



"I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning."
1 John 2:13

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: . . ."
1 John 3:1

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FATHER'S DAY

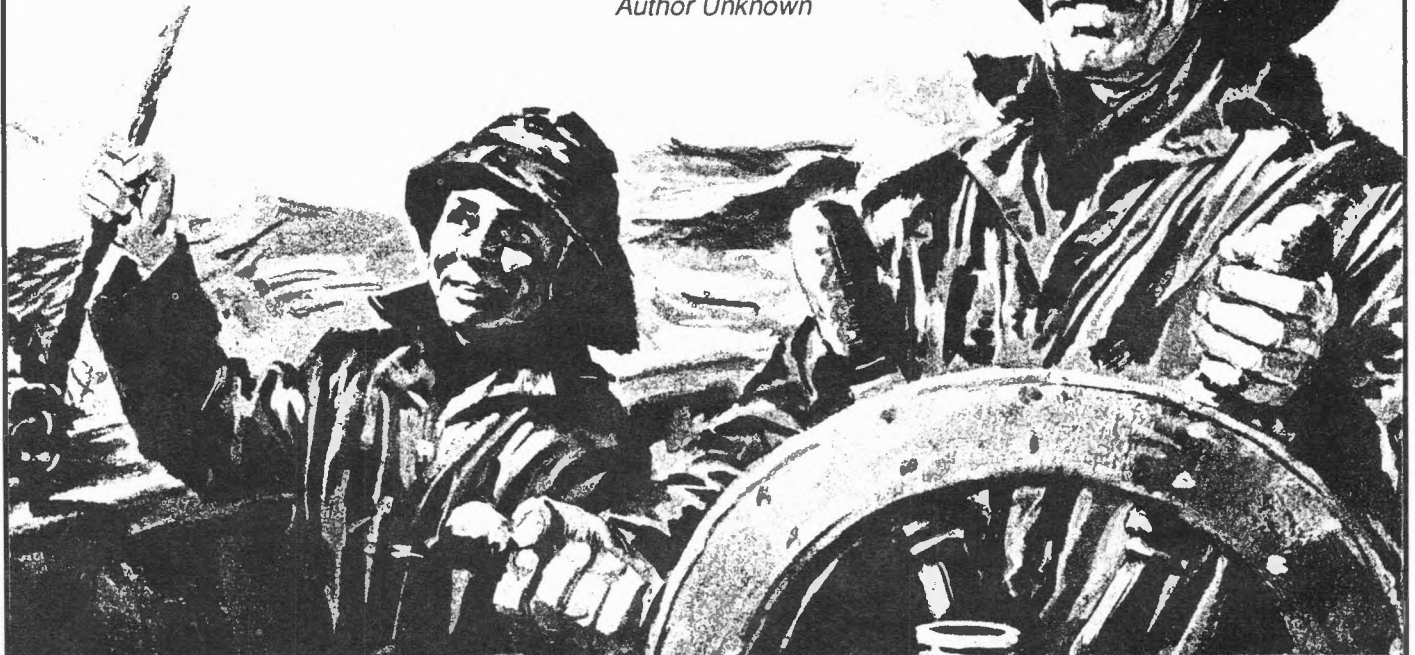
He Leads

I cannot always trace the onward course my ship must take
But, looking backward, I behold afar its shining wake
Illumined with God's light of love, and so I onward go
In perfect trust that He who holds the course must know.

*I cannot always see the plan on which He builds my life
For oft the sound of hammers, blow on blow, the noise of strife
Confuse me till I quite forget He knows and oversees,
And that in all details with his good plan my life agrees.*

I cannot always know and understand the Master's rule;
I cannot always do the tasks He gives in life's hard school,
But I am learning with His help to solve them one by one,
And when I cannot understand, to say "Thy will be done."

Author Unknown



"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: . . ." *Proverbs 13:1*

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

"RESPITE" CARE WORKS PROJECT

There is a need for a couple (brother and sister) or two sisters to live at the Home next to the Lexington church, to work with the "Respite" program of the city of Lexington, providing short-term care for the handicapped.

PURPOSE: Respite Care is a temporary rest from the daily challenge of caring for a family member who is disabled. Its aim is to serve the family as a unit, rather than only the disabled individual. It is designed to relieve families of the constant responsibility of caring for the disabled member for a few hours, weekends or longer, to allow the parents and other family members, some time to tend to other necessities of family life or deal with the stress, such as illness, death

in the family, hospitalization, job related problems or moving.

All parents need time away from their handicapped children to rest, regroup, temporary relief from the responsibility during times of stress, crisis or emergency. Often it is difficult or impossible for parents to find willing and competent caretakers for their son or daughter with special needs or handicap.

Respite Care can also have a very positive impact on the respite providers themselves. Besides affording providers the opportunity to earn some income, providers experience great satisfaction, blessing, personal growth and understanding through this work. Many providers feel it is important for their own children to get to know persons with special disabilities and

need. Frequently the disabled person's relationship with the provider extends to the friends, families and neighbors of the provider.

TRAINING: A couple or two sisters volunteering as providers would receive 30 hours of training for this work. They have developed a training course and manual, giving instruction on how to work with, handle, treat, give medications and recognize the many characteristics of the various handicaps. They have set up a treatment program and reporting system for reporting problems and results.

The Respite program provides all the recruiting, processing and assignment (2 days notice) of the disabled client.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

The elder body has approved the formation of The Endowment Fund of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. This fund has been created for better stewardship of assets given to the church for the Lord's work.

In addition to outright gifts, the Endowment Fund would receive gifts from donors who want their gifts used over a period of years rather than immediately. The donor may designate how the gift should be used, or the use can be left to the discretion of the Endowment Fund management committee.

The Endowment Fund can also accept non-cash gifts and can provide advice on compliance with tax laws to provide more funds for the Lord's work than would be possible without following the tax guidelines. An example is a gift of real estate, securities or other properties on which the donor can receive all or part of the income during the donor's lifetime.

The Endowment Fund would use its assets in the following ways:

1. To assist existing church funds such as local and national charity, World Relief, Mission and Bible funds.
2. To provide a source of funds for ongoing projects, unusual or unexpected needs as deemed fit and proper by the Elder-supervised Endowment Fund Committee.
3. To provide emergency loans and grants for other funds or projects within the church.

Questions about the Endowment Fund or contributions to the fund can be directed to any brother on the committee (listed here with their home church) or by contacting the secretary at the address or phone numbers listed below:

James J. Stoller, Chairman -- Eureka, IL
 Jerry Banwart, Secretary-Treasurer -- Congerville, IL
 Ben Maibach -- Detroit, MI
 Bob Walder -- Congerville, IL
 Bob Grimm -- Goodfield, IL
 Roy Grimm -- Taylor, MO
 Jim Hoerr -- Peoria, IL

Jerry Banwart, 2400 N. Main, East Peoria, IL 61611
 Office: (309) 694-4251 Home: (309) 448-2416

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
 USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
 Uriel Gehring
 Lester Stoller

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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Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
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 11520 Grabill Road
 Grabill, IN 46741

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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).

APPROACHING MARRIAGE IN THE LORD

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22). The gift of true marriage in the Lord can be obtained only by following the precepts of the Word of God. Unmarried brothers and sisters in Christ are encouraged to adhere diligently to the longstanding, scripturally based practices of the church in this matter. The great benefits of this approach are quite evident when compared with the disastrous results of man's methods.

The first step in this undertaking should be sincere, prayerful soul-searching to be certain that one's relationship with the Lord is sound, with no hindrances in his spiritual life. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Cor. 13:5). Marriage must never be approached with the view that it will provide the solution to unresolved personal problems. Likewise, a marriage must not be based on self-interest, as this foundation will never stand.

There are many factors which should be thoughtfully and prayerfully weighed, such as maturity, readiness to establish an independent family unit, vocation, financial and parental support, etc. Jesus spoke in a parable of counting the cost before beginning a major undertaking (Luke 14:28-32), and the Apostle Paul wrote, "if any provide not for his own . . . (he) is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8). Although these matters should be given serious consideration, the most important preparatory step is to have Christ reigning in a humble heart: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

One aspect of this need not even be brought to the Lord in prayer because the Word gives an explicit answer: marriage of a believer is to be "only in the Lord" (1 Cor. 7:39) and not an unequal yoke (2 Cor. 6:14-18). The church has been directed of the Holy Spirit to give specific definition to these scriptural teachings;

namely, marriage of our members may occur only between brothers and sisters whose testimonies of conversion have been heard and affirmed by one of our congregations.

It is apparent scripturally that a marriage proposal ordinarily originates with the man. Isaac was given counsel by his father Abraham and his proposal of marriage was conveyed by a servant (Gen. 24). Rebekah provides a beautiful example of a godly woman who was faithfully serving others in her single state until called to be a wife. This is exemplified by her willingness to share a drink of water with Abraham's servant and her generous offer to draw water for his camels also (Gen. 24:18-20).

Our tradition regarding marriage proposals bears some similarity to the betrothal of Isaac and Rebekah. A brother who feels directed of the Spirit to approach the step of marriage seeks the counsel of his elder or authorized minister. This very important spiritual conversation includes a confirmation on the brother's part that he is standing in grace with God and is not harboring sin in his heart which has not been dealt with as required by the Scriptures. There should be a mutual feeling of peace that the matter has been approached properly and not through infatuation or any other improper motive. The brother is reminded that the scriptural teaching of truth being established by "two witnesses" applies, and that only if the same revelation is given to the sister can this be established. In the event that this does not occur, it should not be a detriment to either the brother or the sister, but rather a refining fire bringing them closer to God (1 Pet. 1:7). The evil one should not be allowed to implant an attitude of self-reproach and rejection. Mutual effort must always be made to keep this matter in strict confidence and to continue to be prayerful for the Lord's direction.

The proposal is then conveyed to the brother's elder to the sister, or by the sister's elder if she is from an-

other congregation. A very similar conversation occurs between the sister and her elder as described previously. Her spiritual life is reviewed and she is counseled to give the proposal much prayer and ample time to discern the Lord's direction. She too must "count the cost" and humbly seek the guidance of the Lord in this very significant matter. Whatever the outcome, this is to be viewed as an experience through which God will provide spiritual benefits to those who are of humble, submissive hearts. Once again, strict confidentiality must be observed.

When faith to accept a proposal is revealed to a sister, the answer is relayed through the Lord's servants and subsequently arrangements are made to announce an engagement. These conversations provide additional opportunities to share spiritual counsel concerning specific preparation for approaching marriage.

Unfortunately far more attention is often given to preparation for a wedding rather than preparation for a marriage. Engagement should be a time of initiating edifying communication patterns. It is expected that the engaged couple will begin to develop a spiritual relationship in which faith and love can grow. However, they should permit no behavior in public or private which would subject them to lustful temptations or be offensive to their fellow brethren.

Believers entering marriage must be prepared to sacrifice their own will and submit to one another (Eph. 5:21). They must cultivate unselfishness and not expect to establish quickly the same standard of living experienced by their parents. Sometimes individuals have not learned how to communicate their thoughts openly and honestly without hurting others. Loving counsel with an elder or minister can be beneficial. Husbands and wives should diligently observe the beautiful example of the love of Christ. Such sacrificial love will always seek the welfare of the other, and God's richest blessings will surely follow.

NEED: There is a longing on the part of the members to participate in this respite program. This project and the personnel would help the small congregation to grow. There is a three bedroom home next to the church that would be available for this work.

The family living in this home, prior to their move, the sister had participated in this respite program.

There would be a need for a married couple (brother and sister) or two sisters to live in this home, receive the training and become involved in

the program as providers. Those interested in this work would need to have an interest in helping the disabled/handicapped, stable, supportive and sympathetic toward the handicapped.

Anyone interested can call or write: Bro. Lester Huber, 3938 Beckner-ville Road, Winchester, KY 40391, phone: 606-745-2541; or Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Route 1, Box 4, Francesville, IN 47946, phone: 921-567-2798.

--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 Hymns 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 -- Sixth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1988 --	3486	3486
September 1988 --	1365	4851
October 1988 --	1762	6613
November 1988 --	2655	9268
December 1988 --	1637	10,905
January 1989 --	2070	12,975
February 1989 --	2562	15,537
March 1989 --	2017	17,554
April 1989 --	2386	19,940
May 1989 --	2075	22,015

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

WORKS PROJECTS Wycliffe Associates Building Project

The Work Projects Committee has approved a new domestic work project that has a two-fold purpose of giving opportunity to those who would want to volunteer their labor and talents on a construction project and to promote fellowship with our brethren and friends who live in the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, area.

The project is with Wycliffe Associates, the construction arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators, a non-denominational organization whose objective is the use of the science of linguistics to give to those people who do not yet have their own language in writing, the Word of God in that language. Wycliffe Associates is a lay group charged with the responsibility of construction and maintenance of buildings throughout the world. Currently they are building apartments for elderly members who are returning from the mission field and who will be sharing their knowledge and experience with those students who are learning the translation techniques.

Skills are needed for all types of building construction and there are work assignments available at the

NOTICE

The phone number for the Apostolic Christian Children's Home in Leo, Indiana, was incorrectly printed in the 1989 church directory. The correct number is (219) 627-2159. Also, the complete address is P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765. We apologize for the inconvenience.

center for women who would like to participate. Volunteers are asked to bring their own small hand and power tools. Large machinery and equipment will be on the site.

Living accommodations are provided. They have 10 spaces for RV's or trailers -- complete with sewage and electrical hook-ups at a cost of \$4.00 per day. There are showers and a coin laundry nearby. Others can stay in a room in one of the duplexes built several years ago. The rates for these rooms are: single (\$25/week) or one couple (\$45/week). If children are included contact us for the additional cost. The construction center dining room is open for three meals a day at a cost of \$6.50 per day. Reservations have to be made ahead of time for living arrangements.

The Wycliffe building projects can use volunteers at any time and for

any length of time -- whether it be one day or two weeks. The third Sunday of each month is being set as a target date for volunteers to either begin or conclude their volunteer work period. This third Sunday conforms to our regular worship service, which is held at the Holiday Inn in Desoto. This is nine miles from the work site. Services are normally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month.

It is anticipated that there is a minimum of four years of work at this site; however, it is the desire of the committee that those who have a heart for this service consider putting this work effort into their plans as quickly as possible. You may contact either Bro. Arnold Gerst (217-223-8424) or Bro. Hoard or Sis. Dolores Rapp (214-867-4074), who reside in the Dallas area, for additional information.

PRISON DOORS OPEN

The power of prayer is immeasurable! How fortifying it is to see from time to time a definite answer to prayers, especially when the situation is complex and many of the people involved are not, to our knowledge, God-fearing men.

As many are aware and as previously reported in the Silver Lining, since the Russian occupation and strong influence in Yugoslavia, over the years many of our brethren there have been imprisoned for their faith and the conviction that they cannot bear arms nor take an oath of allegiance to communist doctrine. In June of last year when we brethren visited there, there were approximately 30 young men in prison for their faith. Some were serving for the second and third prison terms, with the sentences varying from two to three years for each conviction. This is contrary to the policy that existed when Tito was ruler in Yugoslavia, when our brethren were required to serve only one term for their refusal to bear arms. We met many young who had been in prison, some for the second or third time, and some awaiting their first call. It brought back to those of us who are older memories of bygone days, especially during World War II.

When we were in Nova Sad, Yugoslavia, at the close of the service a young man arose and, weeping, asked the congregation to pray for him. He acknowledged he had been called into service and would automatically be imprisoned. It was a very touching scene, and almost reminded one of a funeral here in the States when a beloved soul departs this earth.

It is humbling to understand that those young men imprisoned were more than willing to serve one term for their faith and convictions, and possibly two terms if necessary; but they felt the third term was a severe hardship. Can you imagine being separated from fellowship, family, parents, wives or children, to say nothing of the work environment, for that period of time! Ten years could be taken out of a young man's life until he reached the age of 30, when he was no longer eligible for military conscription.

It rather shames us when we consider the liberties we often take

URGENT PLEA FOR HELP IN JAPAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED IN JAPAN

Our church in Japan has a kindergarten where Sis. Kathy Jo Kieser and Sis. Renee Baurer are now teaching. Sis. Kathy Jo will be leaving the kindergarten next July and a brother or a sister who is qualified to teach kindergarten is needed to replace her. Anyone who has the faith and conviction to apply for this position should speak to his or her elder and if he approves, apply to the missionary committee for consideration.

All expenses involved in the two-year stay in Japan are paid by the church. The brother or sister is asked to give two or more years of his or her life in Japan at some sacrifice of compensation, although we do pay, in addition to expenses, a small monthly salary.

Bible stories are taught every day in the kindergarten. English is the language of instruction, but incoming teachers are encouraged to begin studying the Japanese language before coming to Japan. This is helpful in communicating with the Japanese people and in singing the hymns in Japanese.

The teachers are presently living in a new, modern apartment about a 10-minute walk from the church.

There may be a former teaching brother or sister who had served in Japan and was acquainted with the language, or a retired teacher who would be willing to give of himself or herself. A brother or sister without a teaching certificate would be considered. Even one year would be appreciated. Anyone touched in heart should most prayerfully commit it to our gracious God, talk to his or her family and then to their local shepherd. May God provide for our need and may His will be done.

Anyone interested should contact his or her local elder, any of the brothers on the mission committee, including myself, or former teachers to Japan, including Bro. Willis Ehnle. Please note my new address and phone number are: 34050 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331; phone 313/478-3771; or Bro. Willis Ehnle, 692-2 Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan.

Your needy servant,
Ben Maibach, Jr.

for granted, and is a reminder of how complacent we can become.

