



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 1:7

"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6

VOLUME 39

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NUMBER 7

Independence Day

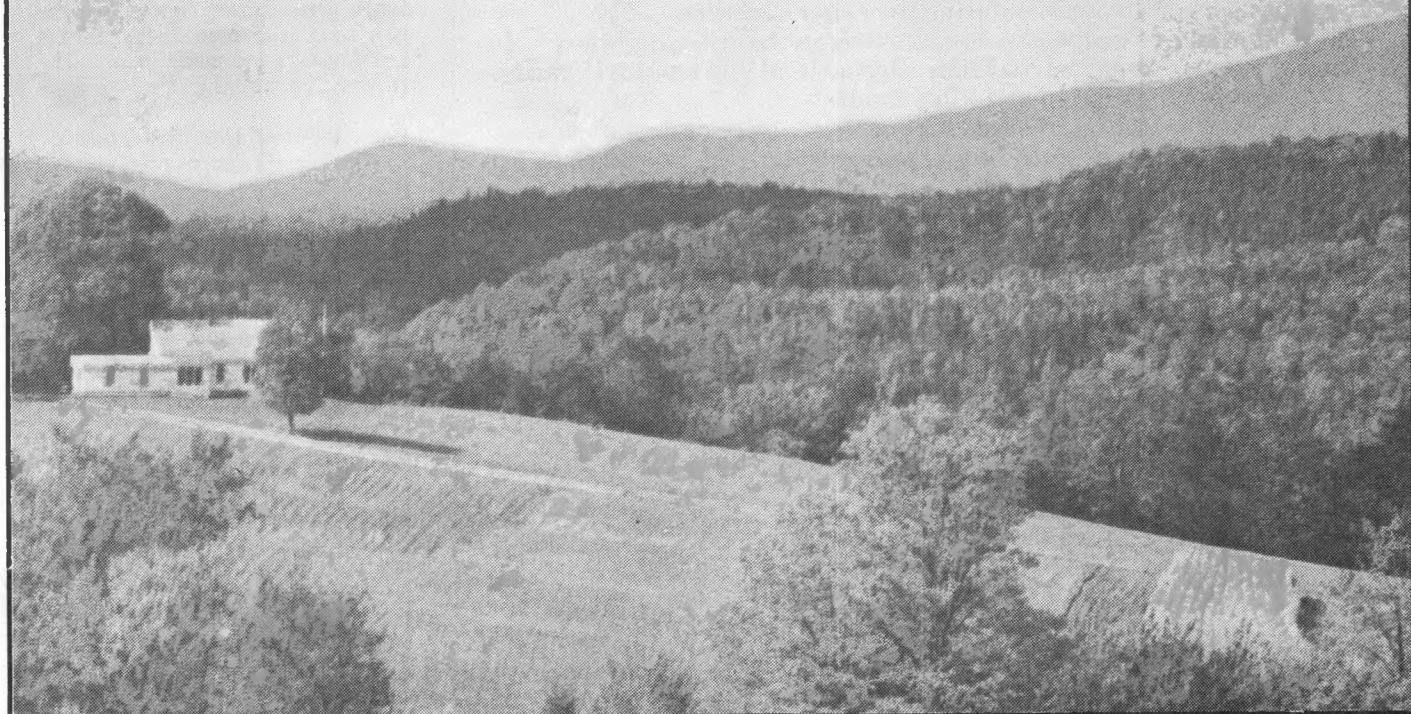
Independence to Worship

Independence to Labor

We Have A Rich Heritage

*Oh beautiful for spacious skies . . .
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

from "America the Beautiful"



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.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic Christian Church of America

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
 David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
 c/o David Bertsch
 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).

EVANGELISM

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:18-19). This vivid instance of the Lord gathering men to help him proclaim the message of salvation is an example of evangelism in the early days of Christ's ministry. It reflects the willingness of Peter and Andrew to follow Jesus and spread the message of salvation.

Evangelism is listed along with four other spiritual gifts in the church: *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11).* The Apostle Paul exhorted, *"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Tim. 4:5).* The Word also refers to Philip, the evangelist, whom Paul visited in Caesarea (Acts 21:8).

The word "evangelist" is defined as anyone who preaches the gospel, a messenger of good news! In another sense, it is someone who is involved in establishing a local church. Indeed, wherever the gospel message of salvation is proclaimed and lived in truth and sincerity, it is a form of evangelism.

Today, as in the time of the Apostles, certain individuals are called by the Lord through the church to the work of evangelism. In the church at Antioch the Holy Ghost said, *"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."* They then *"... laid their hands on them, (and) they sent them away" (Acts 13:1-3).* In addition, all believers have the responsibility to share humbly with others what the Lord has done for them. *"... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).*

Since the time of Christ, the Word has spread into varying cultures through the efforts of evangelism. We today are the beneficiaries of evangelistic efforts expended by our European forbearers. Our American church, which began in 1847 in upstate New York, is an outgrowth of zealous efforts by ministers who helped establish many churches of our faith in America. Since 1847 approximately one hundred churches have been founded in this country. A willingness to labor and to preach *"all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27)* allowed early "evangelists" to establish a Bible-believing and Bible-obeying brotherhood in America.

Previously in Europe (beginning in the early 1830's) a godly zeal resulted in our forefathers participating in efforts whereby God raised up 110 congregations in 35 years. The Holy Spirit prompted them to establish a church based on Scriptures alone. Early leaders heralded the verse, *"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20).*

The critical test of true evangelism is that the biblical pattern of genuine conversion be proclaimed, lest a soul obtain a false hope through a superficial acceptance of Christ or so-called "easy believism." Great danger exists today in various forms of "evangelism" which fail to give proper emphasis to the scriptural basics of repentance, conversion and lifelong commitment as a disciple of Christ (Luke 9:62; Heb. 6:1-2).

True evangelism sounds the warning of coming judgment and points the way to salvation through faith in Christ's redemptive work on Calvary's Cross (Eph. 2:8). It proclaims sincerely the message of repentance, and directs the longing soul into the haven of the church for spiritual nurturing and direction in godliness (Eph. 4:12-13). Much counsel is given the seeking soul to assure that he or she gains a strong foothold in God's Word and the Christian graces and becomes truly dead to sin (Rom. 6:11). After baptism, continued nurturing is provided

for the maintenance of faith and vigilance against temptation (Heb. 3:13-14). Thus, brotherhood is an important component of a believer's life, lest he should stray from his steadfastness without the exhortation and admonition of the church.

Evangelism has many forms. Preaching from a pulpit is foremost in our churches. The establishment of many churches of our faith in America, together with activities in Japan and India, give evidence of additional evangelistic efforts. Recent founding of new assemblies such as St. Louis, Atlanta, San Diego, Washington, D.C., etc. are reflective of evangelism as are meetings on college campuses.

Bible distribution also constitutes a form of evangelism. Our brethren have accelerated efforts in this mode of spreading the Word. Since 1983 more than 100,000 Bibles have been distributed through these endeavors.

Sunday School constitutes a significant means of presenting God's way to our youth. The intent is not to "evangelize" young children as such, but to plant seeds of faith that will hopefully sprout when a child reaches the age of accountability.

The home is a vital field of evangelism. It is here, both by example and ongoing verbal expressions of parents, that the gospel can have its most enduring influence (Prov. 22:6).

A Christ-like example is also an effective means of evangelism. This conveys a strong message of virtue and nonconformity to the world, and in many instances might be the only message of holiness to those who otherwise have no interest in the Scriptures. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).*

Proclaiming the Word of God is among the most important responsibilities of the church. Jesus exhorted his disciples: *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38).*

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 Becknerville 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
June 1989 --	1478	23,493

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 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.

**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ROOF
 CONSTRUCTION - HAITI**
 Harold Witzig

The Program

In 1982, a literacy aid program

was begun by World Relief which shares in the construction of schools, mostly with local members of the missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.), (not connected with American Baptists). This group of over 270 churches is located near the west end of the southern peninsula.

The Schools

In this poorest of countries in the Western Hemisphere, public schools are found only in larger cities, so "... religious education plays an important role", only "one of five are literate" (U.S. State Dept. 1984). Haitian church leaders have placed literacy aid as one of their most appreciated aids. To date Apostolic Christian World Relief has helped them build over 22 schools. Some hospital and nursing home aid has also been given.

Work Projects

Haitian work projects have been placed under a separate division of World Relief called Work Projects. Under this program over 30 teams of 4 to 13 brothers, sisters and friends have taken part in the unforgettable and often life-changing experience of working together among the Haitian Christians. They testify to the blessedness of this opportunity to "do good unto all men, especially to them of the household of faith," Galatians 6:10.

Work Season

The months of October through March are the most comfortable climate time to work in Haiti. The dates are set by the missionaries and Work Projects representatives, approved by the World Relief Board and announced to the churches in the fall of each year.

The Cost

Depending on the distance traveled in the States, whether by auto or plane, and amount spent on "extras", the cost runs from \$550 to \$750. This includes travel in Haiti, food and guest house. Cost of construction materials is provided through World Relief. Airline tickets are arranged through Stoller Travel of Bluffton, IN. All payments are tax deductible if paid through your local World Relief treasurer representative.

No Passports Needed

A passport is not necessary since our work teams come in as visitor-tourist status. An original birth certificate and one other form of I.D.



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

SATURDAY, AUG. 19 — 9:00 A.M.

SKILLFULLY PIECED, HANDSTITCHED QUILTS —

Comforters, Afghans, Pillows, Tablecloths
 (Including Many Baby Quilts & Afghans)

1988 CHRYSLER LEBARON GTS 5-DOOR

Turbo, Premium Model, Red, Loaded With Options, List Price \$17,000

Water Softener, Restored 1936 Allis Chalmers Tractor,

2 Sets of World Book Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, Barn (handmade),
 Mattress and Springs, Cruise Control for Automobile,

4 Goodyear Arriva Tires, any size (will U.P.S.), Hind Quarter of Beef,

Portable Water Purifier (Multi-Pure), Honey, 2 Certificates for 1 Week Vacation in Phoenix

Cedar Chest, Many Walnut Music Boxes with Swiss Movements, Unique Wood Carving,

Handmade Hall Bench, Handmade Wooden Shelves, Nativity Set with Creche,

Handmade Muffin Stand and Shelf/Mirror, Handmade Magazine Rack,

Handpainted Dry Sink, Handmade Quilt Racks, The Lord's Prayer Wall Hanging,

Oil Painting, Silk Flower Arrangements, Yard Sheep, Handwoven Basket,

Wreath, Handmade Animals of All Kinds

Child's Tole Painted Carousel, 2 Large Diaper Bags (TLC), Child's Coaster Wagon w/Racks,

Miniature Farm Toys, Rubbermaid Toys, Child's Stool, Cabinet and 2 Benches,

Doghhouse, Child's Riding Tractor, Children's Dresses (new), 2 "Formula 1" Racing Bikes,

Handmade Child's Oak Table, 2 Chairs and Matching Rocker

Mint Silver Dollars (1921-23), Excellent Silver Quarters (1920's),

Commemorative Silver Coins (1960's), Coffee Urn w/Matching Sugar/Cream,

9 1/2" Round German Plate with Stieglitz Bird,

Bing Grondhel Christmas Plates and Others, Boehm Rose Plate (1st Edition)

ANTIQUA CHINA (R.S. Prussia)

All Items Are New Except As Noted Otherwise

CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS AND MORE Starting at 8:00 A.M.

LUNCH SERVED Starting at 8:00 A.M.

MASTERCARD OR VISA ACCEPTED

PHONE 219/627-2159

LOCATED — 10 miles N.E. of Fort Wayne, Indiana on State Road 1 to Leo, then 1 mile east on Leo-Grabill Road to Klopfenstein Road, north 1/4 mile. Watch for signs in Leo and Grabill.

such as a driver's license are all that is required for entry.

Couples

Certain projects each year are being planned to include work and accommodations for couples.

Who To Contact

Notification of approved projects is made available through the Silver Lining and your local World Relief representative who will either announce or post the list in the fall. Contact should then be made with your World Relief Area's project leader or from the project leader of another area in the case that the area's scheduled project date is better for you, since crossover volunteering is encouraged. Volunteers are accepted until the team limit is met.

Who is my area project leader?

CHURCH AREAS	PROJECT LEADERS
#8 Western IL	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
#5 Bluffton & Indianapolis	Carl Hackenjos Monroe, IN 46772 (219) 692-6311
#4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541 Kurt Bahler P. O. Box 124 A Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-2877 H (219) 261-2157 B
#11 & #12 CA, AZ, OR, CO	Glen Hackenjos 10564 Haverly El Monte, CA 91731 (818) 422-4957
#7 E. IL	Jim Walter R #2, Box 3 Chatsworth, IL 60921 (815) 635-3158
#9 & #10 KS, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	R. Schmidgall 955 Lyon Street Hancock, MN 56244 (612) 392-5241
#1, #2 & #3 CT, E. OH, AL, GA, FL	Leonard Dolce 2550 Crider Road Mansfield, OH 44903 (419) 589-6285 Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591

WORLD RELIEF

Designated Geographic Area Map



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

VETERINARY AID

Bro. Robert Beebe

Our fellowship has been given great opportunities to help the people of Haiti. Recently veterinarians within our church have learned of how we can give of our time and skills to aid this poor nation.

Many of the Haitian families depend on the raising of a pig, a calf, or some sheep or goats to market weight for their own food, or as a source of income. The livestock money may be their primary means of buying food, fuel, clothing or medicine. The people of Haiti, from children to adults, are not a starving, but a malnourished people. They subsist on a very protein-deficient diet. More animal protein, in the form of milk, cheese, and meat, would improve their health. Thus, veterinarians of our church can hand-carry to Haiti vaccines and medicines, assist in individual animal care, and counsel the farmers on proper livestock husbandry and feeding. As the Haitians speak Creole, and very few know English, we must work with American vets residing there familiar with the Creole language.

Our primary method of service is to give 2 weeks of service with one of the U.S. vets in Haiti with Christian Veterinary Mission, a non-denominational mission of veterinarians. Bro. Ralph Lanz (Rittman, OH) was recently on one of these "shuttle vet" service tours. Beside helping vaccinate and deworm livestock and treat ill stock, he took with him for use by the vets there several thousand doses of anthrax vaccine and a large amount of wormer and vials of antibiotics.

Beside the great need of veterinary service, there are needs for medicines and supplies, such as vaccine, sutures, antibiotics, feed additives as vitamins and minerals, boots and sprayers. Brethren have hand-carried these and other supplies when going on Works Projects construction missions. Other brethren have sent supplies and equipment through the Bluffton Distribution Center.

As for the future, we are praying that opportunities to go and help as "shuttle vets" will continue to open. Also, we plan to continue sending supplies and equipment as the needs come to us.

We so appreciate the prayers and

interest shown and the donations given by so many brethren concerning the livestock needs of Haiti. As we see the opportunities unfold to help the Haitians improve their economy (and thus their well-being) and their diet through better livestock, we want to prayerfully meet them. If you would desire more information on how you can help, please write Bro. Robert Beebe, veterinary coordinator, 65140 Miami Road, Bremen, IN 46506.

JUNCTION, OHIO CHURCH PROJECT

Starting in July, volunteers are appreciated. Anyone wishing to help can contact their local World Relief representative or contact Bro. Eli Manz, 1-419-399-5848.

TEXAS, DALLAS (CORRECTION)

"Do you know why I often ask Christians, 'What's the biggest thing you've asked God for this week?' I remind them that they are going to God, the Father, the Maker of the Universe, The One who holds the world in His hands. What did you ask for? Did you ask for peanuts, toys, trinkets, or did you ask for **continents**? I want to tell you, young people, it's tragic! The little itsy-bitsy thing we ask of our Almighty God. Sure, nothing is too small -- but also nothing is too big. Let's learn to ask of our big God some of those big things He talks about in Jeremiah 33:3: 'Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not.'"

Dawson Trotman

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Susan Getz

The ball is bouncing on the basketball court, the horses are flicking flies with their tails out in the pasture. The go-cart is roaring down its track. The garden is growing -- vegetables and weeds! The chickens are laying eggs in abundance. Summer is in full swing at ACCH and there is we anticipate several other staffing changes this month. First, Sis. Carol Kieser will become part of the West House team from her assistant position in the New House. Sis. Shay Nelson (Morton/Chicago, IL) will join our staff in mid-July replacing Carol. We welcome her as an answer to prayers.

Also, at a recent staff meeting, Sis. Colleen Reardon, who first served in the West House and more recently as Transitional Living (TLP) coordinator, announced her plans to move to Sarasota to a similar position. Sis. Cindy Baurer will then move from her Office Manager position to become the new TLP coordinator. Cindy is one of the original pioneers of TLP. Consequently, that leaves an opening for a sister with executive secretarial skills as the Office Manager. (See ad in this issue).

We are very grateful for our volunteers. Sis. Laura Siebenthal (Princeville, IL), Bro. Todd Schrock (Congerville, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Greg Schumacher and Marvin Wieland (Washington, IL) have been a big help. They are appreciated by staff and children alike.

If you visit the home, it may seem that these are very normal kids. And they are, but they also have some very deep hurts and unanswered questions about their past and future. Many of them deal with issues

OPENING FOR HOUSEPARENT COUPLE 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.

