Bro. George Kelley and his family in Tennessee on Sunday afternoon.

We have had several from our congregation who have been ill. Sis. Shirley Hagggenmaker was in the hospital for tests. Sis. Ruby Massey also had a series of tests and Beverly Martin has been laid up with back trouble. Our prayers are with them. May they recover according to God's will.

— NOTICE —**Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books**

In 1984 we read in the Guideposts concerning the unfilled need for 10,000 Bibles. We wrote to the organization and started sending some repaired and some new Bibles. Since that time, we have sent over 500 Bibles, much Sunday school materials and song books.

During this past year, Sisters Becky Knapp (Dave) and Jane Huette (Curtis) from Goodfield, IL, have been helping in this work.

If our churches or individual members have Bibles, Bible story books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn books that are worn and in need of repair, please let us know or send them to us. We tape and repair the books and obtain names and addresses of people in foreign countries who want and need them, package and mail them in large canvas mailing bags. It costs 55¢ a pound to send books or \$1.10 for printed material of less than 30 pages. On a recent shipment to Africa, the cost to send a Bible was 72¢.

If you have any questions or wish to send material for repair, please call or write:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 132
Congerville, IL 61729
Phone (309) 448-2416

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
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 — 23,048
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 — 25,969

Bibles Distributed — Fifth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1987 —	2358	2358
September 1987 —	1023	3561
October 1987 —	1605	5166
November 1987 —	2264	7430
December 1987 —	1029	8459
January 1988 —	6611	15070
February 1988 —	1864	16934
March 1988 —	2027	18961
April 1988 —	1968	20929
May 1988 —	1903	22832
June 1988 —	1837	24699
July 1988 —	1300	25,969

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.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

July 17 was the day of the beautiful wedding of Sis. Stefanie Baum and Bro. Randal Wuethrich. The bride's grandfather, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, performed the ceremony. The happy couple's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola Wuethrich (Francesville). Their buffet reception was held at the Scottsdale Princess.

Alan Knochel professes to have the peace that passes all understanding and awaits the July weekend when he will give his testimony and step into the baptismal waters. His parents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Madeline, are happy their first born is now a believer in Christ.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman and son, Philip, have welcomed Samuel Jacob into their hearts and home with love. His birth date is May 27. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver) and Bro. John Kaufman and Betty Hari (Phoenix).

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank welcomed a new grandson, Marshall (Dale and Roberta (Greenbank), born May 14.

Kaitlyn Elizabeth is the new little daughter born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss. Richelle will help her sister blow out her birthday candles on July 11. Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola Wuethrich (Francesville) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss (Morris) are the grandparents.

Sunday school classes are in recess for a summer vacation.

Prayers have been helpful for Bro. George Schuster who was hospitalized for studies, Sis. Patsy Esslinger who had out patient surgery, Rachel Roth (Bro. Harry) who is ill at home and Jessica Tooley who had the misfortune of breaking her foot.

Several from our congregation traveled to Juarez where the Community Building and the Medical Building were

dedicated July 10. These buildings were erected by brothers of several Apostolic Christian churches.

Correction: Franz Hoerr's maternal grandmother is Sis. Mildred Huber (Francesville).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our prayers are with Daryle, Janeen, Darla and Corinne Hari as they received word of the death of their wife and mother, Jan. Surely the Lord's timing is perfect. However, we do not know how or why, so faith must enter in. We pray the Lord will comfort our loved ones during this time.

Our Bro. Jay Bertsch is hospitalized at this writing. We pray the Lord will

sustain Bro. Jay during his stay in the hospital.

The Lord has led our Bro. Kent Miller to choose his helpmate, Sis. Jane Lang (Tremont). They are planning a January wedding after which they will reside in Tucson. Many blessings are wished upon this couple.

Our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman, recently traveled to Illinois for the funeral of his sister, Sis. Florence Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We pray the Lord will travel with him on the highways and comfort him in his loss.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:34-43. We are thankful that today there are those who preach and testify of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Art Baurer and Jim Plattner (Princeville), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield), Dean Messner (Winthrop), Arnie Gerst and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), and Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). May God bless them for the messages brought forth.

"The voice of one crying in the wil-

derness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." St. Mark 1:3, 4. It's been a long time since John was found preaching in the wilderness, but if we were to stop and take a good look around us, we would have to agree that many still wander in the wilderness of sin. It is uplifting when one has answered the call. We rejoice with Jennifer Notter (Holyoke, CO) as she has answered that call. She met brothers and sisters at Iowa State where she attends school and in them saw the light and from them heard the word. She will be returning there in the fall to continue her education. We wish her much grace and humility of heart to go onward in God's ways.

The time of the brotherhood conference is fast approaching and we again are reminded of the verse "Brethren, pray for us," I Thessalonians 5:25. May each of us, in the fear of the Lord, remember those in authority over us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

I Corinthians 15:51, 52

On June 27, Bro. Art Lanz, 87, entered into his eternal rest. His wife, Fannie (Zimmerman), tenderly cared for him with great patience and love for many years. He leaves two daughters, Sisters Carol Gottier and Beverly Gerber; two brothers, Bros. Alvin and Ervin; and seven sisters, Sisters Huldah Luginbuhl, Olga, Helen, Gertrude, Clara, Edna and Evelyn. At times like this, a lifetime of memories flood the mind. One cannot help but sorrow because death seems so final. The tears flow, perhaps even out of joy for the deceased and a yearning to join the loved one in a state where "... eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (I Corinthians 2:9)

We pray for and wish Cherinne Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) well as she continues to have periodic

WORKS PROJECTS NEEDS FOR HAITI

Items For The Hospitals

If you have:

Wheelchairs, crutches, canes or walkers.

Needed are large serving spoons, blank cassette tapes, 35mm film - black & white - Plus X - Panzo - Kodacolor II - slide film, either 24 or 36 exposure.

Fans - floor or ceiling.

Gift wrap paper (birthday and Christmas), Desk Calendars 1989, Calculators, Water Filters, Incubator, Variety of Construction Tools.

2 Scales for Hospital, Tissue Paper, 8½ x 11, Typewriter - manual or electric, Air conditioner for Operating Room, Sewing Machines - can be small cabinet, electric or portable in good operating condition.

Please take to Material Aid Center at Wing, Bluffton or Leo.

NEEDED:

Lard and tallow for the soap-making process at the Bluffton World Relief Center.

Call 219-565-3257

Stan Isch

treatments at Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York. We empathize with Cherinne and, even though she seldom complains, emotionally and physically it must be fatiguing. We know the Lord sees and knows all things and is able, through prayer, to help and provide for each of our individual needs.

Bro. Werner Kupferschmid is in intensive care and, hopefully, it will not be long before he can resume his normal activities once again. We pray for his speedy recovery as well as for others who may be under a physician's care, especially our loved ones in nursing homes.

We wish Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz and daughter, Kim, well in their move to New Holland, PA, where they will attend the Philadelphia church. May the Lord provide for them in their new endeavors as He has in the past. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller have relocated from Boston to Detroit. We enjoyed their fellowship as they made it a point to gather with us each weekend. We hope they will not forget us who are rather isolated on the east coast. We will miss both families and may the Lord watch between us with His love and protection as we journey onward "... trusting not thereon what ourselves we do or find, But that Christ is strong." (Zion's Harp. #88)

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri K. Huber

We extend a belated, but heartfelt, welcome to Bro. Rod and Sis. Ann Anliker and their three boys as they settle into the Ft. Lauderdale area. Bro. Rod found employment here when he completed his schooling in May.

The annual business meeting was held. We have enlisted the help of Bro. Jeffrey Graf as trustee, Bro. Ryan Huber, Sis. Joan Kuntz, and Sis. Amy Ringger as Sunday school teachers, and Sis. Jayne Webb for kitchen duty. We also voted to have communion twice a year.

Visiting and ministering to us this month was Bro. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers). Unfortunately, the occasion that brought Bro. Vic and Sis. Dot to our midst was a sad one. We recently lost a loved one, Sis. Florence Sutter, who went to be with the Lord shortly before her 75th birthday. Sis. Florence was described at the service as a "pioneer" of the Ft. Lauderdale church. She and Bro. Harry brought their family to Florida thirty years ago. She is

survived by her husband, four brothers, her children (Bros. Richard and Robert and Sis. Judy Sauder), and nine grandchildren. She will be missed in our little church and her favorite spot on the pew will always seem empty. Sis. Florence was buried in Peoria, IL.

However, there is also joy in our congregation at the news of a young soul turning to the Lord. Douglas Sauder has turned his heart and life over to Jesus and we, along with the angels in heaven, rejoice! So far, 1988 has been a particularly exciting year for me as Silver Lining correspondent. Hardly a month has gone by that I haven't been able to report a birth or spiritual rebirth in our small church family.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Kay Eisenmann

If our schooling starts at the foot of the cross, what grade are we in? Do we remember the miracles Jesus did for men while here on earth? Those were done to get man's attention. The real miracle in life was when the shutters on our eyes were lifted and we repented! By repenting we not only save our soul, but we are telling God we believe! He sent Jesus to save us and the Holy Ghost to guide us. How can any man of a sane mind neglect his soul's destiny while keeping busy with the cares of this life? What do we think of the first thing in the morning as we open our eyes? Are we thankful for a safe night and do we enjoy each day? Are we always planning ahead as if our life will never end? A man is worthy of his hire, but who writes your paycheck? We can only serve one master! May God open many more eyes that they find the joy in living for Him! We are such creatures of habit! May those who don't see the need to go to church give God a chance to feed their souls with the Word. They say, "We are what we eat!" It is the same for the soul. Eternity is sure. Why don't we believe? Oh! God help our unbelief! Let us all try to read the Word of God more so our soul doesn't starve!

Dathan Eisenmann is still making quite a few trips to St. Petersburg for tests. They have now discovered that his thyroid isn't working, so please keep giving your love and prayers to the family. This little boy told his mother, "I've looked God right in the eye!" Out of the mouth of babes . . .!

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauder-

dale) were our welcome ministers this past month.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott

As the summer months pass, our congregation has been blessed with young families as well as brothers and sisters vacationing in the south. We welcome each one and open our church to all who may be traveling in the area. We are ever so grateful for the traveling mercies and safe return of our dear Elder. Bro. Ben Maibach and his precious wife, Sis. Lorene. God's promises are true that if we stay near his side he will protect us under His wing.

We want to welcome John Alt to our Sarasota Church. He is the son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marge Alt (Cissna Park, IL).

Those in our congregation who have been ill and unable to assemble with us are Sis. Kathryn Schroeder and Sis. Lydia Vonia. We pray God will stand ever by these dear sisters and grant healing if it be in His divine plan.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

These past two summer months, our gathering was blessed by so many visiting ministers and brethren. On June 26 we were blessed to have two ministers, Bro. Pete Baltic and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) ministered to us July 10. We appreciate the time they and their families took to come down to share the Word with us. We also had other visitors from Roanoke, Forrest, and Fairbury, IL, and Rittman, OH.

On July 24, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) came to bring us the Word. The night before, Bro. Wendell took the time to hold our first communion services here in the Atlanta church. This time of remembrance was a very special and humbling moment for us to remember what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us.

This summer, Sis. Brenda Stoller has started a Sunday school class for the children in our congregation. The class consists of about five students. May God bless Sis. Brenda and the children as He puts the seed of the Word in each of their little hearts.

We have changed the location of our meeting place to the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located just off I-85 on the Riverdale Road Exit. It

is located on the south end of the Atlanta/Hartsfield Airport in South Atlanta. This new location is more centrally located for us who live in the area. We thank Bro. Don Sellers for the use of his business office as our last meeting place.

Our congregation plans to gather every Sunday at this new location. We encourage visitors and others passing through to come by and visit us here in Atlanta. To contact us for information, call either Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller 404-631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers 404-923-0721, Sis. Nancy Foltz 404-451-9191, or myself 404-631-4454.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Karen Brummitt — De Anderson

We are thankful for the visits of ministering Bros. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). For the thoughtful giving of their time, we sincerely express our appreciation.

June 25 was the date our dear friends, Angela Bianco and Brett Knobloch, chose for their wedding day. Angela is the daughter of Velda and Joe Bianco and Brett's parents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Charlene. We wish them God's blessing as they begin their lives together.

Once more the healing strength of God has been felt as Sis. Devon Rinkenberger was a surgery patient and is now recuperating.

It saddens us to bid farewell to the Bro. Ken Rinkenberger family and to Sis. Marci Metz. Bro. Ken, Sis. Devon and their children are relocating in the Chicago area as Bro. Ken has been led to accept employment there. Sis. Marci has also accepted employment elsewhere and will be moving to Francesville, IN. May God bless the Christian friendships we are privileged to share and may He continue to be near our loved ones in their new homes.