After our return to the States, Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Andy Hunyady and I, along with some brethren from the sister church Nazarene, met in Washington in the offices of Illinois Congressman Robert Michel, minority whip. His forefathers were from our faith, although he is not a member of our fellowship. He has been very understanding and consistently supportive over the years to requests made on behalf of our brotherhood here in the States and in Europe.

In his office, the Congressman's assistant, Bill Gavin, introduced us to Mr. Jack M. Seymour, Jr., Deputy Director, Office of Eastern European and Yugoslav Affairs. We pleaded for the young men of our faith in Yugoslavia, and asked that they be given the same consideration as our brethren and friends are currently receiving in Hungary -- that is to be able to serve in a noncombatant capacity.

Yugoslavia enjoys a favored nation status with our government, allowing them to export merchandise to the U.S.A. at a very favorable rate, which is very essential. In this treaty they agreed to maintain certain basic human rights. Our government felt they had taken liberties with those rights. This is just one of the vehicles

our officials used to apply pressure for more favorable consideration for those young men.

By letter received recently from a brother in Yugoslavia we have been informed that the Federal Council of Delegates in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on April 20, 1989, approved and adopted a new law for the Ministry of Defense, whereby our young men can fulfill their military obligation without training with weapons. But for this consideration they must serve double time, which is two years in service; while those who train with arms serve for only one year.

The brother further added, "We thank God for it, as it puts an end to our persecution. For the moment, however, it is not clear what the fate of those who are in prison will be, or what the impact of refusing to take an oath will have on these inductees." He further wrote, "We continue to have our trust in the divine providence and give God honor and glory. To you, our dear brethren, who so faithfully demonstrated your concerns, prayed for us and labored on our behalf, our heartfelt thanks."

Let us never cease to pray, not only for our own brethren and friends, but for mankind everywhere, especially for those who are under the influence and dominion of governments and people where little or no

consideration is given for the God-given convictions that are so precious to us. God yet performs miracles!

Gratefully,
Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Jr.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Carol Kieser

This morning as the alarm was ringing indicating a new day had dawned, my thoughts reflected on spiritual alarms that God sounds for us. Last August, when I began this "way of life" at the Children's Home as an Assistant Houseparent, I was not aware of how "sleepy" I was and how much "waking up" was necessary to the fact that is clear-- there are more people hurting than there are helping and hoping! As a believer, I can stand fast on the hope of heaven, even when all else may seem helpless or hopeless.

We are daily dealing with families and situations where the members are in despair and have no reflection of hope. Consider Father's Day. For some, actually just a few, this is a healthy day to focus on Dad and thank God for his role model, love and concern for the family. I am one of the few, and all because of God's amazing grace do I rejoice in this day. For so many others, this day reflects the sense of no belonging, no father at home or even known! God has provided us with prayer and love to fill this void as much as possible. We request the fervent prayers of the faithful for our fatherless children and the many who cry alone. God is the source of all comfort, power, and hope in this present darkness, called the world.

Though there may be odds against us, we have lots going for us and anticipate with growing excitement several activities.

Congratulations Marie, Denise, Laura and John, our graduates! We are delighted for you! Marie has also earned two scholarships from the American Business Women's Association. Good job, young lady!

Announcement! Announcement! On April 30, the engagement of Sis. Elaine Steffen, one of the houseparents in the West House, and Bro. Eric Olson was announced. May God continue to guide their path and give them peace.

OFFICE MANAGER OPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is an immediate opening for an Office Manager at the Children's Home.

This position would offer opportunity to work in a Christian office environment with a wide variety of responsibilities. Required skills include:

- * "Executive secretarial" skills
- * Communication skills (oral and written)
- * Basic understanding of bookkeeping and finances
- * Organizational skills
- * Computer experience (helpful but not required)
- * Pleasant personality

Salary and benefits would be commensurate with experience. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator
P. O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 office
219/627-2606 home

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

We rejoice with them for we can see God is in control. As a result, there is an opening for a single sister to serve as a Houseparent (See ad in this issue.)

Other "news" is baby chicks and kittens have arrived! "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all!" The children enjoy caring for these little animal friends.

Congratulations to Sis. Colleen Reardon, our Transitional Living Program Coordinator, who just received her Foster Parent License. This is the second home we have licensed under our new Child Placing License.

May 20 was a great day for a car wash and garage sale. The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather as four teams of kids and staff washed cars in the church parking lot while other

staff members and volunteers ran a garage sale and bake sale next door. The money earned enabled our families to go on summer vacations in early June. We appreciate all of the helpers, contributors, and shoppers.

Summer volunteers have already begun helping in a variety of ways. We have a few more openings. Please contact the Home if you're interested.

You're invited to our Annual Auction and Sale, Saturday, August 19, the day after the general church conference in Bluffton. We are welcoming individual donations to the Auction, as well as soliciting material donations from businesses and merchants from our churches around the country. Also, there will be chartered buses coming to the Sale from certain areas in the Midwest. If you are interested in riding a bus, donating items, or volunteering for the Sale, please

contact the Home or your local church representative.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Once again the Lord God, Whom we serve, has shown us that His strength is made perfect in weakness. Quickly, and without apparent pain, our dear brother and friend, Dave Metz, passed through the valley of the shadow of death. We know he rests safe in the arms of his Jesus. Our hearts are lonely, yet draw spiritual strength as we reflect. Dave so clearly has shown us by his life, and even in his death, that God's love pours through a submitted heart. Dave had muscular dystrophy and lived at our home for ten years. Due to increased medical complications, he moved to Restmor Nursing Home in November 1988. During these years, God used Dave to touch so many residents and staff in both facilities that we really do not know how to express our feelings. He leaves us with not only pleasant, joyful memories, but also with a spiritual challenge to trust God in all situations. We held a memorial service here at A.C.H.H. Monday evening, April 24, after he was laid to rest that morning in Forrest, IL.

We all welcome the lovely spring weather which invites our residents to spend more time outdoors, walking and riding bikes. The spring flowers in our courtyard have been especially beautiful this year, as well as our flowering cherry trees!

At the present time we have a small building project going on, which is the addition of two offices. One will be for our director of nursing and the other for one of our QMRP's. These

HOUSEPARENT OPENINGS FOR COUPLES OR SINGLES AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We are very thankful for the many generous ways that our brothers and sisters throughout the land support the Children's Home. Here is yet another opportunity that goes to the very heart of our work.

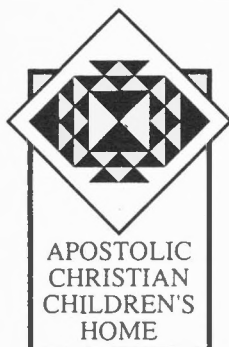
There are immediate openings at the Children's Home for couples or a single sister to serve as Houseparents for troubled children, ages 11 - 18 years old. We encourage mature couples or singles with a heart for young people to seriously and prayerfully consider this calling to serve the Lord, the church and children. There are children waiting who desperately need and desire the stability, security and love of a Christian home.

For more information on responsibilities, salary and benefits, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

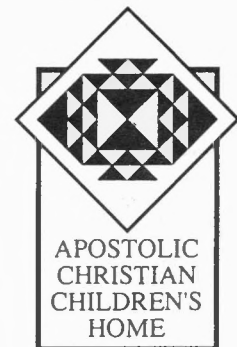
Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
219/627-2606, home

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

We solicit your support in praying that our brethren will respond to the Lord's call to fill this important position.



BUSES ARE AVAILABLE
Serving Illinois and Ohio for
anyone wishing to attend the
Annual Children's Home Auction
on August 19, 1989.
Contact your local Children's
Home Representative for details.



are being added in the courtyard area. The cement and brick work is finished and they are working on the wiring, heating & cooling, etc. We are also redecorating our lobby and administrative offices. The carpeting has been laid, two rooms have been papered and we are now waiting on wallpaper for the lobby and main office.

Our July birthdays are as follows: For Oakwood -- Gloria Heiniger (26) and Ed Getz (31). A.C.H.H. -- Billie Tatum (1), Gary Feller (5), Cindy Virkler (6), Clark Lewis (24) and Janet Giberson (29).

The Heartland Therapy Dogs came to visit recently. These are highly trained dogs that work with people who have special needs for love and attention. The dogs are various breeds, large and small. They allow most any touch and perform obedience skills. We also had a visit from Christian Caravan Puppets who put on an interesting program for us.

Our Special Olympics teams have been very busy. The gymnastics and track & field teams brought home many gold medals and will enjoy sharing their talents at the state games in June.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL
Julie Bauer**

May was a busy month for us at the Preschool. We spent many hours preparing for our graduation program which was held May 26. The

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
1989
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 19, 1989**

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
LEO, INDIANA**

children were anxious to show off what they have learned this year. The four and five-year-olds are excited about moving on to "big school" in the fall. We pray that the seeds of God's love that have been planted in their hearts will not die out but will be nurtured and grow.

May 26 was a sad day for us, as it was Miss Marilyn's last day at the Preschool. Sis. Marilyn Walder has been teaching here for 3 1/2 years and we all have appreciated her love, concern and "willing mind" during that time. We thank God for allowing her to share her talents with us for awhile. Though we're sad to see her go, we realize the Lord has a plan for each of us and we wish her His blessings as she makes her home in Champaign, IL.

We welcome any volunteers that would like to spend time with us this summer. As always, any help is greatly appreciated. Volunteers make it easier for our staff to take vacations! Anyone interested can contact Julie Bauer at Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611 or (205) 233-0591.

We are in need of a good copy machine for the school. Anyone with information on how we could obtain one please contact Lavoyd Moore, Route 5, Box 75A, Athens, AL 35611 or call (205) 232-2035.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

What a beautiful spring it's been in Alabama! With the dogwood trees and azaleas in full bloom, there's color everywhere! God creates such beautiful artwork!

As summer begins, we say goodbye to two very special people at Athens. Sis. Marilyn Walder, who has spent the last three and a half years here, and Sis. Joan Meister, two and a half years. Sis. Marilyn will leave her position as director of the Preschool, to become director of Carle Hospital's Daycare in Champaign. Sis. Joan will complete her degree in elementary education at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, and seek employment in the Peoria, IL, area. We will miss both of them, however, realize that God is moving them on to more work in His field. We look forward to the volunteers who plan to spend part of their summer with us.

Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), came to minister God's Word to us in the months of April - May.

Approximately 25 traveled from Athens to Eureka, IL, in April, to share in Sis. Evie Blunier and Bro. Randy Mogler's wedding. All of the hospitality shown to us is appreciated. The Washington, IL, Choir came to spend a weekend of song and fellowship with the Athens congregation in April also.

Visitors from Eureka, Roanoke, Gridley, Princeville and Peoria, IL, and Lansing and Alto, MI, were bright spots in our church this past month.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Elaine Perry, Bro. Arnold Lee Haggemaker and Izora Cooley. We are thankful they have all returned home again.

Sis. Amanda Glass has had sadness, with the death of her sister and husband. May she find comfort in the Lord.

May 5, a Sunday school organizational meeting was held to discuss the current plans and plans for the future. May God bless and guide these plans that they will be fruitful.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments."

Psalms 119:73

A reception for our 1989 graduates was held in the congregational room May 7. High school graduates are Bro. Todd Baum, Stacey Emch, Sis. Stephanie Frautschi, Jeff Klopfenstein, Erica Roth and Debbie Yack-

**WEST VIRGINIA SERVICE
JUNE 25, 1989**

A Saturday evening service will be held at the Sardis Church at 7:30 p.m. (daylight savings time).

The West Virginia service will be at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

For further information, call Bro. Delbert Indermuhle, 614-483-1520.

ley. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum, Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch, Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth and Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley.

Grade school graduates are Nicole Schrenk, Seth Maurer, Mark Kokanovich, Scott Klopfenstein, Nathan Gramm and Michael Emch. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Alana Schrenk, Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer, Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein, Bro. Jim and Cathy Gramm and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch.

Matthew Pahl was born March 7 to first-time parents, Doug and Susan Schmidgall. His grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall.

Timothy James was born April 7 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich. "T.J." was welcomed home by Mark, Heidi and Holly. His grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed and Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kokanovich.

Bro. Herbert and Sis. Joanne Knochel are grandparents to Suzanne Marie Klotzle born April 5. Her parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle of the Altadena, CA, church.

Bro. Joe (Sis. Lavina) Dotterer was a hospital surgical patient, as was Sis. Susan Suever (Ed), Bro. George Schuster was in for diagnostic studies. Our shut-ins are Sis. Martha De Mille, Manny Stetzler, Sis. Marjorie Rebec, Ed Harmon, Carol Doolittle and Rachel Roth. We pray the Lord's healing hand may make their day more tolerable, for all strength comes from above.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are sorry to report that our Sis. Sue Lamneck is leaving us to move to Florida to be with her family. Sis. Sue has been in Tucson a long time and she has been a faithful supporter of our little church. We will miss her smile and loving, gentle personality. We pray that she will find a blessing in her new life in Florida and we know she will continue to pray for us.

We have happier news in that Andy Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis.

Yvonne) is repenting. We are so thankful Andy has submitted to the Lord's call. We know the Lord will supply all Andy's needs during his repentance.

Our Sis. Jane Miller (Bro. Kent) recently flew to Illinois to participate in her college graduation ceremony. Our congratulations go to Sis. Jane on this happy event!

Construction is continuing on our church addition. We would appreciate your continued prayers for a blessing on our project.

Having just passed Mother's Day and with Father's Day approaching, it is comforting to note that just as we, as parents, continue to love our children, no matter what they do, our heavenly Father always loves us completely.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

Ben Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae) has found peace with God and desires to be baptized according to God's plan. We look forward to his testimony and baptism sometime in July.

Lydian Luthi (daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley) underwent open-heart surgery in May. We are thankful that God brought her through the operation safely, and that she is recuperating nicely.

Our young group has been traveling quite a bit lately, twice to San Diego and to Tucson, AZ, over Memorial Day weekend. We are thankful to have had ministering Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) with us in Altadena, also.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Nella Varga

"Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be
done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Thine in the kingdom, and the
power,
And the glory, forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:9-13

How blessed we are to have a heavenly Father who loves us, provides for us and cares for us. How thankful we are to have earthly fathers who do the same.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (training) and admonition of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:1-4

It has always been God's plan to build, strengthen and protect the family. It has always been Satan's plan to undermine, weaken and destroy it. Parents, what are we doing to preserve the fulfillment and joy we have in our children? We see broken homes all around us -- very prevalent in our society in these modern days. Our children are growing up with many adult pressures at an earlier age. Never before in history has teenage suicide been epidemic.

What does it really mean, to "nurture" or "train a child"? In the original Hebrew the words, "train up," were used to speak of the actions of a midwife who, after a child was born, would dip her finger in crushed dates and place it in the mouth of the infant. By doing this, she created a thirst for milk in the infant. The idea then, is that we are to create a thirst in our children for the things of God.

Children mirror what they see in adults. Let our reflections always be of a godly nature, Christian and loving.

As always, we are happy and thankful to have visitors in San Diego. A special welcome and thanks to Bro. Julius Kovac (Dunovece, Hungary) for ministering the precious Word to us with Bro. Denes Fulop translating. Bro. Julius is father to Sis. Joy Fulop.

May God bless each and every father.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Joshua James Schrenk arrived in the family of Bro. Robert and Sis. Carol Schrenk April 21. Maggie has informed us all that she is now a big sister. May God be with them, and with all parents, that they realize how very important the influence of

home life is on a child as they go through this life.

We welcome Ruth Wiegand (Bro. Dale and Sis. Friedora, Eureka, IL) and Daryl Stisser (Randy and Linda, Bradford, IL) to our area. Ruth has a job in Steamboat Springs so we realize she won't be able to be with us as much as we'd like, but we do look forward to her "time off." Daryl is in the Air Force and is stationed at Lowry Training Center. We enjoy having him there.

This month we've had two surgical patients. Bro. Joe Wagler and little Tara Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel). We thank God for His healing hand and pray for His continued mercies.

We are planning a reunion of all the folks who have lived in our area and attended church with us sometime since services were started here in 1980. It is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, September 2, 3 & 4. If somehow we have missed someone, we hope you will take this as an invitation and plan to attend. We trust God will bless our time together.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Hany

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

How beautiful at this time of year when we can see the omnipotence of God in a tiny seed which germinates when planted and soon develops into a flower characteristic only of that particular seed -- so different from a multitude of other seeds of equal size! Surely there is evidence all around us daily of His divine power.

The faith of a dear brother has now become a reality as Bro. Walt Zahner (79) died suddenly of a heart attack April 25. He will be missed and our sympathy is extended to his son, Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet (Welti); and four granddaughters, Carrie, Gwen, Kristen and Amy. Our thoughts have also been with his surviving brothers and sister, Bro. Ed, Bro. Mannie, Ben and Sis. Rose, in the passing of a beloved brother.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Millie Gerber, Del (Lanz) Starks, Bro.

Jacob Treub and Bobby Dombek, son of Bob and Sis. Lorraine. We hope that they can be up and around again in the not-too-distant future.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), accompanied by his wife, Sis. Evelyn; and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), accompanied by his wife, Sis. Mary. Their visits were a great blessing to us and are sincerely appreciated.

We've had visitors from Bay City, MI, Elgin, IL, Rockville, CT, and Philadelphia, PA. Our small congregation has been blessed with several visitors almost every Sunday. Visitors are welcome and appreciated, always bringing an added blessing to our fellowship. Attendance at our two assemblies during May was 15 and 24.

We welcome Bro. Jeff Fisher (Tucson, AZ), who is employed in the D.C. area and will be assembling with us during the summer months. Bro. Jeff is a specialist in restorative construction which is in much demand here. Curt Anliker (Francesville, IN) is assembling with us again as he begins another D.C. segment of his education. We look forward to fellowship with these two young men.

