



"Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;"

Ephesians 6:2

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

VOLUME 40

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NUMBER 6

# Father's Day

*We thank God for you always, Fathers.*

GOD IS OUR FATHER EVERY DAY -- WE ARE HIS PEOPLE

After this manner therefore pray ye:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed by thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptations,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

## MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

### CONDITIONAL PROMISES

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle  
Shioda, Japan

The promises of God are very encouraging. When we think of our great God, the Sovereign, loving us, caring for us, bearing us on wings of compassion, and teaching us that we do have value, our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Some of the promises in the Bible are almost unconditional. God loves us and forgives us even though we may fail miserably. John 5:24 is often quoted. "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life." So far as performance is concerned, nothing is mentioned. All that is mentioned is hearing and believing. It is often stated that believing in the original Greek includes adhering to, but still the conditions required to receive the promise, if there are any conditions, are hardly touched upon.

Therefore, the idea of obedience may lose favor among believers. It's what we might call, "The All This and Heaven, too," syndrome. It is probably a good idea to think about some of the conditional promises in the New Testament. It might help us to feel a little more responsibility. Liberty and Freedom always require heavy responsibility and self-discipline. Otherwise, your "high" may turn into a deep "low."

In Matthew 7:21, Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of

my Father which is in heaven." The promise of entering the kingdom of heaven is there but it includes the stipulation that we do the will of the Father, or at least try to do the will of the Father. Probably none of us do His will completely but we should pay some attention to the condition stated.

In John 15:10, the Lord Jesus Christ says, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love." To be abiding in Christ's love is an exhilarating experience -- there is a feeling and a conviction that all is well. However, there is that phrase in the above Scripture, "If you keep my commandments," and that has to do with obedience, you know. To have some fear or concern that we might not be obedient to God or to Christ, is a good thing.

In Hebrews 9:28 we read, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." In this verse the condition is that we be looking for the return of the Lord Jesus which may occur at any time.

In I John 1:7 it is written, "But 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." To be continually cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ is a delightful situation but there is the matter of walking in the light.

By the grace of God let us practice self-discipline and self-control. Let's

not swing too far away from the principle of obedience. There are many promises in the New Testament which are conditional.

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORKS PROJECTS From the Mission/World Relief Brochure

*"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."*

Galatians 6:10

### BACKGROUND

The Apostolic Christian Work Projects program grew out of a sense of awareness of a growing interest by many in the church to respond to

(Continued on Page 4)

### THE SILVER LINING

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#### IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

## ON-GOING NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS AT GATEWAY WOODS

At Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we periodically have openings for couples to serve as houseparents for troubled children. Often when these openings occur, we maintain for extended periods understaffed as we wait and pray for couples to respond to the Spirit and to the needs of these kids. It is our hope that a list of qualified couples could be developed in order that these positions could be filled quickly with minimum disruption to children's lives.

Houseparenting is challenging, rewarding, spiritually stimulating, and reasonably compensated with salary and benefits. If you or someone you know is interested in the residential child care field, we encourage you to explore the possibilities further by contacting Bro. Tim Sauder at P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 627-2159 or 627-2606, or Elder Bro. David Bertsch (219) 627-2923.



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).*

## THE MINISTRY

One of the most noble callings ever given to man is the ministry of the gospel. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15). God promised to provide men for Israel with "understanding of the times" (1 Chron. 12:32) to serve as ministers and leaders of His people, and the same is true for the church today. The true spiritual leader is a servant, called by God to feed the flock and give himself wholeheartedly to ministering to others.

When help in the ministry is sought, the church should pray for divine guidance so that it can be revealed as to whom the Word of the Lord shall come (Luke 3:2). There are certain biblical qualifications for brothers being considered for service as deacons and bishops (elders). These also apply to ministers, because every newly appointed minister shares in the leadership of the church and is a potential deacon or elder. Brothers considered for the ministry should demonstrate order in their own household and they should have the respect of those not in the faith. They are to be serious-minded, spiritually mature, patient and willing to teach (1 Tim. 3:1-13). Such brothers should be blameless stewards who seek no earthly gain from these labors. They are to be lovers of hospitality and of good men, just, holy and temperate. They must be willing to defend the true doctrine (Titus 1:6-9). Their wives must be sensible and godly women who are "faithful in all things" (1 Tim. 3:11).

Following exhortation regarding these Scriptures and a time of prayerful consideration, the sentiment of the church is sought regarding who among the brothers should be considered to serve in the ministry. The ultimate responsibility for this decision rests with the elder, as the Apostle Paul entrusted Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many

witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

When a brother is asked to assume the responsibility of preaching the Word, it is essential that he and his wife prayerfully search their hearts and plead for the Lord's grace to fulfill their calling. A genuine spirit of humility should be evident, and although unworthiness may be felt, an attitude of willingness to become a dedicated servant of the Lord should prevail (1 Cor. 9:17-19; 1 Tim. 1:12). It is required of those who are placed in ministry and leadership positions to be sound examples (1 Tim. 4:12). Anything in the lifestyle of the brother or his wife which may be a hindrance to the effectiveness of these labors must be removed: "Giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed" (2 Cor. 6:3). How could a minister effectively exhort the brethren to abstain from unwholesome entertainments such as television and competitive sports if he were not free from these spiritually corrosive influences? Involvement in these and other worldly activities is an indication of a spiritual deficiency. Likewise, a minister's wife must be an example in attitude, word and appearance of the biblically-based teachings of the church regarding godly women. "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30). Adornment should be in accord with our modest traditional patterns, springing forth from a meek and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:3-4).

When the mantle of ministry of the gospel is placed on a brother, he is asked to promise to give all diligence to being a submissive vessel through whom the Holy Spirit can feed the flock. It is also required that he faithfully uphold the teachings of the Word of God as interpreted by the Apostolic Christian Church. Special emphasis is placed in the Word on holding fast to sound doc-

trine (1 Tim. 4:16; 5:17; 2 Tim. 3:14-17). Ministers must be free of seminary-rooted confusion and falsehoods, speaking "not with excellency of speech" or "with man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Cor. 2:1,4).

Ministers must realize that there will sometimes be resistance to their preaching of the truth. They are instructed to "preach the Word . . . in season (and) out of season: (to) reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). It is not acceptable for a minister to remain silent or neutral about a controversial issue in order to avoid disturbing those who are not supportive of church teachings and standards. Rather there must be a willingness to "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3); "Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Tit. 1:9).

If a minister at any time should become unable, because of varying convictions, to clearly defend biblically-based church doctrine and practices, he should examine his heart, counsel with his elder, and make his views consistent with the body of believers for whom he speaks. Each elder ultimately bears the scriptural responsibility for the wholesome feeding of the flock by the ministering brothers laboring under his charge (1 Pet. 5:1-2). One of the elder's greatest and most far-reaching responsibilities is that of entrusting the preaching and teaching of God's Word to faithful men! When there is sincere humility of heart and an attitude of submissiveness on the part of every brother occupying the pulpit, this work can be done with joy, which is profitable to all (Heb. 13:17).

their convictions of desiring to do more work for the Lord. This persuasion was discussed at the October, 1983, meeting of the Missionary Committee. It was determined to seek the Lord's further guidance by appointing a subcommittee composed of members of the Missionary and World Relief Committees. This group met in January, 1984, and felt led of the Lord to formulate a proposal for an

organized program for the church. Encouraged by the elder body to proceed, a number of planning sessions were held. The program was formally introduced in September, 1984, and has been growing in an orderly fashion. A number of volunteers have generously given of themselves and their time serving the Lord on various projects.

The first name chosen for the

program was "The Lord's Work Opportunity Program For Apostolic Christians." Subsequently, this was modified to the present name of "Apostolic Christian Work Projects."

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Apostolic Christian Work Projects is to:

-- Provide opportunities to serve the Lord on a voluntary basis by any member or friend of the Truth who regularly attend and support the doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church, who are so moved to contribute their time, efforts and skills.

-- Develop such Work Projects that will serve to aid those in need wherever they may be located within the boundary of the United States or beyond.

-- Screen projects developed by other organizations utilizing the guidelines set forth in the World Relief Policy Statement and sanction them if appropriate.

-- Develop and/or approve such projects, providing the planning, organizing, directing, controlling, staffing and funding of approved projects as may be required or appropriate.

-- Direct the implementation of the projects and to provide spiritual guidance and counsel to the participants and to take such measures as may be required to encourage and ensure that the faith and doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church not be compromised.

This program and these principles are to be under the direct supervision of the Apostolic Christian Church Elder Body and its representation through its Missionary and World Relief Committees. It is intended that consideration be given only to World Projects that can be under this control, or, when members can participate as a group including an Apostolic Christian minister to conduct our own worship services.

#### ORGANIZATION

The program is coordinated by a committee called the "Apostolic Christian Works Projects Committee." It is composed of five members each from the Missionary and World Relief Committees.

The Committee is responsible for the planning, directing, funding and coordinating the efforts of the pro-

## --NOTICE --

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

Our work in sending Bibles, hymnals and Bible story books overseas has increased. Since 1984, we have sent over 5,000 books. At the World Relief meeting in Leo, November 1989, a plea was made that someone would start in this work in the Eastern States. We're thankful Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH) volunteered.

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers. We have far more requests for Bibles and Bible story books and Sunday school material, than hymnals.

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

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 132, 307 West First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
Phone (309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant  
R.R. #2, Box 95A  
Antwerp, OH 45813  
Phone (419) 258-2197

#### 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  
Sixth Year -- August 1988 thru July 1989 -- 25,509

##### Bibles Distributed -- Seventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1989 --	2210	2210
September 1989 --	1627	3837
October 1989 --	2102	5939
November 1989 --	2338	8277
December 1989 --	3095	11,372
January 1990 --	1212	12,584
February 1990 --	1543	14,127
March 1990 --	1653	15,780
April 1990 --	3346	19,126
May 1990 --	1766	20892

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.

gram. They meet periodically to review recommended projects and provide on-going supervision of the program. They also work to enhance the communications throughout the churches.

### FUNCTIONS

Two basic elements of the program consist of PEOPLE and PROJECTS. Methods have been developed to compose a roster of VOLUNTEERS as well as to solicit PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS. With sufficient listing in each category the program will become more viable and active. This requires the effort and support of the church leadership and congregations.

### FUNDING

The sources of funding Work Projects stems primarily from the Mission and World Relief Funds. In addition, other church funds, special collections, gifts, annuities, bequests, etc., represent potential sources. Also, participating volunteers are welcome to share in the provision of some of their project's expenses such as transportation or lodging. The volunteer's home congregation can also help with the project expenses and thus become a participant in this fashion.

### VOLUNTEERS

Any members or friends who are in accord with the precepts contained in the Statement of Purpose who are interested in voluntary participation

in this program are encouraged to submit a VOLUNTEER INFORMATION FORM. A supply of these have been provided for each congregation through its local elder. The appendix is also suitable for reproduction. Volunteers who have already participated in a Work Project, but have not completed a form are encouraged to do so.

### PROJECTS

It is not possible to foresee the total scope of this program. It will be dependent upon the Lord's guidance and direction. The number of volunteers interested will help determine the number and scope of projects developed.

The projects fall generally into three categories: Local, Domestic and Foreign. Some of the projects already implemented or in the planning stage include:

#### LOCAL

-- Home Sweet Home (renovation - Bloomington, IL).

-- Assisting Apostolic Christian Institutions (Rest Homes, Children's Home, Home for the Handicapped, Etc.).

-- Note: Local projects will likely constitute fewer numbers since this has been a long established tradition in each congregation's own sphere. This Work Projects Program is not intended to usurp nor assume prerogatives of the local church. However, where local projects may need some type of assistance, including financial, this program might be considered.

#### DOMESTIC

-- Recruiting and Placement Service for Apostolic Christian Institutions.

-- Assist Small Congregations To Grow.

-- Smaller Congregation Church Maintenance and Building.

-- Church Building Projects.

-- Church Maintenance Projects.

-- Kentucky Children's Homes.

-- Food Packaging For Eastern Europe.

-- Summer School Program (Alabama).

-- Gateway Woods, Children's Home (Leo, IN).

-- Note: The establishment of new

Apostolic Christian Churches falls under the scope of the Mission Committee. Work Projects can assist after the initial sanction is approved.

### FOREIGN

-- Haiti Work Teams (school roofs, well drilling, veterinarian assistance, hospital assistance, trade school equipment, Bibles.

-- India Medical Assistance.

-- Japan (potential).

-- Mexico City Reconstruction, AMMAR construction

-- Note: It is not intended that the Works Projects Program usurp some of the long standing programs coordinated by the World Relief Committee such as CARE, M.C.C., Heifer Project, Material Aid Center, European Relief, RGMMI, grain shipments, disaster aid, etc.

Project identification is a vital part of this program. Only if there are projects will there be work for volunteers under this program. Therefore, each congregation and/or individual is encouraged to recommend projects for consideration. They do not necessarily have to embrace physical or material needs but may be of a "service" nature. It is hoped that many worthy projects will be submitted, realizing that all of them may not become viable or selected.

To submit a Work Project for consideration a PROJECT RECOMMENDATION FORM should be submitted. The recommendation will be processed for review. A supply of these has been provided for each congregation through its local elder.

### CONCLUSION

With the faith and conviction that this program has been developed under the guidance and direction from God, it is prayerfully hoped that it can continue grow. As God gives inspiration to those moved to participate, may He also give the spirit of support and encouragement to the whole church.

#### NOTE: NEW ADDRESS

The Apostolic Christian Publications is now located in their new building. The new address is:

Apostolic Christian Publications  
805 W. Cruger Street - Box 52  
Eureka, IL 61530  
Phone: 309/467-3611

## GATEWAY WOODS

*Apostolic Christian Childrens Home*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1990  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 18, 1990



**GATEWAY WOODS  
Apostolic Christian  
Children's Home  
Judy Luginbuhl**

This month we had our annual car wash and garage sale. The youth got in on the action to earn money for family vacations in early June. The Thames' household will be traveling to Chamberland Lake in Kentucky, the Stollers' household will be traveling to the Ozarks and the All-Girls house to Arizona. We are all praying for each vacation to be a positive time for staff and residents to enjoy each other without the pressure of daily routines, stressful schedules, responsibilities and expectations. Thanks to all who supported the Car Wash/Garage Sale, and to those who will be lending your homes to our vacationers.

We are presently busy making plans and arranging schedules for the summer. Staff are scouting jobs in the community and on grounds for their teens. Learning the responsibility of maintaining a competitive job and earning money to budget toward savings and personal items is a valuable experience for our teenagers.

Wayne S. (West House) is our high school graduate this spring. He is presently considering his future needs, goals and options. For all of our young adults this transitional phase carries with it many difficult questions and anxieties. We are committed to our residents during and following their emancipation and continue to offer them counseling, housing options and other services to assist them in this crucial part of their life's journey.

Summer volunteers have already begun helping in a variety of ways. We still have more openings for volunteers; please contact the Home if you're interested.

You are invited to our Annual Sale Saturday, August 18, 1990, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please note this is 30 minutes earlier than in past years. We are welcoming individual donations to the Sale, as well as soliciting items from businesses and merchants in our various church communities. If you are interested in contributing items, riding a charter bus to the sale or volunteering your time, please contact the Home or your local church representative. We really ap-

preciate the generous support we receive each year, to make our Annual Sale a successful fund-raiser.

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR  
THE HANDICAPPED**

We are looking forward to being outdoors! The flowering trees and early spring flowers have been beautiful to behold, once again. Many residents enjoyed going home for Easter; but for those who were too far away, or for other reasons could not be with their families, Edith Getz lovingly invited them to her home for dinner, (with the help of others). She does this on various occasions, and it is appreciated very much!

Our most recent "family member" is Michelle Maloney, who came to our Home April 16 from the Hart House group home in Peoria. Her parents are James and Francoise Maloney and they live in Eureka. Michelle is attending PARC in Peoria and is making new friends, here and at PARC. A big welcome to you Michelle.

Our "Free Spirit" Special Olympics Team, consisting of 30 athletes, competed with 200 others from the area in the Regional competition Saturday, May 12 at Morton High School. Some of the events were 50 and 100 meter runs, relays, shotput, long jumps, softball throw and wheelchair races. Although it was a rainy day, everyone was excited and did their very best. Our team received 17 gold medals, 23 silver medals and 8 bronze medals. The gold medal winners advance to the State games at ISU June 15-17. We appreciate the volunteers who help with coaching and transportation for practices and competition.

We are beginning a new eight week session of riding therapy. Once per week a small group learns the basics of horseback riding. In Day Programming, many new classes have been introduced recently, such as: woodworking, farming, community access, indoor gardening, beauty, sewing, telephone skills and therapeutic games. They have also enjoyed shopping, touring Kathryn Beich Candies, Tanton's Dairy and Botanical Gardens.

At Oakwood, Jackie Barton just

began a new job working at Walmart in East Peoria, and Ed Getz recently started working at the Paper House in Peoria. We wish them well in their new jobs. Saturday, May 12, six people from Oakwood visited Clayville, a rural Illinois village; and four people from Oakwood and two from 540 N. Main will be taking a mini-vacation May 19 and 20 to Brown County, Indiana. They will attend a play and tour craft shows in the area.

Our July birthdays are: Billie Tatum (1); Gary Feller (5); Cindy Virkler (6); Michelle Maloney (19); Clark Lewis (24); Janet Giberson (29). At Oakwood: Ed Getz (31); and at 540 N. Main: Gloria Heiniger (26). Birthday cards are always appreciated very much.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Pamela Moore**

In April, we said goodbye to two very special people in our congregation, David and Pela Nafin. David and Pela have been worshipping with us for approximately a year, since David was transferred to the Brown's Ferry Nuclear Power Plant on a special work project. They came to us from Reading, PA, where they have now returned. April 28, the day before they were to leave, we spent a day of fellowship with them, including a supper and singing Sunday evening. We will never forget them and pray that they will take a part of Athens with them, also.

Our prayers are with Sis. Doris Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd) as she recuperates from back surgery at home. May the Lord be near her as she continues to experience soreness and pain.