But I prize the friendship highest
Of the one whose heart is true.
Friends who live by truth and goodness
And who live in Him anew.
Friends whose hearts are up in heaven
Though their feet traverse this sod,
Find a place of highest merit
In our fellowship with God.

"Christian Friendship"
Henry Beer

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Carol Kieser

Lavonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) has placed her hand in the nail-scarred hand of the Lord Jesus Christ and has begun her walk of faith. We thank God for the grace offered to her, and all others, to come unto repentance and seek the Lord while He may be found. May God hold her in the palm of His hand and give her peace amidst all doubts and fears.

We are thankful Sis. Anne Rumbold was protected from serious harm in a recent auto accident. Bro. Denny Endress is worshipping with us again after experiencing affliction of the back for some time. We are grateful for the Lord's healing in His own time.

Bro. David Klumpp and Sis. Roseann Stahl have been elected as Sunday school teachers. We pray they will be given much grace to be instrumental in the lives of youth, having their feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace!

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Mike Reiker (Peoria). We pray God will bless them and their families.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5, 6

God is faithful and I am trusting in His direction for me to assist with the work of faith and labor of love at the Leo Children's Home. In August I begin as an assistant houseparent. I appreciate the love and support from everyone and request for continued prayers for faith to increase and God's love to flow freely.

"He knows best who rules us; the Lord will provide!"

Zion's Harp #86

May we all follow the example of Christ as He prayed not my will but thine and surrendered to the Father -- "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN/URBANA LaRae Dill

On July 10, our congregation en-

joyed visitors from many different places and ages. We appreciate the ministry of Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL).

We wish the best to Bro. Mike Walder, as he relocates in Chicago to begin his career in graphic design. Mike's parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Three generations were among the thirteen who were invited for supper. As I greeted each sister, I rejoiced in three generations of His children. We all want so much for our parents, our children, our grandchildren, all that we know, to be part of the greatest family reunion ever. May we, by His Spirit and sufficiency, live every day to preserve our faith, that our posterity may have it, too.

For me it's most noticeable with my contact lens solution or shampoo. When I have a full bottle, I overuse. I may even waste some. On the other hand, as I get closer to the end of a bottle, I become miserly. I hoard each drop, even diluting the shampoo to make it go further. What's the point? Well, how do we use God's grace? Do we use it lavishly, sharing of our abundance, or do we feel we only have a little, need to hold back or dilute it with another substance? That may sound silly, but sometimes I must confess I live as though I'm afraid there won't be enough grace for tomorrow. Yet God has promised, "My grace is sufficient for thee . . ." II Corinthians 12:9. May we live within His will so closely that we are assured of His continual outpouring of grace in our lives.

We have been so blessed by our visitors, especially those who have preached the Word: Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN).

We welcome our newly married couples. Bro. John and Sis. Sue Core Grusy were married in our church June 26. Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Nester Sauder were married in Lester, IA, July 10. Both couples are at home in our area. We are grateful that the Lord has given them each other and that He will provide grace for them to continue to learn from each other and more deeply and sacrificially love each other. They will be an example in the church and to the world of the power of His

love. We love them and extend our congratulations and prayers.

Whenever a precious couple leaves our area, we feel sad. So it is with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach and their son, Kyle, who have moved back to Iowa. Jerry will be working in Burlington, and Jerry's home church, Oakville, will be their church. We are confident that they have sought and found the Lord's will for them at this time. With them they have taken a "bit of Chicago," and our love and prayers turn to them with longing but with peace.

It is much easier to welcome a new couple. Bro. Kenny and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger and their four children have just recently moved from Bloomington to the Naperville area. We look forward to fellowship with them, as the Lord has led them to our congregation. We appreciate their coming. We know we will enjoy their presence and spirit. We pray that they will find adjustment comparatively easy. The Lord is here, too, and we will endeavor to be His good ambassadors.

This summer I have begun a new experience. Though I have wanted to learn another language for a long time, I had shied away from the time and commitment I knew would be needed. But, I finally signed up for a Spanish class, and I find learning a real joy. I even have a former student of mine who is very patient in tutoring me outside of class. I truly feel blessed. But, I also find learning Spanish to be very humbling. I, who am usually articulate and confident, stumble and fear conversation. I have so much to learn that I am sometimes overwhelmed. Yet I receive encouragement and know that all takes time. I am grateful for the long suffering of those around me. Seventeen years ago I began the most important experience in my life, one about which I am ever learning. Though I had wanted to repent for some time, I hesitated to make the commitment. Once I had, I was relieved and found true joy. Nevertheless, I was certainly humbled, finding there was so much for me to learn. I have been tutored and given the finest examples, in the church, in the Word. Christ Himself has been a patient teacher and guide. Sometimes I am still overtaken with the magnitude of this learning. But my brethren are kind and patient, and I am of all people most richly blessed. Learning of His ways is the most challenging

and rewarding of all life's tasks, for mind and body and spirit. Christ Himself said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Knapp — Elaine Sauder

The Sunday School Picnic was held in the pavilion at the park in Cissna June 26. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food that was brought in for the picnic. Several games were planned for the children at different age levels throughout the park. It was a beautiful day with shade for those who wished to fellowship and plenty of room for the children to participate in the activities.

Saturday, July 16, was a blessed evening for our church when we had the privilege of witnessing the testimonies of Mark Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan) and Danny Walder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Wilma). They were both baptized July 17. We welcome these two young brothers into the fold.

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12

The engagement of Bro. Jim Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) from here to Sis. Renee Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane, Fairbury) was announced. May God grant them much joy and happiness during this special time of preparation for marriage.

Those hospitalized this past month were Bro. Lester Rocke (med.), Alvin Rudin (surg.) and Brandon Bauer (med.) (Jim and Cindy). We also wish to remember those who have had out patient surgeries and, of course, our shut-ins who have not been able to attend services with us for some time. A prayer, card, phone call or visit means so much.

We are so thankful for the visiting elders and ministers who so willingly gave of themselves by the reading and preaching of the word over the pulpit and in our Sunday school and through prayer. May God bless each one abundantly. Present to assist with the testimonies and baptisms were Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bob Walder (Congerville). Our visiting ministers were Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Tom

Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka), Kenny Dietz (Bradford) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Sandy Knapp — Susan Zobrist

Among our many blessings, we count two new babies. Sent straight from heaven, Kyle John is welcomed by Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen, David, Kayla and Craig. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen (Congerville) and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). Also sent from the arms of God, Lisa Leigh has brightened the lives of Bro. Allen and Sis. Joanne Roth and David. Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville) and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield) are the grandparents.

"I need the prayers of those I love, to help me in each trying hour, to bear my tempted soul to Him, that He may keep me by His power."

James D. Vaughn

"I Need The Prayers"

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Emma Schieber, Bro. Dale Leman, Darrick Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp) and Sis. Esther Miller. We pray that God's healing hand of love will comfort and guide them in their trying hours.

May God richly bless Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) for their service to the Lord as our visiting ministers.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Elizabeth Schambach

Betty Bachtold

The weekend of July 16, Don Stettner (Nan) and Becky Cargill shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill, and the late Bro. Otto and Sis. Lydia Reber Stettner are their parents.

"And I who naught but wrath did merit

Shall now in grace with God abide!

He reconciled my wayward spirit,
Through His own blood, and gave me light."

Zion's Harp #220

May that precious Holy Spirit dwell

richly in their hearts. Sharing in this labor and bringing unto us the Word of Life were Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bros. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal), and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby Wahl and son, Luke, were made happy on June 24 as Sarena Ann was added to their little family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN) and the late Sis. Ida Wahl.

Also adding joy to the family of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Kellenberger and Amanda is the birth of Grant Gerald, born July 8. Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn and the late Bro. Gerald Kellenberger, and Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae Schrock.

On July 10 a little bundle of love, Anastassia Louise, came to the home of Amy Kellenberger. First-time grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Carol Kellenberger.

We wish God's blessings upon these dear little ones.

Wedding vows were spoken by Dennis Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny) and Bonnie Hanley June 19. May God bless their marriage.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

We are thankful for ministering brothers who have come and shared God's Word with us. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville) visited recently.

Bro. Bob Prather has been a hospital patient this past month. We are thankful he has returned home. May we also remember those who are confined to their homes and unable to assemble with us. There is a beautiful blessing in remembering them with a call, visit or a card.

We rejoice with Sis. Kathy Sue Rocke and Bro. Norman Knapp as they were united in holy matrimony July 10. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp, all of Eureka. May God bless their union.

We are thankful God's call is still

going forth and salvation is offered to those who will come and taste and see. We ask God's nearness for Doug Knepp (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy). May he be given much grace and guidance in his new walk of life.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Madalyn Rothgeb in the passing of her father, Bro. Ed Wyss.

Begin each new day as if it is the beginning of your life.
For truly it is the beginning of what is left of your life.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

"HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE"

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store." As I got a little closer, the big door opened wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing right inside.

I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care." Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store and all you couldn't carry, you could come back for more.

First I got some patience. Love was in the same row. Further down was understanding, you need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith. I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace. I didn't forget salvation, for salvation was free, so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw a box of prayer. I just had to put that in. I knew when I stepped outside I would run right into sin. Peace and joy were plentiful. They were on the very last shelf. Song and praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "How much do I owe?" He just smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go." Again I smiled at him, and said, "How much now do I really owe?" He smiled again and replied, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

We can be so thankful that Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood that we could go free from sin.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Renae Meiss and Bro. Jim Waldbeser (Cissna Park). We ask God's blessings on this couple as they blend their lives and families together. The parents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park).

Our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital this past month are Sis. Lavina Moser, Sis. Luella Sohn, Jordan Kelson, Sis. Barb Meiss, Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger. May they all feel our love and prayers. God didn't promise "sun without rain" or "joy without pain," but He promised us "strength for the day."

Reminder: The month of August is collection month for Fairbury.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson — Sandra Schneider

Our congregation experienced a blessed, solemn evening as we partook of holy communion June 29. It is strengthening to our faith as we think again of all our Savior has done for us. We thank Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for taking time to come help our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman serve us.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Kendra Steffen and Shawna Adams have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. Their parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janice Steffen and Sis. Sharon and the late Bro. Terry Adams. May they lay a firm foundation that will stand up to the storms and tests of life.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Leman welcomed the arrival of Kay Lynn June 23. Big brother, Kirk, will enjoy having a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman.

Sis. Sally Schaffer and Sis. Edna Wiegand both have spent time in the hospital. Sis. Judy Kemp again required eye surgery. May they each one feel God's nearness as they wait for His healing power.

We appreciate the service of two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), both brought forth God's Word without fear or favor of man. May God richly bless them for lending themselves in His service.

A busload of residents from the Home for the Handicapped spent the day with us Sunday, July 10. Their visit was a real inspiration to us and we thank them for making the effort to be with us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Amid the stresses and strains of life, and to face everyday challenges, the grace of God needs to be present in our lives. Grace, the undeserved favor of God given only to the humble, empowers the believer to overcome disappointment, temptation, and negative assaults.

The importance of grace in the believer's life is underscored by the Apostle Paul in his many letters to the churches. The opening remarks in nearly all his epistles made reference to the grace of God.

The grace of God will be an adequate balm for those raising crops this summer. The drought, which has covered most of the crop-growing areas of the midwest, has not spared our Gridley community. Anyone with ties to agriculture (and this includes nearly everyone) will be affected by the driest summer in more than fifty years. As brothers and sisters-in-Christ, we are to "bear one another's burdens;" thus, all of us as believers must possess God's grace to endure the season of drought. It will take the grace of God to trust in the Lord during this time, and to realize that He will provide for our every need.

In humility, may we daily seek God's grace. Indeed, may we come "boldly to the throne of grace" and then live our lives "according to the riches of His grace."

Three of our Gridley sisters were hospitalized this month: Carol Stoller (Mrs. Larry), Verene Kuerth, and Lillian Witzig. Sonia Virkler was also hospitalized this month.

Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) was our visiting minister this month.

ILLINOIS,

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Brenda Huber

We appreciate the continued support of our ministering brethren over the summer months. Bro. James Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), and Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) have willingly shared His precious Word

with us. As August approaches, we look forward to the students' return and our weekly Bible studies.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Cheryl Wuthrich

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." How the Apostle Paul loved to include these words in his greetings and how wonderful it is to be able to greet our brothers and sisters with these same words.