Henrietta Meyer visited her mother, Sis. Lydia Meyer, in Peoria, IL, for Mother's Day. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein travelled to Peoria, IL, recently for the baptism of their granddaughter, Sis. Crystal, daughter of Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein.

A few from D.C. visited the Philadelphia church May 14, to hear the reading of the memorandum by Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY).

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark Hotel (Best Western) located on Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a time for refreshments and fellowship, then another worship service at 12:30 p.m. For further information or assistance, please call the Ralph Klopfensteins at 703-979-3476. Visitors are always welcome.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri K. Huber

The Sunday school was invited to North Fort Myers last weekend and we had a wonderful time of fellowship, food and fun. Hint: we hope it will become an annual event! We would like to thank our hosts for a special weekend.

We were blessed to be able to partake in communion this month. It is a time for searching and communion in our hearts with our Lord. Our appreciation can never fully be expressed to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for the support he gives our Elder Bro. Bud in matters such as this and the fellowship Joe and his wife, Sis. Shirley, provide when they come to visit.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to those of our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. May God go with them as they travel to be with their families in this time of sorrow.

Little Holly Klopfenstein, who was one year old last month, broke her leg. We wish her a speedy recovery!

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Kay Eisenmann

A dear one who worshipped with us for eight months of the year was called home, Ted Misaras. His wife, Lena, went back to Mansfield, OH, to live in their apartment. They will be sorely missed from our small congregation. He endured his pain, always looking to the Lord for his help. May God comfort Lena as only He can. Ted lived his life by God's Word. To him it was the only true way to be happy.

We have a brother who, in his prayer, asked God to make His Word real in our lives. What a beautiful request. For if we really believe in His Word, how much easier it is to live it. What if God called you home today, would you be ready to face God? For we all know we must. There is no escaping the judgment of our loving God. May God strengthen our faith to that end.

We are all thankful for God-fearing husbands and fathers. The world today is full of people who don't want to make any kind of commitment either to God or each other. What a sad awakening they will have, for God's Word will not be changed. In

this ever-changing world, it seems to them nothing is sin. Be not deceived, remember Satan was once an angel of light. And he never makes anything all bad. He puts enough good into it to deceive mankind, so be aware! Be not deceived!

Dathan is taking some different medication to help him grow, for the treatment damaged his growth pattern. Please keep the prayers coming. God bless all for their prayers and love gifts.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott

Our congregation has witnessed the beautiful work of the Lord as we heard the engagement of our Bro. Phil Schlatter to Sis. Judy Barr (Fort Scott, KS). May they feel the Lord's guidance as they plan to join hand and heart.

We can again thank our God for His healing touch as our friend, Bobby Cochran, underwent eye surgery and is home recuperating at this time. Sis. Minnie Nuest was also hospitalized and is feeling much better. We are happy to see her back in church and at our weekly fellowship breakfasts on Thursdays.

April 23 we had an all church picnic. We were happy to have Sis. Gloria Streitmatter here from Chicago, IL, visiting her family.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL).

A reminder that June is Silver Lining month for Sarasota.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
John Brewer

Atlanta has been blessed this spring with adequate rainfall and sunshine, providing a very nice spring. We should always be thankful for the weather or any blessings the Lord may provide this past season. Our gathering has been blessed with visiting ministers and other visitors this past month. The visiting ministers include Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA). We enjoyed the time they and the other visitors took to visit our congregation.

On Mother's Day, we took the time to go to Stone Mountain State Park for a picnic. This included a time for prayer and a small Bible study, then afterward Bro. Don Sellers cooked up some fish he had caught from a fishing trip. It is nice to know no matter where you are at, you can enjoy the fellowship from a body of believers anywhere.

We are looking forward to visitors this summer who are passing on their way to Florida or that may be in the general Atlanta area. We do meet every Sunday with a visiting minister on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. On the alternate Sundays, we gather for singing and a Bible study. Our gathering is located at the Ramada Renaissance which is on Riverdale Road, off I-85, next to the Atlanta airport. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, just call either Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller 404-631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers 404-923-0721 or myself 404-254-1664.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
De Anderson - Marcia Bauer

My Savior's righteousness
Is now my glorious dress
Before my Lord.
Thy Spirit and Thy blood
To me redemption brought;
In likeness of my God
I serve His Word.

Zion's Harp #202

May 6 and 7 will always hold a special place in the hearts of three precious souls as they testified of their faith and were baptized on these dates. We welcome to the brotherhood Jay Nussbaum (Ann) and Mike and Liz Robinson. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) on that weekend.

Other activities enjoyed this past month were the adopted student picnic and our annual Mother-Daughter banquet. We do so appreciate the love and concern of our Christian mothers. May God bless each one with the patience and love to daily guide their children in such a way that is pleasing unto the Lord.

Dave Brummit (Sis. Karen) was

hospitalized this month. May God bless him with returning good health.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringger

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

On April 21 we were privileged to partake of holy communion. Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Joe Stoller served us in this most solemn occasion.

We are thankful to have had another blessed weekend of testimonies and baptisms this month. On April 30, five new souls were added to the fold: Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Francis Knobloch, Princeville, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle), Sis. Stephanie Rumbold (Bro. Mark) and Bro. Mike and Sheila Rumbold (the Rumbolds are all Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta's family). May God bless each of them and guide these babes in Christ, in their Christian walk of life. We appreciated Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) and Joe Stoller for their labors of love. Visiting ministers also spending the day with us were Bros. Roy Sauder (Peoria), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Jim Plattner (Princeville).

Our congregation has 7 high school graduates this year. They are Alisa Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky), Julie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta), Jim Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole), Perry Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnice), David Duckworth (Bro. Don and Sis. Delores), Martin Contreras (foreign exchange student living with Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth) and Bro. Mitch Leman (Bro. and Sis. Jane). We certainly wish each of them God's guidance as they go into the world to find employment or on to school for higher education.

Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville) visited us this past month. We thank them for serving us from God's Holy Bible.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN LaRae Dill

At our annual spring business meeting, Sis. Marcia Koch (Bro. Justin) was elected to serve as a Sunday school teacher. Bros. Roger Belsley and Sam Furrer were re-elected as trustee and usher, respectively. We give our prayers and support to Marcia, Roger and Sam as they serve our church. We thank Sis. Cheryl Mangers for the love and care she has exhibited during her years as a Sunday school teacher.

Our congregation shared in holy communion May 10. We enjoyed having our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and Elder Bro. Dan Koch present for this occasion. Bro. Dan explained the origin of communion services as related to the Feast of the Passover for the children of Israel, compared that early feast with the Lord's supper and then discussed the significance of holy communion for us today.

Sunday, May 7, we enjoyed the fellowship and musical talents of the Mortonaires of Morton, IL. We were thankful this group could be present at our church singing.

We have a number of graduates in our congregation to whom congratulations and God's blessings are extended. Dean Kaisner (son of Colleen Tholen and Robert Kaisner) will graduate from Unity of Tolono High School. Leigh Simpson, a Psychology and Business major, and Bob Wiegand, an Electrical Engineering major, are graduates of the University of Illinois. Leigh's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma Simpson, while Bob's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand. Bro. Dewayne Dill received his doctoral degree in Animal Sciences also from the U. of I.

We're privileged to become acquainted with students from many places during their college careers here in Champaign/Urbana. Sis. Susan Blunier, Bro. Todd Schrock, Bro. Joe Walder and Brad Wiegand (Karen) are U. of I. graduates; Sis. Sarah Steffen and Sis. Crystal Broquard are Parkland College graduates. We will certainly miss the fellowship and enthusiasm these students have brought to our church.

Visiting ministers are always appreciated by our congregation. Our thanks to Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Ralph Garber and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

A newspaper article from central Illinois mentioned the coyote problem a large sheep owner was having. I was taken aback: coyotes killing sheep in my old home area. That sounded like earlier days, past history. But the article was about life in 1989. Perhaps I sometimes get glase about what the Bible says about temptations, thinking, "that was then, this is now." However, the Bible was given to us for all ages, not just when it was written, not just for the Jews, not just for the first-century Christians, but for us, and if the Lord is not yet to come again, for our posterity. I need to be watchful, knowing that the "sheep" of today have similar problems, but the Bible can always be applied, always give answers to our prayers, and always preserve us from all harm.

Communion is such a precious shared time for the congregation. Friday, April 28, we were privileged once again to jointly remember and celebrate our Lord's death and sacrifice on our behalf. We also renewed our love and family bond as a church. Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Lenny Meyer conducted our service.

Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were our welcome visitors on the pulpit the end of April. We have had many other visitors, family and friends, and we thank all for their presence and Christian greetings. The Lord bolsters us by our interchanges one with another from our various congregations.

This spring our annual a bus trip was to Elgin, Iowa. Of a dozen years, this is the first time we left the Chicago area with snow flurries in the air. Our lunch at Dubuque gave us time for shopping and a "cable car" ride. Those who live at the end of the route on the hill have surely taken literally our Lord's words to live on a higher plane. Whether our physical homes are in the valley or on the heights, may our spiritual minds be always "lifted up to the hills." (ref. Psalms 121:1) Upon reaching Elgin, we felt the loving Christian bond, were

nourished by the physical work they had put forth as love in action, and were immediately comfortable, as though at home. The hills of "the Switzerland of Iowa" were beautiful. Our hostess mentioned where several lived -- and how they had particular respect for one of the steeper, higher hills, especially in the winter. May we also be mindful of the slick wiles of the Devil as we climb our most imposing obstacles. The Lord will always give us traction, strength, and courage through His Word and His people. The warmth of our brothers, sisters, their family, and friends in Elgin created for us a beautiful weekend, precious memories. We cannot thank them enough for the spiritual blessings and beauty we can carry with us so that when the cold lingers, we can warm ourselves with their remembered love and faithfulness. May the Lord richly give the Elgin, IA, church all abundance as they gave to us of the Chicago congregation.

Tears of joy fill our eyes and prayers of thanksgiving resound in our minds. Margaret Jankovich and Phil Snare have been drawn of the Lord to seek Him. They have realized their sin, His love, His sacrifice, and their only hope through repentance and conversion, following His way. We rejoice and we continue to pray that the Lord may lead them in His green pastures of spiritual growth.

We want to congratulate our graduates. Rozalia Bozzay and Jeremy DesCarpentries are graduating from high school. Rozi (daughter of Bro. Milos and Sis. Aranks) plans to attend Oakton Community College in liberal arts. Jeremy (son of Bro. Bud and Sis. Kay) will be going to the U. of I. in Champaign with a major in landscape architecture. Our eighth grade graduates are Zoltan Bekker (son of Zoltan and Angela); Steven Bozzay (son of Bro. Tibor and Sis. Pearl), Calista Feldman (daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Char), Matthew Rassi (son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) and Katrina Schlatter (daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy.) As they all start new chapters in their lives. We wish them the Lord's guidance and blessings.

Last weekend, we were with my parents for a family picture. The time was so sweet and so short.

Sometimes time and change is scary for, inevitably, after awhile some will have to leave the family portrait. I thought of my parents and their clan. Then I thought of my parents' parents and their offspring. I knew very little of my grandparents, but I admire the way my parents and my aunts and uncles have tried to keep the families together so that we can all touch bases and care about one another. I believe our Father God wants us to do all we can in the short time we have here as His family to sweeten our time, to care for one another, and to be together in His house and ours. May the Lord grant us His will to make time for each other in the business of our lives.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Knapp - Karol Stock

On April 23, our Bible class students traveled to Elgin, IL, for ACYF.

On April 24, Sis. Priscilla Knapp, 90, passed away at the Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. William, in 1963. Surviving are one daughter, Mary Ann Mann (Charles, Rossville, IL); five sons, Kenneth (Laguna Beach, CA), Charles and Bro. Lynn (Hoopeston, IL), Irvin (Francesville, IN) and Roy (Cullom, IL); one sister, Sis. Lydia Moser (Cissna Park, IL); 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. We certainly extend our heartfelt sympathy to this family as well as to Sis. Elsie Bauer (Bro. Elmer) in the loss of her brother, Charles Fink (Lafayette, IN).

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti and their son, Levi, as they make Cissna Park their home church. They live in rural Sibley and have been going to Champaign previously. How nice it will be for Levi to spend Sundays with Grandpa and Grandma Walder (Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy).

The Bible teaches us that we need to "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 were happy to hear the testimony of Laurie Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) May 6 and witness her baptism Sunday, May 7.

Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) was here Sunday to assist Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury). We also welcomed a new brother and sister-in-faith the Wednesday evening of May 17 as we gathered to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of George and Gladys Winger. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) were with us for the evening. We are thankful for these three souls and wish them God's continued guidance and blessing. We are also thankful for our elder brothers who so willingly labor on our behalf.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bill Gudeman (Elgin), Wayne Banwart (Champaign), Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). We thank each one for coming and sharing the Word of Life with us.

We also wish to thank the Gridley choir for coming May 7. We all enjoyed the evening of song and fellowship together.

"Bloom Where You Are Planted" was the theme for the Mother-Daughter Dinner May 11. It was an enjoyable and uplifting evening for all as we were reminded of the importance and benefits of family through both readings and songs.

Hospital patients this month were, surgical, Sis. Lucille Walder, Bro. Les Stock (Sis. Arlene) and medical, Bro. Gilbert Stock (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Elmer Bauer (Sis. Elsie), Seth Sims (Scott and Denise), Sis. Cora Scharlach and Sis. Anna Hari. We pray that God will be near each one and bless them with renewed health and strength.

We read in Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye father, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." As we observe Father's Day this month, let us each be thankful for our caring fathers who have loved us, nurtured us and taught us the ways of truth.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich

"And all these blessings shall come

on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."

Deuteronomy 28:2

We heard the testimonies of five souls and how the Lord has blessed their lives because they hearkened unto the Spirit's gentle calling. We welcomed Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori (Schrock) Rumbold, Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock) and Bro. Derron Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock) into God's precious family. We wish them many blessings on this earth, but much more, a home in heaven!

The unhindered Holy Spirit truly worked through our elder brothers as they read to us the memorandum. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for helping us walk the straight and narrow way. We all have work to do.

We are also thankful to other visiting ministers who have so graciously given on our behalf. They are Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bros. Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO) and Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA).

Even as Jesus welcomed little children into His arms, likewise Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman welcome Erin Ann into theirs. Also welcoming Erin is older brother, Eric, and grandparents, Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Miller, and Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman.

"I will instruct thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalms 32:8

This is our prayer for the graduates. Graduating from high school are Mark Funk, Bro. Brent Ifft, Derek Schrock, John Schrock, Sis. Lanae Schrock and Brad Walder. Graduating from college are Tim Dietrich, Bro. Todd Schrock and Sis. Marge Steffen.

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Give me the strength to show my children
The meaning of wrong from right,
To love and understand them
And lend a guiding light.

In years to come as they grow older
And go their separate way,
I only hope that what I have taught
Will be with them to stay.

Unknown

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

On April 23 and 30, Elgin hosted A.C.Y.F. and we were richly blessed as many young students gave of their talents in hymn singing. Kind exhortations were given by Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Ed Bahler (Remington, IN). We appreciate their willingness to labor in behalf of our young people; also special thanks to the Chicago brethren and students who assisted. May God bless the efforts and fellowship.

Wonderful words of life and encouragement were shared with us April 29 as Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Nathan in reviewing the brotherhood conference memorandum. May God help us to be submissive.

We share love and sympathy to our dear ones, Bro. Stan and Karen Schrock, whose infant son died before birth Friday, April 28. God chose to terminate the life of Logan David, who is survived by one brother, Zachary. Grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae Schrock, and Ronald and Wilma Eggebrecht (South Elgin).

Our heartfelt sympathy is also shared with Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker, and Sisters Mabel Anliker and Dorothy Schambach (Bro. Albert) in the passing of Sis. Louise Anliker (Forrest, IL).

Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen mourn the loss of her brother, Earl Pierson (Houston, TX). May God comfort all our loved ones in this time of sorrow.

Many of our brethren and friends have suffered in the body and are in need of special care and prayers. Vicki Messman (daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach) was a surgical patient this past month, as well as Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann) and Sis. Alma Schmidt (Bro. Art). Carolyn Feucht (Charles) and Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) were hospitalized and able to return home. At this time of writing, Bro. Earl Moser (Sis. Jeanette), Sis. Mary

Jane Hirschey and Mary Lindoerfer (Bro. Ken) remain in the hospital.

Dwayne and Jayne Schock are rejoicing in the birth of their first child, Kaleigh Jayne, born May 12. Happy grandparents include Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois Schock (Elgin).

The hearts and home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette Buckheister are filled with joy as they also welcome their first child, Rachel Lynne, born May 16. She is happily received by grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman and William and Dorothy Buckheister (all of Elgin).

At this time of year, we think of our graduates and pray God's blessings upon them. These include Renee Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie), Sarah Braun (Herman and Sis. Sharon), Rachel Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay), Renee Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) and Kim Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy).

"... 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. Believing this was accomplished in the hearts of our four converts, we now welcome them as new brothers and sisters in the beloved family of God. The weekend of May 20, Stan Schrock (Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae), Ann Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean), Lorri Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay) and Dan Moser (Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann) each shared their testimony of faith and were baptized. Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) shared in this labor. Bros. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) shared in the joy of this occasion.

Reminder: July is collection month of Silver Lining dues for Elgin.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Blunier welcomed Chad Wesley into their hearts and home April 19. Brian, Sheila, Ross and Derek welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller

(Princeville) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Kathryn Blunier (Eureka).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Freda Knepp and family in the passing of their daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, Yvonne Knepp (Donald, Barrington, IL). May God grant comfort to them as only He can.

Our prayers are for our hospital patients, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Bro. Harvey Banwart (Sis. Sylvia) and Sis. Lydia Rocke (Bro. Harry). May God grant grace to endure the many afflictions that come to our mortal bodies knowing that in heaven there will be no pain, no sorrow, no death, but joy and bliss with Him forever.