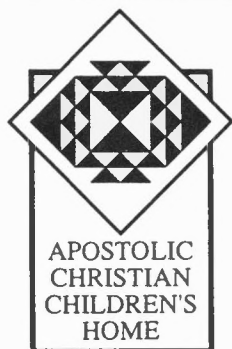
There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for a married couple to serve as Houseparents for troubled children, ages 11 - 18 years old. We encourage mature couples with a heart for young people to seriously and prayerfully consider this calling to serve the Lord, the church and children. There 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.

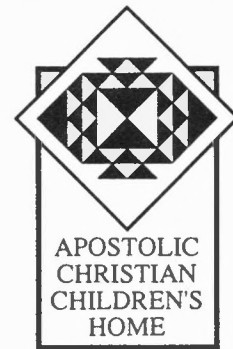
Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
219/627-2606, home

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.



that don't come to the surface often. Recently, one of our residents wrote this poem expressing her feelings toward her mother.

I keep wondering if there will ever be
a time when all the lies are
replaced.
You said you cared, but you just gave
me away.
Oh, I just don't understand.
Will there ever be a time when
everything will be all right?
I'll keep waiting, anticipating for that
day.
The love I have for you will never
part,
No matter what you say or do.
There's just this little piece deep in
my heart
That will always remain
No matter what the mistakes.

by Shannon D.

(Shannon recently moved to a foster home as a step toward returning to her mother.)

Working in the West House as a single houseparent has made my life very rich and full. If you want to be open to the Lord's leading, want a daily challenge, long to see yourself as the Lord and other people do, and are willing to lay down your desires for others, please consider the child care field. There are many hurting children who are strongly influenced by the powers of darkness. Your commitment to this labor of love is needed. "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few . . ." Matthew 9:37.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Psalmist said, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name." (Psalms 103:1) Let's attend to the "all that is within me" clause. Sometimes we think Jesus wants just the beautiful parts of us. But the truth of the matter is, He wants every part of us . . . totally yielded . . . willing to be used . . . ready to be molded . . . willing to be charged. In our human wisdom we so often sense some of our weak areas are unusable in Christ's eyes. It's then we remember His strength is made perfect in our weakness (I Corinthi-

ans 12:9). God does not necessarily want our ability but looks more intently at our availability. It is not by power, nor might that we are conquerors but through the Spirit.

We want to be conquerors just as you do. Every day at ACHH we (residents and staff) face the choice to either concentrate on our ability or our availability.

Our Free Spirit Special Olympic Team has recently had an opportunity to think about these issues of ability versus availability. A troop of 18 Olympians have been awarded regional Gold Medals in a variety of events and intend to participate in the State Special Olympic Games this month. Both the gymnastic team and the track and field participants have been learning the meaning of the Special Olympics motto ("Let me win, but if I cannot win . . . let me be brave in the attempt.")

There are some other items of interaction around our home as well. Since we are a home for adult developmentally disabled people, there are few folks who are under twenty-one years of age here. But two of our younger friends have reached a milestone in their lives. Jeff Zimmerman and Sheila Steffen graduated from school in May. We pray for God's nearness and guidance as they begin the adult years of their lives!

We also are excited that Kay Ellis could move into our home June 1. Kay is 32 years old and moved here from Pekin. Many of our people knew Kay before coming here since she works at the Tazewell County Resource Center in Tremont. (We've got 20 folks who go to work or to training programs at that facility every week-day.) We welcome you with the love of Jesus, Kay!

Another big chance for us at ACHH is that we now serve supper in two shifts. With about 100 folks eating at the same time there was a lot of activity. Things are calmer on the home front at supper time now!

Annually Bro. Floren and Sis. Twyla Streitmatter invite a large group of folks to their farm near Princeton, IL, for an afternoon in the country and some good food. This event is something our residents really look forward to enjoying!

We would also like to inform our readers that we have been expanding

some of our programs and services in the past couple of years and anticipate some additional changes. As they occur, we have openings for professional, paraprofessional and support staff. We have published notices of some of these openings in the past. Because it does not work well to wait on these notices, we would like to invite anyone who feels called by God to consider working at the Home to contact us when they feel called, whether we have openings or not. We can consider your application as changes occur. Please feel free to come and find out what types of jobs we have available as you plan for your future.

Our August birthdays at the Home for the Handicapped are Susan Landis (5), Peggy Full (5), Martha Clymer (6), Eric Ringwald (8), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barb Hostetler (28) and Dan McDonough (29).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Julie Bauer

Summer is here and our summer program is under way. Our preschool enrollment is somewhat lower during the summer months but we have some school-age children who help fill the void. Our theme for the summer is Noah and the Ark. We have been doing projects and learning about the animals God made and have also been doing water activities. We hope to spend lots of time out in the sunshine and maybe take some field trips.

We appreciate so much the children that come and share their lives with us every day. They are so loving and forgiving. If only we could forgive and forget little hurts and injustices as fast as they do!

We would like to thank Rachel Conrad (Cissna Park, IL), who volunteered her time while Sis. Louise was on vacation. If anyone is interested in helping us this summer, please contact Sis. Julie Bauer at Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611 or (205) 233-0591.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pam Moore

Summer has definitely arrived! We're enjoying the sunshine, as well

as the rain, which God has blessed us with.

Memorial Day weekend we welcomed the Peoria choir to Athens. It was a beautiful weekend of song and fellowship for everyone. Saturday, a singing was held at the home of Bro. George Kelley in the Tennessee Hills. Sunday evening we enjoyed games, supper and an outdoor singing at Joe Wheeler State Park. These are special times to hold in our memory.

We appreciate our other visitors this past month, with many churches represented in Athens; Champaign, Cissna Park, Fairbury, Goodfield, Peoria, Princeville, IL, Leo Children's Home and Valparaiso, IN, Atlanta, GA, and Lester, IA. If you're headed south for your vacation this summer, please try and include Athens church in your plans.

We thank Elder Bros. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), for their assistance during the Preschool Board Meeting and in serving communion for the Athens congregation. We also appreciate Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for his time shared with us.

The Preschool Board Meeting was held June 10. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) is retiring from the Board, and Bro. Bill Hart (Goodfield, IL) will fill his position. Sis. Julie Bauer will fill the position of Preschool Director, as Sis. Marilyn Walder has returned to Illinois.

The visiting choirs we have enjoyed in the past two months have inspired the Athens church to begin a choir. May 21 was the date for our first meeting, with several practices since that time.

Hospital patients in the past month were Sis. Cleo Johnson's son, and Bro. Winfred Kelley. May God be near each one.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"A man that has friends must shew himself friendly."

Proverbs 18:24

The Phoenix Sunday school, up-

per grades classes, enjoyed their visit to Tucson during Memorial weekend. A hearty thank you to everyone who put the effort into the weekend. It is very important our youngsters learn early, their need for friends who come from a Christian upbringing.

Equally important, we must be aware and ready to meet our Lord and Saviour in a moment's time. On the night of May 18, Sis. Lorene Roth (Bro. Earl) had emergency surgery. She was comatose until her death May 27. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

On May 31, funeral services were held at the church for Sis. Lorene Roth (Bro. Earl). Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach had the service, interment was in the church cemetery at East Resthaven.

In Phoenix, besides her husband, she is survived by two sons: Bro. Steve and Bro. Todd; and three daughters, Sis. Shirley Fleming, Sis. Sherry Roth and Charlene Sander. Ten grandchildren will also miss grandma. May the Lord comfort our dear ones in their hour of need.

Bro. George Schuster welcomes a new granddaughter, Christine Raylin Phillips, born May 10. She is the daughter of Scott and Candy Phillips and has a brother, Scotty.

Bro. Nathan Leman came from Tucson to fill our pulpit on a recent Sunday. We did appreciate his visit.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart and Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons flew to Washington, D.C. to attend the wedding of Steven Lemons and Betty Hoblitzell April 29. They will make their home in the Capital area. May the Lord bless them as they blend their lives together.

On May 20, LuAnn Richardson and Brad Gramm exchanged vows. Sis. Lucille Richardson (Phoenix) and the Robert Gramms (Gridley, IL) are their parents. May God be the center of their home as they set up house-keeping. They will be attending the Kansas City church.

What a joy to see Bro. Joe Dotterer back in church after knee surgery; Sis. Susan Knochel Suever after surgery; Sis. Marge Rebbec after a lengthy bout of virus, and Debbie

Johnston after surgery.

Our prayer list for the not-so-well includes Bro. George Schuster, Bro. Alvin Laukhuf, Ed Harmon, Sis. Martha DeMille, Sis. Esther Harmon and Rachel Roth.

A Thank You Note: Sis. Rachel Bauman (Morton, IL) wishes to express her thanks for prayers, cards, gifts and phone calls to her while hospitalized in Peoria, IL. She is especially grateful to Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach for visiting her while in Illinois.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." This tie will stretch to Gridley. Bro. Jim Gramm's work transferred him back to Illinois. We rejoice with Bro. Jim, Kathy, Justin, Nathan and Mathew as Kathy has felt the gentle touch of Jesus calling her "to repent and follow me." a "we are really going to miss you" reception followed afternoon church July 11. May the Lord keep us all close in our caring.

A cool break in the weather brought a fair of beautiful Gambel's Quail to visit one day. The teardrop topknot is yet another beautiful piece of God's handiwork.

Sis. Stephanie Frautschi has left Phoenix to attend school in Illinois this autumn. May the Lord be her daily companion.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 12. Visiting ministers who came to help our minister were Bros. Loren Knapp and Doug Wagenbach and Elder Bro. John Klotzle. Bible School is very rewarding with its Bible lessons of Jesus and His love. The theme of "His Miracles" was quite inspiring to everyone.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Sis. Angie Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria) graduated from high school June 7. We want to express congratulations to Sis. Angie and wish her God's blessings as she plans to go on to college here in Tucson.

Andy Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne) has also completed a chapter in his school life. He recently graduated from the eighth grade and is looking forward to high school next year. Our congratulations to Andy!

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach visited us recently to share the con-

tents of the memorandum with us. We appreciate, as always, Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb's time and efforts to be with us. May God richly bless their lives.

Tucson was privileged to host the Phoenix Sunday school and some young members from Altadena and San Diego, CA, and Phoenix, recently. Memorial Day we gathered together to fellowship and renew old bonds of love and Christian fellowship. The Tucson congregation was blessed with a wonderful weekend of fellowship as we hope the other churches were also.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sam Banwart of Tucson. However, our sadness was mixed with joy as Sam recently heeded the Lord's call and had given his life to Jesus, so his passing certainly holds a promise of a beautiful eternity with His Lord. Our sympathies are with his wife, Rhoemane.

Our building project is coming along nicely with brothers and friends alike working evenings and Saturdays when time and scheduling allows. We know the Lord will bless each effort.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Bro. Bill Geyer has again submitted to surgery this month, the tenth operation on his legs since his car accident about 18 months ago. Through all his hospitalizations, pain and trials, he, and we all, rejoice that he does still have his legs. May our wonderful God, from whom all blessings flow, continue to care for Bro. Bill.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman have been blessed with their fourth son. Daniel James arrived May 20. Caleb, Jacob and Joel are thrilled with their baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman.

It is so encouraging to have ministering brothers visit us; not because they have something new or different to say, but because they don't. We appreciate the visits of Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and the pure, unadulterated Word of God spoken through them. May God bless them.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

It would be a pleasure to share some of our rainy, cloudy weather with the Midwest as, according to the Weather Center, so far this year more than 27 inches of rain has fallen on Connecticut, about 7 inches more than normal! However, as we go through life even a cloudy day has its brighter side, specially when we consider that without clouds, the world temperature would be about 20 degrees warmer.

We welcome Sis. Melisa Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb) to our congregation from Silverton, OR. Sis. Melisa has sign language interpreting skills and is seeking employment in that area. We wish her God's continued direction and blessings as she becomes acquainted with the brethren here.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. John Diggelman, Sis. Marie Kloter and Kenny Hunt. May the Lord restore our loved ones to moderate health according to His will.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold have again become happy grandparents when Sara Marie was born May 24 to Gary and Pam Trinquette who have a son, Jesse. Greg Lanz, son of Dick and Sis. Frieda, was married to Linda Peirola May 20. May God's help and nearness be with these dear ones as they assume new responsibilities.

We very much appreciate having visiting ministers and want to thank Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Jim Wieland (Bay City, MI) for sharing the Word with us.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers the past month were Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT); Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL). Each one was accompanied by his wife and in some cases brought additional visitors with them. Their efforts in traveling long distances to serve our small congregation are sincerely appreciated.

Attendance remains good, usually 20 to 25 at each service. Other visitors have been from Fairbury,

Forest and Peoria, IL, Rockville, CT, Philadelphia, PA and Memphis, TN. Visitors are always welcome.

Norman and Sis. Emma Roche (Peoria, IL) are spending two weeks with their new grandson, Jeremy James, born May 28. Congratulations to the new parents, Tim and Sue Roche (Alexandria, VA) Little Jeremy attended church for his first time June 18.

On June 11, on off-Sunday for church, a few of us drove to Gambrill State Park, Maryland, about 50 miles north of Washington to see the Mountain Laurel, a rare, beautiful flower unique to that area, which were in full bloom at that time. The beauty of the flower was breathtaking and made one marvel again at the creative handiwork of God.

Kristina Hirsche, daughter of Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirsche (Naumburg, NY) was married to Timothy Panowicz (Northville, MI) May 27, in New York State. Our congratulations to the new couple who are residing at 8993 Bonham Circle, Manassas, VA 22110.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:30 am. at the Westpark Hotel, on Route 7, one mile west of I-495. For information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476. If you're in the area, vacationing or sightseeing, you're invited and encouraged to join us for worship services and fellowship.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

It is the time of year when the kids are out of school. Congratulations to Jonathan Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) who is a high school graduate this year. We wish him God's blessings as he enters the next stage of his life.

Visiting and ministering to us this month were Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO).

At the annual elections, we filled several positions. Bro. Jeffrey Graf will be helping out in Sunday school. Sis. Kathy Sutter will replace Sis. Dahlys Troxel in Sunday school. Bro. Roger Sauder is a trustee and Sis. Terri Huber has kitchen duties this year. Bro. Seth Sauder will be work-

ing the sound system and Bro. Doug Sauder is our new usher.

We are sorry to hear that Bro. Noah and June Clauss will be moving up north. They will be missed from our fellowship. Again, we wish them God's blessings in their new home.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

We are thankful to our visiting minister, Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

As I type this report, we are having a much-needed rain, but with the rain comes the lightning and the lights went off for just a few seconds, enough time, we had to reset the clocks. Whenever anything like that happens, it brings to mind the speed in which our Saviour will return. Will we all be happy to see Him: Will you? Will I? For we know He will not return to this earth as a Saviour but as a Judge. What is there in your life that is more important than God's Word? For within this Book of Life there is unending comfort and help. Satan would try and make us believe it's a book of rules, of can't have and can't do. But we all know better. It holds everlasting life. Just as a workman looks forward to pay day, so does an overcomer in Christ look forward to His return.

This summer has been very warm with restrictions on watering our lawns. This tells us there must always be laws of some kind in order for all to survive. May God grant us all the gift of a more giving nature and not taking.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott
Kristine Price

. . . There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; who can heal the pain that comes with the passing of our loved ones like Jesus Himself.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldene Martin, Sis. Biserka and John Krstec, Bro. George and Sis. Marie Reardon, and Bro. Richard Seidel and family know this Gethsemane of wanting the cup to pass; but know the prayer of their hearts -- "Thy will and not

mine be done." We extend heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

Bro. Ben Rassi (Sis. Betty) had surgery this month, and we trust the Lord to continue to stay close by them.

We had Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen and some of their family visit our congregation this month. It was a joy to have them share the Word with us.

Sarasota shed many tears this month, one of the occasions was the farewell picnic for Sis. Becky and Bill Sauder and their family, who have moved back to Ohio. We will miss them, but can testify we feel God leading them and we wish for them the blessings of God.

We had some happy notes too. Doug Martin (Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldene Martin) took Donna Klinge (Joseph and Doris Klinge) for his bride this month. Also, there was a singing shower for Bro. Phil Schlatter and Sis. Judy Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) who plan to be married July 9. May the union of these hearts more firmly be united as the years come and go.

Several of our brethren leave this month for a tour of Europe, we ask God to accompany them with safety and His blessed Spirit.

We had three high school graduates in our congregation this month; Tina Minahan (John and Joyce Minahan), Sis. Krista and Sis. Kristine Price (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandra Price).

In closing, Helen Steiner Rice's prayer says it so well for the graduate:

Father as I graduate,
 I pray you'll show me now
 How to use my knowledge wisely
 And find a way somehow
 To make the world I live in
 A little better place
 And make life with it's 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 that 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 everything I do

That knowledge comes from
 learning,
 But wisdom comes from You.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Marcia Bauer - De Anderson

We were thankful to gather together Wednesday evening, May 17, to partake of communion service. We thank Elder Bro. Don Sauder for assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Koch in this important work.

On May 24 we had our semi-annual business meeting. The following brothers were elected for Sunday school teachers: Bros. Dave Kieser, Al Hany, Bill Masters, Ray Bauer, Paul Kieser and Gary Klopfenstein. Our church and Sunday school is growing so much that we are adding more teachers and having 3rd through 8th grades during afternoon service. We are so encouraged when we see a small church grow and add many children to our Sunday school. Our children are so important as they are the future for our church. May the Lord bless these new teachers with the wisdom and knowledge they will need to teach our young ones about our Lord.