In II Corinthians 1, Paul goes on to say "... the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulations . . ." May this promise comfort the family of Gilbert Bauman whose funeral was held July 19 at the fellowship hall. Our sympathy and prayers extend to his wife, Janet; his children, Joseph, Jim, Jill Thompson and Jane; to his aged mother, Sis. Naomi; and to all his family and friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for ministering to us for our last, postponed Vacation Bible School message. Through the Lord, he provided us much food for thought as he described a believer's duties while "serving in the Lord's army". We learned as soldiers in the Lord's army we must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus, the captain of our salvation. We learned how we should be looking for new recruits, how we should strive toward victory, and then how we can eagerly anticipate dwelling in the new Jerusalem.

Soon schools all across the nation will be beginning a new year. We exhort believing students not to venture outside their door in the morning without putting on the armour of God. As Ephesians 6 tells us, have your loins girt about with truth, have on the breastplate of righteousness, have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, and above all have the shield of faith (so you can put out all the fiery darts of Satan). Have on the helmet of salvation and have the sword of the Spirit. Dressed like this we will be able to stand up against the deceit and tricks of Satan. It would even be a good idea to have this memorized so we can look in the mirror of God's Word throughout the day to see if our armour is remaining properly in place. As parents of saved or unsaved children, we must take full advantage of the time we have our children inside the four walls

of our home. We must teach them Godly wisdom, love them, discipline them, be examples for them, and when they leave the house in the morning we can hold them up in prayer often throughout the day.

We want to remind the Mortonites that August is collection month for the Silver Lining subscription. Please make payments to Sis. Annette Tanner.

Sis. Dorothy Belsley wants to thank everyone for the gifts, food, flowers, cards, visits, love and prayers extended to her during her stay in the hospital and during her convalescence.

And as the apostle Paul often ends his correspondence, "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Kathy Huthmann

We rejoice with three families who have been blessed with new additions. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel are rejoicing with the arrival of their son, Jason, born July 11. Jason has a brother, Jonathan, and a sister, Emily. His grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Betty Obergfel (Cissna Park) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr.

First-time parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marie Hoerr. Their daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, was born June 30. Little Lauren's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Sis. Marlene Milazzo (Morton).

On June 21, God also blessed the home of Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer with a son. Daniel Jesse is welcomed home by Bethany, Joseph and Joanna. His grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann and Mr. and Mrs. Laszlo Kummer.

Those brothers ministering to us during the past month were Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We appreciate their willingness to preach the true Word of God.

Hospital patients this month include Linda Miller, Sis. Donna Ferrero, Lena Hoerr, Oria Irons, Sis. Bernice Hartman, Sis. Brenda Hoerr, and Sis. Barb Hoerr. Randy Purdom is also in the hospital at the Mayo Clinic for a bone marrow transplant. We hope they can feel our love and prayers as well as God's nearness as they endure their afflictions.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harry Suttor and his family of Fort

Lauderdale, FL, as his wife, Sis. Florence, has passed away after a long illness.

Thank You Notes:

Words cannot express our feelings of thankfulness to all who helped make our 1988 VBS a success. May God richly bless each of you for your support and hard work. Many seeds were sown and we pray that God will grant the increase. A special thank you to all of the children. They were wonderful. May God's name be glorified and may we always remember that Jesus is a wonderful Saviour.

Vacation Bible School Committee

Oria Irons would like to thank each one who remembered him with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers while he was in the hospital.

We wish to express our sincere heartfelt thanks to our many friends for the love and kindness shown to us with prayers, cards, gifts, telephone calls, flowers, and fruit during Bud's hospital stays. Your love and concern have been so appreciated. Again, thank you so much for your sustaining prayers. May God bless all of you.

Bro. Bud Fehr and family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"He 'walked with God'. Could grander words be written?
Not much of what he thought or said is told:
Not where or what he wrought is even mentioned;
He 'walked with God' -- brief words of fadeless gold!
How many souls were succored on his journey---
Helped by his words, or prayers, we may not know;
Still this we read -- words of excelling grandeur--
He 'walked with God,' while yet he walked below."

Smith

We especially thank Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for being an instrument in bringing the Word of Life to us. Also, we express thanks to Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) for speaking at Vacation Bible School and to Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) for

speaking at a special Bible study. May each of these brothers be blessed for their labors in our behalf.

New Sunday school teachers have been chosen. They are Bro. Stan Schick, Bro. Steve Streitmatter, Sis. Jane Ehnlé and Sis. Linda Joos (Bro. Roland). Those whose terms have been served are Bro. Ken Gehrig, Bro. Bill Streitmatter, and Sis. Carol Martin. May God bless them for their labors of love.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Leila Elsasser, Bro. Duane Elsasser and Bro. Glen Braker. Cleo Gerst was confined to her home for several weeks. We are grateful to have them return to worship with us as they are able.

Life is short, death is sure, sin the cause, Christ the cure!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Patsy Kaeb — Judy Luginbuhl

June 10 was a very special day for Mark and Marjean (Knepp) Largent when their first child, Katie Jean, was born in Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and William and Marjorietta Largent of Tremont are the happy grandparents.

Ron and Tammy (Blunier) Wagenbach (Tremont) have a new little addition to their family. Wendy Louise was born June 16. Bro. Wally Blunier and Bro. Si and Sis. Louise Wagenbach of Tremont are Wendy's grandparents.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris (Hodel) Fischer are happy to have a new daughter, Rachel Roxanne, born June 17. Rachel has a brother, Benjamin, and a sister, Shelli. The happy grandparents are Betty Hodel and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer.

Alexander Edward-Robert is the first child of Edward and Tammy (Getz) Mayhall (Eureka). Alexander was born June 24. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry Getz and Bonnie Getz (Morton) and Edward and Bonnie Mayhall (Eureka).

July 2 was the birthday of Elizabeth Marie Miller of Lisle, IL. Her parents are Jeffery and Mary (Wiedman) Miller. Elmer and Virginia Wiedman and Billy and Shirley Miller of Benson are her grandparents.

Jared Daniel is the first child of Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene (Wettstein) Leman. Jared was born July 14. His happy grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna Wettstein (Eureka).

Sincere congratulations go out to Jeff and Carla Blunier who were married

in Pittsburg, PA. Jeff is the son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Judy Blunier.

Congratulations go out also to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Judy Blunier's son, Brian, and his bride, Kammy (Funk) who were married in Roanoke. We pray God will bless both of these dear couples as they establish their homes.

Elsie (Dave) Sauder has recently moved to Snyder Village in Metamora, IL.

Hospital patients have been Jared Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni (Hodel) Stoller), Bro. Dave "Happy" Hodel and Bro. Kenny Hodel. Again, we ask that God would heal these loved ones according to His will.

July 10 was a blessed day for our congregation when we welcomed Sis. Linda Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel) and Sis. Doris Fischer (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Fischer) into the family of God. What an inspiration when we can witness this change in a soul.

We are also thankful to report Kim Hoffman, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jean, and Tina Leman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachel) have made a beginning in repentance. May He grant His abundant grace to these precious lambs.

Our hearts have been very, very saddened at the death of little Jacob Mathew Hodel, infant son of Bro. Brent and Sis. Marjorie (Aeschleman) Hodel. Jacob died July 9 at his home of "crib death". Surviving are his sister, Sarah, and brother, Nathan, his grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell Aeschleman, and maternal great-grandmother, Sis. Margaret Leman. Just two years ago this dear family laid to rest another infant son and we sincerely pray God will comfort them and sustain them as only He can.

Our dear Sis. Kathryn Kempf died July 14 at Snyder Village in Metamora, IL. Survivors include a brother, Dennis Kempf of Tremont, UT, one nephew and several nieces. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to this dear family.

I extend a humble and sincere thank you to all the loved ones who remembered me in so many ways while I was hospitalized and since returning home. You will never know how much your love, prayers and acts of kindness are appreciated. It is my prayer God will bless each of you as only He can.

Sis. Mildred Aeschleman

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Carolyn Bolliger — Marsha Koch**

We held our annual Sunday school picnic June 26. It turned out to be a blessed evening with cool weather that everyone enjoyed.

Our thanks extend to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) for laboring on our behalf. We wish him God's blessing and guidance to keep preaching the Word in truth and sincerity in this dark and sinful world.

Bro. Stanley and Sis. Jennifer Koch welcomed their new son, Jerad Wayne, born July 1. Jerad was welcomed home by his sister, Elizabeth. May God give them guidance in rearing these young ones.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel and family on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Bertha Michel. Also, Bro. August Bolliger went to his reward and we extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Carrie; his children, Bro. Harlan, the late Bro. Jay, Sis. Glenna (Earl) Sauder, Sis. Janice (Elmon) Koch and to all his grandchildren.

July 9 was the wedding day for Judy Koch (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna) and George Miller (Edgar and Linda, Morton). We wish them much happiness in their lives together.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Carol Schick**

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Romans 8:22

Anywhere we travel this summer the topic of conversation is the same. The hot dry weather and failing crops seem to be nationwide. This is very stressful and a real cross to bear for many farmers but I've also noticed a positive side to all of this hardship. More conversations are turning to spiritual discussions, more people are down on their knees at bedtime, some who don't ordinarily talk of God are asking others to join in nationwide efforts to unite in prayer for God to end the drought. We never know what God's reasons are and we need not even ask. After all, isn't it His farm and His crops? He is in complete control. It's comforting to know He is leading us and we need only submit and follow.

Visiting minister this month was Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont). We thank him

for sharing God's precious Word with us and we hope he and his family will return to visit whenever they are in the area.

Sis. Sue Ruppert has been in the hospital for several weeks and we are all praying that God in His wisdom and love will grant her good health soon.

Our congregation is saddened by the loss of our dear Bro. Ed Wyss. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Julia, his sons, Bro. Carl (Washington), Bro. Roy (Goodfield) and his daughter, Sis. Madelyn Rothgeb, as well as all the other many relatives. May they all feel God's comforting hand on their shoulder.

July 17 was our annual Sunday school picnic. It was a real blessing to gather with our church family for an afternoon of fellowship and group activities with our young children.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON**Jean Moser — Becky Isch**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). We thank them for their willingness to serve us and believe God will richly bless them for their labors of love.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene Reinhard have a new grandson, David Andrew, born June 19 to Don and Sharon Reinhard. A sister, Sarah, and brother, Daniel, welcome him.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann Kaehr became first-time parents June 24 with the birth of a son, Lyndon Wayne. Grandparents are Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman and Bro. Walter and Sis. Lucille Kaehr.

A son, Kyle David, was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer July 6. His two sisters, Erin and April, and brother, Kevin, welcome him along with grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Nova Kipfer and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Devona Gerber.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Ephesians 5:20-21

Through marriage, three new homes were established this past month. Our hope is that each of these couples will be blessed throughout their lives by

following God's teachings for a happy marriage.

On June 11, Wendi Gerber (Bro. Arlen and Susan) and Rodney Gephart (Ronnie and Ramona) were united in marriage.

Bro. Fred Moser and Sis. Mabel Heyerly were united in holy matrimony Wednesday evening, June 22.

On June 25, the fellowship hall was the setting for the wedding that united Kelli Gerber (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline) and Brad Pursley (Bill and Dana) in marriage. We extend our congratulations to these couples.

On July 10, the engagement of Sis. Kathy Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Craig Stoller (Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene, Bluffton North) was announced. May they be richly blessed and continue to seek His guidance as they make plans for their future.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sutter and their family in the loss of Bob's mother, Sis. Florence Sutter (Harry, Fort Lauderdale, FL).

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Glen and Sis. Evelyn Graber in the passing of her mother, Mrs. Melvon Kohler (Elma, Berne).

Hospital patients this month were Ian Kaehr (Jeff and Jodi), Sis. LeAnn Gerber (Bro. Lee and Sis. Jennie), Meno Moser and Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann). Tanya had open heart surgery and is home getting along very good. We pray that each will feel God's nearness and healing touch.

"Come ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Psalms 34:11

Christian Endeavor was held at Bluffton and Bluffton North July 9 and 10. We want to thank all the superintendents, teachers and their wives for their efforts and planning and all the high school students for their attendance. It is a special joy seeing so many young people fellowshiping together.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Lois Dramer — Debbie Aeschliman**

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. We have ten dear souls who have repented, found peace with God,

and have been baptized. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Bro. Randy Schriver (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Mark Mason (Diane), Bro. Steve Baller (Sue), and Bro. Tony and Sis. Angie Chaney. They were baptized June 22. On July 17 we witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Thorton, Bro. Dave and Sis. Deanne Brinneman, and Sis. Mary Francesi (Len). We rejoice with them and wish them much joy and happiness. We likewise rejoice with Trina Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) who has turned her life over to the Lord in repentance. Visiting ministers who came to share in the baptisms with us were Elder Bro. Orville Ringger, Bro. John Reinhard, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (all from Bluffton), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). We are also thankful for Bro. Gary Tonner who recently spent a Sunday with us. We thank each minister and their families and welcome them back anytime.