We appreciated visitors from Alto, MI, and Latty, OH, Eureka and Washington, IL, this month.

As we experience the joy of a new baby in our home, what responsibility we feel! As a newborn babe, their vision is limited to the distance from them to their father and mother's eyes. This is the main focus at this time, as they gaze constantly into their parent's face. As they grow, they begin to be interested in other objects and patterns around them, however, their favorite is to look and listen and respond to their parents' expressions, voice and actions. As a

child of God, our main focus should always be on our heavenly Father. Though the world is around us and our attention gets diverted, our main joy and desire should be to listen, respond and to keep our eyes on our heavenly Father.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

If there is ever a time you relive giving your own testimony, it has to be when someone comes before the members to tell how Jesus Christ touched them, worked in their heart to make them whole and a child of God.

After hearing the testimonies of Wendy Klopfenstein and Scott Baum, we were pleased to witness the baptisms May 6. Tim Martin close to be baptized later at home.

Bro. Scott's parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum, and family came from Morton, IL, for this great accomplishment.

Sis. Wendy's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein. Her four grandparents were also here.

We pray our new brothers and sister-in-faith will keep Him as the center in their lives. He is only a prayer away.

Dear friends who attend morning church, stayed for the baptisms, their first. They were duly impressed with the sincerity of Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich's service.

A church supper and singing were enjoyed later in the day.

On April 23, Bro. Herbie and Sis. Laurie Knochel became parents of Tyler Jon. Little Andrew and Natalie are happily sharing with their new brother.

Our sympathy to Ella Harmon on the death of her husband, Ed, April 28. We are grateful Ed was able to come to church with Ella before being confined to bed. Dear Ella, may you find comfort in Romans 8:38 and 39.

Sympathy is also extended to Bro. Al Yackley and Bro. Eric Langhofer on the death of their grandmother, Sis. Dora Young (Wichita, KS).

Our sympathy to Sis. Annabelle Stetzler on Bro. Manny's death. They have spent several winters here and had just returned to Morton, IL. May God comfort you, Sis. Annabelle.

We appreciated Bros. Nate Le-man and Curtis Kaufman (Tucson) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), our visiting ministers.

How thankful we were April 29, when we could greet Sis. Marjorie and Bob Rebbec, who have not been present since Sis. Mary's hospital stay.

Sis. Dorothy Kraft is doing nicely after major surgery. She and Richard were able to join services May 13.

Sis. Madeline Knochel is home with a back problem, but was present Mother's Day.

Phoenix has some "sunbeams" who show up for church and know their efforts are not in vain. How great it is to go into the house of the Lord and be refreshed spiritually.

Once again we became aware how fragile life is when Sis. Jill (Bro. Todd) Roth hemorrhaged several days after a tonsillectomy. We are indeed thankful our Lord stirred many into fast action and look forward to Sis. Jill's recovery.

Our high school graduates for 1990 are Bro. Bob Dotterer, Sis. Wendy Klopfenstein, Gabriel Hill, Kary Niemeyer and Sis. Susan Sueber. Grade school grads are: Adina Johnston, Todd Klopfenstein, Justin Roth and Beth Dotterer. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein, Debra Johnston and Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth. Our prayers are with you as you move into more learning. Be assured the Bible is still your most important book to read and study.

Take a lesson from the pin. Its head keeps it from going too far.

We had a couple days of brief showers which the birds were hopping in, singing with more volume than usual. A few days later, a covey of Gambel's quail with beautiful top-knots flew into our yard. The hummers are always flying to their feeder. "Grouch" with his green jacket and brilliant red neckerchief sits on the line keeping others away, but the Lord knows our needs and I surely enjoy every bird He sends.

We leave you today with II Corinthians 13:14.

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Give Your Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

**ARIZONA, TUCSON**

**Lisa Knapp**

Our small congregation grew by 1 "small" addition recently. Heather Rose Funk has joined us as our newest addition. She has blessed the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk. Aaron also welcomes her along with grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joanne Fischer (Morton, IL) and Jim and Sis. LouAnn Funk (Tucson). We are so thankful for Heather's safe arrival.

Bro. Kent Miller has graduated from the University of Arizona and will be continuing his education in Kansas in medical school. He and his wife, Sis. Jane, will be leaving us in a few weeks to move to Kansas. We wish them every good blessing and the Spirit to guide them in their lives. We will miss them so much but we feel blessed to have had them for awhile.

Our friend, Darla Hari, will be graduating from high school soon. We are glad to hear she will be staying in Tucson to attend college. May the Lord be her constant companion as she starts a new chapter in her life.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). He and his wife, Sis. Pearl, were here to attend the graduation of their son, Bro. Kent. We are so glad they visited.

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**

**Nella Varga**

Well, if there was anything eventful this past month, it was the number of birthdays. God's richest blessings to all who celebrated the day of their birth!

And this month we are honoring our fathers. To them we want to say a prayer of thanks. Thank you, father, for providing a home to live in, food for nourishment, and especially having the grace and love for us to take us to church where we all have the opportunity to meet our heavenly Father. How joyous it is to have a loving father. God bless you, dad!

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**COLORADO, DENVER**

**Marlene Leman**

Sis. Barb Baer underwent surgery this month. She's recuperating just fine and is out and about again.

We are thankful for her speedy recovery.

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen was here the weekend of March 6. At that time we were privileged to take holy communion. What a solemn, humbling time and one of renewing our closeness to God and to each other. We thank Bro. Nate for being with us and for his God-given words spoken to us. May God bless him.

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### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Hany

"Joyfully, joyfully onward I move,  
Bound for the land of bright spirits above!  
. . . Pilgrim and stranger no more shall I roam,  
Joyfully, joyfully resting at home!"

Hymns of Zion #239

What a blessing that after a lengthy illness two dear sisters have won their victory over death to attain rest, peace and joy evermore! Sis. Evelyn Lanz, 80, died April 20 and Sis. Frieda Reutter, 93, April 26. Sis. Evelyn leaves four sisters, Sisters Clara, Edna, Olga and Gertrude; and a brother, Bro. Alvin. Sis. Frieda leaves many close nieces and nephews.

Amanda Marie was born May 10 to Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler. At home to help care for little Amanda are Deanna and Joshua. Grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Virkler (Crogan, NY) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Millie Gerber.

The engagement of three couples was recently announced. On April 29, Sis. Melisa Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Roy Feucht (Bro. August and Sis. Martha, Lester, IA). Sis. Melisa has been living and working here for approximately one year and we wish her God's blessings as she anticipates a move to Lester. On May 13, the engagement of Sis. Janis Lanz (Dick and Sis. Frieda) and Bro. Steve Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) was revealed. We wish these young couples well as they begin their walk together in faith. Lastly, the writer, Sis. Martha (Aberle) Hany and Bro. Robert Luginbuhl have faith and courage, based on the prompting of the Holy Spirit, to also make their intentions known.

We often take our good health so

much for granted and we think and pray for those not as fortunate -- especially those confined in nursing homes and the elderly who experience the weakness of the flesh and perhaps even yearn to be relieved of their affliction. Ministering Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) formerly of Rockville, has had open-heart surgery and we pray for his well being. Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen have a daughter here, Sis. Debbie and Ken Crary, and a sister, Sis. Shirley.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers during May were Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, accompanied by his wife, Joan (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, accompanied by his wife, Emily and 7 children (Junction, OH). Their ministry was much appreciated. Other visitors were from Akron and Rittman, OH, and Rockville, CT.

Bro. John Baumann has been transferred to this area by his employer and will initially be working at the National Airport. We give Bro. John a warm welcome and are glad to have him as a part of our small assembly.

Ed and Ginny (Knobloch) Stoll have just returned from a long honeymoon trip, having been married April 28 in Rock Rapids, IA. We appreciate them as a part of our assembly and they have our best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

By the time this is published, the tourist season will be in full swing herein the Washington, D.C. area. We look forward to many visitors during the summer and fall months. Please feel free to call us if we can be of assistance in providing directions, in finding lodging, or in general tourist information. And, when in the area, we invite you to join our church assembly when and if possible.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark Hotel (Best Western) located on U.S. Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30 a.m. For information call Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476. Visitors are always welcome.

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### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL) were able to visit us. Bro. Joe assisted our Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein in the communion service -- that annual reminder of the sacrifice made upon the cross.

Ministering Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) also visited in May.

Bro. Dale, Sis. Amy and Serenity Rigger have relocated up north. Our church will miss their growing young family and we pray they will find happiness and contentment in their new home.

The Sunday school took a weekend trip to the West Coast. We spent Saturday at Busch Gardens and Sunday visiting Sarasota Church. It is fun to travel as a group and also nice to visit another congregation, renewing old friendships as well as meeting new brother and sisters-in-the-Lord.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Curt Anliker (Francisville, IN). He will be spending several months in our area working for I.B.M.

Bro. Roy Luginbuhl was hospitalized for heart surgery in May. As of this writing, he is back at home and on the road to recovery. We are anxious to be able to fellowship with him on Sundays once again.

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### FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer - Jeanette Yergler

This is the month we give tribute to fathers. But let us not forget the fathers that have gone on to their heavenly rest. We need to more diligently follow the patterns our fathers in Christian faith set for us.

### THEY'RE WAITING OVER THERE

They're waiting for us over there,  
The young, the beautiful and fair  
Who left us, oh, so long ago,  
Lonely and hurt on earth below,  
Are waiting bravely, never fear,  
Until our faces shall appear.

Then when our journey here is done  
And we set out to follow on  
And pass the heavy mantled door  
Which leads to rest forevermore,



They will be there to laugh away  
The loneliness we feel today.

They'll welcome us with wondrous  
grace  
And show us all about the place,  
They'll take us gently by the hand  
And guide us through that radiant  
land,  
They'll tell us all they've learned  
and seen  
Through the long absence that has  
been.

We'll meet the friends who have  
been kind  
To them the while we stayed  
behind,  
Angels who long have dwelt above  
And welcomed them with arms of  
love,  
Who sheltered them the long years  
through,  
Just as we'd prayed for them to do.

Though now you mourn, who stay  
behind,  
How sad 'twould be to leave, and  
find  
Upon that distant other shore  
No loved one who had gone before --  
The gates of heaven to enter  
through  
With not one there to welcome you.

As now when some long journey  
ends  
And we're received by smiling  
friends  
Who've watched and waited for  
our train,  
So shall they welcome us again;  
The young, the beautiful and fair  
Will all be waiting for us there.  
by Edgar A. Guest

Visiting us this past month were  
Bro. Glen Price (Sarasota, FL), Bro.  
Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro.  
Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN)  
and Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin,  
IL). We thank all the visitors this  
past winter and our appreciation and  
thanks to all the visiting ministers.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
**Suellen Ott**

Our small church family has many  
reasons to be thankful in the past  
month. Our Sis. Krista Price and  
Kelly Price were spared serious in-

jury in an automobile accident. Also,  
our dear friend, Dathan Eisenmann  
had surgery and is home recovering  
now.

Sis. Lydia Vonia is currently in  
Sarasota Rehab. Institution recover-  
ing from a stroke and could use our  
prayers and support.

The Fort Lauderdale families were  
our guests in Sarasota for a weekend.  
We were delighted to have Bro. Brian  
Webb also along to share God's Word  
with us.

We encourage any visitors to Flor-  
ida this summer to include Sarasota  
in their travel plans.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**  
**Peggy Camp**

We express appreciation to Bro.  
Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL),  
Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and  
Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City,  
MI) for ministering the Word of God  
to us this past month. May the Lord  
bless them for bringing us such  
wonderful messages.

Our congregation is meeting ev-  
ery Sunday at the Ramada Renais-  
sance Hotel which is located off I-85  
at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please  
contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-  
4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-253-  
5668) for more information.

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**ILLINOIS,**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
**Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer**

The voice that breathed o'er Eden,  
That earliest wedding day,  
The primal marriage blessing,  
It hath not passed away:  
Still in the pure espousal  
Of Christian man and maid  
The Holy Three are with us,  
The threefold grace is said.

Be present, Holy Spirit,  
To bless them as they kneel,  
As thou, for Christ the Bridegroom,  
The heavenly bride dost seal;  
O spread thy pure wing o'er them;  
Let no ill power find place,  
While onward to thy presence  
Their hallowed path they trace.

Hymns of Zion #196

We rejoice with Donna O'Kane  
and Kimm Smith as they were united

in marriage Saturday, April 14. We  
pray that the Lord will bless them as  
they set up a household of faith.

Paul Stoller (Lyle and Sis. Lois)  
and Sharon Brecklin (Mr. and Mrs.  
Clarence Brecklin) have announced  
their engagement. They will be wed  
June 2. We express our love and best  
wishes to them.

Some of us gathered together  
Sunday afternoon, April 22, at Funk's  
Grove for our adopted student picnic.

The Mortonaires sang for our  
monthly hymn sing. We appreciated  
the beautiful songs and fellowship.

"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 scriptural reference was used  
as the theme for our annual Mother-  
Daughter Banquet May 11. It was an  
enjoyable evening for all ages.

We thank Bro. Jay Rinkenberger  
for a beautiful Mother's Day service.  
We give the Lord all the praise and  
honor and thank Him for our moth-  
ers.

Our semi-annual business meet-  
ing was held May 16. Bro. Kevin  
Nussbaum will replace Bro. Mark  
Huber as Sunday school teacher.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Karen Ringger**

This year our area has surely been  
blessed with an abundance of rain. It  
is so different from the past few years  
of such small amounts of rainfall.

Our congregation extends their  
sympathy to Sis. Becky Endress (Bro.  
Larry) in the passing of her father,  
Bro. Orel Steiner (Oakville, IA). May  
God comfort Sis. Becky and her fam-  
ily.

On May 4 Bro. Mark and Sis.  
Stephanie Rumbold became the happy  
parents of a precious baby girl. Little  
Jessica was welcomed home by Jon-  
athan. May God bless this family.

Mother's Day, May 13, Bro. Greg  
Moser (Roanoke) and Sis. Sharlene  
Kieser were united in holy matri-  
mony. We certainly wish them the  
best as they start their life together.  
Visiting ministers that spent the day  
with us were Elder Bros. Joe Stoller  
(Princeville), Robert Beyer (Naum-  
burg, NY) and Don Sauder, and Bros.

Jim Leman and Jim Byrd (all of Roanoke). We thank each one of them for spending the day with us. This Mother's Day was also special for two couples that announced their engagements. Bro. Kurt Keiser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie) to Sis. Janet Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn, Congerville) was announced, and Sis. Rachel Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy) to Bro. Glen Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella, Tremont) was announced. May God be with these two couples as they start to plan their future lives together.

Our congregation has eight graduates from high school this year. They are Sis. Leann Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky), Sis. Kim Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky), Sis. Lisa Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Mart), Sis. Cheryl Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen), Keri Hausmann (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla), Jenni Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky), Fred Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) and Bro. Matt Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma). We certainly wish each of them God's guidance as they seek for a job, or go on to higher education.

Sis. Martha Stoller (Bro. Nate) had surgery this month. We pray God will renew her strength and that soon she will be able to assemble with us.

### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN LaRae Dill

Our annual church business meeting was held April 26. Brothers and sisters elected to serve our church were Bob Simpson (secretary), Ben Blunier (treasurer), Rod Anliker and Marilyn Walder (Sunday school teachers), Denny Mangers (trustee) and Joe Aeschleman (usher). Our thanks to Sis. Pam Furrer (Sunday school) and Bros. Brian Waibel (Sunday school) and Keith Hanson (trustee) for their years of service.

We were blessed to have the Detroit choir visit our congregation the weekend of April 28 and 29. Under the direction of Bro. Phil Bahr, the choir presented a two-part message through song Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

“. . . Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. . . This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do

ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”

I Corinthians 11:24-25

The purpose of holy communion is expressed in the above verse -- to remember. It was so good to gather with brothers and sisters to remember the Lord's death and to reflect on His love and goodness. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) was present to assist our elder, Bro. Dave Wiegand, in the service.

That same evening it was announced that Bro. Dewayne Dill was chosen to serve in the ministry. We're thankful for the prayers of brothers, sisters, friends and families who sought God's direction in this important step.

Graduation marks an ending as well as a beginning. It is the end of countless hours of study, and the beginning of a new opportunity to use God-given abilities and talents in serving the Lord, as well as others. We have several graduates in our congregation. Krista Banwart, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, is a graduate of Mahomet-Seymour High School. Krista will attend Illinois State University this fall. Sara Vogel (daughter of Jerry and Lois) is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and is working in Wheaton, IL. Becca Wiegand (daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel), Sis. Renae Waldbeser (Bro. Jim), Bro. Jon Walder (son of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma) and Mark Rieger (Mary Jo) are University of Illinois graduates.

Also, a large number of students who have assembled in our church during their college years will be leaving Champaign-Urbana. We will miss them as they have brought much love and enthusiasm to our congregation. University of Illinois graduates are Sisters Lori Bostrom and Rachel Kellenberger, Mark Blunier, Jeff Stoller, Bruce Young, Grant Haab and Bros. Dan Moser, Kurt Kieser, Weston Stahl, Ben Walder, Dan Kaiser, Doug Rinkenberger, Mark Waldbeser, Jeff Steiner, Rick Meyer and Troy Schrock. Parkland College graduates are Chad Kupferschmid, Bros. Darwin Steidinger and Troy Oberlander and Sisters Kathy Schneider and Linda Siebenthal.

The University of Illinois student group has chosen Bros. Shannon Stahl,

Matt Ackerman and Sis. Dawn Meiss to serve as officers for the 1990-1991 school year. The students and congregation thank Bros. Troy Schrock, Mark Waldbeser and Sis. Christine Kaufman for their service as officers the past year.

We're thankful for ministers who have visited our congregation: Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bob Pfleiderer (Morton, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Once in a bank there was a person who had much expertise. However, she was extremely difficult to work with and had a reputation which preceded her. One day a new employee asked one who had taken training from this woman how she had handled that tough time. The now-trained woman laughed and said, "With deep breathing and prayer." I felt that was a lesson for me in dealing with all of life's turmoil. Deep breathing, as one of the marvels of our physical make-up, can bring physical relaxation, a releasing of tension. I have heard it suggested that, as one breathes in deeply, he can also murmur within, "Thy will," and -- as he exhales -- think, "be done," which adds a spiritual prioritizing and "letting go" to the physical act -- and take us right to prayer. May we ever be reminded to whom we belong and who deserves all the credit for getting us through our days in His ways.