As we have recently remembered our dear mothers, can't we say we have been richly blessed by having our Christian mothers who have shown us the way and taught us the truth. Likewise, our beloved earthly fathers who have given us a beautiful example of a home where Christ is the head, remembering when they would pray aloud and read to us from His Word at the table. What precious memories we have of a Christian home.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

Our sincere congratulations go to our graduating seniors. They are Shane Ashba (Robert and Cheri Kaisner), Bro. Ned Bahler (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne), Jacki Fehr (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Linda), Leslie Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Dean Kaisner (Robert and Cheri), Betty Kelson (Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon), Mary Little (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Little), Sis. Suzanne Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice), Diane Slagel (Ron and Sis. June), Corey Steffen (Albert and Karen), Becky Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne), Daniel and Dayton Steidinger (David and Deann), Vicky Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene) and Thadd Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita). Our sincere prayer for each graduate is that they will always remember to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6.

We wish an abundance of God's

grace to the new convert, Dan Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen). May he build on the solid rock, Jesus Christ. "The goodness of God leadeth us to repentance." Romans 2:4.

We had an uplifting and encouraging weekend April 29 and 30, when a dear soul Keith Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice) was added to the fold. May God be with him each day, and may we all strive together to reach that heavenly goal. A special thanks to Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) for assisting in this holy work.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara Steidinger are parents of Sharla Marie born May 11. McLane and Tyrel also welcome their new sister. Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler and Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Steidinger. May God bless their family circle.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Paul Bittner, 34, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bittner. His funeral was May 9. We extend our prayers of love and sympathy to his family and friends and to our sisters-in-faith, Darlene, Betty and Jean Bittner.

Those confined to the hospital this month were: Sis. Colleen Walter (Bro. Richard), LeAnn Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Bro. Alf Steffen (Fannie). We surely have a concern for their health and hope that it will be restored.

Blessed is the man

To whom his work is a pleasure,
By whom his friends are encouraged,
With whom all are comfortable,
In whom a clear conscience abides,
And through whom his children see
God.

William Arthur Word

These words seem like a fitting tribute to a father. May each father be encouraged through the grace of God to take time to "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

"I write unto you, fathers, because

ye have known him that is from the beginning."

I John 2:13

What a blessing it is for those who have fathers who have known God from the beginning, those who teach their children the way of salvation! Our fathers hold a special place in our hearts all year, but we especially think of them at this time of Father's Day.

We truly are a fortunate people! We have so many blessings! A very special blessing we enjoy and sometimes take for granted is the hearing of God's Word each Sunday and Wednesday evening. We want to thank visiting ministers, Bros. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Ralph Garber (Morton), Wayne Banwart (Urbana), Roy Ehnle (Bradford) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), who came and preached God's Word to us in the last month.

We also thank Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman serve communion. It was a solemn, uplifting evening.

On our hospital list this month were Sis. Earlene Hamilton (Tony), Julie Shambrook (Mark), and several children, Amy Schlatter (Sis. Sherri Schlatter), Robbie Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller) and Betsy Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly). May they continue to feel God's healing hand.

May 13 was the wedding day of Amy Ricketts and Mark Shackley. Their parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Leo Vince and Rosemary Shackley (Kokomo, IN). They will be residing in North Dakota.

On April 22, Sis. Louise Anliker was laid to rest after fighting cancer and having a stroke. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Emil, and to her children, Bro. Wayne, Sis. Bev Eisenmann and Bro. Gary (Elgin).

Two days later was the funeral of Bro. David Metz. After having muscular dystrophy all his life and complications in the last year, we are glad the Lord was merciful and called him out of this life quickly without any suffering. May the Lord comfort his brothers and sisters, Bro. Christian,

Elizabeth Johnson (Herscher), Sis. Esther Gerber, Sis. Ruth Metz, Bro. Ben (Francesville, IN), William (Houston) and Bro. Arthur (Silverton, OR).

Although Sis. Louise's and Bro. David's situations were different, they were alike in some ways. Both accepted their lots without complaining and usually had a smile. Both were a shining example of what our faith should be in adversity. May both of these families feel God's comfort in the days ahead.

We want to congratulate our graduates and wish them God's blessings in the future. They are as follows: Steve Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy), Heather Bachtold (Bro. Herb and Sis. Jan), Eric Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Chris Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene), Renee Kaisner (Larry and Cynthia), Andy Koehl (Maurice and Carol), Corbin and Kristen Kupferschmid (Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda), Kristine Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne) and Brian Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine).

I want to so kindly thank all my dear friends and relatives for their cards, gifts of money, food, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and at home.

Sis. Marie Hohulin

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, food, flowers and memorials while our dear wife and mother was in the hospital and at her death. We sincerely appreciate every deed of love shown to us. May God bless each one.

The family of Sis. Louise Anliker

We wish to thank everyone for the prayers, food, flowers, cards, memorials and other kind expressions of sympathy in the loss of our dear brother. Also, thanks to the many, who unknown to us, helped David throughout his life. Everything is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. May God bless each one.

The family of David Metz

Note: July is the month for collection of Silver Lining dues for the Forrest congregation.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Trish Gerber**

Bro. Matt and Sis. Laurie Hohulin are rejoicing at the birth of their precious little son, Grant Matthew. Grant was born April 29, and his happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy Dill (Tremont, IL).

It is a pleasure to have visiting ministers who are willing to share God's Word with us. Thanks to Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Leroy Hartman (Peoria, IL), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL).

Prayers were sent heavenward as our loved ones were admitted and then released from the hospital. We are thankful to have such a loving God who can comfort like no human can. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Stan Knapp, Bob Hess, Martha Knapp (George), Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck) and Brock Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish).

It's summer time, and the children are home again with us all day! Although some days they can be ornery and try our patience, they are indeed blessings from above. Their innocence is so precious and as God says in His Word . . . "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

If children play within your door
And they are all your own
You have a radiant, shining thing
The greatest hearts have known.

They show that God has blessed
your home;
He's given of His love
And sent fulfillment of your
dreams;
He smiles down from above.

He's given things which are
worthwhile,
To make your life more bright.
Be worthy of His trust in you
And thank Him, day and night.

A little child within a home,
Be that home large or small,
Is evidence of God's great love,
The greatest gift of all!

Roy Z. Kemp

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

"Be not dismayed what e're betide
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you."
(Hymns of Zion #138)

On Wednesday evening, April 26, our congregation solemnly joined in singing the above refrain. It was a very serious time -- and one of possible danger. A phrase in the second verse took on a most relevant meaning, "When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you." As we clung together we sang this song with a prayer on our hearts, believing God "would" take care of us. Indeed, He did!

The occurrence -- one of the most unusual ever for many of us -- took place as a tornado ripped through a thin slice of our village's northwest side, causing unexpected destruction in its wake. From Gridley, the tornado headed north, leaving 8 million dollars of destruction in the Gridley area.

As we came to church in the early evening, the weather was overcast, but calm. A tornado watch had been called earlier in the afternoon, but there was nothing foreboding as we entered the house of worship. As our minister for the service, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, began the second reading, all of a sudden a surge of wind, that seemed both ominous and horrifying, howled against the northwest corner of our sanctuary. Continual waves of frightening wind resulted in the congregation abandoning the sanctuary for what seemed the safer Sunday school assembly room.

As the strong winds continued, causing zero visibility outside because of the swirling soil, village emergency forces told us to stay put in the church. With no basement underneath the church, we all sat in the Sunday school, and sang hymns such as "God Will Take Care Of You," "Blessed Assurance," and similar songs that seemed especially appropriate. It was a fearful time! Little did we know at the time that a tornado had touched down just a few blocks west, completely demolishing a large barn on the northwest edge of Gridley, took

the roof off a nearby house, and blew a film of dirt into many homes. Also, several brethren received damage to buildings, etc.

"No matter what may be the test, lean weary one upon His breast." God was merciful! He preserved us as we sat in His house during this ordeal. Despite the large financial losses, there were no injuries or loss of life. Interestingly, the site of the devastated barn was where a previous barn had been lost to a tornado 49 years ago on April 29, 1940.

On April 26, Bro. Curt and Sis. Carla Stoller became the parents of a baby girl, Chelli Joy. She has two older sisters, Carrie, 5, and Christy, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Marge Kuntz (Forrest) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley).

Bro. Bill, Jr. and Sis. Patty Schifferer became parents for the first time May 8 when Matthew William was born. Grandparents are Bolden and Sharon Malcom (El Paso) and Bro. Bill, Sr. and Sis. Lana Schifferer (Marengo).

On May 7, the announcement was made of the upcoming marriage of Sis. Sandy Gramm to Bro. Timothy Yergler, both of Gridley. We certainly wish them well in this second most important step in life. Parents of the couple are Bro. Donald and Sis. Rosella Gramm, and Sis. Bernice and the late Bro. Lewis "Knutie" Yergler, all of Gridley.

Bro. Henry Gramm and Sis. Lillian Yergler were in the hospital this month. Bro. Henry is back home and Sis. Lillian has moved to Fairview Haven (Fairbury) to make her abode.

Sis. Ruth Ann Schlipf has moved into the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney - Cheryl
Wuthrich

We know that Christ is head of the church and man is head of the home and family. Let this approaching Father's Day remind us to truly respect them as the God-appointed leaders of the family. And may God lay it on their hearts to accept this responsibility by giving their time and attention to their wives, children, parents and grandchildren.

Our congregation had two opportunities recently to meet in our fellowship hall and be drawn closer together by sharing time and fellowship. We had a church potluck April 23 which was followed by a program by our Sunday school children and a singing. On May 13, a Mother-Daughter Brunch was held to again be reminded of influential job a mother has. A special thanks to the committee which planned it and to the men who served us.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky Braker received their heritage and reward from the Lord (Psalms 127:3) when He sent little Stephanie Denise into their hearts and home. She was born April 16. The happy grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (all of Morton).

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Psalms 8:17. Three young men can now claim that promise as they sought the Lord and were baptized April 30. They are Ted (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy) Witzig, Darin (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria) Leman and Rob (Bro. Bob and Sis. Peggy) Joos. We rejoice with them and the angels.

Our heavenly Father, who knows our hearts and needs, has drawn together two couples. Bro. Matt Moser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Amy Hoerr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL). Also becoming one-in-Christ are Sis. Sharilyn Schwenk (Sis. Velma) and Sol Rassi (both of Morton). May we remember them in prayer during their engagement period.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and ministering Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) for bringing God's Holy Word to us. May God bless them for their labors of love.

Jake Freidinger was called into all eternity. His funeral was held May 11. May God richly bless and comfort his sister, Sis. Bertha Getz, and his nieces, nephews and friends.

Sis. Barbara Moser wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, food and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home.

Address Changed . . .
Give Old and New Addresses
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Joe and Jackie Herman

FOLLOW GOD'S WORD

For inner satisfaction,
Contentment, peace of mind,
Read the Holy Bible
And in it you will find
A treasury of wisdom,
Advice of every kind . . .
There are answers to the problems
You encounter every day,
There are words of love and words
of praise
To meditate and pray --
And every word you read will bring
you
Closer to God's way!

Sis. Aimee Hoerr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene) and Bro. Matthew Moser (Bro. Robert and Sis. Barbara) are planning a summer wedding. We wish them God's blessings.

Hospital patients this month were: Sis. Caroline Schmidtgal, Sis. Louise Sauder, Bro. Ben Baurer and Ed Powers. May the healing power be the will of our Father in heaven.

We were blessed by the teaching we heard from our visiting minister, Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ). We are thankful for brothers who give so willingly of themselves to bring forth God's Holy Word.

"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

May God direct the paths of each of our high school graduates: Brian Bagley, Sis. Michelle Brewer, Jenny Dunbar, Sis. Julie Dunbar, Bob Emerick, Gregory Heller, Jill Herman, Matt Hodel, Sis. Aimee Hoerr, Sis. Rachel Meister, Winston Stoller, Bro. Jesse Waibel, Sis. Kristi Wilcox, Sis. Julie Woerner and Janice Zehr.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Ray Wiegand. We pray that they can feel the comfort of our Lord in the loss of their loved one.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Ernie Klaus wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers,

cards, gifts and love shown to them. God bless you all.

Dearly beloved:

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital. A special thanks to the ministering brothers for their uplifting visits and prayers. God bless you.

Gratefully yours,
Lois Hermann

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"Let us hear and give attention,
God's own teaching to embrace,
For again He maketh mention of
His covenant of grace;
Words of life and consolation come
to us, His congregation,
How thro' Jesus Christ, His Son,
full redemption we have won."
Attentive Hearers

Thank you to our visiting ministers: Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford). We trust God's blessings will follow them as they continue to be used in His service.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. As the angels in heaven rejoice over one soul that repents, so we are rejoicing over each one also. Four new sisters-in-faith were welcomed into the congregation May 7. They are Sis. Mary Beth Gray, Sis. Keri Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Gloria White and Sis. Tracy White (daughter of Sis. Gloria). Each one gave their testimony of faith May 6. We trust they now may go on their way rejoicing in the service of their Lord, yielding themselves to His will daily.

Two families welcomed their second born into their hearts and homes. The babies have birthdays just two days apart and they are cousins. Tonya Lynne Martin was born May 3 to Sis. Terri and Bro. Craig Martin. Tonya is welcomed home by big brother, Clint. Grandparents are Sis. Bernice and Bro. Vernon Stoller and Sis. Esther and Bro. Nate Martin.

Lance Alan Martin was born May 5 to Sis. Janice and Bro. Alan Martin. Lance is welcomed home by big brother, Shane. Grandparents are Sis. Betty and Bro. Eugene Herrmann and Sis. Esther and Bro. Nate Martin.

May God bless their family circles as they rejoice and nurture these dear little souls.

We are sorry to report Sis. Joy Baurer (Bro. Art) suffered a knee injury and underwent knee surgery. We are thankful to hear she is home and hope she will see continued improvement as she must wait patiently to be restored to full health. Bro. Lavern Berchtold underwent surgery and was able to return home. May God's healing blessings be upon both of them.

Our congregation extends sympathy to Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Doreen Elsasser in the sudden death of their son-in-law, Keith Pfledderer (Tremont). Our sympathy to Lynne, their daughter, and to Lynne's grandmother, Sis. Leila Elsasser of our congregation also. May God's comfort and strength be found each day anew as they allow God to support them and provide for their every need.

Thank you note: Thank you for the many kind expressions of love shown to me during my recent leg surgery and hospital stays. Thank you, too, for the prayers offered in my behalf. All were sincerely appreciated and we pray that God will bless you.

Daniel Feucht and family

Our congregation has been blessed with new converts again recently and we all rejoice and are thankful there are those still willing to yield their lives to His control. Those who have begun the walk and are walking through the steps of conversion, we pray will continue to trust and pray and work toward the day when they may receive His full peace. Then we also rejoice to hear of the time when they will sit down with the brotherhood and with the direction of the elders tell of the work in their lives that the Lord has done. On May 7, we heard of three more souls ready to give their testimony-of-faith planned for May 20, and they look forward to baptism May 21, the Lord willing. They are sisters and they are: Luann,

Linda and Laura Siebenthal. Parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal. May God bless them and continue to call souls from out of the world of sin.

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three has said his nightly prayer to Thee; Before his eyes were closed in sleep, he asked that Thou his soul would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed, my hand upon his tousled head, Do ask, with deep humility that Thou, dear Lord, remember me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy Dad that I may lead this little lad

In pathways ever fair and bright, that I may keep his steps aright.

O God, his trust must never be destroyed or even marred by me.

So, for the simple things he prayed with childish voice so unafraid,

I, trembling, ask the same from Thee. Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me."

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us . . ."

I John 3:1

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Patsy Kaeb - Sandy Leman

As we celebrate another Father's Day, we want to express our appreciation to our Christian fathers who have taught us so much by their good example. Experiencing the love and goodness of our earthly fathers enables us to understand the love and goodness of our heavenly Father.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman are the parents of a new son, Frederick. Frederick's older brother and sister are Joseph and Mary Leman. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville).

We rejoice with Willis Hodel (Margaret), who is turning to the Lord in repentance. His daughter, Sally, is also a convert.

We were privileged to hear from our visiting minister, Bro. Will Schieler. Also the young group was treated to a Bible study conducted by our Elder Bro. Don Sauder and our dea-

con, Bro. Bill Hodel, with added input from Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley). May the Lord bless all these brothers for serving us.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Gene Bertschi (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Dorothy Bittner and Bro. Stan Hodel (Sis. Verna). All are home now, and we wish them improved health and strength as time goes on.

Our friend, Roy Beer, passed away May 13. We extend our sympathy to his children, Derald (Morrison, IL), John (Ixon, WI) and Richard (Eureka); and his sisters, Sis. Margaret Beer and Sis. Anne Hangartner (both of Roanoke). His wife, Sis. Rose, preceded him in death.

Our hearts go out to the family of Sis. Mildred Aeschleman, who died May 13. We are thankful that her suffering could be relieved, but we know she will be missed by her husband, Bro. Clarence; her son, Arnold; and her daughter, Sis. Judy Lugnbuhl (Bro. Les). Her surviving brothers and sisters are Bro. Roy Hodel (Gridley), Bro. Jim Hodel, Bro. Bill Hodel and Jerry Hodel (all of Roanoke); Sis. Norman Bauman (Goodfield), Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka) and Sis. Melinda Gerber (Roanoke). Two sisters and one brother preceded her in death.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

TWO PRAYERS

Last night my little boy confessed to me

Some childish wrong;

And kneeling at my knee,

He prayed with tears --

"Dear God, make me a man

Like Daddy -- wise and strong;

I know you can."