Approximately 75 Sunday school students, I.S.U. students, teachers and parents participated in the annual McLean County Walk for Man-kind Saturday, May 20. The walk is 30 kilometers, and 80% goes to Project Concern and a check for 20% is sent to our church. The Sunday school students decide which of our church projects (World Relief, Home for the Handicapped, Leo Children's Home) they want to send it to. Everyone enjoys the day even though they are very weary and have blistering feet at the end of the day. This is the 4th year our church has participated in this worthy cause.

On May 22, little Robert (Robbie) Daniel Steffen came into this world! Welcoming him home were his parents, Bro. Walt and Veronica Steffen, and Benji, Lee and Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Nina Steffen (Fairbury) and Bro. Wally and Sis. Rosella Bucher (Francesville, IN). We wish them the Lord's blessings as they care for this new little one.

We all enjoyed an afternoon of

good Christian fellowship and recreation as we had our Sunday school picnic May 28 at Maxwell Park.

"Seeking the Lord in your youth" was the topic for the week of our Bible Class at Vacation Bible School. It was held June 5 through 9. We thank Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria) for speaking to our high school students and for allowing the Spirit to move throughout the week. Our younger children enjoyed bringing their friends and neighbors for an enjoyable week of learning about Jesus! We had a collection each evening for eye surgery in India. We collected enough money for 25 people to see!

Our graduating seniors this year are Aaron Steffen, Tom Anderson and Ron Hodel. The junior class mothers hosted a senior breakfast for them June 11. We pray that we will always show them how welcome they are to continue to worship with us as they now are leaving Sunday school and taking another step in their education. We also pray that they can take that next step with Christ leading them. We welcome our 8th grade students to Bible Class! They are Craig Kachelmuss, Becky Lockwood and Nathan Masters.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman and children in the unexpected loss of Bro. Dick's father, Phil Gudeman (Peoria). We know they will miss him but will look forward to meeting him again someday. Also, Sis. Kayleen (Bro. Ron) Heiniger's grandmother, Sis. Katherine Martin (Cissna Park) passed away. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kayleen and her family.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

Our congregation appreciated the efforts of our visiting ministers this past month. May God bless Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for their labors of love.

Our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller assembled with us on a Wednesday evening, and after we had short services we endeavored to put in our new Sunday school teachers. Bros. Don

Knobloch and Bill Ringger and Sis. Barb Fehr will replace Bros. Gary Endress and Verle Kieser and Sis. Marilyn Tanner. We sincerely thank the three loved ones who spent a lot of time with our youth, and we pray God will bless them for their deeds of love to all the children. Sunday school teachers have an important obligation and we certainly should all pray for them, so they can be the right light, and can lead our children aright.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

LaRae Dill

May 27 and 28 was an enjoyable weekend for our congregation as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother, Denny Mangers. It was encouraging to hear Denny tell how having Christ in his life has changed as well as strengthened relationships with his wife, Sis. Cheryl, his children and co-workers. We were all challenged to be more trusting and submissive as Christians.

Our elder, Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) was present for the occasion, as well as Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). Other ministers visiting our congregation recently have been Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder and family. Two of Melvin's brothers, Bros. Harry and Charles (both of Cissna Park, IL) passed away during a short period of time. Many nieces and nephews of the Walder family also assemble with our congregation. Our thoughts and prayers have been with all.

We certainly miss Bro. Les, Sis. Patti and Levi Marti who are now assembling with the Cissna Park congregation. Our prayers and blessings go with them.

Our Sunday school students enjoyed Vacation Bible School the week of June 12 - 16. Time, talents and energy extended by brothers and sisters made Bible School a success. Thanks to Sisters Anne Anliker, Kim Walder, Sue Aeschleman, Karen Kaiser, Lorna Clauss and Wilma Simpson; Bros. Brian Waibel, Roger Belsley and Martin Hodel, as well as

several college students who assisted throughout the week.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

It's rush hour traffic, I've just finished shopping, and suddenly I gaze about in wonder. The light is red, but everyone going my way keeps on going -- straight through -- and so have I. Was the light malfunctioning, staying red longer than it should have? It wasn't blinking, but other than that I don't know. I wasn't close enough when I was waiting to know if there was a problem. I'm rather astounded that I so nonchalantly followed the crowd and sailed through that red light, though. Fortunately I passed through the intersection safely, yet I believe there are some warnings in this "close call." First of all, if my speed had not been as fast, I would have had more time to think. Secondly, I needed to think in terms of absolute values. What does a red light mean? It doesn't say "if everyone else goes on ahead, it can't really mean 'stop and don't go'" because it does. Lastly, spiritual damage is easier to sustain though not always so easy to perceive as physical damage. My car and I got through unharmed, but in spiritual close calls, the soul may be emboldened for the next time, believing there to be no danger in running red lights. May the Lord help us to check our speed through life. May we depend only on the absolute values of the Word. May we also become sensitive to any damage to our relationship with Christ, that we immediately ask for His healing and help so that the damage may be slight and mended quickly, and, in the future, such activities, emotions, motivations avoided.

We were blessed by the visits of Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). The Lord alone can reward such humble and willing vessels, filled to overflowing for us.

For the summer we welcome Kim Fehr (Fairbury) and Shelly Lanz (Forrest). They are stretching their horizons as they become nannies for North Shore families. We thank them for their visits with us and pledge them our help and prayers.

We extend our sympathy to Lucille Koehl on the death of her father, Bro.

Sam Hari (Cissna Park). May she know that we would support her in any way possible.

I had never seen such a puny match. In trying to strike it in an ordinary way, I bent its head. Should I have thrown it away? No, I lit it from another match; it gave light enough for several candles. When a person is at his weakest, he needs tender loving care. The potential of giving, of lighting the world has not disappeared. However, one needs extra support and encouragement. May we share the cruse of love with all, especially within our household of faith, knowing that, as with the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17), this oil of love shall not diminish but rather increase. We ourselves can feel "puny" and become renewed through the sharing of His "Light" with one another.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Karol Stock - Mary Knapp

Our Bible Class traveled to Bloomington, IL, for the day June 4 for ACYF where they joined other of our Bible Classes.

Vacation Bible School was held for two weeks, June 5 through 16. Day classes were attended by an average of 80 students and helpers and the evening classes for high school age and young adults met Monday and Friday those two weeks with approximately 46 in attendance. The theme this year was "Jesus Never Fails." Following the closing program, an open house was held in the church basement so the children might display some of the handwork and accomplishments of the two weeks. There were visiting ministers who delivered the messages for the evening classes as follows: Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton), "Occult and Satanism"; Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), "End Times"; Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury) "Rebellious Spirit"; and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), "Sports and Entertainment".

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). We do appreciate these brothers' labors of love.

There were 10 high school graduates this spring from our Bible class.

Sheryl Farney (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gerry), Tammy Hofbauer (Jim and Betty), Jill Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanne), Philip Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan), Tim Walder (Dave and Sue), Abbey Winger (Gordon and Aldine), Dawn Rudin (Gary and Liz), Darla Stock (Bro. Gib and Sis. Kathy), Karen Rinkenberger (Sis. Velma) and David Maul (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan). We would wish these young people God's guidance as they leave the security of home in the next stage of their young lives.

Those on the sick list have been Bro. Herbert Hofer, Sisters Ellen Hofbauer and Cora Scharlach, who were medical patients; and surgical were Bro. Bob Kaufmann and Sis. Martha Brenner.

Larry and Sandy Kupferschmid have a new baby boy, Stephen Michael, to join them and a big sister, Sunita, and big brother, Samuel. Grandparents are Dave and Sis. Margaret (Rankin) and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pinto (Rock Island, IL).

Father's Day was an extra happy day as an engagement was announced. Sis. Leanne Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Gladys, Fairbury) and Bro. Leon Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou, Cissna Park) will be making plans for a most special event in their lives and need to ask for His direction.

Bro. Ralph Knapp has been recently elected to serve on the board at Fairview Haven Home.

Even as we rejoice at the birth of a new life, the Death Angel has again called loved ones home. Sis. Kathryn Martin, age 91, passed away at the Eureka Home. Services were held May 31 at Cissna Park. She leaves three daughters, Sisters Lois Belsley (Bro. Ben, Detroit, MI), Beulah Funk (Bro. Leo, Morton) and Arlene Stock (Bro. Les, Cissna Park); also four sons, Ed (Morton), Bros. Richard (Sarasota, FL), Vernon (East Lynn) and Bill (Morton); also two sisters, Sis. Dina and Cora Pfister (Peoria); and three brothers, George (Lexington, NE), Bros. Art and Levi Pfister (Peoria).

Bro. Charles Walder, age 55, passed away at Hoopeton Hospital. Services were held June 5. He leaves his wife, Sis. Wilma; two sons, Bros. Jim (Rankin) and Daniel (East Lynn); two daughters, Susan and Sis. Judy (East Lynn); five brothers, Elder Bro. Bob (Carlock), Bros. Melvin (Urbana), Don

(Sterling, OH), Les (Hoopeton) and Dale (Rankin); along with two sisters, Sisters Lillian Maibach (Wooster, OH) and Deloris Maibach (Sterling, OH).

Bro. Sam Hari passed away at the Fairview Haven Home at age 100. Services were June 20 at Cissna Park. Surviving are a daughter, Lucille Koehl (Plainfield) and five sons, Bro. Art (Cissna Park), Willis (Watska), Raymond (Roberts), Ervin (Mahomet) and Robert (Benson).

Sis. Kate Young has also lost her brother due to an auto accident. Thomas Slagel (Fairbury), 29, leaves his wife, Tamra, and three small children, his parents and six brothers.

Independence Day will be observed July 4, the anniversary of the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress, July 4, 1776, and is to be commemorated by solemn acts of devotion to God, the One who gave us our free nation.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich

"What joy I feel, what peace is mine, As I my all to thee resign!"
Hymns of Zion #259

We pray that the hearts of John Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) and Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) will be filled with joy and peace as they give their lives to the Lord. How it strengthens our faith to see God working miracles in these latter times.

"Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side.
Gently lead us by the hand,
Pilgrims in a desert land."

M. M. Wells

How thankful we are to be blessed with faithful ministers who, led by the Holy Spirit, feed us with God's precious Word. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jon Schmidgall and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bros. Ed Fritz and Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN). May God continue to bless them for their willingness to feed the Lord's flock.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp were blessed with a daughter, Darcy Kathleen, June 11. We rejoice with their family and pray that she may be a special blessing in their home.

We want to thank all of you who sent cards for our 50th anniversary. We appreciate them all!

In appreciation,
Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Schock

I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, gifts and love during the time I wasn't well.

Sis. Susan Funk

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

Sis. Anna Haas, 86, of Resthaven was relieved May 26 of her patient endurance, and can now enjoy that heavenly rest. "How blissful the rest in that city so fair where, dwelling with Jesus, the soul has no care!" Hymns of Zion #229. Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) was inspired and assisted in the services. Survivors include three daughters, Lenora Leveen (Larry, Alaska), Betty Klaus (John, Japan) and Virginia Cummings (Michael, California); one son, Edwin (Sis. Carolyn, South Elgin); her grandchildren; two sisters living in Germany; also Sis. Margaret Haas (Bro. Robert, Morton), and one brother, Carl Keller (South Elgin). Her family wishes to express heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of love and kindness shared to them at this time of sorrow.

Funeral services and burial for Sis. Melva Banwart Alexander (Azusa, CA, formerly of Elgin) were held here June 7. Her family includes a daughter, Patricia; a son, Michael Alexander (Debbie); one grandson; four brothers and four sisters. Psalms 116:1, "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications." Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) shared the Word and gave comfort.

Sis. Ella and Bro. William Banwart are thankful to god for His mercies extended to their brother, Sam Banwart (Tucson, AZ) who recently passed away. May God's love and comfort be a support to all our loved ones who have been bereaved.

Little Luke Wahl (Bro. Fred and

Sis. Libby) and Sis. Emma Heiniger (Bro. Les) both spent time in the hospital this past month, and we are grateful for restored health.

We thank the Lord for His presence in Word and Spirit as we were richly reminded of His sacrificial blood and suffering. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Nathan in serving this blest sacrament.

We were earnestly entreated to seek the Lord's direction in selecting a brother to be a servant in His vineyard. Believing it is His will, this responsibility became the portion of Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie). We trust they will feel the love and prayers of the congregation as we uphold them before God's throne.

May God bless the ministering brothers and teachers for many efforts spent in sharing the Gospel truths with our youth during Vacation Bible School. These include Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) also visited our congregation and shared rich blessings from the Word. Our sincere thanks to all who labored in our behalf.

We have enjoyed blessed fellowship with Sis. Luann Siebenthal as she spent the past year teaching near our community. May God direct and bless her future as she moves to the Bloomington-Normal area.

With sincere appreciation, we thank Bro. Les and Sis. Carol Schambach for their faithful service in Sunday school. May God bless them richly, and grant much grace and wisdom to Bros. Brad Gudeman and Kevin Kilgus and Sis. Peg Heiniger as they serve in this capacity.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

We have loved ones who have been hospitalized again this month. Our thoughts and prayers go to Sis. Cora Frey (Bro. Henry) and Bro. Lewis Martin (Sis. Arletta). May they feel God's healing hand and may He grant renewed health and strength as He sees best.

Note of Thanks: I wish to express my sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and gifts while I was in the hospital and since I've returned home. May God bless you.

Bro. Harvey Banwart

Note of Thanks: I greatly appreciated everyone's prayers, cards, visits and many deeds of kindness through my accident and recovery. Thank you very much and may God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Gary Huber

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall welcomed Nathan Daniel into their hearts and home May 22. Marla and Doug are glad for a new brother as are grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle are thankful for Gregory William, born May 23. Dan, Nathan, Becky, Doug, Tim and Kary are Gregory's brothers and sisters. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber and Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Bradle (Roanoke).

We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Bro. Marvin) in the recent passing of her sister, Sis. Mildred Aeschleman (Bro. Clarence, Roanoke). What a comfort it is to know there is a hope beyond this earthly life if we have made preparation while here.

We were able to partake of holy communion Saturday evening, May 20. Thankful that Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bob Walder (Congerville) could be with us for this very solemn occasion when we remember our Lord's death and suffering on the cross for the remission of our sins. That same evening, Bro. Vernon Leman made it known to the congregation that he felt it was time to retire from the ministry. We thank Bro. Vernon for giving of himself in spreading the gospel message in His service for over 27 years. May God continue to bless Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola as they serve Him within the congregation.

We have had many visiting brethren this past month -- Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Dan Koch (Tremont)

and Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield). We thank them for coming and sharing the Word of Life with us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

THE INVITATION

Today I received an invitation. Excited, I ripped it open and began to read. "Many invitations were sent, but few will be accepted." How rude, I thought. "May be rejected by friends if you come." That's okay, I thought, wanting badly to go. "You are invited to dine with me today." Today! I can't come today! I have too many things I must do. My schedule is filled for today -- maybe tomorrow. Getting ready to discard the "useless" invitation, I glanced at the bottom line. "Your host, Jesus Christ, hopes you will accept His invitation today."

We are grateful that Bonnie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie) has heeded the "invitation." May God grant His abundant grace.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life" . . . We wish two couples God's blessings as they walk hand in hand down life's pathway. Bro. Nelson Zehr and Sis. Amy Waibel were united in holy matrimony June 11 in Forrest. Their parents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel.

Troy Hale and Annette Bazzell took their wedding vows June 17. Parents of the couple are Bro. Donald and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Jay and Roberta Zimmerman.

June 18 was a blessed day for Mark Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie) and Darwin Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) when they could be added to our congregation. May they continue to grow in their spiritual walk. Their fathers could not have received a better gift than their sons becoming part of the family of God.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Fannie Maurer for the passing away of her daughter, Sis. Lorene Roth (Phoenix, AZ) and to her sister, Sis. Mary Beth Maurer.

Hospital patients this month were

Bros. Carols Meiss and Ben Zehr and Sisters Lydia Wiedman, Ada Hartman and Vi Bachtold. May God extend His healing hand to each one.

June 5 - 9 we held our Vacation Bible School. We had a good participation. May God add the increase to the seeds that were sown.

"The Sunday school is our delight. We love it more and more; We hear the truth, so pure and clear, Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear." . . . The new Sunday school teacher elected is Bro. Quinn Zehr. Bro. Quinn replaces Bro. Dale Banwart. We pray that Bro. Quinn will feel the Lord's guidance and His grace as he accepts the new responsibility. We thank Bro. Dale for his service over the past years. May God be his rich rewarder.

As we think of the Fourth of July, when America gained its independence, we also are reminded when we individually gained our liberty. May each one of us be thankful for our freedoms.

We thank Elder Bros. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) for their willingness to serve among us. We also appreciate Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Gary Brown (Forrest) for ministering the Word of the Lord. May God always grant them grace to speak the truth.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

"A Christian now baptized, to me much grace is given . . ."

Baptismal Hymn,
 Zion's Harp #43

We shared a special weekend May 27 and 28, as Kathy Schneider (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita) and Troy Lanz (Kathleen) brought their testimonies before the church and were baptized. We want to thank Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) as well as ministering Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), John Hartman and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury) for coming to share in this blessed event.