We were given so much by visiting brethren, Bros. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). They led us "deeper than the printed page," as one mentioned, so that we might apply the Word in all dimensions of our lives. We are appreciative of their efforts.

Church cleaning renews our thankfulness for the physical edifice with which we are blessed. The uncurtained windows left us so much more exposed for a time, to anyone who might peer in. I must confess to being reminded of the judgment when nothing shall be hidden and all shall come

to light. If we are cleansed of the Lord (as we cleaned our church building) and renewed in Him daily, we have nothing to fear from the pure light of the Son. Let us look to Him prayerfully.

Sis. Janet Gudeman (daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Caroline, Congerville), a student at North Central College in Naperville, and Bro. Curt Kieser (son of Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser, Bradford) have sought the Lord's will in their lives and are now engaged to be married. We wish them His guidance even during this engagement period as they make decisions, including spiritual ones, which will have much effect on the rest of their lives together. We are glad in the Lord and extend our joy and prayers to them.

I say it every time. The Lord is leading them, so it's okay. And it is. But always it hurts when He leads those dear to us away. We do pray for His continued guidance for Janet Metzger, Sis. Thirza Thompson and Elise Zimmerman. Janet has returned to Lester, IA, and plans to pursue college in the fall. We will miss her animation and friendliness. Sis. Thirza has gone back to Kansas, this time in the Kansas City area, working in the rehabilitation of the blind. Her love and radiance will be such a joy for the brethren there, but we miss her. Elise is living close by her sisters-in-law in Metamora, central Illinois territory. Her bright eyes and dry sense of humor have meant so much to us throughout the years. Our love and prayers follow them all. We also welcome Sis. Dena Lewis, home from Illinois State University, in Elk Grove Village. We are delighted to have her with us.

Bro. Frank Fisher has again had surgery at Mayo Clinic and is recuperating well. We praise God for His goodness in times of physical trials and extend to Frank our thoughts and prayers. We are ever grateful when he can worship with us again.

The 17-year cicadas are to make their appearance this week once again. I was listening to someone speak of them, calmly, to another person, speaking of their life cycle and their long wait. They are a miracle of God's creation, filling a particular niche in the life of this planet, all determined by Him from the beginning. Can we

fell that the Lord has any less of a place for each of us to fill -- whether it takes 17 years, more, or fewer? May we be patient and wait upon the Lord and His timing.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Bev Knapp - Karol Stock**

All her love and her affection  
 Is a gift from God above  
 And her price is more than rubies  
 As the Bible tells in love.  
 Who can price the virtuous woman?  
 Only God who knows all things.  
 He it is who will reward her  
 When she goes where angels sing.

Author Unknown

"Her Price Is Far Above Rubies" was the theme for our annual Mother-Daughter Dinner held May 10. It was an enjoyable evening for all as we shared a delicious meal together and could be uplifted through both readings and songs.

Our Bible class students traveled to Peoria the evening of April 22 for ACYF.

We rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb as they welcome a baby girl into their family. Katrina Jane was born April 27 and has two brothers, Chad and Trent, and a sister, Teresa. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN).

Bob and Astrid Kellerhals, along with Bro. Eldon and Sis. Melba Steffen, recently welcomed a new granddaughter, Samantha Nicole, who was born April 24 to Jon and Sandy Steffen (Naples, FL).

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers who so willingly share the Word of Life with us. Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) have been with us this past month. We thank each one for coming.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month are Dave Walder, Bro. Bob Greiner and Danny Weerts. May God bless each one with renewed health and strength.

We read in Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children

to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." We also read in Proverbs 4:1, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." As we observe Father's Day, we realize it is the responsibility of a father to teach his children the ways of truth. May we also, as children, "hear the instruction" not only of our earthly fathers, but much more, our heavenly Father.

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott**

As Father's Day approaches, may we all be reminded to appreciate our earthly fathers who have done so much for us. They are one of God's many blessings that are given to us to fully enjoy.

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

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

Hymns of Zion #106

We are thankful that there are still souls willing to consecrate their lives to God. We rejoice with Brad Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) as he has begun his repentance. We wish him much grace in this most important step in life.

Seeking God's direction in their lives are Sis. Janet Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Caroline) and Bro. Kurt Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie, Bradford) as they have announced their engagement. May God richly bless in their lives together.

Welcoming their second child are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure. Austin Jeffrey was born April 13. Also welcoming Austin home is his sister, Amanda. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Sharon McClure and Roger and Elaine Hodel (Roanoke).

We extend a loving welcome to Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger and their daughter, Audrey, who have moved from Bay City, MI, to our congregation. May they feel our warmth and love.



### TO A SPECIAL GRADUATE

You've come to the end of one path,  
And now it's time to explore  
New dreams and distant horizons,  
More challenges than before.

The road won't always be easy;  
It may get rocky and rough.  
But keep on going, don't turn back;  
In God you'll find strength  
enough.

Always trust in Him for guidance  
And give nothing but your best,  
Then your journey throughout this  
life  
Will be by Him richly blessed.  
Beth Stuckwisch

We wish God's blessings and wisdom to our graduates. Our high school graduates are Bill McClure and Brad Leman. Graduating from college are Sis. Sandy Knapp, Bro. Jim Roth, Bro. Troy Schrock and Bro. Ben Walder.

Once again we thank our God-fearing ministers who proclaim the Holy Word. Visiting us this month were Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka).

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Elizabeth Schambach**  
**Betty Bachtold**

Love is the rose in life's garden,  
Thriving in rain and in sun:  
Sweeter as memories, like petals,  
Gently unfold, one by one.  
From the promise of early  
beginnings,  
The tiniest seed at the start,  
It grows to a bloom of great beauty  
With radiance and joy at its  
heart.  
Its gifts of sweet fragrance and  
color  
Are blessings that any may  
share;  
Love is the rose in life's garden  
And God Himself planted it  
there.

With sympathetic hearts we remember all those who mourn the loss of Bro. Freeman Kellenberger who recently passed away in Sabetha, KS. May God comfort his dear wife, Sis.

Lucille, their children and families. We also share sympathy with Sisters Emma and Rose Viellieber who were saddened in the sudden death of their sister, Marie Schott (Lafayette, IN).

Sis. Lillian Foell was a surgical patient this month, and is recuperating at home. We are thankful.

Many words of wisdom came forth as Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and our Elder Bro. Nathan shared the memorandum, and ministered to us the following day. Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) also visited our congregation and spread the precious Word. May God bless every effort and grant that it could be fruitful.

We have several graduates again, and while we wish to congratulate them, we also wish to impress upon them the blessedness of living for Jesus. "For this God is our God forever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death." Psalm 48:14. These include: Gary Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon), Ryan Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), Wayne Sauder (Roger and Sis. Gertrude), Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma), Denise Schambach (Ernest and Annette), and Eric Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne).

A dear little girl, Amanda Victoria, was born May 18 to Vicki Lyn Schambach. Grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Jenny Schambach. May God's love and His wisdom be granted.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Kathy Leman**

"To break Thy bread we now have gathered, In covenant to drink Thy wine." Zion's Harp #25. Saturday, April 21 we gathered together to partake of holy communion. What a blessed and solemn occasion. We thank Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) for coming and assisting our Elder Bro. Walter. Also, for their kindly admonitions and teachings the following Sabbath day.

We also appreciate Bros. Willis Wiegand and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and Jim Plattner (Princeville) for breaking the bread of life with us through His Word. May God richly

bless the words that have been spoken unto our hearts.

We are thankful that Cherry Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev) has professed peace in her heart and is awaiting baptism. We surely rejoice with the angels in heaven when a soul can turn their back to this world and find grace unto repentance.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Jess Getz and Sis. Caroline Leman (Bro. Milton). They are both at the Home for further treatment. May their lot be made bearable. We also remember our beloved Bro. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna) who suffers upon his hospital bed, and his dear wife and family as they faithfully stand by.

"I wish to die in my dear Jesus, in peace and with great joy consoled..." Zion's Harp #247. Two of our brethren have laid down their cross and crossed over to the other side. Bro. David Leman passed away April 23 at the Home. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Ann, and two daughters, Joanne Lockwood (Peoria) and Sis. Joyce Hohulin (Bro. Wes) from Goodfield. Also, two sisters, Sis. Kathryn and Sis. Eliza E. Leman and one brother, Bro. Sam Leman, Jr. We pray that God will comfort them and grant the healing balm to their hearts.

Sis. Tillie Wittmer passed away April 24 at the Roanoke Apostolic Nursing Home. Her husband, Bro. John, has passed away in 1974. Surviving are three sons, Walter and Bro. Maurice (Morton) and Bro. Carlton (Eureka); four daughters, Sisters Dorothy Hartter (Bro. Dan), Wilma Lehman (Bro. Clarence), Deloris (Bro. Roland), all of Eureka, and Sis. Gladys Fisher (Bro. Frank, Chicago). May God comfort each one in the loss of their mother.

Sis. Ida Wenger (Bro. Clarence) has lost her sister, Sis. Elizabeth Schlupp (Roanoke). May she be comforted in her loss.

Vacation Bible School will be held in June. We pray for the dear brethren who will stand before the children and bring the message of salvation to their hearts.

We will soon be commemorating Father's Day. How thankful we are for our earthly fathers who are Thy children whether they have gone on before us or are still with us here. We remember them reading the Word



and praying around the family table. What precious memories are etched on our minds! How much more did our heavenly Father love us as He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, who willingly went to that old rugged cross and shed His innocent blood for our redemption. What love the Father hath!

Fear knocked at the door. Faith opened it, and lo, there was no one there.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY  
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers! living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,  
Oh how our hearts beat high with  
joy

Whene'er we hear that glorious  
word!  
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

Our fathers, chained in prisons  
dark,  
Were still in heart and conscious  
free:  
How sweet would be their  
children's fate,  
If they, like them, could die for  
thee!  
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers! We will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife:  
And preach thee, too, as love knows  
how,  
By kindly words and virtuous life:  
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

Frederick W. Faber

As Father's Day approaches, we are thankful for our fathers who showed us the heavenly Father's love. We are also grateful for the faith that are God-fearing fathers have left for us.

Our congregation was blessed with two babies. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr are first-time parents. Baby Laura Elizabeth was born April 21. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro.

Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel (Forrest).

Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda Walter are rejoicing with their baby son, Jared Bruce. He was born April 26. Jared has a brother, Jacob, to welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen Walter and Nancy Eaton.

April 29 was a special day when six dear souls were baptized in Christ's name. They were Paul and Carmen Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman), Dawn Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane), Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Cory Steffen (Albert and Karen) and Jackie Fehr (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Linda). We now welcome them as new brothers and sisters in the beloved family of God.

We pray for those who met with accident in the past days, Bro. Keith Steidinger and Sidney Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae, Winthrop, MN).

On May 9, Sis. Minnie Zehr was laid to rest. We extend sympathy to her husband, Bro. Ben and her daughter, Maxine Yoder and family. May they each feel God's comfort in the days ahead.

Our congregation was blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Elders Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Wayne Banwart (Champaign), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and Earl Gerber (Forrest). We trust God's blessings will follow them as they continue to be used in God's service.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Kara Meiss, Jamie Walter, Cheryl Slagel, Jennifer Welborn, Darin Bazzell, Michael Steidinger, Chris Steidinger and Bryan Stoller.

We pray that each one will seek God's guidance as they make plans for the future.

Whatever you do,  
Wherever you are,  
May God guide your way  
As you reach for a star,  
And may you find always  
While He is close by  
No dream is too lofty  
No goal is too high.

ILLINOIS, FORREST  
Sherri Kelson  
Sandra Schneider

IMPRESSIONS OF A FATHER

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

Johnson

The best inheritance a father can leave his children is a Christian example. May God bless our fathers for all the kind and loving efforts that they have put forth towards our lives.

Two very special occasions took place the last week of April in our congregation. Wednesday evening, we partook of holy communion. May this give us added zeal in serving our Lord.

Sunday evening, April 29, we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Wayne Anliker as he assumed the great responsibility of eldership. May we each do our part in supporting Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy.

We appreciate Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield) helping in this important work. We thank Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Gary Anliker (Elgin) for being with us for the day and lending themselves.

We especially want to thank retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and his wife, Sis. Dorothy, for the many years of faithful caring for our flock. May God be their rewarder as words cannot convey how much their labors have meant to us.

Our high school graduates this year are Sally Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta), Kyra Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty), Daton Kupferschmid (Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda), Shelly Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne), Joe Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb), Clint Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Marie Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice). May they seek the Lord's guidance as they journey on in their lives.

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized this month. They are Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Bro. Duane Schneider (Sis. Juanita), Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer), Anna Metz (Andy) and

Bro. Rich Rieger (Sis. Marian). May the Lord provide His healing hand for each one.

We rejoice with Bro. Perry and Sis. Louise Honegger as they have been blessed with 50 years of life together.

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

Gospel Hymns #622

We are thankful Denny Zimmerman is turning to the Lord in repentance. We trust that he will feel our prayers for him and with the grace of God, make a good beginning.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz would like to give a special thank you to all who remembered them with prayers, words of encouragement, and kind deeds while Sis. Lavonne was in the hospital. May God reward each of you.

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

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

As the school year comes to a close, we wish our graduating seniors God's richest blessings as they venture into the world. For those of us who are parents of these students, it's hard to allow our precious children to try out their wings; but knowing this too is a normal step to be taken in everyone's life, we just pray for God's care and guidance.

Little Nathan Warren Bauman came into the lives of Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita Bauman May 19. His happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Tony Monfre, George Knapp, Sr. and Sis. Hilda Leman. We pray for God's healing power and comfort.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville), Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). May God bless them for their efforts.

Our high school students enjoyed

spending a Sunday with the Gridley, IL, high school students. It is our hope that lasting friendships will develop and some day these children will make up our future church.

Our deepest love and sympathy is extended to the Earnest Diggelman family in the loss of their dear husband, father and grandpa, Bro. Ernie. Our church family will also feel a loss as we miss Ernie's vibrant personality, but feel a comfort knowing he was ready to meet the Lord.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

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

Psalms 37:4

The above verse was the theme for the Senior Dinner held May 19 whereby our high school graduates and their parents, Bible Class students and our high school brothers and sisters ate together at the Elms Restaurant in El Paso. It was a time of wonderful fellowship as the church gave a spiritually-centered "send-off" to our beloved graduates: Sis. Molly Witzig, Sis. Rebecca Wettstein, Sis. Christa Gramm, Jill Gramm, Brent Ringger, Trent Kaupp, Shannon Wit-zig and Eric Knobloch. Adam Freehil was unable to attend. Bro. Stephen Baner, a Bible class teacher, spoke on "The True Meaning of Success."

One of the evening's highlights was the reading of "A Hope In My Heart," a poem by Sis. Judy Knobloch which was read by her son, Eric, who was among the graduates. The poem was written especially for the occasion.

### THERE'S A HOPE IN MY HEART

There's a hope in my heart,  
An innocent hope,  
As this child is born to me.  
As I carry him home,  
A tender, young babe,  
There's a hope for all I want him to be.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A sweet, precious hope,

For this child sent from Heaven above.

He's a gift from the Lord,  
That's been given to me,  
A taste of the Father's love.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A God-given hope,  
As this little one slowly grows.  
And I bring him to church,  
To God's holy house,  
So that the love of God he knows.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A joyful hope,  
As he's entering Sunday school.  
He'll learn Bible stories,  
And cute little songs,  
And to follow the Golden Rule.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A love-filled hope,  
As the Sunday school training grows deep,  
That the seeds of truth that are planted there,  
He will carefully, prayerfully keep.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A soul-wrenching hope,  
As the innocent years fade away,  
That the truths he's been taught  
Of the plan of salvation,  
He'll gladly accept today.

There's a hope in my heart,  
A humble, fond hope,  
As he's grown to be a man.  
He's my gift to the Lord,  
I have to let go,  
For I have done all that I can.

There's a hope in my heart,  
My only hope,  
As I see him now all grown,  
That he will seek wisdom,  
And truth and light,  
And Jesus as his own.

The funeral of Marilyn Schlipf, 52, was held Sunday, May 12. She is survived by her three sisters, Lois and Sis. Ruth Ann (Eureka), and Sis. Dorothy Witzig (Gridley); and three brothers, Bro. Elmer and John (Gridley), and Clarence (Carlock). Marilyn, a dear handicapped child, gave an appreciated presence in church for many years. She was always interested and very friendly. Going to church was the highlight of her life! All in the Gridley congregation who remember

her will feel a sense of loss at her passing. The wonderful care given her by her mother, sisters and brothers, relatives and brethren accrued to glorify God, and to reflect His love and compassion.

On April 21, three souls were added to the fold on the basis of their testimony of being at peace with God and man and wishing to pull along with the yoke of Christ's body, the church: Sis. Jodi Schlipf (Bro. John M. and Sis. Jill), Bro. Todd Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary) and Bro. John Meiss (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan). We express our best wishes in faith to these dear young souls.

Sis. Esther Miller and Sis. Marcella Hany were recently hospitalized.

Bro. Alph and Sis. Lillian Witzig and family would like to sincerely thank everyone, especially the Bloomington congregation, for all the prayers and deeds of kindness in so many ways for their daughter, Sis. Karen Brummit, while she was in the hospital and sick at home. They are also grateful for the meals being brought in to her husband since she passed away.

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### ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIV.

The ISU group is thankful for the opportunity we have to gather together around God's Word every Thursday night. We would like to give a special thanks to Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Everett Hari (Bloomington), Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington), Kurt Rassi (Tremont), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Rick Plattner (Peoria), Kenny Weerts (Cissna Park), John Hartman (Fairbury), Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Ed Fritz (Washington), John Zeller (Morton), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Earl Ringger (Gridley) for bringing us God's Word this semester.