Then while he slept

I knelt beside his bed,

Confessing my sins,

And prayed with low-bowed head --

"O God, make me a child

Like my child here --

Pure, guileless,

Trusting Thee with faith sincere."

Andrew Gillies

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Dill are first-time grandparents. Sis. Lori and Bro. Matt Hohulin (Goodfield) had a son, Grant Matthew, April 29. Congratulations! Troy and Crystal Martin (East Peoria) had a daughter, Carrie Leighann, May 12. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin (Tremont) and Mr. and Mrs. Don Vore (East Peoria). May God give them guidance in rearing this young one.

Kenneth Austin was united in marriage to Marcia Strange (both of Pekin) April 29. His parents are Byrl and Christine Austin (Tremont). May 20 was the wedding of Brad Schweigert to Valena Kay Jackson (Washington). Parents are Cliff and Roberta Schweigert (Tremont) and Floyd and Luella Jackson (Washington). We wish these couples God's blessings in the years to come.

Sis. June (Curt) Zuercher has been sick but we are thankful she is feeling better. We hope she can assemble with us soon.

Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates! We wish them well as they continue into high school. They are Steven Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette), John Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn), Marie Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice), Jennifer Knobloch (Kelvin and Marion), Ashley Lane (Larry and Sis. Sandra), Sarah Meister (Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy), John Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Brenda Rocke (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Kathy), Doug Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) and Kurt Wagenbach (Simon, Jr. and Sis. LaVonne). We also give our congratulations to the high school graduates. Teresa Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette), Jon Hangartner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Melba), Stephanie Holmes (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis), Andrea Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane), Anita Prather (Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn), Jim Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), Bro. David Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann) and Todd Steiner (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marcella). "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6.

Sis. Lynne Pflederer and Bro. Chris Pflederer family wish to thank everyone for their many prayers, cards, flowers, food, memorial contributions and kind expressions of sympathy shown to them in the loss of their

husband and son, Bro. Keith Pflederer. May God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Carol Schick

Two families were blessed this past month with beautiful healthy baby girls. Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz introduced Mahlia May to her older siblings, Cheree and Jordon. Mahlia's grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Adeline Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Lexington, KY). Ken and Laura Wagenbach along with their daughter, Rebekah, welcomed home baby Clare Nicole. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucille Wagner (Gridley) and Bro. Daon and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington).

Our prayers are with Sis. Sue Ruppert as she is struggling with illness once again in the Iowa City Clinic. May God guide the hands of the physicians to help Sue to regain normal health, if it is His will.

Our congregation has several graduates this year. Our congratulations go to the following 8th grade graduates: Jessica Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol), Crystal Elsasser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lona), Tina Winemiller (Larry and Sue), Abby Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val), Phillip Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally) and the following graduating seniors: Dana Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Lisa Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon), Denise Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally), Becky Heinold (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan) and Mike Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth). Our prayers are with each one as they go on to the next stage of life.

We wish all of our dads, young and old, a happy Father's Day. May God grant each one grace to walk closer to their heavenly Father so they can guide the young lives they have charge of, as God sees fit.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We appreciate their efforts they put forth in bringing us God's Word.

May God bless each of you for your prayers and every kindness shown to me while I was in the hospital and recovery.

Sis. Lydiann Wyss

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter

"As arrows are in the hands of a mighty man, so are the children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them . . ."

Psalms 127:4-5

Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenchwander were blessed with a baby girl, Wendy Mae, April 23. A sister, Amy, and brother, Adam, and grandparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenchwander and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Devona Gerber welcome her.

Beth Suzanne is the name Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie Drayer chose for their new daughter, born May 10. Beth has two brothers, Joel and Todd, and one sister, Kara. Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer and Marvin and Jane Bahler (Fairbury) are the grandparents.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter as they welcome a new grandson, Blake Andrew, born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter (Bluffton North) May 11. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr are the maternal grandparents.

Bro. Eric Olson (Dan and Pat) and Sis. Elaine Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta, Bluffton North) announced their engagement April 30. A July 23 wedding is being planned.

On May 14, the engagement of Bro. Marvin Reinhard (Bro. Roy and Sis. Virgene) and Sis. Kim Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat, Bluffton North) was announced. We congratulate both of these couples and may they be richly blessed and seek His guidance as they make plans for their future.

On May 7, Bro. Wayne Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Jeanne Bertsch (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian) were united as one. We wish the many happy years and the blessings of the Lord in their marriage.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Bro. Mark (Sis. Barb) Gerber, Bro. Von (Sis. Diane) Heyerly, Sis. Brenda (Bro. Troy) Kipfer, George (Mildred) Krill, Sis. Emma Steffen and Bro. Sylvan (Sis. Doris) Frauhiger. Bro. Sylvan has been in the hospital several months. He was transferred to Parkview Hospital where he underwent surgery to remove a clot from

the brain. We pray that he can draw healing strength from the Great Physician.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

John 14:18

Funeral services were held for our friend, George Krill, 70, who passed away May 9. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Mildred (Isch); his son, Rick; and his daughter, Debra Boxell; and their families. He was the son-in-law of Sis. Minnie Isch and will be missed by the Isch family.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Schladenhauffen in the passing of Paul's father, Amos Schladenhauffen. In addition to this son, he is survived by his wife, Minnie; a son, Roger; four brothers, Sam, Bro. Everett (Sis. Luella), Bro. Harold (Sis. Dorothy) and Warren; two sisters, Sis. Edith Stultz and Sis. Clara (Homer) Fiechter.

We congratulate our college graduates and wish them God's direction as they seek employment.

A GRADUATE'S PRAYER

Father, I have knowledge, so will
you show me now
How to use it wisely and find a way
somehow
To make the world I live in a little
better place,
And make life with its problems a
bit easier to face . . .
Grant me faith and courage and
put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve Thee in
the most effective ways
So all my education, my knowledge
and my skill,
May find their true fulfillment as I
learn to do Thy will . . .
And may I ever be aware in every
thing I do
That knowledge comes from
learning and wisdom comes from
you.

Helen Steiner Rice

We are thankful that Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) could be with us on Mother's Day. He brought us many good teachings through the spirit and we appreciate his willingness to be used.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lois Drayer

Debbie Aeschliman

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19. On April 23, four precious souls were following the teachings of Christ and were baptized. Our new brothers and sisters-in-Christ are Bro. Kurt Ifer, Bro. Brad Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Russ Mounsey (Bro. Rod and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Laura Dubach (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda). Ministers who came to share in this blessed event were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) came to share holy communion with us the weekend of April 29 and 30. It was good to be reminded of our Lord's crucifixion and His resurrection and plan of salvation. A special thank you to all the ministers and their families who came to worship with us.

Congratulations are extended to grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen on the birth of their granddaughter, Abby Kristin, born April 29 to Randy and Angela McClain. Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter are the parents of Blake Andrew, born May 11. Blake has a big sister, Marci, and a big brother, Mitchell, to welcome him home. Blake's grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr and Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bluffton).

Congratulations are extended to Sis. Elaine Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta) and Bro. Eric Olsen (Bluffton) on their engagement and upcoming July wedding. Congratulations are also given to Sis. Kim Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Marvin Reinhard (Bro. Roy and Sis. Virgene, Bluffton). They are making plans for an early fall wedding.

Our congregation was saddened with the death of Sis. Lillian Wright, age 77, (Bro. Mark) who passed away May 14 following a six month illness. In addition to her husband, Bro. Mark, she is survived by two sisters, Sis. Ida Gerber (Bro. Ray), Sis. Margaret Leman (Roanoke, IL) and a brother, Bro. Joe Meyer (Sis. Josephine). We

extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Mark and the rest of the family.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. Paul Schladenhauffen (Sis. Mildred) in the loss of his father, Amos Schladenhauffen (Minnie). His survivors include Bro. Everett Schladenhauffen (Sis. Luella) and Bro. Harold Schladenhauffen (Sis. Dorothy) of our congregation and Sis. Edith Stultz and Sis. Clara Fiechter (Bro. Homer) of the Bluffton congregation. Our thoughts are with Bro. Paul, Sis. Mildred, Minnie, and the family.

Adam Hohulin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber) was hospitalized for a few days and we are thankful he is feeling better. Also in the hospital this past month was Sis. Janet Campbell (Mike). Our thoughts and prayers are with them both.

As Father's Day approaches, may we each feel a special love for our fathers.

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

Author Unknown

It is a joy to have Sis. Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed) assembling with us again after a lengthy illness.

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all for your love, concern and prayers during Sis. Leona's stay at the hospitals and now since returning home. Also for the many cards and gifts she received; it was all very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Bro. Obed and Sis. Leona Gerber

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lynne Wuethrich

On May 17 our congregation gathered together to recognize our high school graduates. A special program was held where our graduates were encouraged to seek God's guidance for their lives. Bibles were given to

the following graduates: Sis. Lisa Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky), Sis. Carolyn Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B.), Amanda Gutwein (Bro. Harvey and Marilyn), Cary Gutwein (Bro. Elden and Sis. Mary Lee), Jason Getz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris), Chad Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb), Gary Overmyer (Bro. Dick and Bev), Bro. Bryan Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette), Sis. Cami Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne), Jeremy Vogt (Bro. Don and Sis. Pam), Kirby Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth), Andy Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) and Janine Shaffer.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer are rejoicing over their new granddaughter. Ebony Angel was born to Samuel and Tammie Nava April 2. Ebony's other set of grandparents are Jose and Yolanda Nava (Cuerna Vaca, Mexico). We rejoice with this dear family.

We want to extend a special thank you to Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL). These dear brothers ministered God's Word unto us and we truly felt God's love working through them. Another special thank you is extended to their wives for their willingness to travel to our church.

On April 24, Mark Gutwein, son of our Sis. Marian and the late Bro. James Gutwein, lost his life so quickly when he was shot in Brazil, South America. We pray for God's comforting Spirit to rest upon this dear family as they will surely miss him. Surviving are Mark's three daughters, Angela, Teresia and Ursula; and a son, Micah, all of Rensselaer. Mark's four sisters are Sis. Diane Vogt (Bro. Ron), Janet Hertzler (Brookhaven, PA), Sis. Gail Gutwein (Monte, Argentina) and Marsha Schlegel (Indianapolis). Mark also has two brothers, Barry (Cameroon, Africa) and Bro. Brent Gutwein (Sis. Marti).

Sis. Emma Boehning went home to be with our Lord May 8. Sis. Emma's health had been feeling for several months. We are going to miss Sis. Emma and we pray God will be with her dear family. Surviving are two sons: Glen Boehning (Sis. Eileen) and Stanley Boehning (Maxine), both of Francesville.

Reminder: Francesville, July is collection month.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman - Kathy Freed

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month for sharing the Word with us. They were Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO).

A special thanks goes to the "Voices of Praise" from Gridley, IL. We enjoyed their singing so much. May we all continue to lift up our voices in praise.

"Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above . . . When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again."

Hymns of Zion #156

We want to wish our dear friend, Ruth Wiegand, God's blessings as she moves to Colorado to start a new job. We'll miss her, and we pray that God will guide her and protect her. We wish her happiness and success.

Happy Father's Day to all our wonderful, loving fathers this month! We cannot let June pass without telling our fathers how much we love them. And, to thank them for all their love and direction!

It's more than the things that you say, Dad --

It's the way that you live day by day. The ideals and values you cherish, The love that you share on your way --

Yes, Dad, you yourself are a lesson For your loving family, it's true -- No one could hope for anything better Than just to be someone like you!

American Greetings

"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him . . . Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them."

Psalms 127:3, 5

Happy Father's Day, Dad!

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

From the time we were children we have been blessed with the strength and support our parents gave. They

placed their trust in us and gave to us out of love many times. As God has shown His love for us in His Son, Jesus Christ, we have also seen in our parents the God-given love He desires us to share. May God bless all our mothers and fathers as fully as we have been blessed by them. And as we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, let us take the time to thank our parents and let them know how much we love them.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We want to thank these brothers for ministering God's Word to us.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Have you ever seriously thought of the real significance of the first words of the Lord's prayer as you say, "Our Father who art in heaven?" If, indeed, He is your Father, then you are His child, one in the family of God. What an awesome and blessed relationship!

As spiritual leader of a family, a Christian father often is the very young's earliest concept of the heavenly Father. As the children grow, the Christian father continues to direct on paths of righteousness. It's a Bible ordained responsibility and privilege. In honoring fathers in this month of June, the following tribute by a daughter to her father is repeated. It could be addressed to other concerned, devoted, Christian dads.

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

A couple dads and moms have just

been given extra joy and care in their homes with the arrival of baby girls. Carrie Jo was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier. Grandparents are Ben and Berniece Joos (MN) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier (Champaign, IL).

Bethany Lynn was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. LeAnn Fisher. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Pat Fisher, all of Roanoke, IL.

Discussion of the conference letter was recently presented by Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and David Bertsch.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd Klopfenstein in the passing of his brother, Vernon Klopfenstein, May 9 at the age of 88.

Ladies reported a well-attended, pleasant and spiritually refreshing Spring Luncheon.

A reception honors our high school graduates, Laura Campbell, Denise Croussore, Marie Hersey and John Willis. Our good wishes and prayers go with them.

Bits of This and That:

Read your Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a letter from home. Read it slowly. You miss many spiritual gems if you hurry through the reading. Read it purposefully for answers and help. Read it personally, applying its truths to your own life.

You'll never get a busy signal on the prayer line to heaven.

Jesus is not coming back for a denomination. He is coming back for believers.

Christians, if you love people until they ask you why, then you can tell them.

A very good exercise is to reach down and lift someone up.

(from various sources)

For a smile: Triumph is just umph added to try!

(Howard Crimson)

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sue Schieler

Marguerite Hoerr

Our Milford church has been blessed in the last month, in that several of our congregation have been hospitalized, but are able to be back with us again. Bro. John Lehman

gratefully acknowledges kindnesses shown him during his recent heart surgery and successful recovery.

Jeff Beer, son of Sis. Pat and Bro. Fred, spent some unplanned time in the hospital following an appendectomy. He's back in school and Sunday school, looking as fit as ever.

Bro. Maurice Beer was admitted to emergency for medical treatment and released after a short hospital stay. We're thankful he is enjoying better health again.

Causing us all concern, at this writing, is Bro. Oliver Haab, who is in the Intensive Care Unit at Goshen General Hospital. He has the united prayers of his Milford church family for his well being.

Sis. Mary Ann Beer is being admitted today to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne for tests. Our prayers also go with her.

Life brought sudden grief to the family of Bro. Alan Wuthrich this past month. Their daughter Beverly's husband, 2nd Lt. Sean Murphy, crashed with his plane into the Gulf of Mexico, during training maneuvers. He was stationed at Tyndall A.F.B. in Florida. He was not able to bale out to safety, and his body was recovered with is plane, after many days of searching. He was the son of Robert and Gayle Murphy (Warsaw). Supportive prayers are keenly needed for his wife, Beverly, and for the rest of his caring family.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) served us in the ministry this past month on the Sabbath Day. Bro. Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL) exhorted to us on "Separation from the World" at our bi-monthly topical study which is on Wednesday evenings.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane Waibel announced the engagement of their son, Kevin, to Andrea Patzschke (Wayne and Sharon, Remington). They are preparing for a September wedding. We extend to them God's blessings.

Dale Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) and Amy Waibel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane) graduated from our

local high school in May. It certainly is a time of changing emotions as they leave behind a segment of their lives and begin to experience the challenges of adulthood. May we remember our graduates in prayer.

"No one is indispensable or irreplaceable at work . . . Anyone, from the lowliest yardworker to the highest executive, could easily be replaced and few tears would be shed. The most important position in the United States, the presidency, is rotated every four years with little mourning. But try replacing a son, a daughter, a mother or father, a husband or wife, without grave psychological damage. For it's in our homes that we are needed; it's to our families that we are important."

W. Peter Blitchington

What timely words for us to think upon as we pause to honor "fatherhood." Women find an excellent set of standards to follow in "their" famous Bible chapter, Proverbs 31. But is there a model for manhood in the Scriptures? Let's look at the Job 29 man. (. . . there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man . . . Job 1:8). In this chapter we find a significant number of traits for Biblical masculinity. Job was:

- a man who remained close to his children
- a father to the fatherless
- an enforcer of justice
- full of Godly mercy
- a receiver of respect
- a well of wisdom,

and most of all, a pursuer of God. Job was a real hero and doesn't compare to the many fabricated heroes of our day. God said he was blameless. Imagine! That's enough for us to put him on our list of "real" men.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

What is peace? One definition is "a freedom from fear of sin, of death, of pain, of an enemy." Natalie Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) has found peace with God and man and will bring a testimony of what the Lord has done for her June 17. Lord willing, baptism will follow on June 18.

Dale Lehman (son of Bro. Wayne

and Sis. Shirley) and Cathy Jones (daughter of Hugh and Darlene Jones, Jonestown, OH) have announced their engagement and forthcoming marriage October 14. Dale and Cathy both reside in Indianapolis. We wish God's blessings upon them as they take this new step in their lives.

On May 6 we met for our annual church cleaning day. We humbly thank Bro. Ed Gramm and his sons who traveled from Gridley, IL, to help us with our outside work.

Our young adults and Bible class students served lunch to us Mother's Day, May 14. We all appreciated their willingness to serve, shown through their enthusiasm. The Sunday school children also sang a special song for the mothers.

As we express our love and appreciation to our fathers on Father's Day, may we also never forget to pray for them, that the Lord would grant them wisdom, courage and strength as they lead their families.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Beth Heinold - Anjie Heinold

Who keeps us in her thoughts and prayers?
Who gives, forgives, and shares and cares?
Who always loves us like no other?
Always Mother

On Mother's Day, we were reminded once again of our love and appreciation we have for our God-fearing mothers. To honor this special day, we had a Mother-Daughter banquet portraying the different roles that our mothers play in our lives.