The week of June 5 - 9, Vacation Bible School was held every evening.

Special thanks to ministering Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Walt Herrmann (Princeville), Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) for making the effort to drive the necessary miles to teach the Bible class.

We rejoice with Bro. Nelson Zehr (Fairbury) and Sis. Amy Waibel as they were united in holy matrimony June 11. We enjoyed having ministering Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and John Hartman (Fairbury) here with us for this special occasion.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed when ministering Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Earl Kilgus and Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) spent different times in Forrest. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

Three homes were blessed with bundles of joy. Jacob William joined the family of Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Steidinger. He joins Daniel, Laura and Joshua. Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson and children, Nathan, Rachel and Wendy, welcome Caleb Paul. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson (Fairbury) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker. Jodi Mae is the new daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill Wenger. Siblings are Ryan and Jenny. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vi Bachtold and Sis. Nathalia Wenger. May each of these couples look to God for help in raising their families.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carrie Roth, Bro. Les Roth, Sis. Leona Leman, Barb Kilgus and Leonard Roth in the passing of their daughter-in-law and sister-in-law. Also our sympathy goes out to Bro. Leland Kuntz in the passing of his sister. May God comfort the hearts of each one.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as two more souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish Micki Zimmerman (Bro. Rod) and Harry Johnson (Sis. Matilda) the grace of God as they take this most important step in life.

We want to say a big thank you for the overflowing love shown toward us during and after Robby's spine (scoliosis) surgery! The "love gifts" of cute and thoughtful cards and letters, prayers, visits, food and thoughts of us, helped keep our spirits up and

manage each day! My mother made the comment how so many people are praying for Robby to be a good boy which he has been and it has helped us in his care! He is healing satisfactorily, and we will be so happy and thankful when he is out of the torso-type cast!

Forever grateful
from your least ones,
The Robert Mueller family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Melissa and Benji Leman welcome home their new sister, Olivia Rose. Olivia was born June 2 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Janey Leman. Her grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Ann Leman and Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp.

Darin and Jennifer Martin welcome their new son, Michael Scott. Michael was born June 7 and his proud grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Carol Martin and Bob and Mary Beth Knott.

The efforts of the Bible School teachers were much appreciated by those of us with young children as they certainly enjoyed that week of Bible School. Also, our appreciation is extended to the ministers who spoke with the older students and adults on three of those evenings. The Bros. were Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We rejoice with our new brothers and sister as we shared in their testimonies and baptisms. May God always be with Sis. Shelly and Bro. Ben Rokey and Bro. Mike Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla) and Bro. Joe Wiegand (Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty). Our thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for sharing with us and also to Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

It warmed our hearts to hear the announcement of marriage of Sis. Lisa Grimm (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna) to Bro. Brian Rieke (Rick and Fonda Rieke). God does promise His blessing if we trust Him completely as these two dear ones have done. A September wedding has been planned. May God bless them as they continue in His ways.

Sis. Norma Bauman (Bro. Louis)

wishes to express her thanks for the cards, flowers and food she received during and after her hospital stay. May God bless each for their deeds of kindness.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Hebrews 12:2

The above text was used as our theme during Vacation Bible School, held during June 12-16. Specifically, "Looking Unto Jesus" was the phrase that all curriculum and teaching centered around. Trusting it was God's will, classes were held during the evening for the first time; and the overall program was expanded to include adults.

The week was a special time of spiritual enrichment and family blessing. As children gathered for their classes, adults met in the sanctuary to hear guest speakers talk on topics associated with "Looking Unto Jesus." Many of our beloved friends of the truth gathered with us. Also, our high school students sat in on the sessions and we rejoiced that a high percentage were able to attend for five nights in a row.

It was a time of great blessing. Brethren commented how they looked forward each day to the evening meetings. Sub-topics under the general theme were given by the following brothers: Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), "Our Guide in Decision-Making"; Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), "Exercising God's Divine Love"; Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), "Christ's Solution to Peer Pressure and Stress"; Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), "The Head of the Church"; and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), "Victory for Time and Eternity." The Lord was mighty among us. Our hearts were stirred to overflowing as we heard God-centered solutions to life's uphill struggles in walking the narrow way -- and we were uplifted by the glorious hope of heaven for the true and faithful.

In connection with "Looking Unto Jesus," our theme song for the entire week was "Look To The Lamb Of

God" which we sang to conclude each evening's session:

"If you from sin are longing to be free,
Look to the Lamb of God;
He to redeem you died on Calvary,
Look to the Lamb of God;
For He alone is able to save you,
Look to the Lamb of God."

On June 18, Bro. Eric Zehr, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr, and Sis. Mindy Meiss, daughter of Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss were united in marriage. Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton), an uncle of the bride, was here to help Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger in the marriage ceremony.

Jay Wettstein, 15, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein, was hospitalized due to burn injuries he had received. He was scheduled to undergo surgery June 19.

Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) was a recent visiting minister.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Vacation Bible School was held June 5-9 and all ages were blessed by this week of intensive Bible study and worship. The theme for the adults was "Duties of a Christian." We wish to thank all of the visiting ministers that came and presented messages to us that week. They were Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), who spoke on Christian Duties as a Citizen; Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) on Christian Duties as a Parent and Grandparent; Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) on Christian Duties as an Employer and Employee; Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) on Christian Duties as a Brother or Sister; and Bro. Glen Dill (Tremont) on Christian Duties as a Neighbor in Our Community. These messages furnished much food for thought and our prayer is that we can give feet to what we have heard and be not only hearers but also doers of the Word.

Since this is Independence Day month, it would be appropriate to share some of the points Bro. Laubscher made on the Duties of Christians as Citizens of our Great Country. One of our duties is to serve in the armed forces. This is an honorable position if done in the glory and grace

of God. He reminded us that it was a soldier of whom Jesus said, "... I have not found so great faith, no not is Israel." Luke 7:9. It is also our Christian duty to pay taxes. Romans 13:7 tells us "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due: custom to whom custom . . ." Jesus paid taxes to the Roman government which was one of the most corrupt that has existed. Bro. Laubscher also had several points under the Moral Duties of a Christian to our Country. He said probably our most important duty is to pray that God will raise up persons in leadership positions who have Godly, Christian, moral and ethical values. he said it is also our duty to confess the sins of our people and nation as Daniel did, and to ask God's forgiveness. It is also our duty to vote and to obey the authorities and laws of the land. As we celebrate Independence Day, let us be especially thankful for the privileges and freedoms we enjoy in the United States of America!

We were again reminded of the fleetingness and fragility of life as we had three dear souls pass into all eternity this month. Oliver Murdock's funeral was held May 25. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Viola; his daughters, Charlene Finch and Deane Cummings; and his grandchildren. Sis. Ida Rapp's funeral was held June 10. May the Spirit comfort her sisters, Sis. Sara, Leah Smallenberger and Kella Kock; and her nieces and nephews and all who will miss her. John Barth's funeral was held June 12. May God's arm of love be around his wife, Verna; his sons, Robert and James; his daughter, Jane Jenkins; his brothers, Melvin, Richard and Benjamin; his sisters, Marietta Kauffmann and Sis. Darlene Kaeb; and his grandchildren.

We rejoice with great-grandparents, Bro. Edward and Sis. Dorothy Belsley of our congregation in the birth of Joshua Downs. He was born April 6 and his parents are Charles and Judy Zeigler Downs (Morton). His grandparents are Ralph and Karen Zeigler (Morton) and LaVonne Downes (Peoria); his great-grandmother is Norma Zeigler (Normal) and great-great-grandmothers are Violet Hall (Charleston) and Margaret Foote (Detroit, MI).

Sis. Rachel Bauman wishes to

thank everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers and prayers extended to her during her hospital stay and recovery.

We wish to extend heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). The fellowship is very sweet as these brothers and their families come to visit and minister to us.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Joe and Jackie Herman

DOING DEEDS, FILLING NEEDS

Life would surely be sublime
 If everyone would take the time
 To do a thoughtful deed,
 Time to lend a listening ear,
 To offer comfort, or send cheer
 To someone who's in need . . .
 And every burden you make
 lighter,
 Every minute you make brighter,
 Will make you happy, too,
 Because good deeds are acts of love,
 Beautiful reflections of
 Our Father who dwells high above
 And fondly blesses you!

Alice Joyce Davidson

Our prayers are always with those who have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Joyce Waibel, Fred Aeschleman, Bro. Art Pfister and Bro. Howard Musselman.

We wish to thank Bros. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us.

Congratulations to Tim and Sue Rocke on their first child, Jeremy James, born May 28. May God bless this new family. Grandparents are John and Doris Steinhauer (Hillsdale, IL) and Norman and Sis. Emma Rocke.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Louise Sauder. We pray that they can feel the comfort of our Lord in the loss of their loved one.

Note of Thanks: I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital. God bless each one.

Sis. Ann Schneider

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our 1989 Vacation Bible School a success. We all enjoyed the two weeks of learning just how wonderful the love of Jesus really is. All of the children did a terrific job at the program. May God bless each of you for your efforts in supporting Vacation Bible School.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

"Preach the work; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 3:2. Special thanks again to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL). May God bless them richly.

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

Luke 15:7

Our congregation witnessed the testimony of faith of three converts May 20 as they told of how the Lord had worked in their lives. We rejoiced with them as they were baptized May 21, and became dear children of God. We welcome three new sisters into the brotherhood. They are Sis. LuAnn, Sis. Linda and Sis. Laura Siebenthal. Thankful parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal. May they walk life's pathway in God's love trusting, praying and seeking His will in their lives.

On May 24, Wednesday evening, two brothers were given new teaching duties in Sunday school. They are Bro. Roger Herrmann and Bro. Harold Steiner. May they depend upon God to speak what which be pleasing to Him.

On June 11, the Sunday school picnic was held at Jubilee Park. A potluck meal was enjoyed by all and the students encouraged those attending with their Sunday school songs.

On May 21 a senior breakfast was held at the fellowship hall in honor of the high school graduates. They are

Heidi Christ, Lisa Eberle, Jill Elsasser, Sis. Julie Gehrig, Lori Martin, Debbie Stahl, Tricia Steiner, Sis. Kathy Streitmatter, Heather Wieland, Mike Bender and Eric Hoover. "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou include thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yes, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding, if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous; He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of His saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path." Proverbs 2:1, 9

Hospital patients were Bro. John Elsasser, Bro. Robert Herrmann, Sis. Emily Stoller, Sis. Diane Streitmatter, Bro. Don Streitmatter, Sis. Mary Jane Streitmatter and Andrew Streitmatter. May they each continue to feel the healing touch of the Master's hand.

Our congregation expresses sincere sympathy to Bro. Al Hartzler in the death of his father, Bro. Ben Hartzler (Rittman, OH). "When at last our sighs are counted, ev'ry barrier is surmounted, And the curtain rends in twain. Who is able then to measure, What a peace, and joy, and treasure, in that kingdom we shall gain." (The Fruit of Sorrow)

Note: Collection for Silver Lining is July. Anyone who has not paid can pay the reporter. Also any changes of address please give to reporter.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Sandy Leman - Patsy Kaeb

There have been several new additions born in the past month and we rejoice with their families.

Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen Stoller (Latty, OH) were blessed with a baby girl. Danielle Nicole was born May 6. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna Roth and Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty, OH).

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fischer

and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser were blessed as grandparents once again as little Bethany Lynn was born May 15 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer (Leo, IN).

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer were blessed with a baby boy. Jesse Michael was born May 19. Jesse has two brothers, Luke and Jacob, and one sister, Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Fischer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter (Cissna Park).

Gregory William Bradle was born May 23 to Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle (Eureka). Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Anne Bradle and Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka).

Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman are rejoicing with the arrival of their little daughter, Bethany Clare, born May 26. Bethany has two big sisters, Marjorie and Susie, to give her lots of love. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville).

And then, Jesse and Ben Martin were blessed with a new baby sister to love. Cassandra Courtney was born May 30 to Glen and Carol Martin. Grandparents are Bro. Orville and Sis. Priscilla Martin and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Schwartz (Bluffton, IN).

The engagement of Bro. Herb Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra) to Sis. Lori Wyss (Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann, Washington) was announced and we wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) visited our congregation and ministered God's Word to us. We thank these brothers and their families for serving us.

Sis. Lydia Schafer, Sis. Elsie Beer and Sis. Jane Schumacher (Bro. Jerry) were hospital patients this month and are recuperating at home for which we are thankful.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

We were privileged to gather on a recent Wednesday evening to hear the brotherhood conference memorandum. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) assisted our Elder Bro.

Dan Koch in this important work.

We spent two blessed evenings hearing testimonies of four dear friends. We wish to extend a warm welcome to our new Bro. Jim Holmes (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis) and Sisters Sara Garman (Steve), Sharon Risinger (Royce) and Ida Bolliger (Larry). Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared in this happy occasion.

A thank you also to our other visiting ministers this month, Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

We rejoice with Bro. Dean Bolliger (Ben and Rose) and Sis. Trudy Sauder (Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy) on the recent announcement of their engagement. A September 10 wedding is planned by this young couple.

We are also happy for Dennis Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene) and Michelle Flarity (Gary and Plondena) on the announcement of their engagement. This young couple's wedding date is set for October 21.

We wish to offer our sympathy to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene Kaeb in the recent death of Sis. Darlene's brother, John Barth (Morton).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Carol Schick

Another month has swiftly come and gone and we, at Washington, have had many joyful occasions for which to be thankful.

June 1 and 2 we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of 5 dear souls who have become children of God. Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura Wagenbach, Sis. Jill Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie), Bro. Chris Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki) and Bro. Pete Monagle (Gary and Sis. Kay) have all publicly declared their desire to serve the Lord. We wish them all God's blessings.

The engagement of Sis. Lori Wyss (Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann) to Bro. Herb Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra, Roanoke) was announced at the end of May. May God be with them as they plan their wedding in the Lord.

The brothers-in-faith led us in singing praises at our final hymn sing until the fall. We always receive a tremendous blessing from praising God with our voices and we thank the young brothers for their efforts.

The following ministers visited Washington and allowed themselves to be used as God's servants; Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Jim Leman (Roanoke), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria). May God be their rewarder and may we all be there to rejoice with them when God says, "Well done my true and faithful servant."

Our annual election results were announced in May and the following positions have been filled; trustee, Bro. Max Pfaffmann; ushers, Bros. Don Endress and Mark Schmidgall; Sunday school teachers, Sisters Barb Banwart and Vicki Bucher.

Vacation Bible School has come and gone all too quickly. Our young people look forward to those times together and before you know it, it's all over. The Bible stories are not new to them but the way that they are presented really hold their interest. We are thankful for the time spent by so many brothers, sisters and friends to make learning God's Word fun for our young people.

Many prayers are being said on behalf of Bro. Rich Drestie and Sis. Sue Ruppert as they both have been in the hospital this past month. May the loving hand of God heal them as He sees fit.

May everyone have a safe and happy summer.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

Proverbs 9:10

Our congregation rejoiced on the weekend of May 20 - 21 as we were refreshed in spirit to hear four young people testify of their repentance and conversion and then we could witness their baptisms on Sunday. They have all found the beginning of wisdom and we are so thankful for them. We welcome Sis. Tracy Salyers (Amos and Elizabeth), Bro. Chris Steffen (John and Sis. Etta), Bro. Tyler Reimschisel (Bro. Richard and Sis.

Elaine), and Bro. Shawn Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni). We want to give a heartfelt thank you to Elder Bro. Don Sauder and his wife, Wilma, for traveling all the way from Roanoke, IL, to share the weekend with us. Also, our thanks and appreciation go to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North) for his time spent with us also.

We enjoyed having Bro. Wayne Lehman and his family with us on a recent Sunday and we thank Bro. Wayne for bringing us the Word of God.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Marlene Steffen (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda) and Bro. Dean VanHorn (Dave and Dorothy). They are planning a fall wedding October 29. It's so encouraging to know that this couple will begin their married life with Christ in the center.

We pray God's blessings on the marriage of Bro. Mark Holocher (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Trina Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) as they were united as one in Christ June 11 at Bluffton North. Many from our congregation shared the day with them. On Saturday afternoon, June 17, many witnessed the vows of Tricia Lough (Don and Carol) and Gary Steffen (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda) at the fellowship hall. We wish much happiness and joy to these couples.

Precious little bundles from heaven add so much joy to a home and four couples in our congregation have experienced this joy recently. First-time parents of little Jacob Wayne are Becky and Wayne Snodgrass. Jacob was born May 23 and also pleased his grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Reinhard (Latty, OH) and Darlene DeVault (Wathena, KS) and Walter Snodgrass, Sr. (Lamont, OK). Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jodi Pfister, Lance and Spencer were happy when Ty Lane joined their family circle May 31. Grandparents are Bro. Arlen and Susan Gerber and Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister. Also experiencing this miracle and joy of a tiny new life are Bro. Stan and Sis. Janice Ringger. Little Jessica Lynn was born May 30 and Anthony is now a "big" brother. Happy grandparents are Sis. Irene Steffen and Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger. Jenny, Ryan, Zach-

ary, Brian and Cassie were thrilled to welcome a new little brother named Daniel Robert. Little Daniel was born June 14 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch. Grandparents of this new little one are Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister and Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch.