We would also like to thank the sponsors of our Bible studies, Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley). We appreciate so much the guidance and support they give us.

ISU felt very privileged to host the Spring College Weekend. The topic "God's Plan For Managing Our Emo-

tions" was well covered and we were thankful that so many participated in the weekend. We pray that each one received as great of a blessing as we did.

Many students are graduating this year and we wish each one God's blessings on their paths of life. We look forward to getting to know those people planning to attend ISU in the fall.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

II Peter 3:18

We would also like to thank each brother, sister and friend who joined us during our Bible studies. Your presence is greatly appreciated, for we know that "Where two or three are gathered together in Jesus' name, there is He in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. May God richly bless each one of you for your efforts.

The dates for the summer Bible studies are as follows: May 31, June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26. The summer Bible studies will be held in Schroeder Room 245, and they will still start at 7:30. We appreciate your support and prayers.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

As Father's Day approaches, one father was asked, "What do you think is your most important job as a father?" He answered, "To be a good spiritual leader to my family." All fathers could ask themselves this question and examine how their priorities shape up. Joshua was evidently the spiritual leader in his home and he choose for his family whom they would serve. "... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. Mothers, we could all ask ourselves, "Are we cooperating, supporting and encouraging our husbands in the area of spiritual leadership?"

Sis. Lydia Laidig wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with gifts of love and cards on her 84th birthday. May God bless all who were so kind.

On April 21, we had a blessed evening singing hymns and fellow-

shipping with our Bradford and Princeville congregations. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for coming. It was wonderful to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

Bro. Manuel Stetzler was called "home." His funeral was April 27. May God comfort and bless his wife, Anna belle; his daughter, Sis. Jeanne Plattner; his son, Kenneth; his brother, William; his sisters, Hannah Moberry, Sis. Margaret Pfleiderer, Carolyn Schlachter, Sis. Helen Hermann, Eileen Knapp; and his five grandchildren.

On April 28, we partook of holy communion and took time to think about Christ's suffering, death and shedding of blood for us. Willingly and with incomprehensible love He paid the supreme sacrifice that we might be saved. We thank Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Don Sauder (Roanoke) for coming and assisting our Elder Bro. Joe Braker in serving us.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Richard Schupback (Phoenix, AZ) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. May God's richest blessing be theirs.

As the busy summer season is upon us, let us not forget those who are shut-in, sick in their homes, hospitalized or in nursing homes. May God comfort, bless and heal each according to His will. May we continue to remember them in prayer and in deed.

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

Our congregation was blessed on two Wednesday evenings to have Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL). May God bless them for their labor of love.

June is the month for Father's Day. We trust God's blessings will rest upon each of our fathers and may we give them a prayer of thanks and appreciation and especially our heaven hospitalized for a short time. How thankful we are to have a constant refuge when trouble and sickness comes our way. May we remember our loved ones in our prayers.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lois Leuthold (Bro. Steve) in the death of her father. Our dear Sis. Anna



Roach age 95) passed from this life May 2. She has gone to a better place where she will know no pain. May God be a comfort to her daughters, our Sis. Lucille Rumbold (Bro. Ezra) and Sis. Betty Rassi (Bro. Ben, Morton, IL).

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

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

As Father's Day approaches, we give thanks for our Christian fathers. It is fitting that God chose the relationship between us and our fathers to illustrate our relationship to Him. God's provision for us, His loving discipline, and His wise counsel and guidance are all reflected in a father's relationship with his child.

We were happy to hear from visiting minister Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) this month. Also, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) led us in a Bible study on contentment -- a real blessing for all of us to hear. We thank these brothers for their willing service in bringing us God's Word.

We were uplifted to hear testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Gary and Sis. Pam Martin (Sis. Dorothy) an Bro. John Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary). We welcome them into the fold.

We also rejoice that three souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. They are Chad Getz (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Jan) and Diane and Helen Brown. Don Brown is Helen's husband, and Diane is their daughter. We wish them much grace and many blessings as they begin their life of faith.

Bro. Greg Moser (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barbara) and Sis. Sharlene Kieser (Bro. David. and Sis. Shirley, Bradford) were united in marriage May 13. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Sharlene, and wish them both many blessings in their life together.

We laid to rest our Sis. Elizabeth Schlupp, who died April 27. Her life was an example of quiet service.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Margaret Hodel (Bro. Willis) and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Richard). We pray for their continued recovery.

Congratulations to all of our graduates. May God be with you and draw you ever closer to Him as you go on to your next station in life.

Our congregation was saddened by

the passing away of Bro. Maurice Knapp. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Helen, and their children, Bro. Dave and Barb Rankin.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

#### Carolyn Bollinger Marsha Koch

We thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) and Jon Zeller (Morton). May God give them grace to keep preaching the Word in truth and sincerity.

Bro. Glenn Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) is engaged to Sis. Rachel Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy, Bradford). Also engaged are Renee Michel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen) and Tim Wilson (Doug and Frances, Creve Coeur). April 6, 1991 is their planned wedding date. May God be with each couple as they plan their lives together.

We rejoice with our new sisters-in-faith and their families. Sisters Karla Rollins (Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda) and Stephanie Holmes (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis). We pray for each one to keep their first love and be a pillar in the church.

Our eighth grade graduates this year are Marcia Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette), Michael Holmes (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis), Taira Hopkins (William and Maizie), Greg Huetter (Bro. William and Sis. Marilyn), Luci Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice), Thomas Koch (Bro. David and Sis. June), Joe Mooney (Robert and Judy), Michael Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Carol Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice), Carrie Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), Kimberly Sauder (Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn), Todd Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky), Cindy Schaefer (Maurice and Sis. Marjorie), Marc Schweigert (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky) and Heather Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth). We wish them the best as they continue their education. Graduating from high school are Jody Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane), Kevin Schaefer (Maurice and Sis. Marjorie) and Michael Steiner (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marcella). May God direct them as they seek their pathway in life.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

#### Carol Schick

This past month we had our annual

business meeting and elected the following brothers and sisters to serve our congregation in the following capacities: trustee, Scott Steffen; ushers, Herb Leman and Ken Wagenbach; Sunday school teachers, Ann Huber, Evie Mogler, Stan Descarpentrie, Mike Fritz and Greg Schumacher. May God bless each one with sufficient grace to carry out their duties to His honor and glory.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Martha McGough, Sis. Martha Fritz, Sis. Anna Thomas and Bro. Steve Elsassser. Everyone, because we are earthly, must suffer some type of bodily weakness at some time in our life. No one is exempt. Many times God uses illness and sorrow to slow us down and to try to get our attention. May each one of us use those times, when it is our turn, to get closer to our Lord and listen to what He is trying to say to us. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9.

We are grateful to our visiting ministers this past month and ask our heavenly Father to fortify them with the necessary strength to continue in His will, they are: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We have also had two inspiring Bible studies led by Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). We appreciate their time and efforts when they give of themselves so freely and spend an evening with us.

Father's Day is upon us once again and it gives us all an opportunity to thank our fathers and husbands for all they do throughout the year. Our prayer for fathers everywhere is that they realize that their number one, most important job on earth is to raise the children God has entrusted to them to someday be a child of God. What better way to teach a child but by their example. Happy Father's Day to all you fathers. May God bless you.

We would like to congratulate the following eighth grade graduates and wish them well as they prepare to enter high school next fall: Leslie Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Todd Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy), Dawn Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon), Jenessa Woodcock (Les and Sis. Connie) and Stephanie Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth).



**INDIANA, BLUFFTON****Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer**

We have so much to praise God for. He has blessed our congregation with eight new converts. Our prayers and support go to Nick Baumgartner, Nathan Isch, Marvin Isch, Gregg Baumgartner, Amy George, Ked Gerber, Greg Isch and Eric Gerber as they begin their walk with Christ. This truly reassures us that our prayers for lost souls are not in vain. God does hear and He does answer!

It was also an inspiration to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three souls, Elizabeth Ginzel, Kip Gerber and Jay Bertsch. It is really a joy to see new members come into the family of God.

We thank visiting ministers Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) for sharing holy communion with us. May we never forget the pain and agony that Christ suffered and what he so unselfishly gave to all of us, the gift of salvation. Let us share this same gift with others that Christ has shared with us.

We also want to remember those hospitalized this month, Sis. Elizabeth Bertsch, Sis. Gladys Lantz (Daniel), Sis. Minnie Isch (Elmer) and Sis. Marie Sprunger. Our prayers continue to go with each one, that God would give them strength and courage to face each new day.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky Neuenschwander have been blessed with their first child, Drew Alan, born May 7. Grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Bro. Harry and Sis. Lulu Baumgartner. We also rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter on their new arrival, Brent Douglas, born May 18. Brent joins an older sister, Janel, and a brother, Travis. Proud grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter and Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch.

There was one engagement this month, Bro. Larry Bertsch (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Wava Bertsch) and Sis. Laura Moser (Bro. Glen and Sis. Dina Fae Moser). We rejoice with Larry and Laura during this special time in their lives.

We are so happy for Kim Mulkey (Bro. Russ and Sis. Bonnie Mulkey) who was united in marriage to Brett Hamilton. We trust that God will bless their marriage and be with them in days to come.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH****Lois Drayer - Deb Aeschliman**

As we watch the plants sprouting up in the fields and flowers blooming, we know that the time is nearing for our children to be home from school for summer vacation. When we were driving down the road recently, our children remarked that there are only thirteen days of school left. We feel, as parents, that it will be nice to have them at home with us.

We sincerely thank Bro. Jim Rinkenger (Bluffton) for ministering to us April 24.

We wish to extend congratulations to Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Maller and Wallace and Sis. Marilyn Leman in the birth of their granddaughter, Missy Laine, born March 25 to Gary and Kari Maller. We also wish to congratulate Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber in the birth of their grandson, Tadd Charles, born April 18 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Susan Tonner (Bluffton). Paternal grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Diana Tonner (Bluffton).

Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber became first-time parents April 18 with the birth of their son, Chandler Todd. We extend our best wishes to them along with Chandler's grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Zimmer.

Bro. Grant Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Maura Stettner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen) have announced their engagement and are planning an August wedding. We wish them God's blessings.

We wish to extend sympathy to Sis. Dula Gilliom, Sis. Nora Gilliom, Sis. Lucy Haab (Bro. Roy) and Sis. Violet Isch (Bro. Roger) in the loss of their brother, Bruce Gilliom (Roberta) who passed away May 3 at the age of 87.

Loved ones who have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Dorothy Gerber (Bro. Vernon), Kenny Weaver (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Fischer), Stephanie Gerber (Bro. Brent and Sis. Ann), Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Marsha Nicholas (Bro. Mark).

We warmly welcome Sis. Verna Roth to our congregation. She has moved here from Champaign, IL. We hope she will feel at home here.

On June 17, let's remember to give our fathers a hug and tell them how much we love and appreciate them. A father may have lots of names, but they all mean "love" (pop, pa pa, daddy, dad, father).

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE****Bev Huber**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalms 127:3. Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman welcome into their home a son, Quentin Randall. Britni and Luke are happy for a little brother. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott).

We will miss Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer in our congregation. Bro. Mark has accepted employment in Detroit, MI, and they will be fellowshipping in the Detroit, MI, church.

"Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you." St. John 14:27. Matthew Gudeman (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella) was announced to have peace with God and man. We pray for God's continued guidance in his life.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein in the passing of his father, Adam Gutwein, Sr.

Our congregation was blessed by the ministry of visiting Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

**INDIANA, LACROSSE****Mary Lynn Massner**

Our Christian fathers reflect the same love for us as our heavenly Father has for His church. May we remember to show our appreciation to all our special dads this Father's Day.

This past month we shared in the reading of the conference report. Here to help our elder with this work were Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We also shared in the sacrament of holy communion. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here to help on that blessed evening in which we meditate on Christ's death and all He did for us.

We were thrilled at the announcement of the coming marriage of our Bro. Bill Feller, son of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann, to Sis. Stacy Schieler (Milford, IN), daughter of Bro. Will and Sis. Sue. May the Lord bless this time of their engagement and help them to build a firm foundation for their marriage.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest are celebrating the arrival of a new grandson, Aaron Lee, born to Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest (Latty, OH).

Also celebrating the birth of another grandson are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller. Austin Robert is the new son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller (Detroit, MI).

Hospitalized this past month were Paul Heiniger and Carol Ailes. They both are home and recovering well from their surgeries. We thank the Lord for His healing mercies on our loved ones.

We want to thank ministering Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for lending himself in service this past month. We always appreciate visiting ministers. It's one of the many blessings of our faith that we are privileged to hear God's Word spoken through so many servants across the land. Do we thank Him for this? We should!

#### INDIANA, LEO

##### Doug Kellenberger

I attended the funeral of my father a few weeks ago. Perhaps by sharing what I learned through his illness, good could come from his suffering. Even during the last few months of his life he wanted to be of use to God but his failing body wouldn't let him. I realized, "That's what the end of our flesh will be. We had better live for the things of the Spirit, now, while we have the chance."

Three weeks earlier we said our last goodbye. We hugged each other and said "I love you." Then Dad gave his final request, "Tell your family to pray real hard so that I can go." He said it so peacefully, just as if he was going next door. He really was ready. We honored his request, and the Lord answered. So it was a victory and we praised Him.

The news was received with mixed emotions -- one of relief, another of parting. At the same time I cried, I also thanked God. The thought was incredible -- Dad was actually in the presence and perhaps the very bosom of God.

Prayers were requested and many were offered for us as our scattered family gathered from coast to coast. We felt the results. My affection for "the body" and devotion toward God enlarged some more as I imagined all those people praying for us "back home." Thank you! Great comfort and strength was given to my mother. She was so full of thanks that every-

thing turned out so well. She had been able to take care of Dad up to the last day. All the perfectly timed events, convinced her how much God really cared and how much His perfect will orchestrated the whole event. And yes, He was honored. His name, His victory and His salvation were clearly spoken of throughout the services.

Thank you all, again, for your support and prayers!

Our dear Steiner sisters had to go through the same experience here at Leo. Their sister, Esther, passed away May 24. The same mixed feelings of parting and thankfulness were felt by them. But praise to Jesus Christ. He can make "sense" and bring good results out of this sometimes tumultuous and very unpredictable life of ours. At the funeral home, Sis. Elda said, "What would we do without Him."

We appreciate the Steiner sisters' love, faith, prayers, cards and writings. We wish them all increased trust, strength and comfort from God.

Congratulations to our graduates! They have accomplished something very substantial and now a whole new chapter lies ahead of them. I suppose that's why a happy Jenny Klopfenstein had just a little hesitation when asked if she was glad it was over. The fun will be missed and that new chapter is "unknown."

Jenny is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Linda Klopfenstein. Our other graduates are Mike Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris, and Wayne Sumner of Gateway Woods. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames are his houseparents.

Graduating from college is Greg Stieglitz. He is the son of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean Stieglitz.

We wish all of them the wisdom and knowledge that is hidden in Jesus -- Colossians 2:2, 3.

Communion service was held this month at Leo. We want to thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer for assisting our Elder Bro. David Bertsch in the service. He told the story of a little boy he visited at the bedside of a hospital. The little fellow was hoping for a good test report so that he wouldn't have to go through the pain and fear of major surgery. The test came back. It wasn't good. The boy was dejected. "I was hoping it wouldn't turn out this way," he said.

The true story made our heart break. It made us feel what Jesus felt at Gethsemane. And that's the reason we were there at communion that night. It was because of what He had went through for us on the cross at Calvary.

#### INDIANA, MILFORD

##### Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

We are thankful for the safe return of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr as they so lovingly and so willingly give of themselves to aid our brothers and sisters in Mexico. We must not overlook Christ's words in Matthew 25:40, ". . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Our congratulations to Heidi (Steve) Rozow as she has recently graduated from college with a degree in nursing. We pray Heidi will use her talent and wisdom to glorify the Lord.

Joyfully we share in the happiness of the engagement of Sis. Staci Scheiler (Bro. Will and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Bill Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. MaryAnn of LaCrosse). We wish them God's richest blessings as they will soon begin their lives together.

This month we were blessed by the visit of Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse). We appreciate so much the efforts he and Sis. Karen made in coming to Milford.

On the evening of May 18, two young hearts were united in holy matrimony. We pray God will bless Shannon Haines (daughter of Mrs. Charlotte Haines, North Webster) and Jeff Haab (son of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) as they begin their lives together. May their love continue to grow for each other and for the Lord.

What a joy it is to set a day aside especially for our dads. How thankful we are for our fathers -- this masterpiece created by God.

#### WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,



The wisdom of the ages,  
 The power of the eagle's flight,  
 The joy of a mourning in spring,  
 The faith of a mustard seed,  
 The patience of eternity,  
 The depth of a family need,  
 Then God combined these qualities,  
 When there was nothing more to  
 add,  
 He knew His masterpiece was  
 complete,  
 And so He called it . . . Dad.

Author Unknown

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Amelia Schini**

"Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

On Sunday, May 6, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Alfred Bahler served us communion. We thank you brothers for so kindly serving us on this blessed occasion. Communion is like a "refresher" course; it gives us new strength and courage.

Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) spent Wednesday evening, May 9, with us for our midweek services. We enjoyed his sincerity and encouragement in the Spirit. We thank you, Bro. Lester.

Mother's Day was a special day for us. We had many visitors, among them were ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Ed and Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse). Elder Bro. Ed told us about when Mother's Day was first declared a holiday in 1914. After the morning service all the mothers and mother's helpers were pleasantly surprised when the young Sunday school children presented a plant to each one. When we arrived in the dining room it was evident that the Bible class and their teachers and wives were in charge of serving the lunch. We appreciate all your efforts. May God bless you.

We have two young people who have experienced broken arms. Sara Steffen, daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen, broke her right

arm in a school activity. Evan Stoller, little son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie Stoller, fell while running at home. He ended up with a broken left arm. We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

Our sympathy has been with Bro. Walt Bahler. He and his hired man of 16½ years drove down the road to see a neighbor's new farm implement. They parked on the road side. Charlie walked around the back of the pickup and walked into the path of a car. He lived a short while after arriving at the hospital.