We learned of the engagement of Bro. Craig Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Kathy Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) July 17. "Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow." Zion's Harp #37

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark Wright (Sis. Lillian) in the loss of his mother, Nettie Wright, 96. We share in the sorrow with Sis. Mary Honegger (Bro. Bob) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Janet Hari (Francesville Home).

Hospital patients this past month were Viola Cotton (Lawrence) and Sis. Mary Moser (Bro. John).

"God knows all our needs and He hears every prayer and He keeps all His children always safe in His care."

Helen Steiner Rice

Our community has grown by five. We warmly welcome Bro. Steve, Sis. Joyce, Seth, Caleb, and Lydia Fischer into our congregation. We hope they will feel at home here.

Our congregation was host for Christian Endeavor which was held July 9 - 10 for all Indiana churches. We hope the children will take new memories with them as they made new friends and rekindled friendships with old friends.

Give Your New Address
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

"Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Matthew 24:3

This verse was the theme for our Vacation Bible School week which took place June 20-24. We all enjoyed gathering together each night to learn more on the following topics: "Christ, Our Key to Salvation," by Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL); "Lives in the Building of God's Church," by Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI); "Undecided? — How Do I Fit In?" by Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN); "Eleventh Hour — Today?" by Bro. James Byrd (Roanoke, IL); "Surviving the Storm — The Grace — The Joy," by Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). The following Sunday evening we gathered together again to listen to the children tell us all they had learned in verse and song.

Many loved ones have been blessed with babies. Bro. Dale and Sis. Anne Ward are first-time grandparents as their son, Brian, and his wife, Dana, had a boy, Nicholas David, born June 25. Brian, Dana and Nicholas are living in Charlottesville.

Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol Overmyer are happy grandparents as Alicia Lynne was born June 9. Daniel and Tina Overmyer are the proud parents of little Alicia.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich have a new addition to their family. Meagan Yvonne was born July 15 and has a brother, Levi, to welcome her home.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein and Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich are the happy grandparents.

We extend our best wishes to two dear couples who were recently wed. Tom Gutwein and Sally Mills were united in marriage June 18. Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mills of Tell City are Tom and Sally's parents. May God bless this dear couple.

Bro. Randal Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola) and Sis. Stefanie Baum (Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine) were married July 17 in the Phoenix, AZ church. We also ask God's blessings on this couple and may He guide them always.

Our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and his wife, Sis. Marcella, recently

went to Europe. After learning much about the lives of our brothers and sisters there, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella are home with us again.

We've had two hospital patients this month. Bro. Ron Anliker (Sis. Vicky) and Sis. Ellen Gutwein (Bro. Harvy Bob) are both recovering well and our prayers have been with them during this time of need.

We are always grateful for the visiting ministers we have. We want to thank Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for lending themselves into God's service.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

Many prayers have been offered for the return to good health of Bro. Chuck Neuenschwander (Sis. Doris). Sis. Kim Wuethrich (Bro. Blake) is also recovering from surgery. How glad we are that the Lord never leaves us!

How we long to be secure! Security means freedom from fear, anxiety or care; confidence of power or safety; assurance; certainty. Security is really more mental and spiritual than economic or material.

The highest security we can achieve comes when we realize that nothing that can happen to us has power in itself to drive us from God, if we are not willing. "God is our refuge and our strength." If we have the love of God in our hearts no circumstance or condition can take that from us. That is security!

"Thou shalt be secure because there is hope . . . Thou shalt take thy rest in safety."

Job 11:18

We again thank our many visiting ministers. This month they included Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Neal Widmer (Wolcott), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL).

INDIANA, LACROSSE Sandy Heinold

" . . . ye are the temple of God . . ."
I Corinthians 3:16

This verse was chosen for the theme of our Vacation Bible School. Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Nelson

Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) were the ministers who were willing to speak to us on the following topics: "The Perils of Defiling the Temple of God," "Cleansing the Temple of God," and "Maintaining the Temple of God". We certainly thank each one who came to Bible School and especially those who so unselfishly instructed us in the ways of God.

Michelle Gudeman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Diana) was hospitalized for surgery. We're thankful for God's healing power and are glad that she is again able to assemble with us.

It was mistakenly written in the June issue that Doug Ailes is temporarily living in Connecticut. It is Bro. Larry Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) who has taken up short-term residence there.

Note: September is the month for the collection of Silver Lining dues.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"Don't run away from your troubles. Don't magnify them. Don't dwell on them, taking them to bed with you, spoiling your digestion by feeding upon them all day, and making everybody unhappy by throwing their shadow upon them.

"With a resolute, courageous, and truthful spirit, take them to God in prayer and then go forth to meet and vanquish them, and you will find they are much less formidable than you feared."

"An old farmer plowed around a rock in one of his fields for many years. He had grown actually morbid over it, for he had broken a cultivator and two plows, besides losing a lot of valuable land in its vicinity.

"One day he made up his mind that he would dig it out and be done with it. Lo, when he put his crowbar under it, he found it was less than a foot thick and that he could loosen it with trifling effort and carry it away in his wagon. He smiled to think how all through the years it had haunted him.

"One day we shall look back on our trials and our anxious cares and find how needless many of them were, so unreal and yet so distressing, that we can say like the old lady when she was reviewing her past life, 'I've had so many trials, especially those that never came.'"

(A. B. Simpson)

The beautiful summer months seem to be the choices for vacations and reunions for many. After attending the Stavenik family gathering, Bro. Ben Wysong stayed over Sunday and delivered the message.

Sharing information about their experiences and work in New Guinea, where they have served the Lord 27 years, were Vic and Elsie Schlatter, son and daughter-in-law of Sis. Mildred Schlatter. They have visited family and friends during recent weeks.

Bits and Pieces:

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil, is that good men do nothing."
(Edmund Burke)

"Depend on it. God's work done in God's way, will never lack God's supplies.

God never commands and commissions without providing grace to obey.

The believer's talents are not to be laid up for self but laid out in service.

We are saved to serve, but we never serve to get saved.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

For a smile: The one thing most of us do better than anyone else is to read our own handwriting!

INDIANA, MILFORD Sue Schieler — Marguerite Hoerr

Our small congregation is always grateful for visitors. Because of the lakes within our county, summer months bring the added blessings of many coming to enjoy nature's bounty and finding time to worship with us also. We welcome each one, and we are especially grateful for ministers who visit. During the past month Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL) spent their time and talents with us.

A special measure of love and sympathy is extended to church family members who lost loved ones recently. Bro. John Martin and Sis. Emma Haab attended funeral services for their brother, Chris Martin (Peoria, IL). Likewise, our sympathy is extended to

Sis. Shirley Beer, whose father, Paul Kegebein, passed away June 29. Paul had been a lifelong member of our community and was known and respected by many. Bro. Nelson Beer conducted the service. As these families experience their loss, may they feel God's nearness.

Bro. Bill Loncor and Sis. Judy Shaffer joined hands and hearts and they made their wedding vows July 24 in Princeville, IL. We're so happy to welcome Sis. Judy to our church home and we wish them God's richest blessings in their lives.

Mitchell Price and Shannon Jordan will also be married this month. Mitch is the son of Stan and Sis. Ginger, and Shannon's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jordan (Milford). May God bless their home and plans together.

Bro. Maurice Beer had the misfortune to undergo a second surgery recently. His recovery has been rapid and complete for the second time and we're thankful to God for His healing powers.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Our congregation was visited this past month by Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

We recently received a measurable rain - the first one in two months. God is certainly speaking to us here in the midwest by reminding us that "in him we move and have our being." Acts 17:28. "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." Col. 1:17.

"No cornstalk can grow, except on the root from which it sprang. Through all its existence it can only live with the life that was in the seed being nurtured by water. With little moisture to absorb, the root system loses its stability and strength, thus failing to perform its purpose intended by the Creator. Root systems may be called earth machines because they operate in the darkness and dampness of the soil. Continually pressing into and down in the soil, the hair roots spread out until they are more in area than the branches above. Relentlessly the hair roots search for moisture. They grow so fast that with a microscope the growth can actually be seen. Consequently, an apple tree, for example, lifts approximately four gallons an hour from root to leaf. A living tree slashed off has the remarkable potential to sprout and grow anew. The

tree may revive and flourish again through the 'scent of water.'

Likewise, a believer is either rooted and anchored in the Lord, or attached to the world. (Romans 8:5). There are a number of desirable reasons for grounding in God's Word.

For Stability - Hebrews 6:19

God is unchangeable and His immutability is the assured anchor and hope the believer has. Therefore, rooting one's soul in the precepts of God's Word grants a stability that is unshakable.

For Nourishment - Colossians 2:7

This verse advises to continually press down in the Bible for necessary spiritual nourishment. Rooted deep down produces healthy growth which results in an outward abounding beauty that is unshakable. Isaiah stated this truth like this: "Take root downward, and bear fruit upward." Isaiah 37:31.

For Strength - I Corinthians 10:4

Not only is food necessary for spiritual health, but water is, too. This touches upon reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ, and knowing His love and care. Drinking deep at the Fountain of Living Water produces a strength and satisfaction that is unshakable.

For Confidence - I John 5:13

A Christian's roots must not stop growing. A Christian's roots must continually thrive in the meat of God's Word. This produces a confidence that is unshakable, and consequently he knows wherein his strength lies.

Like a tree which survives the slash of death, a person can find restoration in the 'scent of water' the Lord offers.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." John 7:37.

And these are some of the things that ROOTS teach us.

-Condensed from an article written by George Lartz-

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

"Christianity In Our Daily Life" was the topic presented to us at our Adult Vacation Bible School June 22 by Bro. Will Schieler (Milford). On June 24, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) spoke to us about "Christianity In The Workplace". We thank both of these brothers for the time they spent and the effort they put

forth in presenting us with many thought-provoking teachings.

On June 26 a Vacation Bible School program was presented to us by our Sunday school children, followed by a picnic for everyone later in the day at Potato Creek State Park.

We welcome John and Sis. Lucia Kalwitz and their children, Eva and Hans, who have moved to South Bend from the LaCrosse area, and also Bro. Richard Gramm from Gridley, IL, who has found employment in our area. May we uplift one another as we fellowship together.

We were blessed July 3 with visits by ministering Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North), Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and on July 10, by our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford).

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

"Blest Be The Tie"
John Fawcett

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Beth Heinold — Trish Bucher

Our congregation has been rejoicing once again with the repentant hearts of Mike Thomas (Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia) and Rod Huber (Bro. Rod and Sis. Mary Huber). May the Lord be with them as they make this necessary change in their lives.

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." Proverbs 17:6. We are reminded, and thankful, on Father's Day for the guiding roles of our fathers. May God bless them for their Christian examples.

As we remember our constitution on this Independence Day we are thankful for the freedoms we have as Christians. We pray for those who don't have these liberties.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Janet Rae (Heinold) Hari who passed away July 3 at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. Janet was born September 6, 1944, in Valparaiso, IN, daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie (Wuethrich) Heinold. She was married March 30, 1969, to Daryle Hari of Cissna Park, IL. To this union were born three daughters, Janeen, Darla, and Corinne who survive and are now living with their father in Tuscon, AZ. Also surviving are two brothers,

Philip and Keith, of Valparaiso, IN, one sister, Sis. Mary Honegger of Ossian, IN, and her mother, Sis. Marie Heinold of Valparaiso. Her father, Bro. Raymond Heinold, preceded her in death December 1985. Janet gave her life to her Lord Jesus at age 21. May God comfort her family and friends during this time and always.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp — Lynell Blume

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We are thankful that Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) was willing to be used to bring us the Word of God June 26. May God bring forth the increase from the seeds that were sown.

On June 26 we also enjoyed the blessing of our annual Sunday school picnic, and on July 12 the Sunday school, and anyone else who cared to, spent a day together at Turkey Run. The fellowship and singing do so much to strengthen us in our spiritual lives. May we emanate a life of joyfulness in serving Christ and not worldly pleasures that our children can see and desire for themselves. We thank our Sunday school teachers for their untiring efforts.

On July 17 many of us were privileged to be able to travel to Altadena, CA, for the wedding of our Bro. Rob Lehman to Sis. Becki Witzig. We extend an especially warm welcome to Sis. Becki as she makes her new home with us, and pray God's blessings on their union.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner — Karen Schulz

"We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Schulz in the birth of their son, Matthew Myron, born June 2. He is welcomed home by Julie, Philip, Brenda, and Laurie. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz, all of Oakville.