We also congratulate grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber on the arrival of their newest grandson, Klayton Wayne Kershner. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jackie (Bluffton North) are Klayton's parents.

Our children once again enjoyed Vacation Bible School and this was evident by the smiles on their faces at the Friday evening program June 9. How it warmed our hearts to hear them sing so enthusiastically and to hear them recite verses and memory work. This was our 28th year of Bible School and there were approximately 470 students. This is not a small undertaking and it takes a lot of organization and cooperation from many in our congregation, and it always turns out to be a rewarding and beautiful two weeks. We hope and pray that these children will just be able to keep the teachings of Jesus in their hearts and when the day of accountability comes to them, they will know in what direction to turn.

Many in our congregation have been hospitalized and many have suffered immense pain. May it comfort these dear ones to know that Christ suffered more than any of us can ever imagine and He understands our physical pain. Our prayers of healing have been with Bro. Roy Gerber (Sis. Helen), Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bro. Melvin), Sis. Irene Steffen, Sis. Mabel Kipfer, Bro. Darryl Gerber (Sis. Jinny), Bro. Glenn Graber (Sis. Evelyn) Sis. Marty Moser, Sis. Nellie Bertsch, Bro. Lewis Gerber, Sis. Earlene Steffen (Bro. Lewis) and Lyle Isch (14-year-old son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny).

Our congregation is looking forward to and preparing for the annual elder brother conference in August and we hope and pray that we can make all who come feel very welcome and "at home." It's not too early to begin praying for this blessed endeavor. Also, we'd like to welcome anyone that would like to attend the Leo Children's Home Annual Auction to spend an extra night in Bluffton

and then travel to the sale the following morning.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lois Drayer

Debbie Aeschliman

Vacation Bible School was held at the Bluffton church from May 30 to June 9. Children from Bluffton and Bluffton North congregations attended, along with children from our community, with a total of 470 children and 85 teachers. The theme of Bible School was "Follow Jesus." The Bible School program was Friday evening, June 9. We listened to the children sing their songs, then watched as the 35 eighth grade graduates received their Bibles.

Each day, before Bible School began, a minister spoke to the children. One morning we heard of the 3-year-old child who was on a walk with his mother. As they were walking, the child saw a flower bud and bent down and picked it. The little boy tried to peel back the outer part of the bud to make a flower, but the bud fell apart and there was no beauty there. The child tearfully looked up at his mother and asked why the flower didn't pop out. He wondered how God could make a flower so pretty. As his mother paused to think of an answer, the little boy exclaimed, "I know, God works from the inside out!" We hope all the teachings that the children learned in Bible School remain in their hearts, so that the bud can someday spring forth and work from the "inside out."

Someone cried, "Where must the seed be sown,
To bring the most fruit when it is grown?"
The Master heard as He said and smiled.
"Go plant it for me in the heart of a child."

We always enjoy Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and his family visiting us. Bro. Ben was with us June 4 and we thank them for coming.

Mark and Jill Middough are the parents of Jacob Brian, born May 6. Jacob's maternal grandparents are Bro. Linus and Sis. Nancy Gerber and his big sister is Megan. Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Fischer are the

parents of Lyla Joanna, born May 25. Lyla is welcomed home by two brothers, Seth and Caleb; a sister, Lydia; and a foster brother, Kenny. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Fischer (Champaign, IL). Klayton Wayne was born June 12 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Jackie Kershner. He has a big sister, Kyann, and two brothers, Kellan and Kelby, to welcome him, along with grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber (Bluffton) and Robert and Barbara Kershner. Congratulations to all three families with their new additions and we wish them God's blessings.

Our warm congratulations are extended to two newly engaged couples. Sis. Joan Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Keith Gudeman (Sis. Ruth, Detroit, MI and Frank, CA) are planning an August 13 wedding. Bro. Dean Van Horn (Dave and Dorothy) and Sis. Marlene Steffen (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda, Bluffton) are planning an October 29 wedding.

Michelle Meyer (Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn) and Kirkland Johnson (James Johnson and Sue Belbutoske) were united in marriage May 20. May they have a happy married life together. Sis. Trina Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Mark Holocher (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam, Bluffton) were married August 13. May God richly bless them.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Haab in the loss of his brother, Bro. Oliver Haab (Sis. Emma, Milford).

Sis. Ida Gerber (Bro. Ray) and Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) were hospital patients this past month. We pray that God will watch over them.

As we drive to church on Sunday mornings, we see progress on the nursing/retirement home that is being built east of the Bluffton North church. Chosen to be the new administrator of the home was Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber (Bluffton).

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

Two families are enjoying precious additions, baby boys!

David and Sherri Overmyer now have two boys, Levi David, who was

born April 21, and Andrew Dustin, Levi's big brother. Grandparents are Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol Overmyer and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Firkins (Wolcott).

Adam John was born June 15 to Joe and Sis. Kathy Lee. Aaron, Hannah and Nathan also welcome Adam home as their little brother. James and Colleen Lee (Fort Wayne, IN) and Joyce and David Stanton (Demotte, IN) are the grandparents.

We always appreciate visitors and want to thank Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) for their service to us this past month.

Weddings are a time of rejoicing and we rejoice with Bro. Brad Neihouser (Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Barb Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette) as they were united in marriage on Father's Day, June 18. The love for God first and then each other has been evident in their lives. May God continue to bless them and all who seek His kingdom and His righteousness.

Nicholas Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne) and Bro. Edison Gutwein have been hospitalized. Our prayers are with them.

I would like to humbly say a big thank you to my wonderful family and all the dear relatives and friends that remembered me on my birthday, with such beautiful cards, a dinner and expressions of love. All was truly appreciated and may God bless you, one and all.

Humbly,
Minerva B. Wuethrich

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Miriam Gudeman - Kathy Freed

To our dear friends, Dale Lehman (son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley, South Bend) and Cathy Jones (daughter of Hugh and Darlene Jones, Jonestown, OH), we want to extend our congratulations and best wishes on their engagement. They are planning an October 14 wedding. We wish them God's blessings and are very happy to have them as a part of our congregation. May they choose to take that step that will make them a part of our family, also the family of God!

On June 3, we met for our annual

church cleaning day. A warm appreciation goes to all those who gave of themselves so willingly!

For those, also, who give of themselves so willingly in sharing God's Word with us, we want to extend a special thanks. This month Bro. John Bollier (Leo) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) came to share and fellowship. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength . . ."

Psalms 8:2

During Vacation Bible School, June 12 through 16, our youth journeyed on a "Son-Seeker Safari," where through the Word they sought to learn more about the Son (Jesus), and in song, they encouraged others to come and join them in their search. On Friday, the week ended in a special evening program filled with many blessings as all of God's children, both young and young-at-heart, sang praises. An invitation was sent out to all to keep seeking the Son and follow His ways. For all of us, it is a lifetime adventure!

". . . seek and ye shall find . . ."
Matthew 7:7

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Mary Lynn Massner

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

Our theme for Vacation Bible School was "Three Steps Toward Heaven." We enjoyed the messages of Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) on "Faith," Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) on "Hope," and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) on "Charity." Our young Sunday school children studied people in the Old Testament and learned about obeying their parents. Our third through sixth graders learned the Beatitudes. In their program they shared what they learned with the congregation. What a blessing to see our children learning God's Word!

Our graduates for 1989 were

Michele Gudeman, Celise Frank, Sis. Janelle Nuest and Lenny Nuest. We wish these young people the very best in their future, and pray the Lord will direct their paths.

Our congregation is rejoicing that our friend, Kim Herbert, has found the grace to repent, and we truly wish her the Lord's guidance and blessings.

We also give thanks for the quick recovery our dear little Chris Frank had after undergoing open heart surgery. Chris is the son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla, and he has often been in our prayers the past few weeks.

We extend a special thank you to our other visiting ministers this month, Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

INDIANA, LEO
Doug Kellenberger

Dead to sin, law and its dominion,
Under grace I am now free;
In the new life of the Spirit,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

Hymns of Zion #223

This verse was recently fulfilled by four newly baptized converts; some more precious souls who by faith, found freedom from sin and dominion to walk with Christ in the new life of His Spirit.

Freedom from sin, law and its dominion has never been achieved by the works of any human being except Jesus Christ, and therefore it's only from Him that we can get it.

It is a miracle and a privilege to be able to obtain this freedom. We thank the Lord for it. Romans 6:8 and Colossians 2:9-12 explain how by truly believing in Christ, we receive all that He is, has done, and will do. Believing in Christ includes us into His death, His resurrection, His intercession, His power, and His eternal life. Through faith we are complete in Him.

So by faith these four souls died with Christ. And by faith they were raised with Him also. That all took place inwardly. Then in the past two Sundays, they showed it outwardly by water baptism.

Our newly added brother and sisters are Dennis Klopfenstein (son

of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pearl), Rachael Gehring (daughter of Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy), Sandy Stoller (daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Patsy) and Rachael Kellenberger (daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue).

"Out of the mouth of these babes," we heard truth. One testimony was, "Where there is fear, there is no faith." When another convert was asked where the Shepherd could be found, she replied, "With the sheep."

At this special time, I especially noticed all the sheep doing their part as one body; working together, praying, rejoicing, encouraging, walking up through the line -- one by one -- lending support. As a father of one of the converts, I was humbled by it.

Eternal life and what's really important comes into focus at times like this. This is the perspective that David must have obtained when he went into the sanctuary of God. Psalms 73:17

We thank our Elder Bro. David Bertsch for his sincere effort of kindness toward the converts. We also thank Elder Bros. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) for making the sacrifice to come and help in this work. The Lord's gifts in them were edifying to the church. Bro. Bud summed up his advice for the ongoing welfare of the converts by quoting Proverbs 3:5 and 6. He said, "If you do this, all will be well."

Each year at Leo, extra effort is put forth to provide a two week Vacation Bible School. This year's session was a success. The volunteer teachers and helpers are to be commended for their service. And we thank Sis. Elaine Norr for coordinating this effort. Our children all love it! The final program, as always, was very good.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH).

INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Sue Schieler

Summertime always brings pleasant surprises on Sunday mornings when many vacationers visit us, and among them are many ministering brothers. Visiting us recently have been Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and

Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North).

We just concluded our VBS week, the theme of which was "Have you any room for Jesus?" -- in our lives, our homes, in school and business, and in our future. We thank Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for the efforts they made to come teach us last week.

We are sad to lose our dear Bro. Oliver Haab, as God called him home. His dear wife, Sis. Emma, and son, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Carol, Matt and Kelly) and daughter, Sis. Mary Ann Gutwein (Bro. Glen, Sis. Glenda and Beth, Francesville) have our love and sympathy, as also do his brothers and sisters, Sis. Laura Kammerer, Sis. Priscilla Haab, Bro. Jesse, Bro. Roy (Bluffton) and Harley (New Paris).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Aldine Reimschisel and Bro. Fred Beer. We are happy they are home and recuperating.

We rejoice that Bob and Sue Bowerman have turned to the Lord in repentance, and we wish them God's abiding nearness as they begin this new life in Him.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

"What's the bottom line?" Have you heard that question lately? We recognize it as a very common sentence in our speech patterns of today. It's always intriguing to look back in the centuries of history to see what the minds of men were thinking. Francis Bacon, who lived in the 1500's, communicated "the bottom line" as this:

-- It's not what men eat, but what they digest that makes them strong

-- Not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich;

-- Not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned;

-- Not what we preach or pray, but what we practice and believe that makes us Christians.

We rejoice that Greg Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) expressed that he has made restitution with God and man and we are looking forward to witnessing his baptism August 6.

The theme for our annual Vaca-

tion Bible School was "Overcoming Peer Pressure." Our five guest ministers were Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We heard some most timely messages that almost require a second listening to fully absorb them.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

"God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

I John 5:11, 12

We experienced a special weekend, June 17, as Natalie Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) brought us a testimony of her faith in God and His Son and was baptized June 18. We joyfully welcome her as a new sister-in-faith. With us for that weekend were Elder Bros. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford) and ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO).

Our Sunday school children and teachers are eagerly anticipating Vacation Bible School which begins June 19 for one week. Our theme verse is "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16. It is certainly a blessing to live in a country where we can freely gather together with our little ones at church to share the love of God.

Bro. John Schuch is now at the Bremen Healthcare Center, Bremen, IN 46506. We miss fellowshiping with him at church. Bro. John has quietly and diligently given many hours over the years to the care of our church building. We thank him and pray that he may feel the Lord's presence near him as he settles into his new home.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Karl Westfall (Francesville), May 21, and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), May 28. We thank these brothers for coming.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Beth Heinold - Angie Heinold

Our congregation has been blessed by experiencing the joy of the baptism of Bro. Rod Huber, Bro. Brett Huber and Bro. Brandon Moser. These three souls have made a covenant with the Lord to surrender their lives to Him.

Congratulations to our graduates, Mike Zeltwanger, Debra Bucher, Stacy Miller, Karen Susdorf and Joe Kimmerer. May the Lord guide them as they make this step into their future.

As we commemorate Father's Day, let us remember to be thankful for our fathers who have taught us to put our faith and trust in the Lord. May the Lord richly bless them for their Christian examples.

Our congregation was uplifted by the singing group "Joyful Life." We are also thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Glen Price (Sarasota, FL), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We appreciate these brothers sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

"... 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 rejoice with Bob Radcliffe (Irene) and Kevin Hofstetter (Bro. Ted) as they have answered the Lord's call to repentance. May God supply their every need and may they be submissive to His will.

Our congregation has been blessed with two precious baby girls. Daveana Marie brought much joy to the hearts and home of Dave and Merri Schieler when she arrived May 26. Big brothers, Alex and Clinton, welcome a baby sister. Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Schieler and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Armstrong. Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth Lehman became happy, first-time parents June 12 with the birth of Kimberly Suzanne. Elder Bro. John

and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman are Kimberly's grandparents. May God grant patience, guidance and love to all parents in this great responsibility of raising precious children He has given us.

Our Vacation Bible School was held here the week of June 5 - 9. We were thankful for a good attendance from both Remington and Wolcott congregations. We pray the Lord will bless each effort put forth so the children could learn more about Jesus. The Bible class and congregation were also blessed by the spiritual teachings of the visiting ministers.

We thank Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) for ministering unto us. We appreciate his love and willingness to serve us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz - Deyona Massner

Our annual Sunday School election was held June 8. Bro. Leroy Wulf replaced Bro. Gary Schulz and Sis. Deyona Massner replaced Sis. Carolyn Wulf. May God grant them each sufficient grace to fulfill their duties.

DO WHAT YOU CAN

The smallest good deed is better by far
 Than the grandest good intention.
 We'll never get much accomplished in life
 If our good deeds are only just mentioned.

If we always intend to visit the sick
 And don't ever put it in action,
 What we plan to do won't help matters much,
 And surely won't bring satisfaction.

So let's do what we can and give what we can
 To help our less fortunate neighbor.
 And we can be sure that we will receive
 A very great price for our labor.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

It is a blessed holy time when we can gather together for the reading of the memorandum and to partake of holy communion but the blessings

increase when, along with this, we can also hear the testimony and witness the baptism of a dear soul. We rejoice with our new brother-in-the-Lord, Dan Lehman.

Heavenward now take your journey
 Let you course in faith be trod
 Face the crafty adversary
 Boldly as a man of God.
 Go with courage to the conflict
 As a sanctified to be
 And retaining still your treasure
 Win a crown of Victory.

Zion's Harp #52

Our thanks to Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with these duties.

Since 1931, this small town of Elgin has celebrated 14 "homecoming weekends." It is a blessing to see so many past "Elginites" return home for this special time, but nothing to be compared to the homecoming we look forward to as God's children. A special thanks to Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) for coming "home" and again sharing God's Word with us.

Our special thanks also to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) for his visit and timely teachings and exhortations during Vacation Bible School.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

"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, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Deuteronomy 5:16

We have just remembered our mothers and fathers by special days set aside by our nation. But we, as God's children, are commanded to honour our parents always. Let's be thankful each day for our parents; for their part in teaching us of God and may our lives give them honour each day by our words, actions and attitude.

Our thanks to the Lamar, MO, congregation for providing a wonderful weekend, May 6 & 7, for our Sunday school children. We know a lot of time and hard work was put in this weekend for the Kansas ACYF.

Friday evening, June 9, we had our Vacation Bible School program. It was a climactic end to a full week of singing and learning for the children as well as the teachers. I'm not sure who enjoyed the week more. We think we had a successful week when the children make comments about wanting the same teachers again. We are thankful to Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) for helping us with our oldest class.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS). May God bless them for being willing to be His spokesmen to us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

"A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear."
 Acts 7:37

Our congregation prayerfully supports Bro. Trent Meiss as he submits to God's directing him into the ministry. Bro. Joe Gerst welcomes him to the pulpit having served alone since he was put into the ministry in 1978.

We are thankful for the many ministering brothers who have travelled to support our congregation over the years. Those assembling with us this month include Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL).

While walking near sunset, I noticed the pale moon becoming brighter as the sky darkened. May we remember daily that, like the moon, our only glory is merely a reflection of the Son (sun), and that as the world of sin darkens around us, our light should shine brighter.