We have three (3) fine young ladies from our Bible class graduating this spring. They are Shirley Waibel (daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel), who is valedictorian of her class; Judy Waibel (daughter of Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel) and Elaina Lehman (daughter of Chuck and Pat Lehman, Kentland). All three of these girls plan to attend Purdue University next fall.

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Anna Marie Stoller**

"The best gift our family can give us would be to attend church with us on Sunday morning," was the request of Bro. El and Sis. Mae Schumacher as they celebrate their 65th year of marriage. Memorial weekend their entire family gathered for this blessed event, and gladness filled the hearts of these dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents as the whole family worshipped together with our congregation. "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it." Song of Solomon 8:7.

Contrasting a marriage of many years, announcement was made of the approaching marriage of Bro. Bill Feller and Sis. Stacy Schieler (Milford). May this union of their hearts stand firmly through grace in Jesus (Zion's Harp #79).

Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer traveled to Wichita, KS, for a last tribute to his grandmother, Sis. Dora Young.

Cataract surgery caused Sis. Mae Schumacher to miss several worship services. We are thankful to have her back and well healed.

"Jesus Saviour, pilot me." (Gospel

Hymns #366). Our prayers are that Jesus will be allowed to pilot the course for five of our young men as they graduate. Matt Mangold receives his degree from the University of Illinois as an airline pilot. Mike and Sis. Renee are his parents.

Matthew Beebe, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue, graduates from high school. David Beebe (Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue), Craig Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) and Ned Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) have completed their junior high and elementary education. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and that man that getteth understanding." "For the Lord giveth wisdom." (Proverbs 3:13, 2:6)

As you plan your summer vacations, won't you consider paying us a visit in the South Bend congregation? Our church is located just off of I-80 in north central Indiana. Entering God's house to worship on Sunday morning is a special blessing, but how thrilling it is to walk in the door and find visiting brethren of like mind and faith willing to share a day with us. Our hearts are lifted to receive a telephone call from brethren saying, "Can we spend a weekend with your congregation?" We need the prayers and support of those we love.

The Meister families want to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, their prayers, cards, gifts and telephone calls in the death of their dear husband, father and brother, Ezra Meister. May God bless you all.

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold**

We are in a beautiful time of the year, planting seeds and watching them come up and grow. One also thinks of sowing seeds of goodness.

"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7).

**THE POWER OF LITTLE THINGS**

The memory of a kindly word for  
 long gone by,  
 The fragrance of a fading flower  
 sent lovingly,  
 The gleaming of a sudden smile or  
 sudden tear,

The warm pressure of the hand, the  
tone of cheer.

The note that only bears a verse  
from God's own Word --  
Such tiny things we hardly count  
as ministry,

The givers deeming they have  
shown scant sympathy:

But when the heart is overwrought,  
oh who can tell

The power of such tiny things to  
make it well.

Francis Havergal

We would like to comment on the meaningful editorials printed in this paper each month. They are important teachings which can be kept for future reference to help explain our doctrines. Also the beautiful music of the "Long Book" tapes are much appreciated. They are some of our old hymns played on various instruments by a music teacher in Salsburg, Austria.

We are again grateful to our Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler, Wendell Gudeman and Dale Eisenmann, who shared with us this past month.

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. On April 29, Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) brought us the Word of Life. Then after a short singing that evening, he showed us some of his slides taken on his trips to India and gave us some insight on how the Lord has directed the work being done there.

On May 5, we were privileged to be able to remember the Lord's death and suffering by partaking of holy communion. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) were with us to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred in serving us. Elder Bro. Ben remained with us Sunday, May 6 and allowed himself to be used by the Lord to speak to us from His Holy Word.

Bro. Randall Gasser (Detroit, MI) also ministered to us May 13. We thank all these brothers for their selfless service and pray for them an extra portion of God's Spirit and wisdom in this life and His special reward in eternity.

### IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

What beauty God has blessed us with again as, it seems almost overnight, the trees and shrubs are full of bright green leaves and the lawns are covered with a layer of soft (fast growing) grass, and here and there colorful assortments of flowers can be seen. How can anyone observe this miracle of new life each spring and yet question if there be a God?

Our dear Sis. Marie Butikofer has been blessed with one hundred spring-times as on May 5 she observed her 100th birthday. Sis. Marie was born in 1980 to Frederick and Elizabeth (Grimm) Schupbach and has lived in the Elgin area all her life. In 1914 she was married to Bro. Albert Butikofer (who passed away in 1961). They were blessed with ten children, whom are all living except their oldest daughter, Anna. Marie lives in her own home with her daughter, Elizabeth and still enjoys company, attending church and reading God's Word from her German Bible.

Marie and her family wish to thank all for their cards and gifts and remembering her on her birthday.

### MARIE

Marie you've been blessed with 100  
years

An age that few attain.

Reaching this mark, I'm very  
sure . . .

Is not without trials and pain.

Each trial you've had, each sorrow,  
each test

Left its mark upon your days.

Our Father knows all things we  
bear, and

Understands. Our Savior says . . .  
I am the way, the truth and the  
light

So pick up your cross, and follow  
me

Even though the path, at times, be  
rough

Shall not my grace sufficient be?  
Chose you this path, many years  
ago

Have faithful since remained  
Using your God-given talents to  
Praise His holy name.

Bless your Christian example  
And bless your future days

Continue the narrow path, until  
Heaven's gates, upon you gaze.

Before you inherit that mansion  
Until those golden stairs you climb  
The narrow path you must travel  
It leads to those realms sublime.

Keep on looking upward

One day, His face you'll see

Free from pain, trials, sorrow and  
care

Evermore your joy will be  
Redeemed Eternally!

God bless you

Our thanks to Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) for serving us from God's Word. God bless you Bro. Joe.

" . . . and the glory of children are  
their fathers."

Proverbs 17:6

May God richly bless our fathers  
for their love, care and prayers for  
their children.

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Moser

A special thanks to Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for ministering to us this past month. Also, again a special thanks to our many visitors.

Our congregation extends an invitation to each one of you travelling this summer. We are not far from I-80 or I-35. We know many like to shop at a church on their travels and we would gladly welcome you. Please feel free to contact Bro. Tom Moser at 515/443-2211 or Bro. Glen Funk at 515/446-6147 for directions.

We have 3 eighth grade graduates. They are Derek Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally), David Clark (Don and Sis. Willa), Court Smith (Bro. Gene and Sis. Rachel). Jeremy Smith (Bro. Gene and Sis. Rachel) graduates from high school and is planning to attend college in Des Moines. We also have a college graduate. Sis. Rachel Smith is receiving a BA in Elementary Education from Graceland College in Lamoni. Our congratulations, best wishes and God's blessings are extended to each one of you.

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! It's been a month



of endings and beginnings for several in our congregation. We extend a fond farewell and wish for God's blessings to our college graduates, Karen Belsley, Sis. Nancy Belsley (who returned to Oakville, IA, last semester), Valerie Schambach and Sis. Karen Wegman (Bro. Dave). May God direct their pathways as they seek employment.

Christopher Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce) is graduating from high school. May he feel God's direction and blessing as he continues his education in the Iowa City area.

We wish God's blessings upon Karla Banwart (Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn, West Bend, IA) and Doug Grimsman (Mr. and Mrs. Jack Grimsman, Carroll, IA), as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

We thank our visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and ministering Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). May God bless them and their families for their willing efforts to serve our small flock.

We were privileged to hear the memorandum this month. May we each strive to support our elders who so earnestly watch for our souls. We look forward to communion next month. We were reminded of the seriousness of preparing for communion by our elder brothers. May this time of self-examination prepare us not only for communion, but also keep us focused on our heavenly goal and prepare us for our Lord's return.

#### IOWA, IOWA STATE UNIV.

##### Angela Metzger

We have been privileged to have several ministers serve our gathering recently. These include Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington) and Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

Following services April 22, a picnic was held in Brookside Park with more than 100 people in attendance. Many visitors and friends attended the final service of the academic year, including a group from Tremont, IL.

As the year draws to a close, several of our students will be graduating. They have put many long hours of study into their college education over the past few years. Etched in

stone in the Iowa State Memorial Union is the following quote:

"We come to college not alone to prepare to make a living, but to learn to live a life."

M. J. Riggs,  
Iowa State College, 1883

Our graduates and their majors include: Bro. Robert Fehr, Electrical Engineering; Kelly Fehr, Agricultural Engineering; John Metzger, Dairy Science; Bro. Matthew Musselman, Agricultural Business and Dairy Science; and Nancy Teubal, Interior Design. We wish all of our graduates the best in their future endeavors.

For those who will be returning in the fall, we hope all have an enjoyable and blessed summer vacation.

#### IOWA, LESTER

##### Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

"Repent ye and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. Our cups were again filled to overflowing as we listened to the testimony of a dear soul and witnessed her baptism Sunday. We joyfully welcome Sis. Charlotte Nester (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley) as our new sister-in-faith. Her uncle, Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin) was here to help in this most important undertaking.

Other visiting ministers among us were Bro. Bert Butikofer, Bro. Dale Moore and Bro. Jim Knobloch (all of Elgin) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We sincerely appreciate the ministering brethren and pray God will bless the efforts they put forth in expounding God's Word to us.

Believing God has directed their hearts, Sis. Melisa Moser of Rockville, CT (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Roy Feucht's (Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha) betrothal was recently announced to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they follow His will in their lives.

On Saturday, April 28, Ginny Knobloch (Gib and Sis. Vicki) and Ed Stoll exchanged marriage vows. May God bless them as they establish a home together.

Lucy Kay was born May 7 to Tedd and Sis. Diane Larson. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger. We pray a special bless-

ing on this new little baby and her family as they endeavor to raise her according to God's teachings.

We are so thankful that God's love and healing powers have been with Thadd Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Emil Wulf. May our prayers continue to wend their way toward our heavenly Father in their behalf and in the behalf of many others who suffer.

There are many graduates in our congregation this month. Our college graduates are John Metzger (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane), John Popkes (Sis. Eleanor), Sis. Sherri Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris), Thadd Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Derek Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Kenton Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Terry Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Shirley DeHaan (John and Sis. Ione), Kay Knobloch (Bro. August and Sis. Florence) and Lori Popkes (Bro. Greg).

High school graduates are Carter Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi), Armando Echeverry (exchange student with Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold), Melissa Leuthold (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle), Dean Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl), Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley), Bradley Leughold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki), Nancy Leuthold (Jim and Betty), Craig Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), Ross Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Ryan Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean), Penny Knobloch (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy), Brice Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline), Jennifer Metzger (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane), Jeff Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor), Dudley Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie), Kevin Krause (exchange student with Ezra and Marie), Jill Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy), Clark Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn) and Jan Myrseth (exchange student with Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber). We pray God will guide each of these dear souls on the pathway of life.

We approach Father's Day again and we thank God for our fathers and the love and help they give their children. Much more do we thank our heavenly Father for the love and direction He gives us daily if we put our faith and trust in Him.

**IOWA, OAKVILLE**

**Melody Steiner  
Debbie Wagenbach**

"To him that overcometh shall be given, The fruit from trees of life in Paradise! He who has served the Lord and well has striven shall rest from toil, and take from Him the prize! God will refresh him with heav'nly blessing! Eternal rapture shall be his part! Eternal rapture shall be his part!" Hymns of Zion #271. What a comfort this song is to those who are grieving the loss of their loved one. The Lord's promises are sure and we can be so thankful that God has prepared His mansions for those who go to sleep with His peace in their heart. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our Bro. Orel Steiner. Bro. Orel passed away, after a battle with many physical afflictions, April 25. He leaves behind his dear wife, Sis. Rose; sons, Bro. John and Bro. Tom; daughters, Sis. Diane Lanz (Bro. Ralph, Rittman, OH), Sis. Elaine Eisenmann (Bro. Paul, Burlington), Sis. Martha Wiegand (Bro. Al), Sis. Becky Endress (Bro. Larry, Bradford, IL), Sis. Patricia Steiner, Sis. Gwen Manz (Bro. Ken, Junction, OH) and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Bro. John, Elgin, IA). Also surviving are eight sisters and two half-brothers and many grandchildren. We will all miss Bro. Orel's song leading talents along with his good example of faith. "In that beautiful land I'll be, From earth and its cares set free; My Jesus is there, He's gone to prepare a place in that land for me." Gospel Hymns #655.

Sis. Diane Massner became the God-given wife of Bro. Jim Gerst (Princeville, IL) April 29. We wish them God's blessings and trust that they will turn to Him for their spiritual needs. Sis. Diane is the daughter of Sis. Phyllis and Bro. Ben Knobloch (and the late Bro. Bill Massner). Bro. Jim is the son of Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst.

Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) have recently ministered in our Oakville congregation. We know that God will reward them for their willing service in His name.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him . . ." Psalms 37:5. This is our wish for our graduates as they leave their childhood years behind and set out upon a different pathway.

We are thankful to God that four of them have recently sought out the Lord's direction and laid aside their stained garments of sin and evil. God is certainly faithful and we know that He will go with them every step of the way if they sincerely ask for His conviction in their lives. Our seniors are: Heidi Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen), Bro. Ron Lanz (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan), Sis. Gayla Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo), Jason Stoecker (Sis. Jan), Chris Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty) and Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie). We should also mention that Chris Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce, Iowa City) is also graduating this year. We have enjoyed getting to know Chris in the past couple of years and wish him and all our graduates the wonderful peace of God.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I'll walk with Him always,  
He know me and He loves me, I'll walk with Him always,  
Always, Always, I'll walk with Him Always.  
Always, Always, I'll walk with Him Always."

Anonymous

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Orel Steiner gratefully acknowledges the many, many expressions of sympathy and kindness shown us during the time of his passing. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.

**IOWA, PULASKI**

**Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein**  
Thus far here in the Pulaski area our spring weather has been encouraging. Nice heavenly rains have brought relief to the earth and hope to our hearts.

With these same spirits present, we were again blessed to partake of holy communion April 28. Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) came and helped Bro. Russel in this blessed event. We pray the Lord will richly bless our dear elders.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forest, IL). We truly appreciate their labors on our behalf.

Little Matthew Wettstein (Bro.

Jon and Sis. Rita) spent time in the hospital this month. He had a bout with pneumonia, and we're thankful he is again at home.

Our lone graduating senior this year is Daniel Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary). As he enters a new phase in life, we wish him God's divine guidance and blessings.

We wish all fathers, this Father's Day, the Lord's blessing unto more faithfulness to their heavenly Father

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

Bros. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Doug Schock (Pulaski) have been with us this past month. We appreciate their visits. Many wonderful teachings and lessons were shared. One very impressive story was shared by one of our visiting brothers. Their was a boy who was the son of a seaman. He was taught hymns at his mother's knee. When he was a young boy, his mother died and he became very wayward. After a number of years he was far from home and became sick unto death. His father searched for him and finally located him and begged them to put him on a ship and send him home. It was a long journey and John had much time. He began to read and pray. The ship encountered a stormy sea while returning John home. The sailors said their was no hope. John said out of his own mouth; "If there is no hope then God have mercy on us." The ship did make a successful return and there was a new John. John had found out that prayers are heard, and where there is life there is hope through the living God. Think about this the next time you pick up a Hymns of Zion, when you sing the song: "Afflictions, tho' they seem severe. In mercy oft are sent; They stopped the prodigal's career, and caused him to repent." John wrote this hymn. But the part many of us see in ourselves is when John wrote these words; "Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear, the

hour I first believed." Hymns of Zion #97

The weekend of May 5 and 6 was truly an uplifting and blessed weekend when five new souls were added to the flock. Our new brothers and sister-in-Christ are Wendell and Ted Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn), Cameron and Tammy Knobloch (Bro. Al and Lucy Knobloch, Lester, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr), and Joe Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb). Elder brothers present were to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne with these duties were: Elder Bros. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester), and Ed Lanz (Oakville). Other ministers sharing this special weekend with us were: Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Dale Frank (Oakville), Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Wes Moser and Dale Wulf (Lester).

Ryan Jeffrey Bruellman is a blessed bundle from heaven who entered the hearts and home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa on May 2. To help love and care for him are, Lyndi, Nick, Erico and Andy, as well as grandparents, Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Russell and Barb Frazee (Des Moines).

We extend sympathy to Linden and Ione (Metzger) Vanhuizen in the passing of his mother, Lucille Vanhuizen (Albert) in Minnesota.

Sis. Louisa Zaugg submitted to surgery recently and is now receiving extended care at the Kossuth Co. Hospital. May God be ever near her.

We welcome Steve Bruellman who has recently moved into our area and now assembles with us.

Our earthly fathers are a blessing from God.

God made fathers to be a guide  
Who's gentle, wise, and strong  
To answer children's questions  
And teach them right from wrong.

May we always appreciate the example our earthly fathers, our heritage, have portrayed.

The weekend of May 12 and 13, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) in our midst. He shared with us the work of the Rural Gospel Medical Mission in India. During his visit, we were also privileged to partake of holy communion. It is always impressive when

we can experience the renewal of our vows to God and be strengthened in our faith to continue on. We thank Bro. Ben for laboring in our behalf.

### JAPAN, TOKYO

#### Frank and Kathy Sauder

On the back wall of our church, there is a small map of Japan which shows the number of churches for each district (i.e. county). The vast majority of the areas have only one church or no church at all. Statistics show that only a few areas in Japan have more than one Christian per 500 people, while over half of the country has less than one Christian per 1,500 people. It's not uncommon for Christians in Japan to feel like Elijah when he said: "and I, even I only, am left" (I Kings 19:14). But we cannot dwell on this thought. We must remember God's answer to Elijah; "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him" (I Kings 19:18). For Elijah it must have been difficult to keep preaching with so little response, but he continued His work and Elisha carried it on, and so must we in Japan -- hoping and praying for the day when more people shall believe.

"... that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith, both of you and me." (Romans 1:12) It was a joyous reunion to once again fellowship with Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington, IL). Although several years have passed since they lived in Japan working for our church, they haven't lost their ability to speak Japanese which made it a real blessing for the believers to be able to converse in their mother tongue. It was hard to see them leave once again, but they have left us with their encouragement and inspiration.

Our prayers continue for mother Utsuki who has been in failing health for many months and hasn't been able to come to church.