We are thankful to have had the privilege of fellowshiping with our loved ones at Parkview Haven Retirement Home. We pray that our program of songs and poems were an encouragement and blessing for them.

We would like to thank visiting brother, Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for enlightening us on the topic of "giving." Our congregation was abundantly blessed by other visiting brother, Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Chris Huber (Francisville, IN).

Have A Nice Day!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

On March 13, Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francisville, IN) conducted our Bible study titled, "Christian Principles in Daily Living." We were so kindly reminded that as God's children, the world needs our light, example, honesty and integrity. Also, it is important that our earthly occupation benefits mankind and glorifies God. We thank Bro. Steve for his willingness to come and share God's teachings with us.

Our thoughts went back many years to Calvary's Hill as we listened to our Sunday school children's recitations and songs at our Easter program March 22. How humbled and thankful we should be to think of Jesus' suffering and death for our sins!

We enjoyed a blessed day, April 9, when Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Wendell Gudeman (Francisville, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in serving holy communion. We could feel the Holy Spirit in our midst as we ate of the bread and drank of the cup. May we always appreciate the Lord's strength and Spirit for His humble servants.

We are thankful the Lord protected Colleen Kyburz (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat) from injury in a recent car accident.

On Mother's Day, we traditionally honor our mothers and grandmothers, and all women who have helped lay our spiritual foundation and have guided us to the Lord. Sincere Christian mothers are all concerned for their children's never-dying soul. How thankful we are for our mothers' concern and good example of faith. We pray that we in turn can do likewise for our children for "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3.

Our high school graduates are Cathy Albrecht (Roger and Marilyn), Bro. Duane Kyburz (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) and Michelle Minniear (Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna). Also, graduating from the college level are Janell Hofstetter (Bro. Ted), Bro. Dave Lehman (Harold and June) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris). We ask God's blessing upon them, and pray they will seek God's guidance as they make plans for the future.

Sis. Gladys Widmer (Ed) submitted to outpatient testing, and Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) was hospitalized for observation. Sis. Mary Basham (Bro. Fred) was also hospitalized, due to an accident. We are thankful that Sis. Mary and her daughter, Brooke, were spared serious injury. God's protection on the highways is something we so often take for granted.

On May 17, Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) provided us with much food for thought in our Bible study centered on the topic, "Separation From the World." We thank Bro. Fred for being willing to allow God to speak to us through him. May God be his rich rewarder.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES

Barb Fehr

May 7 was our last service for this school year. We were thankful Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) was able to gather with us and minister the Word to us. We appreciate all our visitors and want to thank everyone for their support in the past year.

Next school year we plan to start our service one hour earlier. We will start singing at 12:00 noon instead of 1:00, and services will start at 12:30.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Brent Metzger (Bro. Duane, West Bend) and Tammy Hurn (Algona); both are students at Iowa State. They are planning a June 17 wedding. We wish them God's blessings in their new walk of life together.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Karen Schulz

We rejoice with Randy and Sis. Juanita Gerst on the birth of their son, Ethan William, born May 16. Jesse, Becky and Miranda are excited to have a new brother. Ethan's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst and George and Ramona Fox.

Sis. Sophie Mellinger and Bro. John Buster were hospital patients this month. We pray that they will feel God's nearness and our prayers.

Our high school graduates are Clark Rowel (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda), Karla Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) and Julie Musselman (Arlen and Carol). May God bless

each of them and we pray that they will look to God for guidance throughout their lives.

As Father's Day is upon us, may we give thanks for the fathers God has blessed us with. Most of all we are thankful for our Father in heaven who has done so much for us by sending His only Son down to earth to die for the sins of us all.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Our best wishes are extended to our high school graduates, Tammy Moore (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl) and Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) and also to Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) who recently graduated from N.I.T.I. with an Associate Degree in Accounting. It is our prayer that God will reveal His plan for their lives as they willingly trust the future into His hands.

Our congregation was recently blessed when a bus load of our Chicago brethren and friends shared a weekend of fellowship and worship with us. We can't stay strangers long when we have so much in common.

Our dear sister, Esther Braker, is currently in the hospital recovering from a broken hip. Sis. Esther has a real gift for accepting all things without murmuring or complaining. She is a real example of faith and we hope the healing process will go quickly and she can again return to church.

Sis. Marie Butikofer would like to thank all who remembered her with cards and gifts for her birthday, May 5. She has been blessed with 99 years of life, 85 of which have been in serving her Lord. Sis. Marie is also a real example of faith and we wish her God's continued nearness and grace throughout the remainder of her life.

A special thanks to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Virg Metzger (both of Chicago, IL) and to Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL) for their visits and for sharing God's Word with us.

The following poem is in remembrance of Father's Day.

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in sleep,
He asked that Thou his soul would
keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask, with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember
me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,
That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.
O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or even marred by me.
So, for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I, trembling, ask the same from
Thee,

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember
me.

Author Unknown

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

With many graduates facing college and employment decisions, the stresses of decision-making can be reduced if they follow the advice of the words of this song sent to me by a friend:

HE PLANS MY LIFE

Rejoice, my soul, be not cast down,
Bid all thy fears to cease,
Since God will undertake for me,
And gives His joy and peace.
He knows the present and the past,
He knows what is to be;
And I may safely trust in Him Who
plans my life for me.

I cannot see one step beyond,
And would not if I could
But God hath said all things shall
work

Together for my good:
Then gladly will I trust the love
Of such a friend as He,
And blessed His wise omnipotence
Who plans my life for me.

He bids me take no anxious load,
He will my burdens bear;
So at His feet I lay them down,
Thankful to leave them there.
My life is safe in His dear hand,
Contented, glad and free,
For like a child I trust in Him Who
plans my life for me.

O never let my heart rebel,
Whatever be my lot,
Since Jesus doeth all things well,
I'll trust and murmur not:
So when my way seems dark as
night,
I know that God can see,
And He is leading me aright
Who plans my life for me.

C. F. Breck, D. B. Towner

We have again been blessed with many visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and ministering Bros. Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God richly bless all who make the effort to assemble with us.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

Just as God waters the seeds in the spring, so are the seeds in our hearts nourished. Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris, MN) was with us one Sunday and fed us God's Word. May these servants who follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit continue to lean upon the promises of blessings and grace to do His will.

A baby girl, Laura Loree, was born May 11 to Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth Knobloch. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lolli Mogler and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch. May God bless these first-time parents as they endeavor to raise the daughter God has entrusted in their care.

Our prayers continue to be with the dear ones who suffer bodily afflictions. Surgical patients were Bro. Eli Metzger and Bro. Dennis Warner. Sis. Linda (Jim) Moser is hospitalized for medical reasons. May our doubts, fears and "whys" be lifted as we again are reminded of the promise that God will never leave nor forsake His children.

Our high school graduates are as follows: Brian Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki), Kouri Wysong (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet), Kimberly Feucht (Bro. Ron and Sis. Sandy), Marci Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), Cindy Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris), Jason Feucht (Jerry and Judy), Todd Metzger (Keith and Mary), Todd Martin (Ed and Judy), Merlin Meyer (Bro. Raymond and

Sis. Twyla), Stephen Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Monte Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma), Rachel Metzger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella), Wendy Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Janet Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Sonia Feucht (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge), Emma Andrews (exchange student with Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane Metzger), Lourdes Madrigal (exchange student with Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber) and Julie Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch).

College graduates are Kurt Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris), Sis. Jill Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores), Joni Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma), Jill Meyer (Denis), Jerome Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores), Sis. Joy Feucht (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie), Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Joan Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby, Morris, MN). As each one embarks upon new horizons, may they prayerfully seek God's help regarding decisions concerning employment or continuing education.

As we approach Father's Day, we are thankful for our fathers, and for the love and help they so willingly share, just as our heavenly Father shares His love with each soul who humbly asks.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) has been recently been in our Oakville congregation and has brought forth the precious Words of Life.

It's once again May, and with May comes graduation. We have two high school graduates this year in Oakville. They are Deanna Gerst (Bro. Conrad and Sis. Roletta) and Darren Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie). We trust that as they graduate and begin their life's course they will consider seriously the two paths that stretch out before them. "Two ways, O man, are there for thee; There are two destinations . . ." (Zion's Harp #106).

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Ginny Wuthrich

Hospital patients during the past month were Bro. Richard Teubel and

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich. As of this writing, Bro. Richard has since returned home after an extended stay in Iowa City. We are thankful for his progress and pray the Lord's continued healing hand to him and Sis. Elizabeth.

April 15 and 16 our Sunday school traveled to Winthrop, MN. A blessed and safe trip was provided by the Lord's shepherding hand.

The weekend of April 29 and 30 provided special and blessed events for our congregation. Saturday evening our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) was joined by Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) as they served us the Lord's supper.

On Sunday, following the brothers' labors, the results of a Saturday evening vote was revealed, and Bro. Ron Joos was called upon to join Bro. Russell Wuthrich and Bro. Doug Schock on the pulpit.

As our new minister, we pray that extra portions of grace, humility and wisdom may be supplied to Bro. Ron and his wife, Sis. Chris.

Likewise, a special prayer of thanks to God for bringing Bros. Ed and Perry safely into our midst.

As Father's Day approaches, our thoughts wend heavenward in a prayer of thanks for our heavenly Father, and for the many faithful fathers of old and present.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) were with our congregation this past month. We want to thank them for giving of their time. We appreciate the kind words of encouragement and admonition shared with us. May God continue to share grace and wisdom to our dear elder brethren as they, through God's leading, guide our precious faith.

April 15 was the wedding of Tammy Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) and Cameron Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy, Lester). We welcome Cameron to our community. We wish them God's blessings as they begin life as one. Sharing this day with them were Bros. Dennis Warner and Wes Moser (Lester). We are thankful they spent Sunday with us and let

themselves be used in the service of the Lord.

YOUTH

Like buds that come to blossom in
the night,
May youth find hope deep hidden
in each hour,
And learn to walk within his soul's
own light
That life may blossom like the
budding flower.
Our prayer for them is this: that we
be kind,
For each tomorrow holds its
youthful mind.

May Smith White

The above thoughts remind us of our youth graduating now from high school and may they keep God's teachings as their guide. We have thirteen graduates this year, Carmen Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen, Angela Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon), Anita Fisher (Marie Fisher and the late Harold), Teena Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy), Darren Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Shon Bruellman (Bro. Don and Sis. Verda), Bryan Kellenberger (Warren and Moira), Lynn Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula), David Zaugg (Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris), Jerry Zaugg (Richard and Dorothy), Bro. Byron Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy), Brian Metzger (Bro. Duane and the late Sis. Elizabeth) and Tadd Knobloch (Adolph and Jean).

To each is given a bag of tools,
A formless rock and a book of rules.
For each to shape ere life has flown,
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Author Unknown

We are thankful to report our surgical patients can be among us again, Josephine Thomann, Sis. Lela Banwart, Sis. Leah Traub and Sis. Tillie Mogler (Sam). Louisa Anliker (Reuben) was hospitalized but now recovered. Sis. Delores Gerber (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma) is spending several days in Rochester for tests.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt became grandparents again when John Lee and Robin Schmidt welcomed Blair Marie April 16.

Soon will be the day set aside to honor our earthly fathers. We trust

that as they guide their families that they will use the Holy Bible for their instructions.

"Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We want to wish God's blessings to Brent Metzger (Bro. Duane and the late Sis. Elizabeth) and Tammy Hurn (Don and Judy, Algona), who have announced their engagement and are planning a June wedding.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

To show our appreciation for mothers, on Mother's Day some of us representing Shioda church went to a nearby hospital with small gifts and words of encouragement for mothers there. Our hearts were warmed by their bright smiles. We plan to visit the hospital again on Father's Day to remember the fathers.

We're looking forward to a May 21 Sunday school picnic and hope that many children and their parents attend. Recently, our junior high Bible class (taught by Bros. Frank Sauder and Toru Saigusa on the third Sunday of each month) had an outing. They went to a human maze -- a popular and challenging pastime these days.

Bro. Nick Gutwein (Detroit, MI) and his business companion visited the kindergarten and our beautiful Yamanashi-ken Valley with Sis. Marie Inoue (Tokyo). Bro. Nick is Sis. Marie's nephew. The children seemed to enjoy "showing off" their English-speaking ability with the visitors. (It seemed that the American guests equally enjoyed displaying their Japanese-speaking ability!)

Thirty-five years ago, on April 17, Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle came to Japan to begin the work here. Bro. Willis had been here three years earlier with the army, returned to the States, married, and came back to Japan where he's lived ever since.

May the Lord bless them richly for their years of labor. Thank you Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois! We love you and are thankful for all that you've done and continue to do in Jesus' name.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. He who promised is faithful. Let's all be faithful, too.

TOKYO, JAPAN Frank and Kathy Sauder

"For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

I Corinthians 3:9

Our annual business meeting was held the last Sunday in April. New duties and responsibilities were assigned for the coming year. We thank everyone for faithfully fulfilling their responsibilities in the past year. With a small congregation, each one's contribution is certainly needed and appreciated.

Just as Timothy was affected by his mother's and grandmother's faith, the faith of a mother and a grandmother in our congregation is affecting the lives of their family. Sis. Kido's daughter recently moved from the southern island of Kyushu, where her family currently lives, to Tokyo to attend a university. We are thrilled that she is assembling with us from time to time. Sis. Horiuchi's granddaughter has moved in with her while attending school, and it is a blessing that she occasionally comes to worship with her grandmother. May the faith that is in these two sisters also be found in these two precious young women.

Sis. Shizuko Utsuki and her family appreciate prayer as she is still recovering from illness. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 3.

KANSAS, BERN Kathy Strahm Lori Baumgartner

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:26

We gathered together April 29 to partake of holy communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ron Nelson

(Kiowa, KS) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) here to assist Elder Bro. John Lehman in serving communion.

Other visiting ministers who assembled with us this past month were Bro. Walter Anliker and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). Also, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) was in our midst and we assembled with the Sabetha congregation to hear the Word brought forth by him. May our Lord bless each of these brethren for their efforts.

Hospitalized this past month was Bro. Emil Strahm (Sis. Grace). It is our prayer that the Lord will provide comfort and healing as only He can.

"Hear the dearest of ties we must sever,

Tears of sorrow are seen every day;
But no sickness, no sighing forever
When I've gone the last mile of the way.

When I've gone the last mile of the way,
I will rest at the close of the day,
And I know there are joys that await me,
When I've gone the last mile of the way."

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Sis. Sarah Meyer has gone the last mile of the way. She passed from this life May 7, 1989, after suffering from a stroke. We want to express our sympathy to her brother, Bro. Roy Meyer, who resides at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged in Sabetha.

On May 14, another dear one completed his life's journey; Bro. Ephraim Strahm passed away after suffering a terminal illness. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his children and their families, Sis. Shirley Strahm, Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Strahm, Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm, all of our Bern congregation. He will certainly be missed among us.

As June is the month when we celebrate Father's Day, may we remember to show our appreciation for our dear fathers. We look to them so often for counsel and guidance as we travel down life's pathway.

The family of Bro. Ephraim Strahm would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to them throughout their father's illness and death. They expressed that they could feel the many prayers on their behalf.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Karen Sinn

The engagement of Sis. Judy Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Philip Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and late Sis. Esther, Junction, OH) from Sarasota, FL, was announced April 23. We rejoice with them as they plan for a July 9 wedding.

We extend a special thanks to Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA) who visited us this past month. We appreciate the efforts put forth by our visiting ministers and their wives.

Our older Sunday school classes spent a weekend of fellowship in Lamar, MO, May 6 and 7. We thank the Lamar congregation for their labors of love.

We wish to extend congratulations to our graduates. Our high school graduate is Michelle Smith (Randy Smith and Joyce Sinn). Graduating from junior college are Sis. Carol Sinn (Bro. John) and Sis. Debbie Banwart (Bro. Lon) with Associate Degrees in Nursing; and Staci Sinn (Leon Sinn and Carol Sinn) with an Associate of Science Degree. Staci is attending Kansas State University. Graduating from Pittsburgh State University is Maria Bahr (Bro. Jerry) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with an English major and a psychology minor. As each has finished this milestone in their lives, may they seek God's guidance as they plan their future education or seek employment.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Karen Sinn.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

The Lord has blest the lives of Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft with the birth of their third child, Kurt William, born April 26. His brother, Kent, and sister, Kara, welcomed him home.

We extend our thanks to recent visiting ministers, Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita) and Bro. Rodger Aberle (Sabetha).

Congratulations to high school

graduates, Barry Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreene) and Tammy Isch (Dale and Sis. Janiece).

Silver Lining dues need collected in July.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

"And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get Thee hence, Satan for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

St. Matthew 4:8, 9, 10

This scripture opened to me as I tried to think of something special to say to our graduates. We're so happy for them as they take this brand new step into college, or high school, or from college into life itself, but we're also concerned because of the temptations each new step will take them into. Satan had been tempting Jesus for 40 days in the wilderness with everything from changing stones to bread, to casting himself down from the temple, and finally offered him the whole world. But what did Jesus say, and what can we say when we feel like Satan is tempting us more than we can bear, "Get thee hence Satan for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord Thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." God bless you Komeri Neal, our high school graduate, and April Miner, our junior high graduate, and to all the other graduates this year. Our prayers are with you.

Special love and prayers to our dear Bro. Vernon Schurter, who hasn't been well enough to worship with us lately. He is such an inspiration to all of us and is greatly missed by all of us.

Harvest is just a few weeks off in our area, and after watching what those little seeds have gone through this year from lack of moisture, late freeze, extremely hot temperatures and finally hard rains and hail in some areas, I have to look out over those stalks that are still standing straight and tall and think, "if they,

by the grace of God, can go through all that tribulation and still stand with their heads raised trustingly and thankfully to God, then so, by the grade of God, can I."