"The will of God will not lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

Author Unknown

IOWA, LESTER
Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch
 This past weekend the Lester Sunday school Bible class had the

privilege of being host to the Bible classes from Morris, Winthrop and Minneapolis, MN, and West Bend, IA. It was indeed a blessed weekend as many beautiful teachings were laid to our hearts. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) were here to share their love with the students as well as the entire congregation.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May we continue to remember the ministering brethren in our prayers.

God has blest the home of Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce Moser with a new baby son. Benji Louis was born May 31. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith Knobloch and paternal grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger. May this family ever feel God's nearness as they rear their precious children.

Bro. Paul Leuthold was a surgical patient and Sis. Linda Moser (Jim) remains hospitalized. Our prayers are often with our many loved ones as they are hospitalized and endure much pain and anguish. God knows what is best for all of us and He is always ready and willing to lift our burdens and cares.

IN THE STILLNESS

In the chaos and the turmoil
Of life's very busy way
Will you pause for just a moment
There with God to kneel and pray
In the stillness and the silence
You will feel His presence near
With the atmosphere so quiet
Words of Christ come to your ear
There you'll find a sacred haven
Where your weary soul shall rest
As the love of God surrounds you
Till you'll know that you are blest
He will understand your longings
Fill your heart with hope anew
In that precious, quiet place
Where God can speak to you.

Audry McDaniel

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Gladys Vierling and Bro. Herb Kupferschmid in the passing of

their brother-in-law, Charles Drasil. May the loved ones feel God's presence in their hour of need.

Sean and Valerie Gray are happy first-time parents to Tyler Ryan. Little Tyler's birth has made Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner first-time grandparents. May we once again think of the importance of these little precious gems and strive to bring them up in the way of the Lord.

We held our annual Sunday school election in May. Our outgoing brothers are Bros. Dan Anliker, Don Schmidgall and Ed Stoller. They are being replaced by Bros. Wayne Gerst, Ron Schmidgall and Roger Schulz. Our outgoing sisters are Sis. Janet Gerst and Sis. Kathy Wyss. They are being replaced by Sis. Jan Stoeker and Sis. Heidi Wagenbach. It was hard for me to realize what a responsibility it is to teach the children until I became a teacher last year. May each and every one utter a prayer for the Sunday school teachers that they may fulfill their responsibilities according to the precious Word of God.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. Among them have been Bros. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Paul Eisenmann and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God richly provide for them as they willingly labor in His service.

Thought: I recently came across a placemat that I had brought home from a restaurant sometime ago. I must have saved it because I felt this little statement that was in the corner pertained so much to my everyday walk of life. It says: "O, Lord, help my words to be gracious and tender today, for tomorrow I may have to eat them." (Clinton Lewis, St. Louis, MO). How true it is. We should always have a tender word that when the day is done, we can be clear from unnecessary utterances.

IOWA, PULASKI

**Teresa Schock
Ginny Wuthrich**

Our congregation is pleased to report two births in the last month. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein welcomed little Nathan Robert May 20. Nathan is their first child. Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein have a bundle of joy at their home also,

Matthew David, was born June 3 and is welcomed home by Jacki, Bonni and Jodi. We wish them all many pleasant times and blessings together.

Kristy Wuthrich, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich, was married May 20 to Curt Klyn. Kristy and Curt are making their home in Grimes, IA. We wish them many rich blessings in their walk of life together.

On Friday evening, June 16, our congregation gathered at a local park for our annual Sunday school picnic. The weather was beautiful and as usual the children had an enjoyable time. We should be thankful the children can have a good time fellowshiping with other children with the same upbringing.

I want to thank each and every one for your prayers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital at Iowa City and since returning home, it was all appreciated very much. May God richly bless you for your kindness.

Bro. Richard Teubel

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was in our midst the weekend of May 20 and assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr in serving holy communion. What a blessing when we can partake of this special remembrance of His shed blood and broken body. Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) served us with God's Word May 28. We thank these brothers for lending themselves in our behalf.

June 6 we held elections for our Sunday school teachers. We want to wish those elected a special portion of God's grace as they instruct our youth. Bros. Mike Wirtz (Sis. Lila), Ken Dahlhauser (Sis. Ellen), Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene), Bill Zaugg (Connie) and Sis. Sandy Schmidt and Teresa Bruellman (Bro. Larry) were asked to take these duties. We wish to thank Bros. Bob Fehr and Dave Bruellman and Sis. Carol Gress and Ellen Dahlhauser for fulfilling their terms.

Our prayers and thoughts have been with Ron and Carolyn Banwart as their infant son, Alex, has been ill. We trust an all-knowing God will provide what is best. We are thankful Shane Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) and Randal Metzger (Bro.

Lel and Sis. Kathy) are able, after an accident and illness, to assemble with us. It is always a blessing when we can see our youth in good health again.

Craig and Tina Banwart welcomed their first child, Chelsea Marie, June 4. Grandparents are Bro. Vic and Sis. Marilyn Banwart and Lanny and Charlene Miller.

Cierra Dawn is the new arrival in the home of Eric and Diana Mogler, Amy and Brea. Her grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Lilly Mogler and the Charles Harmons (Algona). May God bless these homes as they welcome these precious babies.

On June 17, Brent Metzger (Bro. Duane and the late Sis. Elizabeth) and Tammy Hurn (Don and Judy, Algona) were united in marriage at our fellowship center with a reception following. Susan Grimm (Arlo and Marilyn) and Brad Coulon (Peg Coulon, Algona and Don Coulon, Spirit Lake) are planning a June 30 wedding. We wish both couples God's blessings in their lives.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

"I can understand some of the Bible now, but (Jesus' teaching) about forgiveness - that's difficult!" A woman studying the Bible in one of Sis. Kathy Sauder's monthly Bible classes for the parents of English school students recently confessed her thoughts about forgiveness. The Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of men, woman and children around the world, causing them to ponder the Word of God and search their hearts. "The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) It's a joy to tell others about Christ's sacrificial atonement for our many sins and His divine power that helps us overcome.

Sis. Reiko Furuya's father had surgery in June, and Sis. Eiko Nozawa's father has been in and out of the hospital a number of times. We pray that the Lord will heal and strengthen physically and spiritually.

Marlise Streitmatter from Nashville, TN (Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce, Princeville, IL) worshipped with us one weekend. She's been teaching

English here in Japan for several months and plans to return to the United States in July. Marlise lives in the Nagoya area, about a four hour train ride from Shioda.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

"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

Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathy Inoue and their three girls, Rebekah, Heidi and Tami, have experienced this direction in their lives recently. God has continually opened doors in an amazing way to make known His will for them to move to the United States. We rejoice with them at God's clear direction, and also with the Bloomington, IL, congregation that they will become a special part of. However, we will miss their fellowship and the way they shared their home and lives in the love of the Lord.

An evening meal was enjoyed together recently with Goro, Stella and their small son as they returned to Tokyo for a short visit. Stella worshipped with us for about a year before she and her husband returned to her homeland, Finland, three years ago.

Last Sunday, as we walked into church, we noticed a new person sitting beside one of our sisters. When we saw her face as she turned around to slightly bow a "good morning" to us, our overwhelming amazement almost kept us from thanking the Lord. It was a young neighborhood housewife whom many of us have been praying for for four years. Although she has attended our monthly ladies' meetings and Bible studies, she shared that her child has been struggling with the concept of death and its finality. Knowing that she herself had no reassuring answer to give is what prompted her to come to hear the Word of God. May the power of the Spirit and the Lord work in her heart.

KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff Baumgartner and Sis. Kim Meyer as their engagement was announced June 11. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer (all of Bern) are their parents. A July wedding is being planned.

This past month we had two hospital patients; Bro. Andy Locher and Bro. Don Menold. Both are now back home.

Bro. Emil Strahm wishes to thank all those who remembered him with cards, visits and prayers at the time of his illness.

Reminder: July is the month for Bern Silver Lining dues of \$7.00.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Holy communion was partaken by the Gridley-Lamont congregation. Elder brothers who lent themselves in bringing to our remembrance Christ's suffering and death were Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Daniel Koch (Tremont, IL). We also thank Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott) for ministering the inspired Word.

Sis. Mara Jean Edelman was a surgical patient, Bro. Joseph had outpatient testing and Sis. Dorothy Young was hospitalized for cardiac studies. We're thankful that whatever besets us, we're never alone.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23-24

In Kansas, God's fertile earth is beginning its cycle again. The farmers are tilling the soil in preparation for fall wheat sowing. Perhaps this is a good time to examine ourselves and make sure we are "sowing to the Spirit so that we shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8

We were privileged to have Bro.

Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott, KS) as visitors this month. May the Lord bless them for their labor of love.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Frieda Frieden who suffered a heart attack and Sis. Laverne Roth who underwent shoulder surgery. Both are now recovering at home and need the prayers of loved ones.

We had a large gathering at the rest home service this month. We appreciate everyone's support.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Once in a while someone lives a beautiful life.

"Just For Others"

To them every individual in their life, regardless of relationships or compatibility, is a friend from God. they feel, if they fail to love and serve them, they hurt the Giver first. Our Saviour gave His all upon a rugged cross for others.

The grave responsibility of preaching God's Holy Word was placed on Bro. Jay Luthi on the 21st day of May. We pray that he and his wife, Sis. Jane, may be humble and compassionate servants of our Lord, searching the Scriptures diligently for therein lies our hope and not in the wisdom of man.

Gridley and Lamont congregations assembled together Saturday evening, May 20, to partake of holy communion and remember our Lord's death and suffering. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Dan Koch (Tremont) were here to serve us. God bless their efforts and may we all be bound in heart and mind anew to serve Him who suffered and died for us.

Marvin Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene) and Jeana Kleptenber, Marvin's fiance, both graduated from Kansas State at Manhattan in May.

Sis. Dena Emch (Bro. Bernie) suffered a severe stroke several weeks

ago and is in the skilled care nursing facility at Newman's Hospital at this time. We wish her and the family His divine love and compassion during this trying time.

We thank Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN) for their recent visit. We always enjoy visiting brethren who share God's Word with us.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Julie Edelman

We have so many reasons to rejoice as we consider the many blessings of the bygone month.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lili Koehr have been blessed with a precious little bundle. Karmi Jean was entrusted to them May 16, when she was six days old. Barry, her ten-year-old brother is excited for a sister. Happy grandparents include Sis. Esther Koehl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN). Bro. Dale and Sis. Lili will soon be saying goodbye to Izumi, their Japanese exchange student. Many of us at Sabetha have come to know and love Izumi. We will miss Izumi and we wish her God's blessings as she returns to Japan.

Those graduating from high school in our congregation include Tom Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon), Tamra Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) and Rebecca Wysong (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice). We encourage our graduates to look to God for their guidance as they face the many decisions along life's way. We also congratulate Sis. Natalie (Wysong) Martin. She has completed her studies at Kansas State. Bro. Lee and Sis. Natalie have plans to continue their schooling in Germany this fall. We trust that this experience can be one that is beneficial not only for earthly purposes, but will also be spiritually strengthening.

Bro. Carl Harman is a surgical patient at this time. It is our prayer he'll have a speedy recovery. It is so wonderful when we can leave our cares with Jesus.

A blessed weekend was enjoyed by our congregation June 10 - 11 as we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. We are thankful that Jana Edelman Gruber (Todd

Gruber), Karen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene), and Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian) have allowed God to take control of their lives. May they and we continue to journey on with submissive hearts and minds and enjoy the blessings that follow obedience.

Visiting ministers are always appreciated and welcomed. Visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

It is again that time of year when many people take their vacations. It is a privilege to travel unhindered and to survey the beauty of our land. As we travel, may we never tempt ourselves to take a spiritual vacation. The activities that are not honorable at home should not suddenly become acceptable to us because we are vacationing. When traveling, we can be a light to the world as we have occasion to meet other people. We trust that all who travel will reach their destinations safely. Anyone traveling in our area is welcome to Sabetha.

Sunday is Father's Day -- we want to remember the fathers in our churches -- young and old. We express our gratitude and appreciation for your love and care and concern for the church and for the children who will be our future church. God bless you.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Bro. Al Langhofer underwent major surgery and at this writing (June 14), he is still hospitalized. We rejoice that the Lord has given Bro. Al skilled professionals and a loving family to support him during this critical period. Many prayers have been offered in his behalf.

Summer vacation from college has made it possible for Sis. Laurie Gallatin and Jodi Reimschisel to worship with us. By the same token, Victor Wullschleger is absent from us as he is working in New Jersey for the summer.

Silver Lining collections for Wichita will be due in August. It is important that you notify me if you want to

continue, drop, or change your listing. You may mail the seven dollars to me at my El Dorado address if that is more convenient for you.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barbara Huber

THE COST OF FAITHFULNESS

It cost Abraham the yielding up of his only son.

It cost Esther the risk of her life.

It cost Daniel being cast into the den of lions.

It cost Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being put in a fiery furnace.

It cost Stephen death by stoning.

It cost Peter a martyr's death.

It cost Jesus Gethsemane and all that He suffered on the cruel cross for your salvation.

Does it cost you anything to keep faithful to your Lord and King?

There is a cost of faithfulness in the believer's life. It is the way of the cross. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23) "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Timothy 3:12) It is in being crucified with Christ, Galatians 2:20, and living a life totally surrendered to God's will as Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, "... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39) However, it is in this way, that we come to know the true joy of serving Him and being faithful. "... The joy of the Lord is our strength." (Nehemiah 8:10) Revelation 2:10 then promises, "... Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7) The fellowship of believers is truly a source of encouragement along our pilgrimage journey here on earth. We really appreciate the many visitors, family and friends, who make an effort to worship with us each Sunday. It brings joy and comfort to our hearts and we pray the Lord will richly bless them for their love and

support. Visiting ministers during the past two months have been Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We are most grateful for their willingness to be used of God to share His Word with us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Graduation time is here again. Its a time of endings and beginnings as students say goodbye to teachers and friends that they've spent their school days with, and then face the choice of what to do next in their life. Our graduates this year are David Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta), Brian Grawburg (Bro. Ferd and Sis. Jane), Romona Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy), Roseann Koehl (Dennis and Linda), and Sam Oesch (Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva). Our prayers are with each one that the Lord will "direct their paths" and guide them in their life decisions.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jaunita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy) as she travels to France to study for the summer and will then travel to Iowa to attend college. It will be a special learning experience for her to be in another country, but we know it also has its dangers with so much unrest in the world today. We pray for the Lord's blessings for Jaunita while she is there and for His loving arms to enfold her and protect her.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) was here on a Wednesday evening to minister the Word and we thank him for his visit.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Pam Schlatter

"... Except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God..." (John 3:5) We rejoice with several new brothers and sisters-in-faith: Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta), Janel Ramseyer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorethy), Jodi Schambach

(Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn), Christy Steffen (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue), Peggy Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) and Rob Wardynski.

Kery Andrzejewski (Norm and Sis. Linda) and Lori Schambach (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn) have made a beginning in repentance. We encourage them to rely upon Jesus and establish a firm foundation of faith. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 3:11) "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2) Our Vacation Bible School centered on this verse. Our evening topics were: Conforming Pressures, The Transforming Experience, Adventure of the Renewed Mind, Proving the Perfect Will of God, and Revelations of God's Will. Ministering respectively on these topics were: Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We thank all who participated in making our VBS possible. May God bless the seeds that have been planted, and convict Christians to be the waterers and cultivators thereof.

We're always pleased for servants who come in the form of visiting ministers. We were blessed to have minister to our congregation Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Glenn Riegenbach (Smithville, OH). We thank them for their willingness to serve us.

Several among our congregation have suffered bodily affliction. Those hospitalized this month include Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline), Bro. Erwin Wieland (Sis. Nina), and Bro. Gerry Wieland (Sis. Lois). All are again congregating with us, having experienced God's healing hand.

Britnee Lynn is a welcome addition in the home and hearts of Dave and Sharell Foco. Happy grandparents of this little blessing are Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak. May God bless the family circle.

After the Israelite victory over the Philistines, "Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen,

and called the name of Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (I Samuel 7:12) Our recent graduates have reached a milestone in their lives. As they go forward in life, we challenge them to establish not only milestones, but Ebenezers whereto they can look and say as Samuel "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Graduates of 1989 are: Tracy Adams, Andre Broquard (Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol), Clint Groeschel (Jacque and Eileen), Brian Knochel (Jess and Jan Huntley), Gary Meylan (Gary and Marilyn) and Sis. Christy Steffen (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue).

Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina Wieland recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They write: "We wish to offer our sincere thanks for the many cards, good wishes, and gifts we received for our 50th anniversary. May God bless you all."

We have become a society of disposable. For the sake of convenience, we use things once or twice and dispose of them. Let's not let that attitude filter into the value system upon which our nation has been established. We cannot in the name of convenience dispose of fundamental values that have made this nation. May our nation's celebration of independence provide each of us an opportunity to consider those things we would like to keep intact for our posterity.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

Many in our congregation experienced a sermon in a foreign language for the first time when our Russian Bro. Peter Karcsa brought God's Word to us through Jim Siladie, who translated the message. It was certainly a spiritually strengthening evening. We also want to thank our Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for their willingness to serve us in the ministry.

We rejoice with Bro. Keith Gudeman (Sis. Ruth) and Sis. JoAnn Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) as they have announced their engagement. An August 13 wedding is being planned. God bless you both and guide your future plans.