On April 29 we had our annual business meeting. May God bless each one as they willingly do their part.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

### KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

Our Sunday school students, 6th grade through seniors, traveled by bus to Kiowa for a weekend of fellowship with the other Kansas area Sunday school students. The Kiowa congregation planned a weekend which our young folks enjoyed. It is the hope that these weekends of fellowship provide these young people with the opportunity to develop friendships with other students from the Kansas churches.

We have four high school graduates this year: Ted Strahm, son of Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, from Bern High School; Bro. Dwight Rokey, son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda; and Michelle Rokey, daughter of Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda, both of Sabetha High School; Christen Mars (Jim) son of David and Virginia Mars. Graduating from Peru State College with a degree in education is Sis. Holly Meyer (Bro. Duane). May these four graduates do as we read in Proverbs 2:2, "... incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding." As each goes onward we wish them God's blessings in their future walks of life.

With Father's Day approaching we think of our earthly fathers and how much love and direction they've shown us; particularly those of us who have had believing fathers who, along with our dear mothers, took us early to the house of God and showed us how they lived their faith, that we, too, could come to know our heavenly Father. We appreciate so much their loving care.

Bros. Adrian Strahm, Todd Rokey, Bradley Strahm and Michael Strahm are preparing for a trip to Haiti. We wish them a safe journey with God as their traveling companion, and His blessings on their labors.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Teresa Bahr

We recently gathered together to have the conference memorandum read to us. Thanks to Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for lending himself to assist our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart.

Our Sunday school students, ages



2 to 18 years, presented their annual Easter program of verses and songs in remembering our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

Elder Bro. John Lehman and family (Bern, KS) were with us for Easter weekend. A special event was an Easter sunrise service and delicious breakfast held at Gunn Park for our Jr. Bible and Bible Sunday school classes.

At this time our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart and wife, Sis. Kathryn, are preparing to attend the new church dedication in Budapest, Hungary. We pray God will protect and bless their journey.

Congratulations to our high school students who are graduating: Taira Ann Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb) and Douglas John Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol).

"The brightest blaze of intelligence is of less value than the smallest spark of charity."

Wings of Silver, page 15.

March 31, 1990, was the wedding in Sedona, AZ, of Stephen Lyle Fischer to Janet Rose Getz. Parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer and Bro. John and Sis. Anna May Getz (Morton, IL). They are making their home in Tempe, AZ.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

#### Vola Young - Judy Kraft

We know God has a plan for each individual. Our high school graduates will be finding many changes occurring in their lives. We hope they will have a fear of evil and a desire to seek after godliness, allowing God to feed them spiritually and lead them according to His will. Those graduating are Jason Burnham, Cory Metzger and Bro. Victor Edelman.

The arrival of a baby is such a happy event, truly God's masterpiece -- a wonderful creation from God. Jonathan Lynn Schumacher was born Easter Sunday, April 15. He is the first born child to bless the lives of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher (Eureka, IL).

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

(Psalms 30:5). We long for a heavenly home where tears will be no more. Sympathy is extended to Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm and family, who have had two recent deaths in their family. Sis. Dora Young, Wichita (Sis. Liseten's mother) and Sis. Cordelia Locher, Sabetha (Bro. Loren's sister).

Hospital patients were Sis. Doris Bahr (surgery) and Bro. Roy Wernli (medical). Both are now home.

Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits while I was hospitalized at Emporia, Kansas City and since my return home.

Bro. Roy Wernli

### KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Sheri Braker

The school year ended May 16. During the past few months, the Lord blessed us with many ministers for our Wednesday evening services. We would like to thank Bros. Jay Luthi, Bill Emch, Sam Anliker (Lamont), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern) for taking time out of their busy schedules to preach God's Word.

On our last Wednesday night here, we held our annual picnic in a shelter house. Although it was a rainy evening, many families came and we all enjoyed the time together. We are thankful to each one who made the effort to travel the distance.

This semester we must say farewell to four of our dear friends. Bro. Craig Plattner (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta, Bern) will be moving to Chicago to finish school and continue serving the Lord with his new wife, Sis. Raelynn Stahl (after their wedding in August!). Bro. Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian, Sabetha) will be graduating and moving back to Sabetha. Marci Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern) will be moving to Topeka to finish her nursing schooling there. Sis. Camille Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia, Bern) will be moving to Kansas City to finish her last semester needed for a Bachelor's Degree, student teaching. We will miss all of them and wish each one God's blessings!

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain,  
Teardrops and laughter,  
pleasure and pain --  
We can't have all bright days  
but it's certainly true  
There was never a cloud that  
The Sun Didn't Shine Through!

submitted by  
Princeville, IL

"On this special day, Lord bless fathers everywhere.  
Bless them for the love they unselfishly give.  
Bless them for showing by example how to be good and honest people.  
Bless them for their hard work, their encouraging words, their comforting presence.  
Bless them for their wisdom in time of adversity.  
Bless them for yesterday's childhood memories, and for the better tomorrow they hope to leave their children.

You who are the Father of people everywhere, please bless these fathers, to whom we who so much.

Hallmark Cards  
submitted by  
LaCrosse, IN

### HOME

Home is where the heart is,  
Be it rich or lowly place.  
It's where we find a lighted lamp  
And a cheerful, loving face.

Home is a place where the heartstrings  
Feel a tug that draws you back;  
Where a wealth of precious memories  
Recompense for worldly lack.

Home is where a mother's love  
Surrounds with tender care;  
Where touselled little childish heads  
Bow down in sleepy prayer.

Home is where a father's strength  
Surrounds, protects his own . . .  
God grant we keep within our hearts  
The citadel of home.

Anna Vallance



**KANSAS, KIOWA****Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling**

There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life. Friends with whom we meet and labor in our earthly toil and strife. Friends among the aged and youthful, friends that live from us apart. Friends of higher rank and station. Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion #91

The Kiowa Apostolic Sunday school hosted the Youth Fellowship Spring Get Together in April and were very happy to have so many attend. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) for lending themselves to us for the weekend to bless us with the inspiration of God's Word, also to all of the youth, we say a special thank you for your cooperation and for your behavior. For so many to be together at one time, there were mostly good comments. We hope and pray Christian love and friendships will grow from these gatherings and that God will bless them further as He has in the past. God bless you all!

Hospital patients this month include: Sis. Marie Tucker (surgery); Bro. Huber Farney (treatments); Sis. Laverne Roth (surgery). May God grant each returning strength and health according to His holy will.

Harvest is almost upon us, and as we look out over the green fields that soon will be golden, I can't help but think of the miracle God exhibits right before our eyes. That tiny seed is planted, dies, then grows to a strong plant that becomes fruitful and multiplies. It reminds me of the child of God. We first must repent and die to the old life, then grow to a strong fruitful worker in God's harvest. Like the head of wheat, some are more fruitful, some less, but God has formed us as it pleased Him and given us talents according to His plan. When the wheat is garnered in, the chaff is cast aside, and when we are garnered in, those things done in His name will stand, while the material things in life will be cast aside. May our lives show forth the things that will stand that someday those words may be spoken to us as in Matthew 25:21. His Lord said unto him, well done, thou

good and faithful servant: Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.

Have a blessed summer vacation!!!

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**KANSAS, SABETHA****Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm**

We rejoice and welcome Tim and Margaret Edelman as our new brother and sister-in-faith. What a privilege to now raise their precious little children in a Christian home. May God grant them grace daily to walk close to Him. We thank Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and John Lehman (Bern) for being with us and assisting Bro. Sam.

Some young and some aged have spent time in the hospital. Lyle Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene) had hernia surgery. Scott Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jolene) was a medical patient, as was Bro. Joe Traub, Bro. George Lambert and Sis. Evelyn Wysong. Sis. Evelyn Steiner (Bro. Noah) and Sis. Lucille Kellenberger were surgical patients.

Reaching a special milestone in life are these graduating seniors: Colleen Hartter (Bro. Rog and Sis. Ilene), Ken Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen), Lance Meyer (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Sue) and Regina Edelman (Clemens and Sis. Marge). Bro. Art Kellenberger graduates from K-State. May each of these graduates feel God's guidance in the decisions they will be making.

Sis. Thirza Thompson has completed her advanced schooling and has taken employment in Kansas City. We are happy to have her back in Kansas and wish her well.

Our congregation bid its final farewell here on earth to a brother and a sister this past week. Bro. Freeman Kellenberger, age 74, was called Home May 8 after suffering a terminal illness. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Lucille who so lovingly and ably cared for him; and to their children, Gordon, Pam, Bro. Doug and their families. May God be especially near Sis. Lucille as she also recovers from her very recent surgery and grant her grace to accept His will. Our dear Sis. Cordelia Locher, age 81, was unexpectedly called from this life May 11 after submitting to

surgery. She will be greatly missed by her beloved husband of over 60 years, Bro. Ted; her daughter, Sis. Betty and Bro. Doug Metzger; her sons, Wayne, Robert, Roger and their families. May God inspire each of us to take up our cross and continue on and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus as was read in Philippians 3:14.

We also extend our Christian love and sympathy to Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman in the passing of her grandmother.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA****Emma Miller**

Our Wichita youth enjoyed the Sunday school fellowship held in Kiowa in April. Thank you, Kiowa hosts and hostesses, for your efforts in our behalf.

Our dear, faithful sister, Dora Young was called home to her eternal reward Monday, April 30. Sis. Dora would have been 95 years old May 12. Besides a host of grandchildren and friends, she is survived by her daughters, Sis. Augusta Wullschleger, Sis. Judy Langhoffer, and Viola Dopps (Wichita) and Sis. Lisateen Strahm (Gridley); and a son, Clarence, (Wichita). Funeral services were held in Wichita and burial was in the Lamont Cemetery.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger and her family hosted the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet, May 5. The theme for the evening, Musical Backgrounds, was enjoyed by the nearly ninety guests who speculated about the background of various hymns. Sis. Nellie Lambert shared some of her research findings concerning "Zion's Harp" and "Hymns of Zion" hymns. This annual event is a special time of reunion and for renewing the friendships formed here in our Wichita church.

Sheryl Carter, daughter of former Wichitans, Earl and Sis. Carol, and Dale Toews were honored with a couple's shower Sunday afternoon, May 6. Sheryl and Dale plan to be married June 23. We wish God's blessing on the family unit they will be establishing.

The following graduates were honored at church reception Sunday,

May 20: Andrea Reimschisel (Judy and Max) and Chris Peyton (Dick and Jocelyn), both from high school, Victor Wullschleger (Gussie and the late Art) from Wichita State University, and Bob Langhoffer (Al and Judy) from Kansas Newman College. Our wish for these young adults is that they might add to their academic qualifications "the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Colossians 1:9.

Bro. Godfrey Miller again submitted to surgery May 15. At times like these, we must live in faith rather than in fear.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Lester and Glendoris Huber**

"With grateful hearts and full of praise, we honor our heavenly Father."

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father . . ." Proverbs 1:8. How thankful we should be that our fathers instructed us in Godly ways and instilled in us a knowledge of the path to salvation. May God bless each father, young and old, as we remember them on their special day.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers: Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), William Brake (Sardis, OH) and Jon F. Zeller (Morton, IL). May God bless each one, their wives and families. We are thankful for all the visitors who come and share with us here in our small congregation. It is truly a blessing to all. We want to especially make mention of the young group, brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord, who came from Rittman, Mansfield, and Smithville, OH churches. They spent Saturday afternoon and Sunday with us here at Lexington. We appreciated their dedicated voices in singing and example of our precious faith.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Hymns of Zion #161

The Lord is so good to us each day.  
We are such a blessed people! If we daily could make a list of all our blessings, we would here no cause to be discouraged.

In his sermon recently, our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen talked of this weapon that Satan uses so often to cripple us in our walk with the Lord. I do not remember his exact words, but he talked of the power that Satan yields with discouragement and how he would have us brought down to the depths of despair. He is so good at telling us that we are no good and making us feel incapable of doing even the smallest things.

After the sermon, we sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and the words held such encouragement and the promise that when we are discouraged and downtrodden we will be uplifted if we only come on our knees to our Lord in prayer. For He will never forsake us as long as we put our trust in Him.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite) as he recently fell and broke his leg and had to undergo surgery. He is back with us on his crutches and we are glad and thankful.

Our dear Sis. Elouise Blough (Bro. Lloyd) was hospitalized following a heart attack. Our prayers continue to be with her and her family as they await treatment for her damaged heart muscles. She related to her family that her work for the Lord was not done and we are so thankful that the Lord heard her plea and granted yet a little more time for His work to be accomplished.

Little Isaac Blough, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz, was also hospitalized for a short time with an infection.

"For I will restore health unto thee and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 30:17

It was a blessed weekend, May 19 and 20, as Saturday evening we shared communion together and partook of bread and wine, symbolizing Christ's body and the blood he shed for us. It was such a special time as we were renewed once again to live our lives free from worldly influences and to ask each day "Lord, what can I do for you?" He gave His life and suffered a cruel and painful death, all for me and you, that we might inherit His eternal home. We are truly unworthy of this great gift and need to pray and be thankful each day for His grace.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and his dear wife with us for this work and we pray that God will bless their willingness to serve Him. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) also ministered to Alto this past month and we pray a special blessing for him.

We are thankful to have our dear brothers and sisters, who spend the winter months in warmer climates, back with us again.

"For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God."

I Thessalonians 2:9

It was with tears on our face and shared pain in our heart, that we heard Bro. Elmer Schrenk tell us of his decision to step down from the ministry. In the past year, he has suffered with his health due to his heart and after 32 years of labor to His Lord, he asked us to forgive him, but he needed to rest.

I am always overwhelmed with wonder each time one of our ministering brethren asks for forgiveness. I know they are human, too, and make mistakes, but it is refreshing all the same. They need our fervent prayers because the world and Satan is trying them too. What we have to remember is they are responsible not only for their own soul, but ours also; it is a heavy job they undertake. May the Lord bless you Bro. Elmer and

your helpmate, Sis. Delila, for your years of service in His work.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Peggy Waibel**

Bay City has been pretty quiet this past month, all of the school aged children are looking forward to a summer off, all of the college students are contemplating what their majors should be and whether or not to go to college this summer, and mom and dad smile and look on contentedly at their growing children.

Bro. Nate Wieland decided to face a summer of study, and courageously headed back into the world, in hopes of completing his education early. We pray that God will protect him and be his closest companion in the months ahead.

God has blessed Bay City with an abundance of rain in the past few weeks and all of the new life brings so much excitement. What really made me stand up and take notice was the way in which nature is in such harmony with its creator. How beautiful, to see the flower buds hold their dainty heads high and open their tiny petals to the sun's warm rays.

It made me think, if only people would only do the same. Like the flowers, in times of darkness, we hang our heads and tightly wrap ourselves in the petals of self pity. What each one should realize, is that our sun never sets at night, nor do clouds cover it's brightness, for our sun is God's Son. How beautiful it would be to see all of the human family raise their heads high and shine under the Son's rays, to sing His praises, and to be in perfect harmony with Him. Unlike the flowers, we have no reason to hang our heads, for our sun is always shining so strong and bright. When God allows the rain to fall and thorns to prick our hearts, we find in the end that He always had our bet-terment in mind. The rain refreshes us and the thorns only serve to make us stronger.

"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomor-

row is cast into the oven; how much more will He clothe you . . ."

Luke 12:27-28

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Sue Gasser**

We rejoice with Jane Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and Ann Marie Allen (Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanne) as they turn to the Lord in repentance. God grant you both a rich measure of grace to be able to discern and then follow God's leading.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who come and share God's Word with us. Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) was with us Mother's Day, Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) had our service at Woodhaven, and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) was with us on our Woodhaven Benefit day.

We welcome home our college students for the summer. It's always nice to have them with us. We congratulate our college graduates: Ken Martin (Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen) with a degree in Aeronautical Science, Julie Martin (Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen) with a degree in Business, Ted Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Bro. Ron Knapp with a Master's in Business Administration, and Sis. Manuela Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kosana) with a Bachelor of Arts in English. We also extend congratulations to our high school graduates Chris Weigele (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Minnie Freidinger.

We extend our sympathy to Leland and Katie Haines in the death of his father, Percival Haines, 90, May 4 in Elkhart, IN. As their family lost one member, God sent another -- a new granddaughter, Kimberly Dawn, born to their son Phil and his wife Waneta May 3.

We want to express appreciation to all who came to the Woodhaven Benefit Dinner May 20, hosted by the Detroit Choir. We enjoyed your fellowship and are thankful for your prayer support and generosity. God bless you all.

We welcome Bro. Tim Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) to Detroit from several months in Haiti. We also welcome Bro. Nate Wieland from Bay City who is going to school in our

area, and Bro. Troy Schrock from Champaign who has accepted employment in our area.

We are sorry to see Kacie Thompson (Sis. Thirza) leave, but wish her God's blessings as she moves to Kansas. We also wish God's blessings on Andy Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine) as he moves to Indiana.

Toledo, OH, will host services at Woodhaven July 10 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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**MINNESOTA**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Carol Strassheim**

After a long drought, we are finally experiencing frequent rainfalls. We look to God and say "Thank you Lord, we needed that!"

In April, we held our annual business meeting. We wish those newly elected to offices and responsibilities Godly wisdom and understanding in His service.

On Sunday, May 20, we came together to share holy communion and then shared a church dinner together. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) and Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) were with us and have also been with us several times this month and we thank them for their efforts.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Debra Joos - Christa Sauder**

May is the month for many graduations, and we congratulate the young people who have reached this important moment in their lives. We pray they will seek the Lord's guidance and direction as to what they should do in the future. The graduates from our congregation are: Mindy Fehr (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judy), Craig Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Janet Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Shane Joos (Jerry and Kathy), Rick Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne), Russ Koehl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen), Donna Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), Jerry Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie), Lloyd Nohl, Jr. (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce, Mission, TX), Janell Schaefer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean), Andy Schmidgall (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy), Rita Schmidgall (Bro. Neil



and Sis. Linda), Tania Schock (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan).