KANSAS, SABETHA

Julie Edelman

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man: so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Psalms 127:3-5

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm on the arrival of their son, Galen Robert, born April 28. Galen has Christy, Kurt, Gwen and Keith to welcome him home.

We are grateful for the visiting ministers that shared the Word of God with us this past month. Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Walter Anliker and Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL).

There have been several hospital patients this month. Ryan Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Sis. Hulda Bieri and Sis. Cordilia Locker. We pray the Lord bless each with a speedy recovery.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

May 7 was the date of our annual election. Bro. Ray Steffan and Sis. Lillian Bowers will be assistant Sunday school teachers. Sis. Emma Miller was elected to a three-year term as intermediate level teacher. Sis. Judy Langhofer will begin a three-year term on the kitchen committee. Bro. Howard Warner was newly appointed at Children's Home representative and Bro. Al Langhofer will remain on the Sabetha Home committee.

Sis. Lillian Bowers and her talented daughters and granddaughters hosted the mother-daughter banquet, Saturday, May 13. We were reminded that as Christian, we are watched, especially when we are unaware that it is happening.

Graduating this year from Wichita State University are Sara Gal-

latin (Sis. Kathleen and Joe) and Cheryl Carter (Sis. Carol and Earl). Both young ladies are entering the field of education. May the Master Teacher watch over them in the many challenges they will meet. Also, Ron Reeves (Sis. Roseann and Dwayne) is graduating from Kansas University. We extend the same wish to him. All three graduates will be recognized at a special reception after church May 21.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch
Michelle Oesch

"And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."

Luke 6:46-48

We gathered together recently for the reading of the memorandum. It is always so good to be reminded of the way we should live according to God's Word. Our faith is so precious, especially when we see the course of the world today. The words of our teachings were brought by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH).

"I am the living bread which come down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

St. John 6:51

We gathered brothers and sisters to hear God's promises and partake of communion with our brother and visiting Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit) to renew our spirit and faith. Bro. Ben also spent Sunday with a beautiful sermon of Jesus' mother, Mary, so appropriate being Mother's Day.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Pam Schlatter

We enjoyed a weekend of blessing April 29 and 30 when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms

of Kent Andrzejewski (Norm and Sis. Linda) and Brent Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue). On Sunday evening, the congregation gathered to commemorate our Lord's suffering and death, and share His body and blood. Our special thanks to Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for his assistance during the weekend.

Several of our converts have experienced the gift of peace. We rejoice with them and pray they will always treasure this precious gift. The list includes: Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta), Janel Ramseyer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy), Jodi Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn), Christy Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue), Peggy Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) and Rob Wardynski.

May 12 was a special day in the life of Bob and Mary Goddard as little Grant Robert arrived to become part of their lives. Grant has a little sister, Courtney, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Victor and Elinor Knochel, who can provide him with additional love.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Sue Gasser

We have heard the exhortation recently -- "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9). What an encouragement! Let's keep doing for the Lord and for others -- it won't go unnoticed. The Lord promises that "whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42).

Babies always bring smiles in a congregation. Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth Knochel welcome their first-born, Luke Daniel. Luke recently spent a day back in the hospital for tests, but is home again and doing fine. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel and Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter (Bay City, MI).

Peace is a subject often sung, written and talked about. But no peace is quite so important, nor so serene as peace in our hearts --

peace with God and with man. Barb Fortenbacher shares with us that she has experienced this peace. We're very thankful for her and wish the same for many others.

We extend congratulations to our high school graduates Diane Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and Gretchen Weigele (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary).

Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) recently visited our congregation. We want to thank each of them for coming and ministering God's Word to us.

Our congregation shared communion May 20. After a period of soul searching and reflection, it is such a unifying and strengthening time for the body of believers. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen for coming to assist our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and sharing the weekend with us.

On May 21 the Detroit Choir hosted a benefit dinner for Woodhaven. We appreciate all who came and thank you for your fellowship and support.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Donna Hellems and Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi and we extend our sympathy in the passing of their husband and son-in-law, Gary Hellems. May God's nearness be a comfort and strength to you.

We have so many fathers and grandfathers worthy of our thanks. Let's remember them as we approach Father's Day.

Junction, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, July 16.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Carol Strassheim

We are put here on earth to be the visible images of the invisible God, demonstrating His love and compassion to a hurting, dying world.

We thank God that He provides faithful brethren to come and preach His Word. We are thankful that Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) came to preach to us this month.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler were blessed with the arrival of a little boy, Seth Kenton. Braden is happy to have a playmate and welcomes him with open arms along with his parents.

Graduating seniors this year are

Tim Lawson, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon and Brian Strassheim, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol. Just as we are preparing our young adults for the days ahead, it is not up to us to decide what he is to do or to be. In every Christian home the teaching needs to be that God has a special place for each one and no one else can fill that place. He will tell you what it is if you look to Him and ask Him.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

As Father's Day approaches, let us be truly thankful for those dads who have raised us in the way of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). We give thanks to these brethren for ministering unto us the Word of Life.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Kathy Nohl (Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Emma Schmidgall. Our prayers are with them.

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is Thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.

Hymns of Zion #106

We enjoyed a blessed weekend May 7 when Rachel Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy, Bradford, IL) was welcomed into the fold as a sister-in-faith. May the Lord ever bless her as she travels onward to Zion.

Steve and Deb Schmidgall have a new little daughter, Christina Mae, born April 5. She is welcomed home by a sister, Emma. Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Barbara are the grandparents.

A little son was born May 5 to Keith and Coleen Koehl. He has been named Brent Keith. He has a brother and sister to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys.

To all our graduates, we offer a sincere prayer that God, the creator of heaven and earth, will guide and

bless you with His love and mercy. We wish you the best as you go on to school or find jobs. Those graduating are: Mike Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Wendy Goll (John and Helen), Jessica Minhe (Sis. Beverly), Kent Moser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Noreen), Rebecca Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam), Jeni Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi) and Tami Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia).

We want to thank everyone for the love, concern and prayers during Shane's recent hospitalization. It has been deeply appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Shane, Sis. Ruth,
Amber and Bethany Jones

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Ella Mae Schmidt

Georgia Messner

At our annual business meeting the following assumed new responsibilities: Bro. Kenneth Messner, Sunday School teacher and superintendent; Bro. Jerry Messner and Sis. Jamie Schmidt, substitute teachers.

We wish good health to our hospital patients this month, Darcy Kent and Melissa Isaacson.

As we think of fatherhood, we know it brings responsibilities, but it can also be rewarding. Fathers must not only provide for the physical needs of their families, but God commands fathers to instruct and guide their children in spiritual areas that will have eternal consequences. Children learn far more from that which is visible than that which is spoken. Fathers, be encouraged through the grace of God to take time to truly "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Carole Kellenberger

The last Saturday in April was set aside for a "work day" at church. Thank you to all who gave of their time to work in the yard that day and to those who have spent many hours mowing and working, with little thanks.

That same Saturday, our Singles Group hosted groups from West Bend and Iowa City, IA, and Taylor, MO. We enjoyed a hymn sing at Bro. Don Braker's home. What a thrill to hear

voices blended together in praise to God! "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing." Psalms 100:2.

Our Bible class students were privileged to go to the Lamar church for the biannual youth fellowship. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) spoke on the "End Times." We pray that these young people will "Flee also youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." II Timothy 2:22. Knowing it took much planning and effort, we thank the Lamar congregation for their love and kindness.

We were deeply blessed Mother's Day to have our Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar) and family and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and family with us. Together we partook of the Lord's Supper and reflected on the magnitude of what God did for us in sending His Son.

As we honor our mothers in May and our fathers in June the following verses seem appropriate:

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words; Keep my commandments, and live."

Proverbs 4:14.

How thankful we can be for
God-fearing parents!

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti - Carol Braker

Love to each of you across the miles! We enjoyed a Youth Fellowship Weekend including ten churches, students 6th through the 12th grades. Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) was with us to speak with the students and also for church services. We certainly appreciate him and his wife making the effort to come.

Our sympathy is extended to Hazel Kibler in the sudden passing of her son, Benny Jack. We wish her God's love and nearness.

Kevin and Kathy Marti (Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine) are the happy parents of their first baby boy, Christo-

pher Kim. Nicole is glad to have a playmate, and we're glad he arrived safely! We wish them blessings with their bundle of joy.

We wish our graduates God's guidance as they begin a new phase in each of their lives. Sis. Melinda Knecht (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) has completed her college training and Chad Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) graduated from high school.

Soon the wheat will be ready for harvest once again. So quickly the seasons seem to fly by. May we, each one, be preparing for the spiritual harvest some day.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Lori Mauquart

"Contentment is not found in having everything we want, but in being satisfied with everything we have."

Ye shepherds, who the Lord do love
And through the Spirit from above,
Proclaim to men salvation.
How much the Lord to you has willed,
Who at His blessed kingdom build,
It is beyond expression.

Ye messengers of peace shall bring,
The glorious gospel of the king
To man in accents truthful.
How great your blest reward shall be
When Jesus Christ the Lord will see
That ye were true and faithful!

Zion's Harp #210

Our thanks to: Bros. Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bert Butikofer (Elgin IA) for sharing God's Word with us.

Vernon Huber (Sis. Judy) was a hospital patient this month. May God restore good health once again to him.

Our new edifice is nearing completion, and we hope to move into it in June. It is difficult to find words to adequately express our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all the help we received from the beginning to the end of our building project! The most generous financial help and the many willing volunteers were so greatly appreciated! May God richly bless each one of you for all you've done! We extend a warm welcome to come

and worship with us! We pray that our new edifice will be a blessing to all who assemble there and that many can find their salvation there!

In the near future, we'll be sending letters of information concerning the dedication of our new house of worship. Humbly submitted by the thankful Taylor congregation.

May 14 was a day we paused to honor that special person in our lives whom we lovingly call "Mother." The divine record of a virtuous mother reads, "Her children rise up, and call her blessed." (ref. Proverbs 31:28) God, give us more mothers whose chief concern is the rearing of children for righteousness -- who make the home a little corner of heaven on earth! Mothers whose gentle hands speak of sacrificial labor for their families; whose loving voices sing softly of Jesus and His love, and who uphold their families in prayer. God, give us mothers--- Christian mothers! With grateful hearts, some of us relive fond memories of such a person. For many, she waits on the shores of Glory. For others, her face still smiles in life. We rise up to "call her blessed." And through the shadows of our desperate hours, may her holy influence lead us on toward that heavenly home. (Paul R. Van Gorder "Our Daily Bread")

Thought: No man is poor who has had a godly mother!

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with unerring hand;
Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see;

Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all thy days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;

Tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise;
Sometime, sometime, we'll understand.

Gospel Hymns #533

We have been so vividly reminded of the brevity of life and the certainty of death. Our congregation is deeply grieved at the passing from this life of our dear Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner at the age of 69 years following a heart attack. He had no time to say "goodbye" in this lifetime as he left his home after dinner April 21 to assist a neighbor who came to the door for help with a brush fire. He was spared pain and suffering as God called him in the twinkling of an eye.

Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and ministering Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) were with us for the funeral service Monday, April 24. We want to thank each of them for their love and words of comfort in our sorrow. Also, we had many other loved ones who traveled many miles to be with us Sunday and for the funeral. Their expression of sympathy helped us at this time of grief.

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to his wife, Sis. Doris (Hirschey); and his daughters, Brenda MacDonald (John, New Lebanon) and Terri Hoch (Richard, Lowville); and four grandchildren.

May we all remember his kind and loving ways and his deep love for his God and each one of us, young and old alike. May we all take an inventory of our life and make the necessary preparations so we are ready to enter heaven when God calls us one by one.

Sis. Olivia (Bro. Seth) Schulz and Louis (Janet) Beck have been surgical patients. We were happy to see Bro. Seth and Sis. Olivia assemble with us after many weeks of absence.

Thank you:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all who have remembered us with prayers, cards, gifts, or in any way during the time of our deep sorrow and grief since the death of our husband, father and

grandfather. May God bless each of you for your deeds of kindness and love to help ease our loss.

The family of
Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles, through Jesus Christ . . ." Galatians 3:14. At Father's Day we especially thank our fathers of faith, and are thankful that the blessings of our father of faith, Abraham, are still coming on us, just as the blessing came on his handmaid, Hagar, and his first son, Ishmael.

Hagar was an Egyptian given to Abraham by Pharaoh and they were using her for a handmaid; but even a Gentile handmaid who had been dealt hardly with, received the blessing. God honored the handmaid to have an angel appear, the first time recorded in the Bible, and spoke to her that she would have a son, and also for the first time God pre-named the baby, telling her to name him Ishmael. Later on, after Isaac was born, this handmaid heard the angel of God call to her out of heaven that her son would become a great nation. We are thankful for our faithful fathers and that the blessing of our father of faith, Abraham, is still being poured out on handmaidens and servants.

We rejoice that Joy Bako, daughter of Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako, turned to the Lord in repentance. The Lord draws nigh to those that draw nigh to Him, and the Lord will give her grace.

Our Sunday school classes and the young people treated us Mother's Day and relieved the ladies in serving lunch. They did a super job, with extra treats, and we enjoyed it and thank them.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). Also, we were blessed to have Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for a Wednesday night service. May God bless them in ministering His Holy Word.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces . . ."

Isaiah 25:8

Sis. Clara Wahl recently passed from this time into eternity. She had spent the last years of her life at the Rittman home, and many years before that in the Mansfield, Ohio, area. We offer our sympathy to her surviving family and relatives. We thank Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield) for ministering unto us that day.

We wish to remember our graduate, Mike Manz, as he prepares to graduate from high school. He is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz. May God ever be his present help as he begins this new phase of his life.

Sis. Francis Dotterer is recovering from recent foot surgery. We are thankful she is doing well, and able to reassemble with us.

Father's Day is now quickly approaching. How thankful we are for our father's here on earth, and especially our heavenly Father.

"Brighten your day and lighten your way,
Lessen your cares with daily prayers,
Quiet your mind and leave tension behind
And find inspiration in "hushed meditation."

Helen Steiner Rice

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller

Marlene Reinhard

Our congratulations are extended to two families of our congregation that have experienced the joy and happiness an innocent little child can bring. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen Stoller and Morgan welcome Danielle Nicole. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna Roth (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller. First-time parents of Cassandra Kay are Greg and Kristy Gruetman. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor. We wish them much wisdom and understanding in raising their families.

Believing it was God's divine and

perfect will, our congregation felt the need to choose another minister. Through intense prayer, Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori) was placed with this duty and privilege. Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and retired Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in this occasion. "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalms 34:1. May Bro. Dwight feel the love, prayers and support of his fellow brethren and co-laborers.

We were saddened with the loss of our retired elder. Bro. George Sinn passed away May 4 at the age of 88. His wife, Sis. Clara, survives, along with two sons, Bro. Ray (Sis. Ann) and Bro. Walt (Sis. Renee); one daughter, Sis. Minnie; 20 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. One son, Bro. Carl (Sis. Tootie), preceded him in death. In 1942 Bro. George was chosen to serve our church in the ministry and in 1951 he was ordained elder. He retired from these duties in 1971. He also had the privilege to serve the Junction, OH, and Alto, MI, churches. The family would like to thank all those who remembered them during the passing of their loved one.

Those graduating this year are: Heidi Hackenjos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorraine), Sis. Tammy Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy), Jenny Schlatter (Bro. Dick and Sis. Viola), Bro. Jason Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Ede), Randy Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine), Duane Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann), Mike Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores). We wish them much success in their future plans and pray they let God abide in their lives.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Walter Rager (Toledo, OH). There were also several visiting ministers here for Bro. George Sinn's funeral. We encourage each minister to continue to bring forth the true and perfect Word of God.

We bring a special remembrance to our dads at this time of year. We look to them for much guidance and direction not only in the home, but also in our every day walk of life. Let us always remember our heavenly Father who bore it all because He loved us so much to give His life for our sins. I think we each one could

show our appreciation more fully and serve Him more readily and happily.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

“... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16). We each one have loved ones that need our prayers. In Acts 12 we see what a praying church can do when God sent His angel and delivered Peter out of the hand of Herod and freed him from prison.

Our new sister, Marjorie Dawson, was set free twice in one day. Early on Sunday morning she was baptized in her hospital bed setting her free from sin and Satan; later the same day she died, setting her free from the pain and suffering of her mortal body. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her brothers, Bro. Steve Domka and Fred Jones; and to her sisters, Sis. Kelly Beard, Sis. Rhea Berry (Smithville) and Rachel Domka. Our prayerful support also goes out to her son, Ed. We trust he will find comfort in God's Word. Psalm 103 was read at Sis. Marjorie's funeral. “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (vs. 1 & 2). Whose effectual fervent prayers extended God's mercies that Sis. Marjorie could repent? Was it her mother? Was it her brothers? Was it her sisters? Was it a niece or a nephew? Was it an aunt or an uncle? Do you have someone in your family that needs your prayers?

“I need the prayers of those I love while walking o'er life's rugged way.” Hospitalized has been Sis. Kate Morrison. Also needing hospital care has been Sis. Carmean Gearhart and Enid (Don) Miller. All are again able to assemble with us. As Peter was released from prison due to the prayers of the early church, so we trust the prayers of the church today touch the lives of our loved ones.

“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee...” (Deuteronomy 5:16) We thank the Sunday school children who provided lunch and took care of all the serving duties on Mother's Day.

Visiting us on the pulpit were Bro. Vic Bauman (Rittman) and Bro. Art

Ingold (Smithville). “Hear the words of exhortation from the Master of creation. We can feel His love for all.” (Zion's Harp #126, vs. 2). May God continue to bless each brother given the responsibility to proclaim His Holy Word. May we each accept our prayerful responsibility toward these dear brethren.