We have had several visiting ministers recently. They were Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). May God richly bless each

one for letting themselves be used in the service of the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ben Wagler as he has moved to the Danville Care Center because of failing health.

We are thankful that Sis. Lena Wegman was relieved of her earthly afflictions and was able to go "home". She passed away July 4. We pray her dear husband will feel God's nearness in the days ahead.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"... Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season:"

Jeremiah 5:24

Many of us are witnessing a drought in our area and it surely draws us closer to God knowing that only He can provide the rain that we need so badly.

We are thankful that our hospital patients are all back home after hospital stays. Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) was a surgical patient and George Pulfer and George Schupbach were medical patients.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We truly appreciate their visits and pray that God will continue to bless them in His service.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Glen and Sally Funk

June brings summer and Bible School. The children all seem to enjoy Bible School, even though at times the teachers may get short of patience and tired. We had a very good and blessed week with around forty children attending. We especially want to thank Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser for coming again and helping us.

On June 24 and 25, we hosted the Iowa young single's group. Once again they outnumbered us, but it was a blessed time for all.

Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart will be moving from Ankeny, as his schooling is finished. We enjoyed their visits and will miss them very much.

We are thrilled also to report that Lewis and Jean Keiser have moved to Garden Grove. They moved here from Florida and are planning to fellowship with our church. We welcome them with open arms and pray God will bless them.

Visiting ministers for June and July have been Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington), Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor), and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha). We hope and pray they can all feel the thankfulness we feel for their service.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Bonita Frank

We have been enjoying having Sis. Tillie Frank assemble with us now. She had been from the Burlington area. She sold her home and has been living here with her daughter, Marilyn Anderson, since early this spring. We hope she feels a sincere welcome among us.

Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) have been our visiting ministers July 10 and 17, respectively. We know it must not be easy to serve alone in Bro. Joe Gerst's absence, but we appreciate it greatly.

July 18 began our annual church cleaning. How good it feels to have order restored after a year of our usual habits.

IOWA, LESTER
Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

We are indeed grateful to our Lord that faithful brethren are inspired to speak the truth and that they unselfishly give of themselves each Lord's day to meet our spiritual needs. Those visiting our congregation recently were Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin), and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). May God continue to bless each one as they minister to us.

On July 10, Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer and Dale Eisenmann brought forth beautiful instructions as Bro. Paul Sauder from Chicago, IL, (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanne, Tremont, IL) and Sis. Marie Nester from Peoria, IL, (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) were united in holy matrimony. May the Lord richly bless this God-made union.

On June 18, Holly Knobloch (Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith) and Russell Sehr were united in marriage. May the blessings of our Lord be upon the home they establish together.

Bro. August Feucht, Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), and Bro. Donn Moser were hospitalized this past month. May they continue to feel our prayers and support during the days of recuperation that may be ahead.

On June 13, Kyle Joe was born to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger. May God bless them as they raise their new son in the fear and nurture of God.

As conference time approaches, our thoughts are with our elder brethren and our prayers ascend to our Heavenly Father in their behalf as they humbly gather in the interest of our precious faith. May we all strive in love to be united here on earth that one day we can all be united on the shores of eternity.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

On June 19, Sis. Kathryn Massner (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara) became the wife of Bro. Rob Schmidgall (Bro. Rich and Sis. Corrine, Morris, MN). We are going to miss Sis. Kathryn in Oakville, but we know that our loss will be a gain for the Minneapolis congregation.

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers recently. Among them have been Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Danny Stoller (Rockville, CT) and John Rowell (Burlington).

Babies are a blessing from God and they are bountiful in our Oakville congregation. First-time parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary Larson. Little Luke Leonard has made happy grandparents of Merlin and Evelyn Larson (Wapello, IA) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Eisenmann (Latty, OH). Three times blessed are Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz. Renae Rose has joined their family circle along with big sisters, Heidi and Kelli. Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) are Renae's grandparents. As I sat down to write the news this month on July 13, I just heard the happy news that I had become an aunt again this morning. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach are the happy parents of their second little girl, Lindsay Jean. Big sister, Brittny, will be more than happy for a new little sister to love. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) are the grandparents.

Congratulations go out to Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman on the

birth of a new granddaughter born June 15 to Steve and Ruth Wegman of Indiana.

We have recently laid to rest our dear Sis. Lena Wegman. Sis. Lena was nearly 96 years of age with many afflictions of the body and we are thankful that she can now be at rest in her heavenly mansion. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband, Bro. John. They had been married for over 70 years and we know that even though he is thankful that she can be at rest, parting is never easy. We pray that God will comfort the hearts of the family that they may feel His nearness and peace. Also surviving are one son, Bro. Sam Wegman, and two daughters, Sis. Louise Rowell and Sis. Wilma Stoller.

Bro. Jerry Wagenbach, Jr., has accepted employment in the area. We are happy to have him and Sis. Bonnie and their son, Kyle, back home in Oakville. We know they will be missed by the Chicago congregation where they have made friendships and lasting ties while living there for the past 2-3 years.

Thought: The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

-Lao Tsz-

Note: September is collection month for the Silver Lining in Oakville. If you wish to continue receiving it, please pay Sis. Debbie during September.

Note of Thanks: Words fail us as we try to express our deep feeling of appreciation and gratefulness for all that was done during those long weeks of Natalie's hospitalization. We have truly felt your love and concern.

May God bless you all.

Bro. Brian, Sis. Cindy, Natalie, Ashley, Natasha and Colt Wiegand

IOWA, PELLA Janice Webber

We want to thank our fellow pilgrims from Iowa City and Garden Grove for supporting us so generously with their attendance at our annual song and worship service. We have found that the attendance at this event has been so encouraging that we went to a new location, the assembly room on the lower level of the chapel at Central College. Even there we had a near capacity crowd, and especially rejoice that about one half of those present were members of the local community.

Special thanks go to our ministering

brothers, Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Glen Funk (Garden Grove), who shared the Word and led us in prayer.

Once again this year we hope to schedule a monthly singing in the Central College Chapel. Due to work on the building and some changes in college schedules, our final calendar may not be set until later. We'll publish it in the Silver Lining, but meanwhile we ask any interested parties wanting to be on the mailing list to jot a note to Bro. Phil Webber, 212 Jackson Street, Pella, IA 50219.

Let all of us who are living away from church centers hold fast to the Lord's promises and sing Zion's Harp #204 from the depths of our hearts!

IOWA, PULASKI

On April 8, Holly Beth was born to Dennis and Carolyn Teubel. She has a brother, Eric, who is real happy to have a baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubel and Henry and Bernice Egbert (West Grove). Little Holly spent a few days in the University Hospital after birth and is doing better, going back for periodic check-ups.

We were likewise happy to hear of the arrival of Loren Douglas, born May 18 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock. Helpers, Nathan and Barbara, complete the family. Loren's grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois Schock (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester).

Saturday evening, May 21, Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) were here to serve us holy communion. Bro. Leo stayed for Sunday and ministered God's Word unto us. May the Lord richly bless our elder brothers for their tireless labors of love.

Other visiting ministers during the past couple months were Bros. Vernon Leman and Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL).

The Pulaski Sunday School Bible class hosted the annual gathering with Oakville, Burlington, Garden Grove and Taylor. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) visited and had a timely inspirational message for the young people. We truly appreciated his efforts. It seemed the young people payed much attention and we hope and pray they will retain the advice and warnings brought forth.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger in

the passing of her father, Bro. William Perdelwitz (Peoria, IL).

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich suffered a sprained arm when she fell in her home recently. She's getting along but still has some pain.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We were happy to have Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse) in our midst recently. One of the brothers brought to our attention how much more important the salvation of one soul is than even our earthly crops.

We are thankful we can welcome Bro. Mike Tapivica as a brother in faith as he recently gave his testimony and was baptized.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Jesse Fehr in the loss of her grandson, Terry Wilderman, son of Arnie and Elaine Wilderman. Likewise, we extend sympathy to Sis. Katerine Fisher as her brother, Cornelius Zaugg, recently passed away.

Sis. Jackie Mogler (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly) has moved to New Jersey to take new employment. May she always remember the farewell hymn, "Anywhere with Jesus, I can safely go."

Three little bundles of joy have arrived to make three happy homes. When God places another little miracle in our homes and we parents give it a name, how quickly that little one finds a place in our hearts. First time parents are Troy and Julie Olson. Trey Ellsworth was born July 1. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman and Gary and Janice Olson. Audrey Jo was born July 5 to happy parents, Tim and Gloria Mogler. Justin and Heidi welcomed home their little sister along with grandparents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly Mogler and Max Wilcox. Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz have a new daughter born July 10. Laura Jean has big brothers, Matthew, Luke, Josh and Mark, and big sisters, Katie and Michelle, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer (Lester), and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz. "... He shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom..." Isaiah 40:11.

A daughter, Natasha Rose, was born to Kevin and Julie Jordan July 12. April and Michael are happy to welcome a sister home along with grandparents, James and Becky Banwart.

June 25 was a special day for Ed

(Marvin and Wilma) and Patty (Eli Jr. and Margaret Grimm) Origer as they were united in marriage. May their love continue to grow for each other.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

The Arland Reinhard Tour group consisting of 37 people from the States visited our kindergarten in July. Many of them were our brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord.

We give special thanks to those with the tour group who remembered our church and kindergarten with gifts of money and special items for the children and brethren. We were blessed by your fellowship and love.

It was good to have Sis. Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL) with us again. Three years ago, she returned to the States after teaching in our kindergarten for two years. Although many things have changed for Sis. Margie and for us in three years, God's love and faithfulness remain the same.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle's cousin from Germany, Helmut Ehnle, and his wife, Lydia, visited in July. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois were thankful to have their son, Tom, home with them this summer to translate for them.

We are looking forward to our annual summer fellowship meeting with the Tokyo and Shioda believers and friends. The theme this year is, "Personal Worship."

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois, Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder and their son, Jonathan, and Sis. Kathy Kieser plan to travel to the States this summer.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Sis. Horiuchi had a hairline fracture in her leg and had to be home for several weeks. We are thankful to God that she can once again assemble with us.

Sis. Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL), a former kindergarten teacher in Japan, has returned for a month visit. It was a blessing for all of us to once again fellowship with her.

On July 14, 37 brothers, sisters and friends from our churches in America came to Japan. A few of us had the privilege of traveling to the airport to meet them. We stood in the waiting room, eagerly trying to see their faces each time the door to the customs area opened. When our loved ones were seen and then came through the door,

the warmth and love that was shared was a blessing. This is but a small joy when compared to the joy of crossing into heaven and meeting our Lord.

Sis. Sharon Neihouser (Francisville), a sister to Sis. Marie Inoue, was in Japan for a week before joining the tour group. It's always a blessing when loved ones from home come to visit their family in Japan.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner

Kathy Strahm

We are always thankful for visitors, as it encourages us in our spiritual walk to fellowship with those of like mind and faith who come from a distance. We've enjoyed a number of visitors this summer and are especially grateful for ministering brethren. In the past month, visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). May God bless these brethren who were willing to lend themselves that His Word could be brought forth.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Karen Sinn

We are in the process of building an addition on our church to expand our restroom, baby room, and fellowship areas. Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) is in charge of the project.

We have once again experienced the miracle of birth. Since the first of this year, we have had six births which is unusual for our small congregation. Steve and Joyce Sinn are happy first-time parents of Dustin Wade, born June 13. Grandparents are Floyd and Helen Harper and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn.

Drew Matthew was born July 4 to Bro. Jimmie and Sis. Pam Jackson. His brothers, Craig and Derek, welcome him home. Grandparents are Jimmie and Theresa Jackson and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith (Prescott, AZ).

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Darcy Kisling

How wonderful it is to know
That God is always near,
That even just a whispered thought
He will most surely hear.

No matter what you're doing
Nor what the time of day,

He never is too busy
To listen as you pray,

No need to kneel at bedside,
No need to close your eyes,
You need not even fold your hands,
He's always at your side.

Remember, just a thought, my friend,
Of our Father up above
Will bring you such contentment
And will fill your heart with love.

Albert N. Theel

As I read this beautiful poem, I marveled at how blessed we are to have a friend who loves us so much that He is always there for us, and only a thought away! All we need do is open the lines of communication and keep our hearts tuned in to our God, then sit back and enjoy the peace that fills us as we walk daily in fellowship with Him.

As our children start back to school, we especially need to keep those lines of prayer open, too, because the world throws so many things at our young people and we should only send them out with God's protecting arms surrounding them and guiding them each day.