Several families experienced the joy of receiving new babies into their hearts and homes this month. Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger were blessed with a little daughter, Rachel Lynn. She will be enjoyed by her sisters and brother, Michelle, Lanette, Barbara, Denise, and Bradley. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie Gramm rejoice in the birth of their first son, Tanner Allen. Her sisters, Alexis and Whitney, think he's very special. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm.

Tony and Kathy O'Keefe welcome their first son, Corey Michael. His sister, Katie, is happy to have a future playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Minnie Kussatz.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA). May the Lord bless them for their labors in faithfully ministering the Word.

#### Note of Thanks:

To our loved ones near and far, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your love and concern, your caring and sharing, and especially your prayers for us during Frank's heart surgery and recovery while we were in Phoenix. God has heard and answered prayer for which we are very thankful. May He bless each one of you.

Gratefully and humbly,  
Bro. Frank & Sis. Gladys Messner

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#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner Ella Mae Schmidt

Our Elder Bro. Harold Messner and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester) served holy communion to our congregation. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come! (I Corinthians 11:26) We thank Elder Bro. Dennis and his wife Esther for their labor of love.

Paul Messner (Bro. Don and Sis. Viola, Peoria) has found grace to repent and was announced that he has received peace. We rejoice with him

and his wife Jan, and wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Jeanine Messner (Bro. Stan) was hospitalized and is able to assemble with us again. We wish her the blessings of good health.

Our Senior Bible class has three graduates this spring. They are Matthew Miller (Tom and Maggie), Trent Messner (Bro. Marilyn and Sis. Lois) and Clint Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou). May they each look to God for guidance for their future plans.

#### FATHER

A father is a great teacher  
Through him a child will see  
That miracles are all around  
Inside God's galaxy.

While seasons change from winter to  
spring

A father understands  
And shows his child a thousand seeds  
Can make a grassy land.

The Father's hands were made to  
mold

The eager life he holds  
His wisdom to instill the truths  
His child must then be told.

A father is a man that builds  
Toward a bright tomorrow  
And from the knowledge he will gain  
His child may someday borrow.

A father is the name given  
The person you have been  
I loved you as a father  
And have known you as a friend. Becky  
Street

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#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Carole Kellenberger

"Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant."

Psalm 135:3

How blest we have been in the past month as we gathered together on different occasions to worship the Lord! The weekend of April 28 and 29 was set aside as "Invite guest weekend". We had a potluck meal Saturday evening, sang hymns together and Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita,

KS) shared some thoughts from God's Word. (On Sunday, Bro. Jaye Rink- enberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) ministered to us and Bro. Howard helped in Sunday school. We were so thankful for each and every guest and thank those who made the extra effort to come visit us.

May 5 and 6 a busload of loved ones from the Washington, IL, congregation, travelled to Kansas City.

After a potluck dinner at the church, we once again sang together and then the Washington choir sang for us. Our thanks to Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) for bringing us the Gospel Sunday. A number of us from Kansas City have ties with the Washington congregation so this was another special weekend for us. We look forward to singing together in that heavenly choir" as the voice of many waters". Revelation 14:2.

Our thanks to Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar) for assisting Bro. Don Braker on the pulpit May 13. We are united in prayer for our Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Sis. Mary as they travel to Budapest, Hungary, and possibly visit some of the other countries in Europe.

We are so sorry Mamie Abshier is still unable to assemble with us, but are thankful that Louise Wreath is back after missing several Sundays.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." Proverbs 4:1. At this time we give thanks for Godly fathers who by word and example have pointed us to Jesus.

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#### MISSOURI, LAMAR Janel Kellenberger Becky Marti

We have several graduates this year. May they use God's wisdom to apply the knowledge they have acquired as they make their future plans. High school graduates are Karla Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) and Kyle Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary). Graduating from college with B.S.'s in elementary education are Sis. Janese and Sis. Janel Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary).

Karla Luthi and Stacey Rutledge have announced their engagement

and plan to be married July 28. Their parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Dwain and Mary Ann Rutledge. We wish them God's blessings and guidance.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Lori Marquart  
Louanne Gramm**

We've had beautiful spring weather until the last couple of days -- it's really been rainy! Our thoughts go out to our Christian neighbors in the Southern part of the United States with prayers that they are riding out the storms and keeping their trust in Jesus.

Hospital patients this month were: Elder Bro. Roy Grimm who had minor surgery, Bro. Allen Massner also had surgery due to his appendix, as well as our dear friend Robert Heimer who had back surgery. We praise the Lord that each one is recuperating nicely.

"Aunt" Marie Butikofer was bedfast from a fall and is now currently hospitalized due to the injuries of that fall. If you would care to send her a card, the address is %Edward Butikofer, 2633 Elm, Quincy, Illinois 62301.

Our dear friend Ann Runser (fi-ance of Steve Wiegand) lost her father suddenly May 5th. Our sympathy and prayers are with you Ann as you and your family painful experience the loss of a loved one.

We wish God's wonderful blessing to each Mother for all she does for her family.

**"I PRAISE THE LORD  
FOR YOU MOTHER . . ."**

When I think of all the warm memories you gave me as a child All the support and guidance you've given me all my life, I realize how lucky I am to have grown up in a home Where the Lord was always the center of the family And where love was always a way of life.

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### NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

**Alice Virkler**  
Bro. Roland Geiser has been able

to return to his home after being hospitalized. Our prayers are with him and we hope he will be able to assemble with us again soon. Sis. Lena Virkler and Sis. Ella Einbeck have been in our assembly recently and we are happy to see them out again. Sis. Hazel Schneider has taken up residence at the East Road Adult Home. We hope she will soon be in our assembly on Sundays. Our thoughts are prayers go out to all those who must be confined to their homes or nursing homes. May God always be near to each of them and guide their thoughts each day. We miss them all as we are able to assemble each Sunday.

We are happy to report that John and Mattie Farney have heeded God's call and turned their back to the world. May God ever be near them and be their constant help in the days of repentance. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their little family as they begin this most important step in life.

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### OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser**

What a thrill to step from a jet into a land taking us back centuries to some things in Bible times, with camels, mantles, city walls, and Biblical names, with memorials at places of Bible miracles. We have just returned from the Holy Land, and Psalms 137:6 states, ". . . if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." They showed us a marker for being the center of the earth, and a translation of Ezekiel 5:5 states, ". . . Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations", or Ezekiel 38:12: ". . . center of the earth." The current date of their newspaper is 5750, as they claim their year dates from creation, and they have a 354 day year, or 12 lunations of the moon, with a 13th month every 2 years. In 1948 when they became a state, their population was 600,000. Now their newspaper states their tiny state has 4,607,000. The cheapest car is \$20,000.00, gas is \$2.75 a gal., and the average wage is \$800.00. We asked, how can there be so many cars. The reply was, "My country is a land of miracles." We are thankful that just as we saw the sites of the miracles that Jesus did in person, that Jesus is the same yesterday,

today, and forever, and He can still do miracles for us.

Bro. Dan Graf and Sis. Roseanne Fortenbacher were united in marriage at Kitchener, Ontario. Parents are Bro. and Sis. Art Graf and Bro. and Sis. Walter Fortenbacher. We wish for them the Lord's blessings as they go through life together.

We appreciated our Sunday school classes and young people serving the lunch Mother's Day. They made a nice treat for mothers and all of us, and we thank them kindly.

Communion was served to us by our Elder Bros. Gene Pamer and Andy Stoller, and we are blessed to partake of this holy sacrament.

Sis. Kathryn Novotny is home from being hospitalized.

Bro. Merrill Laukhuf blessed us with inspiring sermons recently.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS

**John Grimm**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May God bless them and their families in this special work to minister the gospel.

The Columbus Church Sunday school picnic was May 19 at Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Bank's house. We had an attendance of 45. We are encouraged by our growing number of Sunday school students and pray that they may grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION

**Laurie Schlatter**

Ordination services for our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter were recently held. We welcomed Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield), Loren Stoller (Latty), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman). Also joining us the same weekend were ministering Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL), Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Ray Sinn, Larry Wenninger and Dwight Stoller (Latty). We certainly wish Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily God's richest grace with this new change in their lives.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis.



Gwen Manz (Bro. Ken) in the passing of her father, Bro. Orel Steiner (Oakville, IA).

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) recently joined us for communion services. What a blessed weekend it was.

"Thy Word is true from the beginning; and every one of they righteous judgments endureth forever."

Psalms 119:160

### OHIO, LATTY

#### Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We pray that God will surely bless the following brothers who have given of themselves during the past month. They include Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman), and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN).

On April 29, Sis. Amy Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Bro. Bruce Rosswurm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Whitman) were united in marriage. May God richly bless their future together as He has their past.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie Schlatter celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in our fellowship hall which was attended by relatives and friends. The reception was given by their children.

We welcome back the many brethren who traveled to the south during the winter months.

Walter John Mielke, father of Sis. Vickie Laukhuf, passed away during the past month. May God comfort the family in the time of their sorrow.

We pray for God's healing hand for the following brethren who were hospitalized during the past month. They include Sis. Helen Stoller (Bro. Roy), Bro. Roy and Sis. Beulah Stoller and Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken).

Our congregation rejoices with Matt Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn) and his family as he has heeded God's call for laborers. We wish him much grace for each day as he learns to follow the Lord.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in serving communion. "And when

he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." (I Corinthians 11: 24-25).

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:1-4) Sis. Betty (Bro. Gaylord) Dotterer is again able to assemble with us after undergoing surgery. Sis. Darlene (Bro. Larry) Enderle did not receive serious injury in an auto accident.

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (II Timothy 1:5) On Mother's Day, the Sunday school children thanked their mothers and grandmothers by serving lunch. May each child come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and display unfeigned faith in their lives.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Solomon ponders the sovereign design of God and concludes that all the events of life are divinely appointed. Completing an important event in their lives are high school graduates: Tracy Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) and Joan Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue).

June is collection month for Mansfield for your Silver Lining subscription.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

We rejoice with Bro. Jon Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Mary Emch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen) as they are engaged, feeling it is God's will for them to be joined in marriage. May His blessings rest upon them as they make plans for their future together.

We are always thankful to have

visiting ministering brothers among us. We thank Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) for sharing the Word of Life with us. May God's richest blessings abide with him and his wife, Sis. Claribel.

A little girl, Allison Marie, was born to Kevin and Marcia Trent. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lehman.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Diane Lanz (Bro. Ralph) and her family in the death of her father, Bro. Orel Steiner. Bro. Orel was from the Oakville, IA, church. He was known and loved by many here.

Bro. Ernie Howell (Sis. Rowene) and his family also have our sympathy as recently his brother, Anthony Howell, from the Sardis, OH, area passed away.

May our heavenly Father comfort those who are in sorrow and grant them sweet memories of their departed loved ones.

Those who required surgery or hospitalization this past month were Gladys Bauman (Richard), Joshua Riggensbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie), Bro. Albert Gasser (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace) and Bro. Galen Indermuhle (Sis. Cheryl). Our thoughts and prayers are with those who suffer and also with their families. May God grant healing as He sees best.

We give our best wishes and ask God's blessing on our graduates. Graduating from high school are: Kristine Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores), Elaine Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann), Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), Amy Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce) and Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie.)

Graduating from Kent State University with a degree in Nursing is Sis. Pam Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann).

Bro. Jeff Trent (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn) is graduating from Akron University with a degree in Chemistry.

Kevin Trent (Marcia) is graduating with a degree in Accounting from Ashland University.

We recently celebrated Mother's Day and will soon be celebrating Father's Day. May we always be thankful for God-fearing parents who



strive with love and patience to teach us of God's will and direct us in His ways. We trust that God's richest blessings will always be upon them. May we never forget to always think on our heavenly Father with great love and thankfulness for what He has done for us in sending His only begotten Son to die for us so that we may have life everlasting.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Paula Figel**

"Word of life, the fountain flowing  
Purely from the throne above,  
Life and strength to him imparting,  
Who accepts the Word in Love  
Zion's Harp #176

The Word of Life was brought to us this past month by visiting ministers Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH). We thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

On May 11, we were privileged to sit and listen to the testimony of a dear soul, Andrew Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula). The following day he was baptized and welcomed into the fold as a brother-in-Christ. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer carried out their duties. We thank these dear brothers for their labor of love.

We rejoice with our convert, Bridget Zollinger, to whom God has whispered "sweet peace." We, along with Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, look forward to the day of her testimony and baptism.

We will soon be commemorating Father's Day when we honor our earthly fathers for their love and compassion toward their families. How much more should we give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father who has made a way of salvation for our souls! May God, our Father, be praised.

The annual all day meeting of the New Martinsville, WV, church will be held June 24, 1990. The morning song service will begin at 10:30 with afternoon services beginning at 1:00 p.m. Services will be held Saturday,

June 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sardis Church. All are welcome.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Stephanie Luginbuhl**  
**Kim Stoller**

This month we have been blessed with three visiting ministers. Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman), and Elder Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) were here to bring us God's Word. We pray that we could always be receptive hearers.

We are thankful that there are those who still answer God's call and receive His blessing of peace. Jeff and Deb Gasser and Melody Beery (Dean) have found this peace and are awaiting baptism.

"A wise man will hear and will increase learning . . ."

Proverbs 1:5

Those graduating from high school this year are Cyndi Blough (Ben and Sis. Janette), Curt Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dot) and Jason Riggenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail). May God bless them as they go on to other positions in life.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Frances Laidig**  
**Josephine Rehklau**

We enjoyed having with us Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH). May God bless him for coming here to share with us the Word of salvation.

Bro. Homer Reineck has been in the hospital for surgery. We wish him a good recovery.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Ginny Cooper**

Greetings to you all, from the great Pacific Northeast! Spring is truly a wonderful time of year, especially in this part of the country. All the hills and valleys are lush green, and flowers have burst forth in their beauty, and there is newness of life everywhere we look -- from plants and trees to baby animals. We who live

here in Oregon feel fortunate to behold the mountains, desert, rivers and lakes, and the mighty Pacific Ocean.

Ray and I live in a large wilderness area with a cool, rushing stream that flows through our yard. Wildlife abounds here, but we especially enjoy watching the gentle deer, as they wander through our yard. Truly God's creation and creatures are marvelous. Anyone thinking of coming out to visit would be most welcomed in our little Portland church.

We are thankful that Sis. Connie Steffen is walking without her cast, which was on her leg since last September. The Lord has heard our prayers on her behalf.

Sis. Pearl Miller was elected Sunday school teacher, and may the Lord bless her in this important work.

As Father's Day draws near, I am especially reminded of my dear father, Guy Miller, who went to be with the Lord, 29 years ago this May. I know that many of you knew him for his kind and gentle ways, and he was loved by everyone. Many a soul was touched through his sermons, or from a few loving words. I was always devoted to my dad, and he was a source of spiritual strength to all 5 of us children. I would like to dedicate the following poem to my dear father.

"When thoughts go back across the years,

It seems as if each memory  
Is special, because of you.  
Because of your unselfish ways,  
Your kindness and good cheer,  
Because you were --- Dad,  
So very, very dear!"

Author Unknown

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

We were privileged to hear two wedding announcements in our small church this past month. The last Sunday in April we heard of the engagement of Sis. Melisa Moser (formerly of Silverton and now living in Rockville, CT), daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara and Bro. Roy Feucht (Lester, IA), son of Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha, also of Lester. A June 24 wedding is planned in Rockville.

The first Sunday in May the intentions of another young couple to wed were made known to the church. Sis. Lisa Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Mike Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra, Roanoke, IL) plan to marry in Silvertown June 24. We trust that these dear brothers and sisters have made these important decisions through much prayer and consideration and we pray that they will continue to feel the Lord's nearness throughout their married life.

Special thanks to Ren Rufner (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Phil Mogler (Lester, IA) who were here last week for several days and were willing to lend their time and talents on behalf of our new church building plans. These brothers and our Building Committee (Bro. Bob Kuenzi, Bro. Ben Bolliger, Bro. Jim Dietrich, Bro. Charles Walter and Bro. Todd Zollinger) spent many hours planning possible building arrangements on the proposed site and also working on prospective floor plan options. Many hours have been spent and many more will be required before our new church is a reality. May the Lord be our Chief Designer in life and in this important endeavor and bless our work.

It's June and graduation time again! While many of us shake our heads and wonder where the time went so quickly it has probably not seemed so for those students who put in all the hours of studying needed to graduate. This year we have six students reaching their various academic milestones. Graduating from Oregon State University is Bro. Troy Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda). Two have finished their high school years; Joel Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Karmin Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen). There are three young men who have completed eight years of grammar school and will be beginning high school. They are Andy Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn), Mark Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) and Curt Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen). A potluck supper and reception followed by a singing was held for the graduates. This even was hosted by the parents of the students and Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi at the Silvertown Grange. This annual event to honor the accomplishments of our students is a happy occasion

and an encouragement to young and old alike.

We are happy to welcome John Popkes (Sis. Eleanor, Lester, IA) and Bro. Doug Rinkenberger (Sis. Velma, Cissna Park, IL) to Silvertown. Whether our visitors are here for a few days, a few weeks, or a few years, we hope our warm welcome is felt and that their experience is a positive one. But perhaps we should issue a fair warning . . . Oregon can grow on you! When people try to leave, there is still a little something in their heart calling them back to Oregon.

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**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA  
Franz Soni**

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

Our annual church spring cleaning was April 22. Many participated and much was accomplished.

Matthew Aeschleman (Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony and baptism on the weekend of July 7 and 8. May he ever feel God's nearness as he prepares to enter the family of God.

Sis. Ruth Dapper (Bro. Dale) was briefly hospitalized. We are thankful she is feeling much better.

We welcome Bro. Steve Hofstetter to our church. Bro. Steve has relocated to this area from Washington, D.C.

We thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Bro. Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH), for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless them for being such willing servants.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA  
Viola Perdelwitz**

We are happy to have Bro. Brad, Sis. Cindy Eisenmann and their son, Greg, from Houston assemble with us.

Andy Plattner, Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary's son, has finished his education and moved back to Zapata

## SILVER THREADS

### *Father, Family and Home*

#### FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

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

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,  
Were still in heart and conscience  
free:

How sweet would be their children's  
fate,  
If they, like them, could die for thee!