June is collection month for your Silver Lining subscription. Please pay your reporter \$7.00.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

“I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me; teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.”

Psalms 119:26, 27

We are thankful to Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Henry Dotterer in bringing the reading of the memorandum to us April 22. May we all have a true desire and be granted the grace of God to follow in His ways. We also appreciate the words of council given unto us by Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL). May God's blessings rest upon these dear brothers who minister to us.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

Two new baby boys have been born to families in our congregation this past month.

Alex Christopher is the new son of Dennis and Kris Hartzler. He is welcomed at home by brothers, Erik, Seth and Adam. Happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Haught.

The new little boy born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner has been named Matthew Jay. His brothers and sister are Nathan, Joel, Luke, Aaron, Mary, Andrew and Ethan. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner and Sis. Doris Gasser.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Suzie Beery (Bro. Earl) in the death of her grandfather, Bro. George Sinn (Latty, OH).

We give our love and sympathy to Dave and Sue Plahuta in the death of their infant son. Surviving is a sister, Michelle, and a brother, Michael, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Plahuta and Sis. Clara Jenkins.

May God comfort Bro. Dave Steiner (Sis. Carole) and his family in the loss of his mother, Ruth Steiner.

Three new households were established recently.

April 29 was the wedding day of Brent Widmer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole) and Alicia Keough (Karen Keough).

Bro. Jim Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Sara Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) were joined in holy matrimony May 7.

The marriage of Pam Bachman (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn) and Duane Reynolds (Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Reynolds) took place May 13.

May each couple feel the Lord's presence and blessings in their marriage and may they look to Him for their source of help and guidance.

We extend our best wishes and may God's blessings be upon our high school and college graduates.

Graduating from high school are: Milan Baltic, Mary Beery, Marsha Hartzler, Brett Lanz, Mike Maag, Barry Maibach, Bob Moore, Lisa Riggenbach and Matthew Rufener.

Graduating from the University of Akron are Andrea Maag and Jeff Lanz. Jeff will pursue further studies at Ohio State University this fall.

We are happy that Kevin Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha) is recovering from surgery. May we ever thank our heavenly Father when He restores health and strength.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

We gathered together to partake of holy communion Saturday evening, April 29. It was a solemn occasion. May we continue to walk close to our heavenly Father. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) for serving us in such an important occasion. May God bless them for their labors of love.

When we think of our earthly fathers, we know that they must go out and be the bread winners for our families. Our fathers must lead the family in worship to our heavenly Father daily. Fathers must correct and chastise their children just as our heavenly Father corrects and chastens us. May we continue to pray for our fathers and remember those who have passed on before.

Ben Zollinger, son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, was a patient in the hospital. He is home and doing fine.

June 25 is the date set for the yearly services in West Virginia. Song services start at 10:30 and afternoon services at 1:00. Lunch will be served. There will be church at 7:30 in the evening on Saturday, June 24, at Sardis. We look forward to a blessed weekend.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller

We are so thankful to have ministers who faithfully speak to us God's Word of truth. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Marshall Heindold (Washington, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Gene Pamer and Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH). May God bless them and also our home ministers for their faithful service.

On May 13 and 14 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of two dear souls. We welcome Sis. Terri Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) and Bro. Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella) into the flock of Christ.

We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Elaine Marty as they welcomed their first child, Brian Edward, into their home April 29. Grandparents are Dale and Sally Marty and Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener (Rittman, OH).

We pray for Bro. Ben Hartzler (Sis. Clara) and Brian Marty (Bro. Ed and Sis. Elaine) as they have been hospitalized this month. May God bless them with renewed health.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehklau Frances Laidig

We were blessed with spiritual food having had Bro. Ben Manz

(Junction, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) with us. We appreciate their willing service in bringing to us the Word of God. We need the message of all brothers to strengthen us on our daily walk with the Lord and also to encourage and enlighten those who may have this same desire. While walking the pathway of sin there is a secret unrest within. Somehow it follows us wherever we go. This is the Lord's way of telling us that it may not be so. If we turn to Him, peace and comfort will dwell in our hearts giving us a special joy that does not depart.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

St. John 14:27

We are glad to have Bro. Homer and Sis. Dorothy Reineck with us again after having spent the winter in Sarasota, FL.

Sis. Lois Newman is in the hospital with various health problems. At this time, she is looking forward to returning home again. Our prayers are surely with her.

While on the way to Sunday school, Chad Sancraint (Sis. Connie and David) had the misfortune of being hit by a car. Considering that his car was demolished, we feel it is a special blessing that Chad was not seriously injured and hopefully will have a complete recovery.

Bro. Kent Rager, after spending a few days of his summer vacation from college at home, is now being employed in Phoenix, AZ.

Our wishes for blessings and happiness for the future go to Julie (Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele) and Todd Schultz (Mr. and Mrs. William Schultz) who were recently married.

We extend our congratulations to our graduates. Graduating from high school are Kathy Breitwieser (Bro. John and Sis. Karen) and Aaron Beard (Bro. David and Sis. Geralyn). Graduating from the University of Toledo are Bro. Wes Stoller with a degree in mechanical engineering and Kelly Sancraint with an associate degree in legal assisting. May God guide them as they seek their employment.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Rocke - Brenda Knobloch

We want to thank those of you who have already visited us this "vacation season" and we look forward yet to those who have plans to come out West. It is so exciting to drive to church on Sunday morning and wonder just who and how many visitors may be there to worship with us. It truly is a blessing to have more voices to join in singing, and to fellowship with those of like mind from all parts of the country.

Recently the Silverton Bible class had a plant sale from seeds they grew and nurtured this spring. A couple of people from the Portland congregation were extensively involved in this project, as well as many from Silverton. It was very exciting to watch as God blessed their efforts, and the sale a success. Financial gain is a blessing as long as we remember this quote from George Lorimer:

It is good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it is good to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things money can't buy.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

It is that time of year again as the summer rapidly approaches and the school year reaches its end that we take time to congratulate and encourage our young people who graduate from one phase of their lifelong learning process to another. We have one high school senior this year, Monte Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) is graduating from Silverton Union High School. We also recognize six young people who are finishing eighth grade (which is still a special occasion complete with graduation exercises, class mottos, flowers and a gathering of family and friends in many of our small country schools). The eighth grade graduates are Becky Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Danny Hari (Phil Hari and Sharon Hari), Marilyn Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary), Mary Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty), Amy Snook (Vance and Sis. Liz) and Chad Walter (Charles and Karen). Hosting the reception and singing this year are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. They have planned a potluck supper at the Silverton Grange

Sunday, May 28, for both the Silver-ton and Portland congregations.

We are thankful that Lawrence Gehring is recovering satisfactorily and is again able to assemble with us Sundays. May God's all-sufficient grace continue to give help and strength.

Several young men have recently moved to our area and found employment in various fields. Returning after 5 1/2-years absence is Ben Alan Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn). Ben has been in California, first finishing four years in the Air Force and one-half year in the Civil Service at Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco and then moving on to Santa Barbara for a year of college studies. It is good to see Ben back in Oregon.

Two young men from Cissna Park, IL, John Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) and Bill Egolf have moved to our area in recent weeks. We welcome them both and hope that they can feel the warmth of friendship around them.

Our Sis. Melisa Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb) has decided to move to the area near our church at Rockville, CT. We will miss her but hope we will still be close in heart even though about as far apart as possible and still be within the continental United States. We pray that she will feel the Lord's nearness as she seeks to settle in and find employment using her Sign Language Interpreting skills. A farewell singing was held for Sis. Melisa at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich.

We rejoice with Bro. Herb Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Lori Wiess (Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydian of Washington, IL) whose engagement was announced Sunday, May 20. We pray that they will continue to look to the Lord for guidance as they plan their wedding and future together. We would warmly welcome the young couple should they set up their first home together in Oregon, but trust that with our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus as the head of their marriage, it will be a blessed home no matter where it is.

God has indeed blessed our congregation with a visit and much good teaching through the ministering of our Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona were here a short time but we certainly

enjoyed and appreciated the effort they make time and time again to make the long journey to Oregon. May they be richly rewarded by our God who knows our every need.

"Prayer Changes Things" is ably cross-stitched and framed on the wall of Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi's new home and they thankfully believe it's true. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless and keep them long after all the packing boxes are gone and the mounds of dirt outside are leveled into green lawn and flower beds.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

On April 22, we had our annual church spring cleaning. Thanks to all who participated. A potluck dinner was held after services April 30. The fellowship was enjoyed by all. How fortunate we are to be a part of the family of God.

Bro. Mark Meister (Peoria, IL) has located to this area. We welcome him to our church. Bro. Mark will be joined in June by his wife, Sis. Rebecca, and children, Mark, Jr., Benjamin, Elizabeth and Jonathan. We look forward to their fellowship. Patricia Lanz (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn) and her daughter, Amanda, have also moved to this area from Rockville, CT. We are glad to have them attending our church and welcome them.

We appreciate Bro. Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless him for his service to us.

This Father's Day we thank our heavenly Father for giving us our earthly fathers.

We welcome visitors to come and worship with us. Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

 Give Address Changes
 To Your Reporter

SILVER THREADS

JESUS IS LORD

Jesus Is Above All

"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."

John 3:31

Jesus Is Preeminent

"He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:18

Jesus Is the Alpha and Omega

"I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last."

Revelation 1:11

Jesus Is Wonderful

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Jesus Is Both Lord and Christ

"Therefore let all . . . know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 2:36

Jesus Is King of Glory

"Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty."

Psalms 24:8

Jesus Is Our Salvation

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

Psalms 27:1

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

. . . that we should be the servants of the Living God.

But as we go down life's path, we discover that we have an adversary of the soul. Though we testify that the old man of sin is dead and we left him back there in the waters of baptism, yet the adversary tries to bring

that old man back to life. I am sure you all have experienced that. We have to work, plead and pray that by the grace of God we can keep that old man of sin buried in those waters.

He tells us here not to yield our members -- the parts of our body -- as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but to yield ourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead. (See Romans 6:13).

We think of Jesus being nailed to the cross, and when they took Him down, that man of Arimathaea put Him in his own new tomb (see John 19:38), but He didn't stay there. His life came back into Him.

We can read in the Gospels how the apostles were together in that room with the doors shut, and suddenly Jesus was standing in their midst. They were afraid when they saw Him. They thought they saw a spirit. He told them, "Peace be unto you." John 20:19.

He said, "Look at Me. A spirit doesn't have bones and flesh as I have." (See Luke 24:39). As they look at Him, they could see the wounds in His side and in His hands. He even told one, "Put your hands in and touch, and be not faithless." (See John 20:27).

So we are encouraged, also, dear ones, to believe in the Lord Jesus . . . to believe that He has risen and is now sitting on the right hand of God interceding for us weak mortals . . . interceding that we might have help in time of need.

He tells us here to yield ourselves as members as instruments of righteousness unto holiness. (See Romans 6:19). We think of the congregation, we are all members of Jesus Christ's body . . . each one having a specific purpose . . . each one having a definite need to be a part of His body.

There is not one of God's children that is useless. There is not one of God's children that doesn't have a place that is not needed, but each one in our own station of life, in our own place, in our own little corner of the world, need to let the light of Jesus Christ shine.

Bro. Ron read this morning of having our lights burning. We need to let that light of God shine out in our lives each day. Even as we have been planted together in the likeness of the death of our Lord Jesus, so are we

also in the likeness of His resurrection. We testified that we could arise to that newness of life.

We need to remember that as we begin each new day, to ask God to help us to live that new life . . . to ask God that His Holy Spirit might reign in our body that day, that we might be instruments of righteousness unto holiness.

Now it tells us here, "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more . . ." Romans 6:9. So it should be with us, dear ones. In another place, he says, "Would we desire to again crucify our Lord, to put Him to an open shame, to make Him die again for us?" God forbid. (See Hebrews 6:6).

He tells us here, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Romans 6:1. Whenever I see that verse, it brings a thought to mind, "Are we wasting the grace of God?" The help that He offers to His children, are we wasting that, dear ones, as we go through our daily life? I pray not.

We need to seek diligently, don't we? We need to seek diligently every day that God's Spirit might rule and reign in our hearts and our lives that those about us might see God's light shining in whatever corner we happen to be in, and in whatever path He might lead us in our daily labors.

We need to be careful where we take that path, don't we? If we are following where God leads us, we think of that hymn,

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

Sometimes, sad to say, we choose our own paths, don't we? Sometimes we say, "I want to go this way, Lord." You know, He might give in.

We read back in the time of the wanderings of the children of Israel, God fed them with manna. He promised it would be there every day. All they had to do was go out and pick it up six days. On the sixth day, they were to pick up enough for two days. (See Exodus 16:5). "Tomorrow there will be a new supply," He told them. Some didn't believe and had to see for themselves. But they weren't satisfied with that manna from Heaven. "We want meat. We want something stronger."

It is in the Psalms that God gave

in to their desire, but He sent them leanness of soul. (See Psalm 106:15). They felt a little separation between themselves and God. Can we afford any separation, dear ones, between us and God? I cannot. We need to be close and we can be as close as we want to be. If we choose to be not so close to God, then He will allow us to move away from Him. But He might also send leanness of soul. Can we spare any leanness of soul?

We think of those ten virgins. The Lord tells that there were five wise and five foolish. The five wise had extra oil in their lamps. The other five did not. When there was a need, they asked the five wise to share with them, but they said, "We don't have any to spare." (See Matthew 25:1-13). I believe that we can't either. We don't have any room for leanness of soul.

We can be close to the Lord. He will allow us to be as close to Him as we want to be.

He tells us, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." (Romans 6:12). It seems that as we go through our daily life, the world about us has one thing in mind, and that is the lust thereof. But God calls us to separate ourselves from those things.

"Come ye out from among them," He tells us, "and be a separate people." (See II Cor. 6:17). He makes that possible because we are under grace.

I remember back to the time when I first started to repent, dear souls, perhaps brethren among us this afternoon, came and said, "I wish you a lot of grace." A new convert. None of us were different. We can't quite understand what that grace is all about and how it is made available. But we know and can see without God's grace, it couldn't be possible. Without the grace of God, we couldn't have the hope and promises. We couldn't become God's children.

I often think of the prophet Samuel as he had to deal with the people and judge their problems and lead them. One time he set up what he called an Ebenezer, and said, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (I Samuel 7:12).

I often think that the Lord's grace made it possible that we could come this far. We are going to need that grace to go the rest of the way, however long or short that might be.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER

EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. MERLE HARTZLER OF RITTMAN, OH

**"Serve the Lord with Gladness"
Romans 6**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, look upon us gathered here again as this assembled congregation in Thy holy house this afternoon and be with and among us, Father. Pour Thy Spirit out to us in truth and in all sincerity. Feed us by the true bread and water of life eternal.

As we are gathered around Thy Word, O, we thank Thee, Father, for the time of fellowship we can have together with our brethren and friends of the truth. We pray, Lord, that Thou would add Thy blessings to the words that have been spoken, that we might encourage one another as we go upon our pilgrim journey, and that we might walk close to Thee, Father.

We think of the Apostle Peter as Thou was taken in the Garden and how it says he followed Thee afar off and it gave room for the enemy to get between Thee and him. So help us, Father, to ever seek Thee and Thy nearness and Thy closeness every day as we walk our pilgrim journey.

We pray now, provide for us, Father, a blessing out of the Word of Life. We thank Thee for the opportunity to come and gather around Thy Word as a fountain of waters flowing freely from Thy throne above. May we drink of those waters, Father, and may they satisfy our thirst as we go about from day to day.

May we ever trust in Thy Word and in Thy promises. May we ever look to Thee, Father, for strength, grace and direction as we go through our pilgrim life here. We realize, Lord, that this world is not our home; we are just passing through.

As we go about from day to day, the Word tells us that we are ambassadors for Christ. We are giving a picture to those about us . . . a picture of what a believer of Thine really is. Help us, Father, that we might shine forth Thy righteousness and Thy likeness. Father, so that they might see Thee living in us.

So help us, Lord, and open Thy Word of Life to us this afternoon. Bring forth the words of truth and righteousness and may we be fed by Thee, for we know that man has nothing to bring forth, but we look to Thee, Father. We put our trust in Thee, and Thou will provide, not only here, but wherever Thy children be gathered together on this day and in Thy Name.

Let Thy nearness be felt, Lord. For those who were unable to gather for various reasons, those who are in hospitals, those who are in sickness in their homes or whatever it might be, Those who chose not to come for one reason or another, we pray that Thy Spirit might work in them also a work and manner that is pleasing to Thee.

So provide for us, Father. Forgive our failings and shortcomings and ever chasten and correct us out of Thy Word of Life.

We commit this gathering to Thee in prayer, Lord. We give Thee the thanks, praise and honor. In Jesus name. Amen.

Sermon

The Apostle, in this chapter, has comparisons of our life before we were converted and the life after we are

converted. As he speaks here of being servants of sin, there was no righteousness there. (See Romans 6:20). We can all testify to that, can't we, dear ones? We think back to those things that we are now ashamed of, things that we were partakers of.

But thanks be to God for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

He tells us that we need remember those things no more. Through the death of Jesus and His resurrection from the tomb, and as He is now sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, those things that we were once a part of, can be removed from our life as far as the east is from the west. We need to remember them no more.

He said, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Romans 6:22. We read in the letter to the Galatians of the fruits of the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22, 23).

When we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us, those fruits are the evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We have observed it when we see the souls stand by the waters of baptism. We had our turn there, too. How we promised to renounce sin and Satan. We had the faith to believe that we could bury that old man of sin in the watery grave and rise to the newness of life.

He tells here in this chapter to live in that newness . . .

. . . that sin no more should reign in our mortal bodies and

(Continued on Page 34)