Many of our loved ones are starting vacations right now, and as they travel the highways and byways, we pray that God will guide them safely, and bring them home again as we miss everyone so much when they are gone from our midst.

Our hospital patients this month included Sis. Dorothy Brown for tests, Bro. Jeff Bahr for a tonsilectomy, and Sis. Kathryn Miller for leg surgery. We are so thankful that Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Jeff are in our midst again, and pray that Sis. Kathryn will soon be home also.

Our church fellowship is so important and when we all support Bible study, singing, Rest Home services, and, of course, church services, our love for one another and our faith brings us closer together. We may be only one, but we are one and, in giving our support, we gain richest blessings.

It was our appointed time to hold Rest Home services this month, and the support was wonderful! May God bless all who gave of their time to put a little joy in the lives of our dear elderly in the Home.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

KANSAS, SABETHA**Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter**

A life was lost in Israel because a pair of human hands were laid unbidden upon the ark of God. They were placed upon it with the best intent, to steady it when trembling and shaking as the oxen drew it along the rough way; but they touched God's work presumptuously, and they fell paralyzed and lifeless. Much of the life of faith consists in letting things alone.

If we wholly trust an interest to God, we must keep our hands off it; and He will guard it for us better than we can help Him. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." Psalms 37:7.

A. B. Simpson

Our congregation has received many blessings this month. God has sent us several showers of rain. We've had several ministering brethren come to visit for which we are grateful. We want to thank Bros. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), and Elder Bro. Joseph Stoller (Princeville, IL).

The drought may be somewhat eased here with the rains but a spiritual drought continues. May the Lord open the way for many souls to refresh themselves from a barren sinful life. May our prayers be earnest and sincere for the lost.

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of Thy tone;
As thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.

Lord, speak to me.

Author Unknown

June 18 was the wedding date of Erin Wysong (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice) and Howard Frey.

Sis. Esther Terry (Bro. Charles) is hospitalized and we pray that God will comfort her in times of discouragement and distress.

We have new residents at the Home for the Aged and Village Apartments who are assembling with us. We are happy to have Sisters Eva Emch (Lamar, MO) here and hope they soon feel at home.

Allison Layne brought joy and answer to prayer on her arrival July 16. Bro.

DeVere and Sis. Michelle Meyer rejoice with their first child. Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer are happy to be grandparents again.

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

This month I would like to recognize Sis. Nellie Lambert's zeal for the Lord. Sis. Nellie asked to be the hostess for the church mother-daughter banquet in 1987 to show her appreciation to the women associated with our congregation. Sis. Nellie dubbed the act as a "swan song" — possibly the last such act she could perform for the group. Since that time Sis. Nellie has been the instrumental planner for two other acts of love. First, in February, she organized the surprise 40th wedding anniversary for Bro. George and Sis. Ann Greiner. On the heels of that event, she began planning a friendship quilt as a going away gift for Sis. Carol and Earl Carter. These three examples are typical of the daily concern Sis. Nellie has for those around her. Her grandchildren recognize her as a tower of strength and a source of comfort. We look forward to seeing her in church and are encouraged by her example. If one were to praise Sis. Nellie for her service, she would immediately say how all she did was have the idea. She would give credit to her helpers and minimize her role. Truly, it is as James 4:6 reads, "... God resisteth the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

With sadness we said farewell to Sis. Carol Carter and son, Darren, as they left our small group to join Earl in Holland, IN. We trust God's blessings will be on them as they adjust to their new location.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger was a surgical patient at a local hospital in late June. Later, her husband, Bro. Arthur, was hospitalized for treatment.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Pam Schlatter**

June 20 - 24 was a memorable week of Vacation Bible School for our congregation. The theme of the week was, "Finding God's Will For Our Lives." Ministering visitors who spoke on the topics were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We hope the exhortations served as a means of encouraging each of us to

more fully yield to God's will for our lives.

Mackenzie Jae is a new addition to Kirk and Ceil Wieland's household. Her older twin brothers and her grandparents. Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland welcome her into the family circle. Also arriving this month was Stan Michael, born to Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Schlatter. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter and Bro. Howard and Sis. Pauline Wieland.

We were especially grateful for our visitors who served us in the ministry this past month. Included among them were Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God continue to grant boldness to those who speak a message that the world does not receive well.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Donna Hartzler**

Last month we failed to acknowledge our college graduates. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Todd Moilanen who graduated from Michigan State with a bachelor's degree and Bro. Doug Maibach who was awarded a master's degree in business from the University of Detroit.

Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer for ministering to us Wednesday evening, July 6. May God bless him for bringing to us the Holy Word. A special dimension is added to our mid-week services when we have visitors and there is a good representation of our own congregation.

It is a joy to see those of our congregation who have been absent because of illness again assemble with us. Bros. Joe Szilagyi and Louis Varga have been able to come to church. We pray that God will keep them in His care.

There are still those, however, of our congregation who are unable to assemble with us because of illness and old age. Those hospitalized this past month were Bill Shaw who fell and broke a hip requiring surgery, and Sis. Lucile Maibach who required surgery. Both have recovered sufficiently to be released to nursing homes.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Carol Strassheim**

On June 19, Bro. Rob Schmidgall (Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine, Morris) and Sis. Kathryn Messner (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara, Oakville, IA) were

united in marriage at Oakville, IA. We warmly welcome Sis. Kathryn here and wish them both God's direction and wonderful blessings.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris) visit and minister to us this month.

Our dear Sis. Laura Miller took a fall at church and spent time in the hospital with surgery for a broken hip. She is at home recovering and in good spirits. We miss her, but are thankful God is providing for her.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall wish to thank everyone who remembered them with cards for their 50th wedding anniversary.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Christa Sauder — Ruth Nohl

I've found a little remedy
 To ease the life we live
 And make each day a happier one.
 It's the word "forgive."

So often little things come up
 That leave a pain and sting
 That covered up at once would not
 Amount to anything.

Tis when we hold them up to view
 And brood and sulk and fret,
 They greater grow before our eyes;
 Twere better to forget.

Apples of Gold

We do appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers. This month our congregation was blessed with a host of visiting ministers. Included were: Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont, KS). May God richly bless them for their willingness to serve us.

The weekend of July 16, the Fort Sam reunion was held here. Many blessings were enjoyed by all.

A precious baby girl, Amanda Lea, was welcomed into the family circle of Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr July 9. She has a sister and brother to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro.

Lloyd and Sis. Diane and LeRoy and Donna Brandt.

Many thoughts and sincere prayers have been with the loved ones who have been hospitalized this month. They were Bro. John Schaefer, Bro. Bob Reuter, Katherine Stettner, Matt Koehl (Bro. Carl and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Gilbert Schmidgall and Bro. Larry Nohl. May God continue to manifest His healing powers among the afflicted and help them to accept His will in their lives.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ella Mae Schmidt
Georgia Messner

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Messner in the loss of their precious grandson, Dustin, son of Russel and Teresa. He passed away July 4 at the age of 20 months. He had been hospitalized since March 22.

On July 17, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) was here to assist Elder Bro. Harold Messner in the testimony and baptismal service of Joe and Kim Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner) and Joleen Messner (Sis. Julie Messner). Visiting ministers were Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Kent Mogler, Don Miller (Minneapolis) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and their wives. What a foretaste of greater joy to come as we welcome them into the "family of God."

With the start of another school year, we want to remember our children in prayer.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Linda Ziegenhorn

As we wake in the morning, what is our first thought? Is it of God and thankfulness for a new day? What a difference spending a few moments with Him in the morning can make to the outcome of our day. So, take time in the morning to greet God and ask His help with your day.

We heard the testimonies of Jesse and Sophia Delph and welcome them as a brother and sister-in-Christ. Jesse reminded us that God doesn't give up on us when we forget our promises to Him. I am thankful that I have such an almighty, all-knowing God.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti — Carol Braker

Even as our area has been refreshed with rain, so our hearts have been

refreshed with the Word. Visiting brethren included Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Jerald and Doreen Leuthold

We want to thank each minister who has come to share God's Word with us this past month. They were Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), and Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL). May God bless them for their efforts.

Services will not be held in St. Louis Sunday, September 11, because our congregation plans to be in Princeville, IL, for the weekend.

Being such a small group, we especially appreciate the fellowship of visitors and welcome everyone to come and worship with us.

God has promised that wherever two or three are gathered in His name that He will be there.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

LIFE

Do not ask to have your life's load
 lightened,
 But ask for courage to endure.
 Do not ask for fulfillment in all your
 life,
 But ask for patience to accept
 frustration.
 Do not ask for perfection in all you do,
 But ask for wisdom not to repeat
 mistakes.
 And finally,
 Do not ask for more before saying
 "Thank You"
 For what you have already received.
 B. Short

Ministering Bro. Ben Wysong spent June 26 with us. We thank him and his family for sharing God's Word with us.

The evening of June 26 was our annual Sunday school picnic and program, events our children (hopefully our future church) look forward to and enjoy.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalms 33:12. Once again we were privileged to celebrate July 4, the birthday of our nation. May we

appreciate the freedom that is ours at this time and remember those who are not so fortunate.

"Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus love me!
The Bible tells me so!

We share the joy in the home of John, Connie and little Nathan Miller upon the arrival of a precious little girl, Leigh Anne, July 9. Happy grandparents are Buddy and Barbara Plank and great-grandma is Sis. Rose Hoerr.

"A song in the heart puts a smile on the face." May God bless Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp for providing a temporary home for little "Brandon" and "Tashia."

"Don't be afraid to trust an 'unknown' future to an 'all-knowing' God.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) shared God's Word with us Sunday, June 26, when we assembled with the Naumburg congregation for services and a covered dish meal. In the evening, we enjoyed a song service in the Croghan church. On Sunday, July 17, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) ministered to us. We gathered together in the Croghan church for services and in the Naumburg church in the evening for a song service. We are glad to have brothers willing to travel and be spent in the service of the Lord. We thank Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy and Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine for their visits and service.

Our Sunday school children, parents and teachers enjoyed their annual weiner roast at Happy Hallow Campgrounds Tuesday evening, June 28. The evening was rainy and cool, but the rain was welcomed after a dry spell. We are thankful for a good rain again over the weekend.

Betty Rauhe (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) is a graduate of SUNY at Cortland and is continuing her graduate work in the field of health at Indiana University at Bloomington. Lori Schneider is a graduate of CCBI Business School in Syracuse. We wish both girls the best in their future studies or employment.

We are glad to report that Janet Beck has been able to be with us

following surgery. At this writing Sis. Pearl Lehman is a patient in the hospital.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

May God's blessings rest upon the brethren who come and visit us and give of themselves in the Lord's service.

This month Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) was with us. Croghan assembled with us and after services we enjoyed a covered dish meal.

On July 17, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) was with us and we, from Naumburg, joined with the Croghan folks.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

A faithful messenger of God's Word, Bro. Ernest Graf, has recently retired from active duty in the ministry. Bro. Ernest has preached the message of salvation for the past 41 years and he has been a loyal supporter of our Apostolic brotherhood, as well as our Akron church. He has also at various times assisted with Sunday school teaching, song leading, and administration of our charity fund. Bro. Ernest's kindly attitude and helpful nature have been a blessing to many people. His loving wife, Sis. Louise, has capably supported her dear husband, whether on the pulpit or off. Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise have graciously entertained many guests in their home, feeding them generously and providing opportunities for blessed Christian fellowship. It is our hope and prayer they will continue to enjoy God's many blessings. We continue to enjoy their fellowship and on behalf of our Akron congregation, we gratefully say, "Thank You" to dear Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise.

We are thankful the Lord has provided another minister for our Akron congregation. Bro. David Graf has been chosen to assist in spreading the glad teachings of salvation by preaching the Word. Bro. David is a son of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise. We know his dear wife, Sis. Barbara, will be a dependable support for her husband, as together they serve the Lord and His church. We wish them both an abundance of God's grace.

We are so grateful to have three young people turn to the Lord in repentance: Michael and Bryon Palitto (Bro. and Sis. Ron Palitto) and Susan Bako

(Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako). May the Lord bless them with grace sufficient each day.

We rejoice for Mrs. Marvin Indermuhle's strong testimony and our elder, Bro. Gene Pamer had the joy to baptize his daughter, Carol. It was a blessed weekend, as Bro. Joe Ramsier assisted Bro. Gene. We appreciated our guests and visiting ministers and those who spoke: Bro. Merle Hartzler, Bro. Bill Brake, and Bro. Harold Emch.

We appreciated other visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler, Bro. Gary Maibach, Bro. Glenn Riggerbach, and Bro. Merrill Laukhuf.

Bro. John Schamback unfortunately broke a bone in his foot. We trust God's healing power to mend it well.