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

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

#### THE FAMILY

God bless the close-knit family  
Whose ties of love extend  
Throughout the home in little ways  
And to each precious friend.

*God bless the father who works hard  
To keep his family fed . . .  
Who strives to give them spiritual  
As well as earthly bread.*

God bless the mother who each day  
Labors from morn till night  
To keep the home a welcome place,  
A clean and humble sight.

*God bless the close-knit family  
Whose bonds of love extend  
To each one in the home and then  
To each and every friend.*

Georgia B. Adams

#### A FAMILY

A family is the cornerstone  
Of all that man holds good;  
A family is a symbol  
Of universal brotherhood.

*A family home is a classroom,  
You live and grow together,  
You learn the art of loyalty . . .  
A port in stormy weather.*

A family is where love abides,  
Where ties are strong and true,  
Where joys are shared throughout  
the years  
As you go smiling through.

*A family is a sacred gift,  
A gift of God's pure grace . . .  
Abiding in its presence,  
You feel His warm embrace.*

Eleanor Fiock

## HOME

Home is where the heart is,  
And friendship is a guest;  
A book, a fire, a handclasp,  
A place where one can rest.

*Home is where the heart is,  
Where children's voices ring;  
A blossom at the window,  
A tiny bird to sing.*

Home is where the heart is,  
Be it mansion on the hill,  
Or cabin in the valley,  
Or cottage by the rill.

*Home is where the heart is,  
Where friendship is a guest,  
Where love and faith and gentleness  
Can soothe a heart to rest.*

Author Unknown

## THAT'S A HOME

A home is more than just a house,  
it's more than roof and walls;  
It's more than just a place to rest  
whenever darkness falls.  
A home, you'll find, is more than all  
the boards, the paint, the glass . . .  
It's where you find some happiness  
and blessings come to pass.

A home is more than just a house  
that's built of brick and stone;  
It's more than structure beautiful  
that man may call his own.  
Indeed a home is more than laths  
where plaster has been spread;

It's where your plans are laid and  
where  
the Bible's always read.  
A home is where there's living,  
It's where your dreams come true;  
It's where the door is open wide  
for friends to enter through.  
Oh, yes, it's where there's fellowship,  
where hope will never cease.  
A home is more than just a house . . .  
it's where your soul's at peace.

Fred Toothmaker

## Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

should honor our father and mother. It seems rather harsh, but those who chose not to do that, the penalty was death. It was one of the sins unto death, to defy your parents. There were children who were put to death because of that. That is quite a responsibility, isn't it?

Those of us who are going through raising children know what it is like to have children not always be totally obedient. As children, who we see growing up, we know what it was like to make those decisions of whether we are going to be obedient or not. Yet, we know that the law is perfect. God is perfect. Though we, as earthly parents, would certainly not enforce it to that point as it would be very difficult, even in the old times to be a parent and enforce that penalty of death for disobedience.

God is perfect and that is His judgment and He gives us the opportunity to serve Him and to be obedient to His Word. Once again, as was with the old law, the penalty for disobedience is that we all die, but we all can have a hope of living again, only through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We see here that Paul wrote to this man Philemon hoping that he would have the heart to forgive his servant Onesimus for his disobedience. It could have very well been that he would have taken this letter out of Onesimus's hands, torn it to shreds and have this man put to death for his disobedience. I don't know enough about the law, but I imagine that would have been within his power to do so.

That would not have been God's will because this young man Onesimus

had become a believer through the teachings of the Apostle Paul. He had come across him and learned of God's perfect plan . . . learned of the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, His death, His resurrection, and he had accepted that plan of salvation, even for a runaway slave.

We can find that today ourselves because we find ourselves going through life as, many cases, runaway slaves. We are born, we grow, we mature and we come to the point where we are accountable for right and wrong when we have that understanding of what is right, what is wrong, what is good and what is evil.

Then we come to a place in our life where we choose the better or the worse part. We make that willful choice, and as we do that, we, on our own accord and by our own failings, fall short of the perfection of God. We start to run away, and become even as a slave to sin. That's our nature and it can't be helped. We can pray for wisdom as Solomon did, but the only thing that is going to re-direct our lives is that changed heart.

There is one thing that takes up from being a runaway slave to being a child of God and that can only be done through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. There is nothing we are going to have to offer that is going to be worth the price that is required for our own.

We can try to do the best we can. Solomon tried to be the best he could with what he had and he was given much. Think of the wisdom that Solomon was given. As we read together here, Solomon had an incredible amount of wisdom given to him and it compares him to the great men of the time. It says, ". . . his fame was in all nations round about." I Kings 4:31. It says how many proverbs he spoke, how many songs he wrote and all the things that he spoke of. (See I Kings 4:32, 33). He was endowed with a great amount of wisdom. Evidently also the ability to relate it to people so that they benefitted from his wisdom.

Yet, when it came to him making choices in his life, there is a point and time with Solomon's life where he was told in no uncertain terms that he should not go out and try to take the wealth and things he had and try to multiply his horses as the Egyptians had done and become great and



wealthy with horses. He was told not to marry women from other nations because he was told in no uncertain terms that if he did, it would be his downfall.

We can read almost verbatim what Solomon was told to do and not to do. We can read about the latter days of Solomon and find that he did exactly those things which he was told of God (God had revealed Himself to him) and he let all the wisdom he was given and yet, in his own choice, he fell short. He made those choices and chose wrong when he had been told that it was not the thing to do.

That was with all the wisdom in the world, you might say. All the wisdom that a man can be given because it tells us that the wisdom of Solomon was greater than any man had been given or would ever be given. So with all that wisdom, he messed up his life and he fell short, and because of that, the kingdom was wrenched out of his hand and was, in fact, divided.

God said, "For thy father David's sake, I will leave you part of the kingdom." (See I Kings 11:12, 13). We know that the tribe of Judah remained and I think part of Benjamin's became the house of Judah. Yet, the ten tribes of Israel split off from his kingdom. He fell short relying upon his own good judgment.

He was not a perfect man, but he had a perfect opportunity to be one, you might say. That is where we are going to find ourselves if we rely upon our wisdom, even if we rely upon the wisdom God gives us and upon the good that God could impart to us. We are only going to be given a limited measure of that good nature, and we are going to find that it is not perfection. We are not capable of carrying perfection. If we look at the letter of the law, we find none of the people in the Old Testament could meet up to that perfect law either. They all fell short.

We are going to fall short from being good, whatever our stumbling stone is. Perhaps our weakness isn't to have many stables of horses or many wives from all the nations, as Solomon's was. But there is a weakness in each of us and Satan in going to find that weakness. He is going to take that weakness and put a wedge in it and drive it home until it pops us wide open like he did Solomon.

The only way we are going to be able to overcome that is by the grace of God and the gift he gave us of the shed blood of His Son. Because Jesus came in perfection to make right our imperfections. So it has to be, the only way we can be changed from being considered as a slave to sin to a child of God is through Jesus Christ.

This is what Onesimus did. That is what made him different now coming back. He was not just a runaway slave . . . that was in his past and he couldn't change that. We all have things in our past that we can't change. We can look back and see how many great failings, shortcomings and sin that might be in our lives. We can't change that, just like you can't unring a bell. Once the bell has rung, it happened. Time goes on, and the results of that occur.

But is it never too late to turn around from running from those past actions and to turn back to God and ask His forgiveness. That is what this young man did. He found Paul. He found the Word being spoken. I don't know how this all unfolded in time -- when exactly he ran into Paul, or when he first heard the Word. I don't know when Philemon first heard the Word and believed.

But it appears that this young man was coming back, having left as an unbeliever, and coming back now as a brother-in-Christ. It was up to Philemon now to accept him or reject him. But this young man had made a change in his life and he was now a useful tool in God's hands.

There was, no doubt, sin in his life before. He had run away from his master and we don't know what else was in his life, but he had repented before Paul and brought his testimony to God and had been forgiven for his sins. So here it is that Paul writes this letter to Philemon encouraging him to receive him back, not as a runaway slave to be dealt with or to be punished, but rather as a brother and a useful tool in God's hands.

How did Paul say that to Philemon here? In talking about Onesimus, he said, "Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel." Philemon, verse 13. Here Philemon, who professed to be a believer and follower of God, yet he was not there working with Paul and doing the work that God had directed

Paul to do.

So Paul has a feeling that his sense of responsibility as a child of God himself, as a believer in our Lord and Saviour, that instead of himself coming and serving Paul in the ministering of the Gospel, that he should instead send his servant. Onesimus could do that work. So we see that we do have a responsibility. Paul was calling that debt of Philemon to serve God.

The Word calls for our debt today as well. As children of God, how are we to serve Him? How are we to live our lives? What work does He have in store for us? It may be just something such as this . . . some act of forgiveness, or some act of giving of something that is ours to the work of the Lord and then let Him use it for His best interest.

We can't always see that and if Philemon would have had Onesimus as a servant, he would not have been doing the same work as what Paul had him doing. I don't know what kind of operation or what kind of duties he had with Philemon, but it was, no doubt, not the ministering of the Gospel, such as we see him doing here in working for Paul. So Paul saw fit to write and beseech this man to forgive.

He asks us each one to forgive also. We all have those things in our lives where things, we might say, "ruffle our feathers" and we become upset with one another. We may become disgruntled with the way a certain situation has been handled. Maybe we see that we had been wrong, but we might be absolutely right.

If we take the stand for Philemon here, he had a real case, didn't he? He had this man work for him and he just ran off and left him. He was right in wanting this man back and in wanting restitution made.

What Paul offered was a "blank check," we might say, to pay off that debt. First of all, in requiring that Philemon consider his debt for the Lord for forgiveness he had received and then also as he said here, "If thou count me therefor a partner, receive him" meaning Onesimus, "as myself." Philemon, verse 17. He sent Onesimus as his brother, as a representative of the ministry of the Gospel. He wanted him to be re-

ceived as such, not as a slave.

"If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought," anything, "put that on mine account; I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides." Philemon, v. 18, 19.

That is what our Lord and Saviour did for us, too, really. He gave us that "blank check" and said He came before we were even born, before we were even thought of. He came and gave His life and paid that debt. He said essentially to God, "If," and we could put our name in this blank, "if this individual has wronged Thee or owest Thee ought, put that on My account." Jesus said that to the heavenly Father. Put in on His account because He has a perfect way to pay the debt for our imperfections. He came as the Son of God . . . born of a virgin . . . and lived a perfect life, free of sin.

How many of us can raise our hand and say, "That happened with us . . . we lived a perfect life, free from sin?" We can't, and we have no way to make up that debt, to unring that bell. We have no resources.

But God has provided a plan and sent Jesus Christ to say, "If we have wronged any or oweth Thee ought, put that on My account." Jesus took our accounts and paid them all. As He did that, He gave His life to do it. He gave us an opportunity . . . an opportunity for freedom, even as this Onesimus was becoming free from his bondage to Philemon, but yet, to become as a debtor and servant to our Lord and Saviour.

Because now it wasn't something that we have done to free ourselves from sin and to make our lives any more righteous, it is something God did for us! So the debt has not been paid by us so we can swell our chest and say, "Now we are righteous." It is something the Lord and Saviour did for us and so the debt we owe is now to Him. That is what He asks of us, that we go on to live our life free from that debt. So we can forget it all.

Paul here wrote to him saying that he would repay it. He even reminded Philemon about the debt, ". . . albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides." Philemon, v. 19. Paul brought the Word, no doubt, to

Philemon, and so the debt of forgiveness for his sins was not something that Philemon had done. He owed that to his Lord and Saviour, and so Paul was working as a tool in His hands so he could be forgiven and find remission.

That is where we find ourselves, each and every one today, needing to know that we have been forgiven. If we are in good standing before God, we are no longer a slave to sin, but we are as a brother and sister to Christ Jesus. That is what the Scriptures direct us to. We know what is right, and we don't have to search the Scripture real hard to find that.

It brings to mind, just this week, a colleague of mine was mentioning that he had gone to a Power Engineering Society Meeting. Out west, there are some places where they have tried to create alternate power forces. They take all these mirrors, a whole plane load out there, for I don't know how many acres of mirrored glass elements. They let the sunshine on those elements to reflect up and they concentrate all the energy of the sun onto this boiler system and it heats water, makes steam and generates power.

In the past they tried to lock those things on to the sun. They wanted to make a control system, and it will sense there the brightest spot is in the sky and lock the mirrors right onto that spot so that it concentrates the beam onto the water heater. They had that working but the problem was whenever the clouds would come and cause interference, the mirrors would get lost. They didn't know where that sun was at. They would just wander around looking for it and couldn't find it.

Finally, after many years of trying to get that system to work, they said, "Let's throw it out the window. We know where the sun comes up every day. We have computers that can figure out exactly where the sun is located at any minute of the day. Let's just concentrate those mirrors on where we know the sun to be." I had to think, that was relying on the wisdom of man to try to track the sun. They made a very fundamental mistake because God is unchanging. Where He puts the sun on any day of the year at any minute of the day, it is always the same.

It was the same when Paul wrote this letter and it is the same today. That sun hasn't changed and it is very predictable. The Word for God is just like that. The Son of God is the same. We know where He is going to stand and we know from His Word what is required of us. We don't have to search daily to see that.

But we do have to look into His Word and see where it is that He stands and make sure that we are locked onto His Word and that we are following It. That keeps us from having to search every day for the sun and search every day for our direction, because if we know where God stands on the issues (and different issues affect our lives differently), if we know where He stands on His Word, then we can line ourselves with that.

It takes all the searching, it takes all the chance of getting lost, it takes all the cloud affects when things come and cloud up our lives and cloud up our vision. It happens. But God can take that away if we will study His Word and see where He stands on the issues that confront us. Then if we can line ourselves with that, we will find the greatest source of energy that we could ever want. It is the source from Almighty God.

That is what he was teaching here to Philemon, to seek out God's will and to receive God's plan. That is what He speaks to each and every one of us, receive God's plan for your heart and for mine. That means to follow Him and to serve Him and give up of ourselves and our own wisdom and turn it over to God in His wisdom. He will direct our paths, and He has.

It is not a perfect path to walk, but He certainly has a perfect ending to that path. Life eternal is going to be far greater than any bond we can find ourselves in today. It will counter balance any adversities, any sorrows, any stresses that we find in life. Life is so very short and eternity is so very long.

Let's take a little wisdom from the Scripture. Take a morsel of that wisdom from Solomon because Solomon said in some of his last writings, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13.

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## SERMON BY BRO. NEAL WIDMER OF WOLCOTT, IN

### "Paul Pleads For Onesimus"

#### I Kings 4:29 - 5:6 and Philemon

We find here the Apostle Paul writing to Philemon, who was a believer, a man who had accepted the teachings of the Lord and Saviour and turned his heart over to Him.

But in those days they had servants and even slaves who worked for them. This man Philemon had a slave named Onesimus. This man Onesimus had actually run away. He was a runaway slave from his master Philemon. Here we find this man Onesimus had come and found Paul, the apostle. I am not completely sure, but I believe Paul was in prison in Rome at this time. I'm looking at the end of the chapter, it says, "Written from Rome to Philemon and taken by Onesimus, the servant."

So this man Onesimus took this letter from the Apostle Paul and brought it to his master whom he had run away from. Now this, no doubt, was a very tense situation for the man Onesimus and also for the Apostle Paul because it says there was a great bond of love between Paul and the runaway slave Onesimus here.

He made it very clear how much he loved him and how much he appreciated the work that Onesimus had done. Paul was in prison in Rome. You might see that as a great persecution. He was arrested and even put on trial often before the magistrates and rulers. But here he was in prison . . . he was not a free man, to walk and to speak the Word. Yet, he wanted the Word to go forth.

So he had those who could come and visit him and those who could come and do the work which needed to be done. That is, no doubt, the role Onesimus was serving for him . . . not

as a slave to Paul, but as a freed man who is now really under the bondage of our Lord and Saviour, to work the works that God wanted him to work. Paul was directing him but he was following those directions, and through the Spirit doing the work of God.

Yet, Paul felt uncomfortable because he knew that Onesimus had run away from Philemon. He was actually a servant to this other man and he wanted there to be an understanding. So here he was sending the letter which he could have sent with another man, as the Apostle Paul, no doubt, had other people who were willing to go and do the work of the Lord. He could have sent this letter, this plea, to Philemon by some other means, but he sent it by means of the man who had even run away from his master.

It was a plea on behalf of Onesimus sent by Onesimus to Philemon. So it was a very tense situation, no doubt. That is why the Apostle Paul comes with a plea to Philemon. At first he begins his letter to make that connection, you might say, to speak to his heart and to express his appreciation for Philemon.

As we see, this man was a believer and yet, we know that as believers we do not always respond to situations as we should. Are we always looking for that spiritual direction in seeing things? We might put ourselves in a position as this Philemon.

Here he had a slave, who in those times was considered as property, and it was not within his rights to just run away. Perhaps he had been purchased with a great price . . . we don't know that. But he was gone now. He

was lost property, you might say, to Philemon.

Now here comes the man who had run away bringing, not only this letter, but also he could bring a testimony of the fact he was not the same individual that ran away. He was now a converted individual, and we find the rather awkward position maybe of being a man, not only a slave to this man Philemon, but yet also a brother. This relationship of brother and sister-in-Christ Jesus was something that was new. People were not used to this concept.

But when accepting the Lord and Saviour and His love for us, that is how we become as brothers and sisters with Jesus Christ. That is quite a statement, isn't it? But we can claim that.

When Jesus claimed before the Pharisees that He was the Son of God, they had fits over it. They couldn't accept that and receive it because they thought He was putting Himself up on a great pedestal to call Himself that. Besides the fact that He was truly the Son of God, we can consider ourselves, through the light of His Scripture, as children of God -- sons and daughters of God -- if, in fact, we have accepted that perfect plan of His that we might have eternal life.

As that responsibility then comes upon us to consider ourselves as children of His, the responsibility, as well, is to conduct ourselves as children of the Most High God. That means to be obedient to parents . . . to be obedient to our heavenly Father and do His will.

We read in the old law that we  
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