We recently elected Sunday school

teachers and a trustee. Our new Sunday school teachers are Bro. Ron Knapp and Sis. Harriet Orcsik with Bros. Bob Feller and Tom Hitz as substitutes. Our new trustee is Bro. Tom Hitz.

Latty, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, August 20.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

We are thankful that we could rejoice together June 3 and 4 to hear the testimonies and baptisms of two new sisters-in-Christ, Shelly Lawson (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon) and Arletta Bragg (Sis. Viola Aperle). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) to assist Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) in this joyous event. Also visiting for the weekend were Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris), Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris), Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop), Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop).

Sis. Arletta Bragg has just undergone hip surgery and is still in the hospital. We are thankful for her new Christian walk as she calls on the Lord for her strength and help in such a time of need. We pray for her and miss her.

Happy grandparent are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall. Susanne Marie was happily received by Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Wray (Eureka, IL).

On June 11, a surprise housewarming was held at Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerbers' home. They have been a real joy and help in our small congregation and we welcome them with open arms.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

We enjoyed many visitors over Memorial weekend. It was a blessed time of fellowship, and the singing sounded so beautiful. We thank those brothers who ministered the Word to us. Visiting ministers were Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA).

A special joy has been added to the family of Chip and Debbie Fehr. A little daughter, Danielle Renee, joins a brother, Derek, and a sister, Misty.

Grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judy Fehr.

Several of our congregation have been sick and suffering physical afflictions. Those requiring hospitalization were Bro. Alvin Nohl, Sis. Minnie Nohl (Bro. Alvin), Sis. Emma Schmidgall and Minnie Schlupp (Dutch).

After much pain and suffering, Minnie Spohr Schlupp, age 83, has been relieved of her bodily afflictions. She passed away June 18. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, W. N. (Dutch) Schlupp, and a son, Larry, his wife, Julie, and their two daughters (Minneapolis). May they feel the Lord's nearness in this time of sorrow.

The Lester, IA, congregation hosted the annual Sunday School Fellowship Weekend for our area churches. We thank the Lester congregation for the extra effort it takes to host a large group of young people. We hope the young people appreciate the opportunities they have to make friends of those who have been raised in the same faith. May they meet later in life as brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord.

Another July 4th will soon be here. May we thank God for the many years of freedom and great blessings we have enjoyed in this great nation, the United States of America. May we pray for our nation and its people.

Note of Thanks: The family of Minnie Schlupp wishes to express their thanks and gratitude for the many kind expressions of love and sympathy shown to them during the time of their loved one's illness and death. May God bless you.

W.N. (Dutch) Schlupp
Larry & Julie Schlupp & family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner Ella Mae Schmidt

An enjoyable picnic in the park for all students and teachers ended our Sunday school year. The following weekend the Bible classes and teachers went to Lester, IA, where they hosted the picnic for the neighboring churches. We thank them for their efforts and kind deeds. May God's blessings be added and His name glorified by it all.

Last week was our annual church

cleaning. Thanks to each one who willingly gave of their time to help.

Referring to our spiritual welfare - "Is our house clean and in order?"

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser visit our congregation. In his message, he spoke of how the Lord ask Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." We should ask ourselves can we say as Peter did?

May God's blessings be upon Darrin Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) and Janet Pederson who were united in marriage June 10.

With Independence Day usually comes family reunions. Will the circle be unbroken - by and by? Are we willing to choose and stand up for the freedom of our nation under God? Do we possess and exercise the faith of our fathers so following generations continue to have this special blessing?

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

During the month of May, we were very blessed to have Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Roger Aberle assist our local ministers in bringing us the Word of God. Bro. John assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Marti on Mother's Day in serving holy communion. What a blessing it was to partake of this Lord's Supper with all of our members present.

A large group of members and friends were able to attend a reception at the home of Sis. Janice Lehman. The reception was to honor our high school graduate, Sis. Sheri Braker (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker) and to welcome to our congregation newlyweds, Brad and LuAnn Gramm, who were recently married in Arizona and who are living in the Kansas City area. The reception was outdoors and the Lord provided absolutely perfect weather to add to the fellowship.

Our hearts continue to go out to our friend Jack Abshier who is still unable to assemble with us due to illness. We miss Jack's ever present sense of humor and help in the dining room and we all pray that God's healing hand will find a way to bring Jack and his wife, Mamie, to assemble with us again.

We very recently learned that our Sis. Delores Stoller and son, Kenny, will be moving away from Kansas City as Dee has been transferred by her em-

ployer. The circumstances for Sis. Dee, like so many others in our modern world, are such that she will be located quite a ways from our nearest church. While this is not her first choice of an assignment, Sis. Dee has as the Bible directs been submissive to her earthly employer and we feel confident that God will be with her, as he has been, wherever she goes and that Sis. Dee will always feel the prayers of those in the faith who have grown to love and care for her. We are likewise confident that God will have a way to use Sis. Dee and Kenny as lights for Him in her company and perhaps in an area that has not been as richly blessed with the evidence of His work that we are used to.

Our Kansas City church remains one of the smaller congregations although we have been richly blessed with growth the past few years and now have our own ministers and will soon welcome Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Sis. Mary to our community. Our area has had a very strong economy for the last two decades and there are many opportunities for those who would consider moving to a mid-sized urban area. We are located at the crossroads of America and many find themselves passing through the area on vacation or on business. We welcome all visitors and inquiries from those who may be seeking a place to locate.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carol Braker - Becky Marti

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31) We enjoyed a blessed day, March 26, as Bro. Calvin Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Jodi Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) were united in marriage. May they feel the Lord's guidance and blessings in their new life and home they have established.

Our congregation rejoices to have two new ministering brothers. May Bro. Bob Stoller (Sis. Janice) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera) feel God's guidance, grace

and inspiration along with the love and prayerful support of the brethren as they have been given these new responsibilities.

Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard) and Sis. Marilyn Luthi (Bro. Ray) have been hospitalized recently. May they feel God's comforting and healing hand in the days ahead.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kathy Knapp

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who came to share with us recently. They were Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Rick Plattner and LeRoy Hartman (Peoria, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless them for their efforts of love.

We are glad to have Bro. Mark Lemman (Morton, IL) join our small congregation. Mark recently graduated from college and has found employment in St. Louis.

We continue to meet at the Ben Franklin Motel. Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We appreciate all those who come to visit and extend a warm welcome to all.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart

"Enjoying the present is what happiness is all about. If we cannot find happiness along the way, we will not find it at the end of the road."

Our sincere thanks to Bros. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) for the ministry shared with us since our last writing.

Another little "rose bud" has been added to the Master's bouquet. Hannah Marie (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian) was born May 26 and passed away shortly after birth. Sarah and Adam are a comfort to their parents as they experience this bereavement and may God restore health and happiness once again to this young family. The following was submitted in memory of Hannah:

LITTLE ANGELS

When God calls little children to dwell with Him above,
 We mortals sometimes question the wisdom of His love.
 For no heartache compares with the death of one small child,
 Who does so much to make our world seem wonderful and mild.
 Perhaps God tires of calling the aged to His fold,
 So He picks a rosebud before it can grow old.
 God knows how much we need them and so He takes but a few
 To make the land of heaven more beautiful to view.
 Believing this is difficult still somehow we must try,
 The saddest word mankind knows will always be "goodbye".
 So when a little child departs we who are left behind
 Must realize God loves children, Angels are hard to find.

We enjoyed showers of blessings, both spiritual and materially (as much needed rain was falling) May 28 when after regular morning worship and lunch at our "Little White Church on the Levee" and with mixed emotions went over to our new edifice for the afternoon service. Zion's Harp Hymn #237 had a special meaning at this time, "Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life, Hand in hand may love guide us, For each other's welfare strive." Regular all day service were held June 4.

We welcome Bro. Phil Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol, Princeville, IL) who will be working in Quincy for the summer months after which he will continue his education at U. of I.

Our sympathy to Mary and Bruce Huber (Vernon and Sis. Judy Huber) at the death of Mary's mother, Vanetta Williams.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3:17. Congratulations to our high school graduates, Missy Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Jodi Reagon (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reagon).

"He healed the sick so we would know His compassion/Held a child so we could know His kindness/Touched the oppressed so we could know His concern/Bore two spikes so we could

know His love." Hospital patients were Jody Meyers (Danny), Adam Adrian and, at this report, Bro. William Cottell (Sis. Ruth) is still in Blessing Hospital in Quincy. Bro. William and Sis. Ruth recently came back to Quincy from their Florida home and at this time future plans are indefinite.

Our best wishes are extended to John Gerst (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marge) and Julie Doyle (Ron and Darlene) all of Quincy, whose engagement and May 26, 1990, wedding is being planned.

Vacation Bible School is over and our children presented a program and display of crafts which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to each student and teacher, and all who helped in this project.

After many months of labor on the new church building, it is now ready for use. We had our first worship service in the new building Sunday afternoon, May 28. We thank each of you who helped in any way with the building project. Open House will be Sunday, July 30. Dedication services will be conducted Sunday, August 6. We welcome visitors at any time. We assemble at 10:00 a.m. to sing with the Sunday school children. The morning worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon service begins at 12:45 p.m. and Wednesday evening service begins at 7:30 p.m. The church is located just north of Taylor on old U.S. 61.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Sally Dotterer

We would like to thank the following visiting ministers and their wives who travelled from Rockville, CT, to share the Word and to fellowship with us: Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine Bahler, Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber, Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider, Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan.

We would also like to welcome Sis. Susan Blunier (Roanoke, IL) to the Union City area. Sis. Susan has accepted a position in the area and should be moving here sometime during the month of June. We look forward to having another for church on Sunday.

In addition, Sis. Lori Bostrom (Taylor, MO) will be living in the area

for a few weeks while serving a summer internship at Merck. We sincerely hope that Sis. Lori will enjoy her experience here in the East.

On the weekend of May 13, our congregation was invited to Philadelphia, PA, where we had the opportunity to enjoy a church supper and singing and also to hear the reading of the memorandum. We would like to thank the Philadelphia congregation for their wonderful hospitality.

Also during this weekend, a few of the Union City congregation had the opportunity to meet with Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan, NY) and Bro. Ed Aschliman (Philadelphia, PA) in order to discuss issues presently facing the Union City church. As a result of this meeting, it was determined that services will be held in Union City on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. On alternate weekends, the options open to our congregation include traveling to one of the nearby churches or listening to sermons on tape. If anyone will be in the area over a weekend and would like more information about our schedule for services, please feel free to contact me at (201) 634-3099.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

On the weekend of May 20 and 21 Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Joseph Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) were with us. It was announced in our uniting together that we will continue to assemble in the Croghan church for our Sunday services and that the name of our congregation will be the Croghan-Naumburg church. For the remainder of the summer our mid-week service will alternate between the Croghan and Naumburg church. We wish to thank our elder brothers for their love and concern for each of us as we all strive for the common goal of life eternal in heaven.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
 Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
 For Thou hast created and purchased me too,

Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On Saturday evening, June 3, we gathered to hear the testimony of Larry Purvines (Sis. Louise). We thank Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler for his service to God and to us and also thank the many others who traveled to be with us for this blessed weekend. We welcome Bro. Larry into our fellowship as a dear brother and our prayer continues that many more will partake of this opportunity while God allows the door of grace to remain ajar.

Bro. Gerald Grau was called from this life after many years of failing health. Funeral services were held June 10 by Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Duane Farney. We are thankful that God could relieve Bro. Gerry from his suffering and take him home where there will be no more pain or sorrow. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Polly; and the children, Gerald (Marathon), Mrs. Janet Monnat (Milton, Beaver Falls) and Mrs. Alice Moore (William, Croghan); and his grandchildren; and a brother, Russell Grau (Lowville).

Sympathy is extended to ministering Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta Graves and their family at the time of the passing from this life of his sister-in-law, Marion Graves (Castorland).

Hospital patients this month were David Farney (Paula) for surgery, and Sis. Polly Grau, Sis. Edna Sturtze (Roy) and Bro. Chester O'Brien. May each one feel God's nearness and healing power.

We are glad that Sis. Julie Karcher (Urban) has been able to assemble with us again after six weeks of bed rest while recovering from a cracked pelvis. We miss each one who is unable to assemble from Sunday to Sunday.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to our high school graduates this month. They are Kim Beck (daughter of Louis and Janet), Todd Farney (son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen), Christopher Hirschey (son of Ronald and Elizabeth) and Noel Virkler (son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae). It is our prayer that they will look to God for their strength and guidance in their future lives as they make the many important decisions that must be made.

Martin and Becky Himmelstein welcomed little Daniel Scott into their lives and home June 13. Although he was tiny, 3 lbs. 9 oz., he is very healthy. May they look to God for wisdom and guidance as they care for this added blessing to their family. Happy grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Joseph and Rachel Himmelstein (Brooklyn). Martin, Becky and Daniel live in Hanover, NH.

August is collection month for the Silver Lining in our congregation.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

“. . . The grasshopper shall be a burden . . ." Ecclesiastes 12:5. Grasshoppers can be used interchangeably with locusts. Leviticus 11:22 states they may be eaten, so they roasted them lightly, dried them in the sun, salted them and ate them. They are said to taste like shrimp. They have six legs and two wings, four legs are used to walk and two big back legs to make a spring for leverage to hop in the air. This is the time of the year we see them plentifully because in late April or May, the females bore little holes in the ground in which to stick their eggs. So, now comes the little grasshoppers in the pupa state with their wings still in the case, but they have the biggest appetites, and since they have little teeth, they chew and chew and eat away many things. Thus, we see a comparison. Satan will stick an egg of bitterness or burden in us and we can chew and chew on it and it can eat away on us. God can blow grasshoppers away with His wind, and in Joel 2:25 He "would restore the years the locust hath eaten." We're thankful He can take the wind of His Spirit to blow away our burdens, and restore our hearts where burdens have eaten away on us.

Our hearts rejoice that we have two new converts, Tom Bako (son of Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako) and Mark Graf (son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf). May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with them.

Sis. Juliet Graf has been hospitalized, and Sis. Eva Wenhardt and Sis. Helen Burr are with us again after being in the hospital.

Sis. Susie Bako and Tom Bako

went to Hungary to visit relatives.

We appreciated Bro. Gary Maibach bringing us inspiring messages.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

We are thankful that Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) ministered God's Word to us. May God bless him and his family.

We welcome Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder and their children, Denise, Diane, Deborah, William, Joseph and Danielle to the Columbus area. They have moved here from the Sarasota congregation. May God bless their new home.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

The family of Sis. Anna Enyeart wishes to thank all for their love and compassion during the illness and death of her daughter, Eileen Martin.

We meet at the home of the Deislinger family for our Sunday morning services. Christian fellowship is so important to us.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

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

Ephesians 5:31

Bro. Phil Schlatter (Sarasota, FL) and Sis. Judy Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) recently announced their engagement. They are planning a July 9 wedding. We wish them both God's richest blessings as they start upon this new path together. Bro. Phil is originally from the Junction congregation, and is the son of the late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Schlatter. Sis. Judy is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr. We apologize for not reporting their engagement in the June Silver Lining.

Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) is recovering from a recent leg injury. We pray for a full recovery.

OHIO, LATTY
Marlene Reinhard
Rhonda Stoller

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

Three families have been blessed with a new baby girl.

Alysha Marie is the first child of Mark and Laura Spangler. The happy grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor (Latty).

Mindy and Michael Graf welcome Kristin Elizabeth home as a new playmate. The parents are Robert and Sis. Joan Graf.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Miller are happy with their first daughter, Megan Patricia. Megan has three big brothers to play with, Matthew, Jordon and Tedd. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller.

We do pray for the wisdom of God to be with each parent as they raise these beautiful little girls.

Our congregation was very blessed and encouraged by the teachings of Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo). We appreciate Bro. Doug coming to Latty to share with us and to have Sis. Lanna home with us again.

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

Proverbs 22:6

This is a verse that Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller obeyed and as a result their son, Tom, has answered the call of the Lord. Our prayers are with you, Tom, and we welcome you into the family of God.

Our prayers are with Bro. Wes Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet) as he has reached a goal. Bro. Wes has graduated from the University of Toledo. As you start your new job, Bro. Wes, take the Lord with you and be ready always to give an account for the hope in your heart.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) assisted Elder Bro. Ken Sauder with the testimonies and baptisms of our new Bro. Wes (Maggie) Washing-

ton and our new Sis. Tina (Kevin) Washington. Bro. Barney and Sis. Bev Washington rejoice with their children. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

Psalms 31:24, "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Melinda Matuch has been announced for peace and is awaiting baptism. Tim Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) and Don (Faye) Sauder are repenting; may God continue to strengthen their hearts and direct them in His ways.

Our high school graduates were recognized at a Sunday morning breakfast. They are Jason Enderle (Bro. Larry and Sis. Darlene), Tracey Oesch (Sis. Kate), Todd Ramsier (Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen) and Bruce Sauder (Bro. Dick and Sis. Carolyn). Sis. Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue) graduated from the Mansfield General Hospital School of Nursing. "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; (and this was written before paperback books) and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:12, 13)

Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by all. The theme for the adult class was "Building a Spiritual House": Monday, "Figuring the Cost," Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN); Tuesday, "Selecting the Right Material," Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus); Wednesday, "Digging the Foundation," Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman); Thursday, "Furnishing the Inside," Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville); and Friday, "Keeping the House Trimmed and Sound," Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN). May God bless each of these that brought God's Word so willingly. We trust the seeds planted in the Sunday school classes will also bring fruit.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

We want to continually remember all our ministers through prayer and especially Bro. Earl Beery who has been given this new, perhaps

burdening, responsibility. Certainly his wife, Sis. Susie, and young children, Mollie, Katie, Caleb and Reid, will feel the changes as Bro. Earl beings his duties in the ministry.