OHIO, COLUMBUS John Grimm

We were privileged to have visiting ministers this past month. We thank and appreciate Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for being willing to come and bring us God's Word.

The Columbus church welcomes Bro. Steven Hofstetter from Washington, IL, for a six month work assignment. May God bless Bro. Steven while he is here and always.

We thank our visitors for the wonderful fellowship they provide and invite anyone to come to Columbus for a visit.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie Schlatter are first-time parents. God has blessed them with Travis Jon. We wish them God's further blessings in guiding this little soul to Heaven. As we have learned in the local farming operations, without the Lord's blessings our labors are in vain. So it is with children — we prayerfully labor, but we cannot give them salvation. This is a gift of God. Assisting in the prayers and labors of raising young Travis will be grandparents, Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty), and Sis. Juliet Schlatter.

As our elder brothers assemble for the Rittman brotherhood conference, may our prayers be that God will give them an extra measure of His Spirit so that our church may be guided by His Spirit and according to His Will.

OHIO, LATTY
Marlene Reinhard
Rhonda Stoller

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

II Timothy 3:16, 17

Sharing the Word of God with us this month was Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We thank God for Bro. Jim's service to us through Him.

First-time parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn. Thad Michael was their blessing from God. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

Where there is Faith
 There is Love
 Where there is Love
 There is Peace
 Where there is Peace
 There is God
 Where there is God
 There is no need.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder) has claimed this promise through faith. We pray and trust Julie will feel God's grace in abundance as she establishes a new life through repentance.

Linda Sauder (Bro. Dick and Sis. Carolyn) gave birth to Nathan Smith July 13. We pray little Nathan will experience a second birth in his life that he may experience the promise of life-everlasting.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6. Many have been on vacation. We trust in their travels they have taken each opportunity that God has given them to make Christ known.

 Address Changed ? ? ?
 Give Old and New Address
 To Your Reporter

OHIO, RITTMAN
Stephanie Baltic
Diane Gasser

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
 O Father, Son and Holy Ghost
 I claim a place, though weak and lowly
 Among Thy seed. Thy chosen host.
 Immersed with Christ. I'm dead to sin;
 Thy spirit now shall live within.

Zion's Harp #41

On the weekend of July 16 - 17 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and to witness the baptisms of six precious souls. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Sis. Olga Soloninka (John), Bro. Arlyn Zollinger (Sis. Elverna and the late Bro. Alvin), Bro. Dwight Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole), Bro. Rodney Steiner (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Gary Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Julie Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl).

It is always so wonderful and encouraging to hear of those who have turned their backs on the world and on the life Satan has to offer. Our converts are Lisa Stoller (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jeanie), Lisa and Mark Acker (Boyd and Barbara), and Mary Emch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen). May each of these dear souls look to God for strength and guidance.

We are thankful for those who are willing to minister unto us from God's Word. We ask the Lord to richly bless Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for teaching us how we might better serve our Lord.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31. On July 3 we heard the vows of Bro. Aaron Beery (Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Lynne Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn); Smithville, OH). We welcome Sis. Lynne into our Rittman congregation.

Rebecca, Amy, and Andrew Raifsnider welcome their new sister, Jennifer Lynn. Her happy parents are Doug and Sis. Diana Raifsnider. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Raifsnider and Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Steiner.

Those who needed hospital care this month were Dane Musselman (Mike and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Lillian Rupp (Kenneth).

OHIO, SARDIS
Linda Indermuhle

"Do we appreciate enough the faith that has been preserved for us?" On June 25 we were very glad to have Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) talk to us about "Our Heritage."

Steve Miller (Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris) had eye surgery as an outpatient at Columbus, OH. What is more precious than our eye sight? We are thankful that Steve's surgery was successful.

Call and cry ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!

Zion's Harp #112

At the time of this writing we anticipate another brotherhood conference. We often think of the loved ones at Rittman and Smithville churches as they get ready for this special meeting. It takes much planning and working together. May the Lord bless them in their efforts.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Gwen Stoller — Kim Stoller

Ring the bells of heaven! Spread the feast today!
 Angels, swell the glad triumphant strain!
 Tell the joyful tidings! bear it far away!
 For a precious soul is born again!

"Ring the Bells of Heaven"
 William O. Cushing

We are rejoicing with the angels in heaven as four souls have turned to God in repentance. Terri Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose), Don and Gail Rigggenbach, and Bob Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) have turned their backs on sin and we wish them God's richest blessings as they start their walk with Him.

We also rejoice with Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynn Beery who were united in holy matrimony July 3. May God also bless their lives as they seek to serve Him together. Parents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery (Rittman) and Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler.

On June 18, Elise Faye was born to Mike and Tina Ramsier. Brothers, Logan and Dusty, welcome her home. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Paul and Faye Beegle (West Salem) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier.

Along with our joys we also have sorrows and we pray for God's healing touch. Those who have been injured or

hospitalized are Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Dale), Jerry Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), and Joan Gasser (Ed).

We are truly thankful for the ministers who have visited us this past month. We appreciate Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron), Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Randy Gasser (Detroit), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), and Walt Anliker (Eureka) who have expounded God's Holy Word to us.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Frances Laidig

THE EVERLASTING LIGHT

Those we love must someday pass
 beyond our present sight . . .
 Must leave us and the world we know
 without their radiant light.
 But we know that like a candle
 their lovely light will shine
 To brighten up another place
 more perfect . . . more divine.
 And in the realm of heaven
 where they shine so warm and bright,
 Our loved ones live forevermore
 in God's eternal light.

Author Unknown

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Henry Breitwieser (Latty, OH).

It is with prayerful hearts that we approach the time of our annual conference. It is our prayer that God will reveal to our shepherds that which will lead to the preservation of our most precious faith. May we, in one accord, give them our faithful support.

We are looking forward to having Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) spend Thursday evening services with us July 21.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Roche — Brenda Knobloch

Summer brings an abundance of beautiful weather to Oregon, as well as an abundance of beautiful people. We have been richly blessed with many visitors from all over the nation. We wish we could spread out some of the visitors and be able to savor these memories throughout the entire year. We appreciate each one who visits us very much. Visiting ministers recently have been Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Les-

ter, IA), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL). We thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

We have appreciated and enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Mark Ramseyer, who has been working in Portland for the summer, and has been worshipping with us. He is returning to college in Indiana this fall.

LIFE IS BRIEF

Time is such a precious thing
 We should value every minute,
 And bless the world with kindly deeds
 The short time we live in it.

Author Unknown

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

July 29, 1963, was the wedding date for Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda (Scharer) Kuenzi. The 25th anniversary of this special occasion was celebrated at a reception at their home recently. The plans were made and nicely carried out by their children: Todd and Melissa, Troy, Tresa, Trinda, Tanya, Tyrene, Tasha and Tennille.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Joan (Bro. Jim) Dietrich and Alan Knecht (Min. Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie). We are thankful that Sis. Joan is feeling much better and that Alan's hand surgery is correcting the loss of mobility in his fingers. Alan severely cut his fingers in an accident at work last year.

This past month we have been especially blessed with visiting ministers and their wives traveling in our area. We are thankful that they made the effort to include Silverton in their travel plans. We're encouraged by their messages of hope, faith and steadfastness as we all travel this pilgrim pathway, wending upward toward our heavenly goal. It was our privilege to welcome our own shepherds, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Gene Metzger and Bro. Wes Moser (both of Lester, IA), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR).

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**

Jerry Isch

Our congregation has experienced more growth, for which we are thankful.

We welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz and their daughter, Kimberly. They come to us from the Rockville, CT, congregation.

We would also like to welcome Sis. Jackie Mogler who has moved into the area from the West Bend, IA, congregation.

We extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) who served in bringing us the gospel. May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

**WEST VIRGINIA,
 NEW MARTINSVILLE**

Minnie Weltz

Mary Ann Brothers, 59, of 812 Fifth Street, New Martinsville, died in Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, May 21, following a lengthy illness. She was born December 21, 1928, daughter of the late Walter Brothers and Minnie Barth Brothers Weltz. She was preceded in death by her father, her stepfather, Gus Weltz, and a half-brother, Robert Brothers. She is survived by her mother, Minnie Weltz, aunts, uncles, many cousins and friends. Services were held May 23 with interment in Greenlawn Memorial Park, New Martinsville.

I offer my sincere thanks to all who cared and shared with me at that time. She was my baby girl.

Her Mommy

The all-day meeting at the country church in May was well attended. Many visitors from many states and localities attended. Anna Steffen, and daughter, Louise, Sallie Schieler and daughter, Donna (Fairbury, IL) were our guests for the two days.

Our weather has been hot and humid with very little moisture. Many crops will not produce much of the growth anticipated when the seeds were planted.

 Address Changed ???
 Give Old and New Address
 To Your Reporter

SILVER THREADS

AMUSEMENTS

Amusement is a theme quite strange,
What could one's motive be
To set in verse this modern word,
Which charms society.

Amusement is a fleeting joy,
Attracts the modern mind;
Such transient joys allure the soul,
But leave it cold and blind.

Amusement — vain and fleeting art!
If we are not aware,
Will crowd the noble virtues out,
And leave us groping there.

Amusement, made and framed by man,
Is Satan's cunning snare;
For some will say, I see no harm,
Such simple joys to share.

My soul, take heed, be on thy guard!
How can our Saviour go
With us if we would crave such joys,
And still His grace bestow?

If mere amusement, transient joys,
Take up our leisure time,
Then much is lost — How can we gain
The things which are divine?

The time we spend is not our own;
Then squander not His days!
And may our time, and what we do,
Redound unto His Praise.

Henry Beer

HEART GIFTS

It's not the things that can be bought
that are life's richest treasure,
It's just the little "heart gifts"
that money cannot measure . . .
A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
a sympathetic nod
Are priceless little treasures
from the storehouse of our God . . .
They are the things that can't be bought
with silver or with gold,
For thoughtfulness and kindness
and love are never sold . . .
They are the priceless things in life
for which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich recompense
in GIVING THEM AWAY.

Helen Steiner Rice
Submitted by Taylor, MO
and Toledo, OH

HE HOLDS THE KEY

He holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key,
Or, if He trusted it to me,
I might be sad, I might be sad.

What if tomorrow's cares were here
Without its rest?
I'd rather He unlocked the day,
And, as the hours swing open, say,
"My will is best," "My will is best."

The very dimness of my sight
Makes me secure;
For, groping in my misty way,
I feel His hand; I hear Him say,
"My help is sure," "My help is sure."

I cannot read His future plans,
But this I know;
I have the smiling of His face,
And all the refuge of His grace,
While here below, While here below.

Enough; this covers all my wants,
And so I rest;
For what I cannot, He can see,
And in His care I safe shall be,
Forever blest, Forever blest.

John Parker

Submitted by Fairbury, IL

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

"The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own;
Live, love, toil with a will
Place no faith in 'tomorrow' for
The clock may then be still."

"Redeeming the time, because the
days are evil."

Ephesians 5:16

THERE WILL BE PEACE

What joy it will be when the Prince of
Peace reigneth,
And ruleth the world in the millennial
reign.
For now the earth groaneth 'neath sin
and oppression
And wars' desolations on earth do
remain.

When Jesus in power and majesty
ruleth,
When Satan, deceiver of nations, is
bound,
The earth will rejoice and will bloom as
a garden,
The peace, so long sought, on the earth
shall abound.

The swords and the spears and the
chariots of iron,
And weapons of war, as the prophets
foretold,
Shall all be dissolved, and remade into
plowshares,
And peaceful pursuit to all men will
unfold.

The wolf and the lamb and the kid and
the leopard,
The lion and calf shall be led by a child;
The cow and the bear shall both feed
together;
All beasts will be tamed that have
roamed in the wild.

And nothing shall hurt or destroy, said
the prophets;
To the ends of the earth there'll be
peace and good will;
No envy, no hatred, no wars'
desolations —
But love and good will shall the
universe fill.

The saints of this earth who have
served their Redeemer
As kings and as priests shall have rule
in that day,
And then shall the proud and the
mighty be humbled,
When peace, blessed peace, o'er the
world shall hold sway.

Henry Beer

EVENING PRAISE

The day is done and the darkness
Hovers o'er hill and dale;
The evening shades are closing
And star-light does prevail.

I often sit and ponder
Beneath the starry sky;
Out in the dewy evening
I feel His presence nigh.

'Tis sweet to rest when weary
From burdens of the day
And in the darkening silence
To meditate and pray.

I feel the gentle breezes,
I hear the night bird's call;
The little insect creatures
Portend the coming fall.

It seems a sacred silence,
And yet like music sweet,
Which fills my heart with rapture,
With bliss and joy complete.

The dark does not seem darkness
When we walk in the light,
We feel the Father's nearness
E'en in the darkest night.

Henry Beer



Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

quick as we can. If we take on just a little bit, it is just that much harder to resist.

Then the Scripture tells us what we should replace this with. . . "but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." II Timothy 2:22. Follow charity and peace. We heard this morning that we are to seek peace and to ensue it.

These are simple teachings, beloved. Try to seek peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers," Jesus would say. Matthew 5:9. If we would analyze the life of Jesus, and that is our example, He exhibited peace wherever He went and whatever He did.

Today around the breakfast table, we read the account of Legion. He was a wild man, and no man could tame him. But when Jesus was through with him, he was sitting peacefully at the feet of Jesus, fully clothed. (See Luke 8:27-35).

Beloved, we are to be peacemakers in our communities and in our churches. There are things we can do that Jesus would do to promote peace. Put on this divine nature, the nature of Jesus Christ, which is called charity.

We all ought to read I Corinthians 13 before we go to work, or before we take care of the children at home. Just read it a few times in the morning before you go out and do your duties. That is what charity is. Then, during the day when we find out that we are not carrying it out to the fullest, it pricks our heart. It should cause us to pray a little harder.

I would encourage each of you from

time to time to read it. Sometimes we find ourselves so caught up in the cares of life. But some morning, just read about Charity, I Corinthians 13. It is short and brief, but oh, how it admonishes me!

So we are beginning to see the description of a man of God. It continues, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient." II Timothy 2:24.

As young men, we are often taught that a man is to be tough, loud and forward. But that is not the true man of God. He is a man that is gentle to the people he deals with, . . . to the people he knows, to his family and to his children.

He is a man that is patient and apt to teach. This is not the make up of man, nor women in all cases. Women have some of the attributes of gentleness that men do not, but it is now speaking to both.

The beautiful thing about a true believer in Christ is that if we call upon Him, He will help us to be gentle.

The next chapter speaks about the last days. When are the last days? This Scripture was written almost two thousand years ago and I don't believe they actually knew when the last days were. I think even in that time, they thought they were living in the last days. God never really said for sure when it would be.

But, beloved, we have come through a long period of time since then. It would seem to me, as we see events taking place, that we are in the last days. It just does not seem possible that mankind can exist under the influence that Satan has upon man in this day.

I believe since the time of the first church until the time that God finally pours out His wrath upon the earth, Satan gains more and more power. When his power reaches a certain extent, it begins to "snowball." He has many tools at his disposal, and many things to use in perilous times.

". . . In the last days perilous times shall come." II Timothy 3:1. When I read this Scripture and think of perilous times, I often think of the tribulation period when in my own mind, I had portrayed people hunting down believers and trying to take their life.

As we read about the tribulation and the last days, it seems a little bit different than that. There is a different peril that we are facing. The perilous

events are not so much giving our life, as it is just staying true among almost impossible circumstances, events very similar to today.

Let's look at what God meant when He said that in the last days perilous times would come. He was concerned about the spiritual aspects of men; not about the physical. He was not concerned, necessarily, if an individual gave his life; He was concerned if an individual lost his faith.

He begins to speak, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . ." II Timothy 3:2. Here are things that he defines as perilous. We might not think they are perilous, but think how they can affect you spiritually.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: "then he says, "from such turn away." II Timothy 3:2-5.

Let's analyze these perils one at a time. When the disciples were with Jesus Christ, they asked Him, "Lord, when shall the time of thy coming be?" And what shall be the sign that we might know?" Jesus mainly warned them of one thing. He said, "Let no man deceive you." (See Matthew 24:3, 4).

It says that during that era, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved . . ." Matthew 24:22. That doesn't necessarily mean physically saved; it could mean spiritually saved.

What will constitute the tribulation period? The Scripture doesn't say it has to be a lot of physical events upon this earth, like earthquakes and all that. But it does say one thing that will be in the tribulation is deception.

The thought that often comes through my mind is "What is there to say that we are not in that phase right now?" There have been more people who have starved through famines in this generation than in any time on the face of the world. There have been more people killed in war in this generation than at any time on the face of this world. There have been more people killed by earthquakes during this time than any time in the world.

Just because it's not happening in the United States, doesn't mean it isn't real. The economic conditions of the time is unrest. There is instability. There is the fear of nuclear war over all the world.

As I read the Scriptures concerning the events of the tribulation period, there is nowhere that I find that it is only going to last seven years. But we do read that one of the single greatest events of the tribulation period is deception. And we are in the midst of the greatest deception the world has ever known.

I don't see how it can get much worse. Deception that is real deception is deception that is hard to see.

The author of the "Martyr's Mirror" analyzed thousands upon thousands of martyr's deaths. He wrote a book about thousands of people and how they gave their lives.

He commented (he was apparently no longer under persecution, but under a benevolent government) that the time he was living in, was far, far more dangerous than the time of the martyrs. Satan was easily seen and observed. Anybody who served God gave their life, or at least was hunted down like animals.

But now Satan comes forth in pleasant and favorable disguises. He comes in a way that we desire him. He comes through the pleasures of this life, through pride, and through different areas where it is hard to discern him. But he is still the same devil coming in a different way. That's the peril of the last times.

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37. They planted, they builded, they gave and married wives, but when the Lord came, He destroyed them all. Beloved, we are in that type of a situation here in perilous times.

"Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." II Timothy 3:4. Forty years ago, our forefathers did not have to worry as much about the pleasures of this world. Technology had not reached the extent it could be brought right into our homes in the form of television or printed matter.

Second Thessalonians speaks about a man of sin and perdition coming with great signs, all power and lying wonders. This is one of the signs prior to the time of the return of the Lord.

One evening I was in a motel room. I

read the Bible that night and it opened to that Scripture about how the man of sin would come with all power, signs and lying wonders. Something snapped and made sense that night that never did before, even though I had read that Scripture many, many times.

I began to analyze what could come into my own room. There sat a television. You talk about wonders! There were events of the super natural that hold people fascinated. Wonders! There are abnormal feats of strength. Wonders! There are athletes, primed and fitted. Wonders!

The definition of wonders is anything that causes great amazement for people to be a follower, or to be impressed.

People are following the movie stars and the trends of this world. Wonders! Lying wonders! Who is in charge of the television? The man of sin who is coming in all power, signs and lying wonders.

Beloved, sometimes we miss the obvious things that are right before our eyes. We are waiting for fire to fall out of the sky, when "lying wonders" are before our very eyes. Sometimes the believer just can't see it. That is deception. That is the peril of the tribulation period. That is the peril of the last days. That was the period of the Laodicean church when they fell, and that is what faces you and me.

"Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." II Timothy 3:4. Satan becomes so powerful. He just has many tools. He comes in ways that appeal to the flesh. It is hard to resist. Let's be careful. Beloved, as your ministers, we are really concerned about you. When the Lord reveals some of these perils to us, we have an obligation. We have a duty to say it just like it is so that we might not fall prey to these perils.

Beloved, it speaks here of "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." II Timothy 3:4. From time to time, our duties take us where we are talking with other people.

People's minds are filled with athletics today. It is on their minds as they watch and observe them. We might say, "What does getting all involved with athletics have to do with getting to heaven?"

Slowly, but surely, Satan is coming and whittling away at your spiritual life. That's the part of deception, I believe, that Christ was talking about. Some of these things we just have to let go. Flee

youthful lusts that we followed when we were young. We are supposed to serve God.

The wonderful thing is that when we serve God, He helps us to be patient, to put on charity and live a separated life filled with the Spirit of God. What joy that is! Nothing we found before compares with it.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous . . ." II Timothy 3:2. How easy it is to become snared to covet. We can covet earthly gain to the extent that we are disobedient. We have to be careful. It seems difficult in the times we are living to keep things going. When we get caught up in covetousness, we're tempted to tell what we call, "half-truths." Instead of it being a lie or dishonest it may be termed as being aggressive.

Beloved, there is honesty and there is dishonesty. These are all things we have to watch, so that we don't get caught up for a little bit of money.

". . . boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce . . ." People are fierce today . . . violent, we might say. ". . . despisers of them that are good . . ." II Timothy 3:2, 3.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." II Timothy 3:5. The last impression we ever want to leave in this congregation is that we are the only people that are going to be saved. We never want to be propagating that thought of exclusiveness.

But we are going to sound a warning that there is this trend today of people having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. We are to turn away. There are people who call themselves "Christians." Whatever name they use, that is not the point.

A true believer in Christ is one that has gone through a true repentance and a true conversion. He has the power to refrain from sin. When the Bible says, "Do not do this" or, "Do this," he has the power to overcome.

There are those who deny this power and deny the Holy Spirit. Instead of getting on their knees and asking for God's help, they will not make a sacrifice. They will go on their own way and call themselves Christians.

That's the power Satan has in the latter days. He has the tools, beloved. Let's be careful.

FEB 02602
CHARLES WALDER LK
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. JON A. SCHMIDGALL OF OAKVILLE, IA

"Jesus Christ Is Our Example"
Proverbs 16 and II Timothy 2:22 - 3:17

We are reading Scripture this afternoon hour for the very reason stated in this verse, "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:17. In other words, the Scripture will show us the way and what it takes to be thoroughly furnished in all good works.

Some of the thoughts from the book of Proverbs are also in the Scripture of Timothy. Some of the matters that we were asked to pursue and show forth in our Godly walk of life were matters of charity, patience and being at peace with one another, especially those we are dealing with and working with in our communities.

Solomon of old said, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Proverbs 16:7.

When we are walking in the ways of the Lord, we are not perfect. Each of us sometime or other have wronged someone or have done something that we regretted. But, when we walk in the ways of the Lord, the Spirit convicts us and we realize that something should be done.

It's always a humbling thing to have to go back and say, "I'm sorry. I dealt wrong with you." Or, "I said something I wish I hadn't." When we carry this out, it seems that even hard-hearted people, even our enemies, can be softened by apologies and our asking for forgiveness. This will bring us to peace even with them.

Simple things like this, beloved, are the things in life that cause us to lay our heads down at night and sleep better. It's things like this that people are watching. If we have some rough edges with various people that we've dealt with, may the Lord even direct us to the proper way to deal with them.

There were many other good

thoughts here, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 16:18, 19. It's a simple saying, but, beloved, pride can overtake each of us. Pride takes on several different forms. It doesn't necessarily have to be all outward. Outward pride cannot be hid, but there is also the inward pride.

The inward pride believes that we are a little bit more knowledgeable or that whatever the case might be, "We have all the answers." The devil knows the best way for pride to sneak into our lives. Certainly, for some people, it is easier to reach them inwardly than outwardly. We are all different.

But as pride begins to grow just a little bit, it will then exalt itself in the lifestyle that we live and start to come out. It becomes evident and the individual becomes weaker and weaker in the Lord as he becomes prouder and prouder.

The Bible says that, "God resists the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6. That's a simple teaching and a simple lesson, beloved. It is easy to understand. The difference between humility and pride is that humility is when an individual (by the dictionary definition) is able to admit he is wrong, and then able to ask for help.

Humility is the ability to see our shortcomings according to the Webster definition. When a person can no longer say, "I'm wrong," he is not humble. What I mean by "wrong," is when he compares his life to the Scripture. When a person finds himself in that state, it says, "Pride cometh before the fall." Even though the fall could be a ways off, it is in the process.

The writer of the proverbs then says,

"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." Proverbs 16:32. We might say, "My anger is short. I get it out of my system and then it is all through." That reminds me of an account where a woman had a short fuse. She was quick to anger. She was somewhat trying to justify her position to another man and said, "Yes, I am quick to anger, but in a minute it is all over and I'm settled down again." The man thought a little bit and said, "That's just like a shotgun. In a moment the blast is over, but look at all the damage it can do."

Beloved, we don't realize what anger can do, even to our own children. Sometimes they do something to us that instantly aggravates us and our first impulse is to let go. But, there are better times to discuss things than when we are angry.

It is better to be slow to anger and cool down, we might say, when we deal with others. Just like a shotgun, anger's blast is quick, but it can do a lot of damage, irreparable damage.

We also read the Scripture in Timothy. Timothy was a young man at the time this letter was written. The Apostle Paul was growing older and wanted to pass the torch, you might say, to younger brethren. He was trying to pass on information.

He speaks about youthful lusts and said, "Flee also youthful lusts:" II Timothy 2:22. I just saw a picture this morning in the newspaper of what it means to flee. There was a fire taking place and there were people running as fast and as far as they could to keep from getting burned.

The problem with man is, we feel that we can handle just a little bit of youthful lust. I believe the advice here is to get away from it as fast and as

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