We rejoice with Dave and Kathy Ault for they have begun their repentance. May they be blessed as they continue on this new path.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Shelly Pertee welcome their first baby, Zachary Ryan. His grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Pertee.

We sympathize with Bro. Don Walder, Sis. Lillian Maibach and Sis. Delores Maibach, for their brother, Bro. Charles Walder (Cissna Park, IL), passed away.

Those who have been ill and in the hospital were Bro. Ralph Weber (Sis. Ellen), Bro. Lester Rigggenbach (Sis. Lorena), Sis. Freida Gasser (Bro. Carl), Sis. Helen Hartzler, Sis. Elizabeth Musser and Mabel Goodwin.

We appreciate the ministers who have visited us: Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God's blessings strengthen them as they willingly preach the Word.

OHIO, SARDIS
Paula Figel

A graduation breakfast was held Sunday, May 28, followed by a potluck in the afternoon. We had several visitors and enjoyed the time spent together.

Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) was a patient in the hospital.

Our first weekend for our Vacation Bible School was held June 10 - 11. We want to thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and his family for being with us.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. As our country has again celebrated its freedom as a nation, we are reminded of the many sacrifices that were made that this might be. Our governing forefathers found the need to turn to God in beseeching prayer for wisdom in drawing up the constitution that his freedom might

be maintained. How much more we need to pray that it may be preserved. Our most priceless freedom is to be found in being a faithful follower of the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who must endure religious persecution.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Kim Stoller - Gwen Stoller

And when in thy last distress,
Helpless friends around thee
gather,
Then this heart of righteousness
Yields thee comfort from the
Father.
Judgment brings no fear nor fright,
For the Lord is thy delight.
Zion's Harp #253

The Lord has again called a faithful servant home. Bro. Ben Hartzler (Sis. Clara) has been relieved of all earthly pain. Bro. Ben served as minister for 42 years to both the Rittman and Smithville congregations and will be remembered for his love of music and poetry. We extend our sympathy to the family in the loss of a loved one.

Sis. Helen Hartzler and Ryan Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) have spent time in the hospital during the past month. Our prayer is that God will continue to keep His healing hand upon them.

We have been blessed to have God's Word spoken unto us by visiting brothers. We thank Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Gene Fetter (Toledo) for laboring in the Lord's vineyard on our behalf. We were also blessed to have Elder Peter Karcse from the Ukraine spent a Wednesday evening with us.

During the months of May and June we've seen another group of young people from our congregation graduate from high school. We wish Dwaine Beery (Arthur and Eileen), Jennifer Beery (Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey), Rob Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), Patty Christ (James and Judy), Sis. Shelly Rigenbach (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou), Sis. Charlene Rufener (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas) and Sis. Gwen Stoller (Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) the blessing

of the Lord as they seek to follow the path He has for their lives.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine REhklau
Frances Laidig

Holy communion was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ just prior to His crucifixion when He was assembled with His disciples.

When of this blest bread they had
partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God
above,
Having been unto this feast invited
And found worthy of His grace and
love,
He the cup into His hands did gather,
Giving thanks unto the heavenly
Father,
Said to His disciples: "Drink this wine,
As a token of my blood divine."
Communion Hymn
Zion's Harp #26, vs. 3

Partaking of holy communion gives us renewed strength to remain true to our Saviour here on earth and then to be with Him in eternity. This service was conducted by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Walter Rager.

After a long period of illness, Sis. Lois Newman (Warren preceded her in death) was called by the heavenly Father to her eternal rest. She touched many lives with her concern for others and we feel the loss of her presence among us. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family. Surviving are daughters, Sis. Mary Ann Weigele and Mrs. Karen Labadie; sons, Kenneth and James; brother, Herman Schlatter; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We have two of our loved ones in the hospital. Bro. Rolland Whittaker (Sis. Herma) and Sis. Anna Weigele. Bro. Rolland has had surgery and Sis. Anna is in for medical problems. It is our prayer that God will grant them a good measure of spiritual and physical blessings.

Summer is here -- school is out and the children are looking forward to Vacation Bible School. Many good teachings will be given to the children during this one week. We cannot expect them to remember all they are taught, but if only a few things

remain in their minds to help them stay closer to God, it is worth whatever time and effort is put forth by the teachers and parents. As we look back in our own lives, we notice there are special things we learned in our youth that have given us help and consolation when most needed. Our prayer is, that all who take part in Bible school, will have some memories that will add a blessing to their lives. "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as cornerstones . . ." Psalms 144:12.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Jane Rocke - Brenda Knobloch

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!
O words with heavenly comfort
fraught!
What-e'er I do wher-e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth
me.

Hymns of Zion #162

We are thankful God has lead Bro. Neil Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) to seek summer employment in Oregon. His presence amongst our small group is appreciated by all.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Anna Cooper had the misfortune of being in an accident recently. We trust God will grant them a speedy recovery since their return home from the hospital.

We thank the Silverton brethren who have supported us on the pulpit and in the pews. We extend a hearty welcome to all to visit us when you are in the Northwest.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Summertime is here with its balmy weather that invites us to come and sit on the deck with a tall glass of iced tea . . . and its many tasks and jobs that keep preventing us from getting there. But we keep trying. Maybe that's one reason we welcome our summer visitors; it gives us an excuse to shut off the tractor (or whatever) and sit back and literally "take time to smell the roses." Summertime here in Oregon does mean roses, by the thousands with famous rose gardens in both Salem and Portland. But it's the fresh fruit that pleases

our visitors. This month and next will bring strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, logan and boysenberries and our own county's hybrid, Marionberries. Plus there are trees full of black Bing cherries, Royal Anne cherries and Red Tart pie cherries. Also found in orchards, large or small, and in many backyards are several varieties of peaches, pears and apples and in smaller supply, are apricots and kiwi fruit. Table grapes have been around for generations and recent years have seen several vineyards succeed in our area. In addition to grapes, late summer brings blackberries, plums, prunes and melons. And when are the bananas and oranges ripe? Sorry, you'll have to travel a lot further south for citrus and tropical fruit.

This week Verna (Elmer) Bolliger underwent surgery on her knee. The surgery was performed in Coos Bay, OR, where Verna will spend several weeks recuperating at the home of her daughter, Sharron (Terry) Cox. We pray for God's nearness and strength for a speedy recovery.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

The weekend of May 13 and 14 was a special one for our Philadelphia congregation, the Washington, D.C. and Union City, NJ, congregations spent time with us. It was a wonderful time for fellowship. On Sunday, May 14, Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) offered us encouraging words in the reading of the memorandum. We are thankful to have shepherds who so willingly serve our Lord. May they feel God's guiding hand.

Bro. Edwin Lanz (Sis. Marilyn) was hospitalized for a few days. We are glad to have him back worshipping with us.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalms 23:6

Our congregation said farewell to Bro. Brian Moser who has relocated to Morris, MN. We wish him God's richest blessings.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

this Sunday morning. We visited and asked where they got the labourers that we saw working here. He said that for about a hundred days out of the year, they go out into the hinterlands, into the tribal people, and hire these labourers to come. They go out . . . harvest the cane . . . haul it in . . . work it through the mill, and process it.

For about these one hundred days, some two thousand labourers are here. He said among these two thousand labourers, there is one Christian girl. She has been educated. We wondered if we could meet her and he said, "Yes."

So we went outside of the wall of this mill, and here, there was built a little village, you might say. Just out of woven reeds and thatch. Here where they would come to work is where they established their community for about three months.

As they came out of these little huts and surrounded us, he called out for this one girl, and she came. She had a wonderful smile on her face. She looked different than the rest who gathered around and there were many there. She looked so happy.

We could not speak in the language, but among our group was the one who was pastor there, who was the shepherd of the flock. He spoke with her and then translated and told how she had heard about the Word of God and how she had found salvation. She was so happy to be met there and greeted.

All of these others were milling around, and so here was the place, here was the time, here was the beautiful Sabbath out under the blue sky: the Word of God was taught unex-

pectedly, unprepared. We could feel the Spirit. We couldn't understand the language of the sermon, but his pastor was so moved. He preached to these hungry natives. He preached the Word of God: Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It was a moving experience.

As we left, it was resolved, here was a place now to come and to labor. Some of the work that we had been reviewing, we were there to see just what happens to the support that was given. They need people to go out, and with this kind of support, they can go to this place and teach these people the Word of God.

While that seemed like a good idea to us, yet it was for something in the future. Yet we wondered, what can come of going out and teaching these plain, primitive, tribal people?

So we went on to this village where the two groups were assembled. We came to the place. When we first arrived, they came out and greeted us, of course, and then we started walking to the place where they had assembled.

The first thing we came to was the shell of the church that had burned some four or five years ago where they used to gather together. We had heard that they no longer had a church in which to worship and there has been support provided to secure materials to build a new church for them. We wanted to see this also. But as we went past this shell of the old church, we came up to a little rise and looked down over the hill. Here was the stream. The brook, as they call it. There was a beautiful, big shade tree; an immense shade tree. On the ground, there were blankets laid.

There were people coming, starting to assemble. We walked down the hill, crossed the stream, went over to review the location where this new church is to be built, which is just beside this beautiful tree, and had a chance to inspect that. Then we came to where they were gathered together to worship. Here were the tribes people together; among them, many who had been converted.

The happiness that they had! The love that they shared and the greeting that they extended to us, not in our language, but in the language of spiritual love!

So here again, their local preacher

held the sermon. We could not, again, understand all that he was saying to them, but that is the point I was getting to when this fifth chapter in St. Matthew came to my mind.

Jesus went up there on the mountain and they gathered around Him and He began to teach them, for they were hungry. He said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3.

I had to think of those tribes people there, surely poor in spirit. What do they have? We couldn't begin to compare it to the life that we know.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:4 and 5.

I thought back of the things that we have here in our life and time . . . of our homes . . . of the comforts that we have . . . of our automobiles . . . of the things that seem so important for us to acquire. As we have read this Scripture before, I didn't really understand what that meant: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. But we were given the privilege to see the meek, who had nothing.

They had clothes to wear and some place they had gotten food to eat; but their limbs were thin. They were not a robust people. But they were happy. Joy shown from their eyes. They were the meek. I couldn't help but think of all those things we have at home, that when we pass into the grave, are going to be left behind.

For the first time, looking at those plain people, I understood: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. They had nothing, but they would inherit.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6. Some of these people had walked for miles to come, and they were in their bare feet, to come to hunger after the Word.

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7. Mercy, peace . . . it was a peaceful feeling. How they lived and had so few requirements. Think of our requirements. Everything that we need. We have an inner push and desire to acquire more. How can we be merciful? How can we be merciful when we always want more?

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:8 and 9. Well after we had assembled there with them and sang songs together, we were each invited to give a brief exhortation which was interpreted for them. It just revealed itself to us how that God is everywhere, regardless of the miles that separate us.

A little unsettling wanted to come into my heart, because there was a conviction there: that we have so much, and yet, we think we are a plain and a humble people. We are identified as God's children because we have shared in that gift that He has given to us through His Son, Christ Jesus.

We think we are a plain and a humble people. Yet, we could not hold a candle to them for humility and simplicity and love and peace.

So this disturbing feeling came into my heart and I prayed somehow that the Lord could reveal this. How can that be? When we first arrived, there was a repulsion when we saw the difference in culture. Then, this was about three or four days later and we could see this. It came to us, as we visited with each other, the three of us that were the visitors there, could share the innermost feelings of our hearts.

They were just about along the lines that I had mentioned. The Spirit brought an answer to us, because it finally dawned on us, that this was all the work of God. He created it like this.

God created our land and He set us in it. He created that land and He set them in it. He created all the other lands and He set those people in it. There is a great difference in variation as you go from land to land.

When you have a chance to observe the contrast, there is a striking evidence that man is different . . . that where he lives is different . . . that his culture is different . . . that his environment is different . . . that his material things are different; and so only one thing is the same, only one thing is in common, only one thing is uniform, and that is: God the heavenly Father, and His Son, Christ Jesus, and His plan of salvation.

Regardless of where we live or

what we have (for we were born to the place where we were born), God is there and He has brought forth through His Word of Truth, the way unto salvation. Teachings, just as we have read here, are the beginning whereby man can learn to know Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Man can learn to know the nature and the bearing of a child that is pleasing unto the heavenly Father. The meek, the poor, the sorrowful, the hungry, the peacemakers -- here is the common meeting place. Here is the common bond in the common Word of God.

So, that heaviness left my heart and I could feel that God has put us where He has put us. He has surrounded us with those things that are a part of our life. We have a challenge. We have an opportunity to learn more of God and of His Word and of His will and of His way. We have learned of the Common Denominator, the way to salvation through repentance and confession of sin, and the receipt of the forgiveness of sin through the blood of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, and the peace that flows into the heart of a redeemed soul.

We all have that opportunity wherever we might be. It should thrill us. Thrill us that God is everywhere, and that God is here, and that God is yet calling souls to come unto Him, to serve Him, to seek Him, to be one of His, to become a child of His.

If we submit ourselves and our hearts and our spirits to Him in meekness and in humility, He will guide us, he will teach us just like He taught those illiterate, poor in material way, people that we could meet.

We were privileged to witness a baptism in a river. The souls had been proven, and we had had services in this mud church earlier and walked down the road to the river. There were the four souls who could come to be baptized. Through the receipt of the Holy Spirit, this wonderful experience could be shared again.

Even as we anticipate it in this day in our congregation that God has extended His loving hand of invitation.

The door of grace is still open. There is a way to life eternal. It is through God, through His Son and through His Word. And it is everywhere.

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SERMON BY BRO. JOHN KLOTZLE OF ALTADENA, CA

Text: Matthew 5

This beautiful chapter, the Sermon on the Mount, illustrates so wonderfully the way in which our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, taught. He taught to the plain . . . to the simple . . . to the humble. He taught those that really did not have too much in this life to look forward to. He had a gift for them that was beyond their comprehension to behold.

He began to tell them about it in such a way, that first, He described for them their state and their being -- the fact that they did not have very much. Yet, they were eager to hear . . . eager to learn the new message. This Man, who had come preaching and teaching them, could share it with them.

Even though they did not have very much, yet He had a gift beyond all measure for them. He was teaching them how their lives should be molded and shaped, so that they could receive this precious gift.

It is a little hard to comprehend just what that was like in those days and in that time. We, who have been born here in a land of plentitude, where we have so many blessings, can probably, as a whole say, "We do not have too much to desire for in a material sense." The Lord has blest us wonderfully in material things.

But, I believe that we are on the same level as those to whom He was speaking here, when we find that in spiritual things we are where we once were -- very poor. Even though we had so many things to fill our life and time, yet we had a great need and a great unfulfilled spiritual desire, because we had heard about and we had been taught that there is a heav-

enly reward that will be provided by the heavenly Father for all eternity.

So each soul to whom it was revealed this way unto eternal salvation, found that they too had to turn to become poor. As it said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3. We had to come to that place in our life, where we had to confess that we, too, were poor in spirit . . . that we had no hope of life eternal . . . that we had a longing, and a hunger, and an eagerness to be filled with that which would last throughout eternity. We turned to God, the heavenly Father and to His Son, Christ Jesus, and asked to be shown the way.

So the teachings, such as we have read here in this morning hour, depict the nature of the spirit of man. Jesus was going to describe to them now, what a life as a child of God would be like. It was going to be a different life.

They had been taught along certain ways and along certain laws . . . the Mosaic law; and, as we read in the closing verses of this, how that things were to be different. Before it was: "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth . . ." Exodus 21:24. Now it is: "Love your enemies!" Matthew 5:44. What a difference!

We, too, had to find that through God's grace, we came into a new life of understanding with Him. Those things which had mattered before, that had seemed so important to us, . . . our way or place or standing in life . . . our relationship to our friends . . . our neighbors . . . our families and our school mates, that those, too, now had to be set in a secondary position. Our relationship with God had to

become primary. But through it, there was given to us through grace to take upon us this new life. So, even then, our hearts were changed. Then we could turn the other cheek. We could love our enemy. We could give and share with others.

If our neighbor asked us for our coat, we gave him our cloak also. These words then, took on meaning for us as we learned to live as a child of God. So Jesus was depicting to them a new way, a different way of life.

This particular Scripture -- this Sermon on the Mount -- came to my mind two weeks ago this morning. We had gotten up early in India on this Sabbath morning. We had a long journey to go where there were two congregations that were going to assemble together to have worship service. A very unexpected incident took place as we were on our journey to this small village.

We had been driving along the roads and could see the sugar cane crops on every side. This was the time for sugar cane harvest. Before long, we came to a sugar cane processing mill. We thought we would like to see now just what they do with the sugar cane. So we went through the gate and identified ourselves and the owner came and greeted us and was very glad to show us through this mill and how they crushed the cane and then boiled down the syrup. Then finally they have sugar out of it.

When we were finished, he took us into his little room there. It was a crude mud hut, but nonetheless, it was where he received visitors. He served us some nice tea there early

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