



"Then saith he unto his disciples, The HARVEST truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;"
Matthew 9:37

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the HARVEST, that he will send forth laborers into his HARVEST."
Matthew 9:38

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Bountiful Harvest Time



"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh HARVEST? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to HARVEST."

John 4:35

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

SPIRITUAL WATER Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle Shioda, Japan

As a small boy on my parents' farm near Princeville, IL, I relished the cold, clear, sparkling spring water which flowed continuously from a pipe which was horizontally imbedded into the ground on a slope at the site of a spring. On a hot summer day my brothers and sisters and I could enjoy drinking from that ever-flowing steam while our Holstein cows quenched their thirst from the tank placed beneath the end of the pipe, before heading out farther into the pasture for their fill of grass from the meadow.

How precious is cold, clear, sparkling water on a hot summer day. Without water we die. Nevertheless, good, pure water is hard to come by, these days. There is so much pollution interfering with what we expect to be pure. Somehow, we should drink 8 to 10 cups of pure water, or other healthful liquids, each day.

In the New Testament, water takes a spiritual meaning. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "He who drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst again." John 4:14. He must have meant that His message gives eternal satisfaction because I continue to be thirsty for pure, clear, sparkling spiritual water, those things which concern the soul of man, the mind of man, the spirit of man. That kind of spiritual water is hard to come by because we human beings have a tendency to pollute it, often by "self." To be selfless is important in

handling spiritual things but it is possible to promote "self" in a subtle way so that even the person doing it doesn't realize it. Therefore I request that anyone seeing me promote self in any way, kindly tell me about it. If we all are willing to speak to one another about any tendency to promote "self," the spiritual water we drink will become less polluted and more nearly, completely pure. God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the New Testament should be promoted. That's the source of clear, pure, sparkling, spiritual water.

In the book of Revelation 22:1 we read, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." The closest we can come to seeing this with our mortal eyes is to find a mountain stream fed by springs, near enough to its source that man has not yet had a chance to pollute it. Water from a mountain stream, pure enough to drink, is delightful. May the spiritual water we drink, likewise be delightful, and obtained close to its source.

In discussing this concept with a Japanese sister she asked the question, "Then, must we go directly to God in order to get pure, spiritual water, and not listen to other human beings?"

Although the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 1:16, "I conferred not with flesh and blood," indicating that he conferred directly with God, trying to get the pure water directly, in the long run he, too, had to confer with the brethren in order to work to-

gether, and each had to be dead to "self" in order to keep the spiritual water pure. Please drink your fill of it, and rejoice.

WORKS PROJECTS The Fellowship Center at Lafayette, IN

The committee representing the five churches has been meeting and the work has begun on the new fellowship center. During August, September and October, there will be opportunity to assist in this program. All interested volunteer helpers should contact Bro. Edwin Bahler, project coordinator, from Remington, IN, phone 219-261-2759.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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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 IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE

The family unit patterned after godly principles is one of the most significant elements of a society. It consists of a husband and wife (bound by vows of lifetime fidelity and commitment in marriage) and their children. It exists as a nurturing and binding agent among individuals in a family circle. It also contributes a sense of stability and identity as life flows from one generation to another.

The composition and order of the family unit find their sacred origin in the Bible. God instituted the family when he said to Adam, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Gen. 2:18). God took a rib from Adam and made a woman; and Adam declared, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" (Gen. 2:23).

Over the centuries, the concept of the godly family has survived. It has provided spiritual and emotional nourishment through all of life's varying phases and experiences. Strong families are central to societal durability and are of great benefit, both to the church and to the nation.

The family relationship is rooted in love: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us . . ." (Eph. 5:1-2). Such love flourishes when family members submit to one another (Eph. 5:21) and "follow after the things that make for peace" (Rom. 14:17).

According to the Word, the father is the head of the house and has the ultimate responsibility for the spiritual and physical well-being of the entire family. "The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:23). Such an obligation is quite sobering because the husband is not to lord over his family. Rather, the Word teaches, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). In this context, the father is reminded not to provoke his children to anger "lest they be discouraged" (Col.

3:21).

In God's order of creation, the head of the woman is the man (1 Cor. 11:3). Wives are to submit themselves unto their husbands "as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22). "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Eph. 5:24).

Children are given specific instructions in the Word: "Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). As parents love each other and submit themselves unto Christ, this serves as a great example to children who will hopefully follow such a godly pattern.

Scripturally, fathers and mothers have distinctive roles to fulfill. As the family's head, the father has responsibilities to provide the financial, physical, and spiritual needs of his wife and family. He personifies the male gender (masculinity) reflected in physical and spiritual strength as well as leadership (1 Kings 2:2; 1 Cor. 16:13). He also is to be kindly sensitive to the emotional needs of his family (1 Pet. 3:7). He is the major breadwinner and provider (1 Tim. 5:8). Among a father's many important duties are the offering of prayer before meals and the reading of Scriptures in his family's presence.

Likewise, the mother has a biblical role to fulfill as a "keeper at home" (Titus 2:5), and one who is readily available to love and nurture her dear children. Her God-given feminine gifts are for the purpose of lovingly ministering to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of her children. As her offspring grow from babyhood through adolescence and thence into adulthood, a mother's visible example of godliness and Christian nurturing is continually needed in the home.

The primary goal of a converted husband and wife is the raising of

their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Their heartfelt desire is the conversion of their children and they should kindly remind them of their eventual spiritual responsibility. Christian parents demonstrate their love for God, and for the church through willing obedience to these spiritual authorities. When parents convey attitudes of submission to those whom God has placed over them, they can more fully expect their children to be obedient to them.

Parents must recognize that Satan is working with a steady diligence to undermine the home. Broken marriages abound and children are the greatest victims. The exodus of mothers from the home into the work force and the excessive preoccupation of fathers with earthly gain have both contributed to the instability of families and marriages. Many parents neglect their responsibility toward their children during their crucial formative years.

Godly parents should make every effort to keep their homes holy and shielded from worldly influences. The nurturing of spiritual values and communication are severely undermined by the vast majority of television programming, by decadent movies, and by morally destructive videos which can be rented and watched at home. Christian parents have a solemn obligation to protect their children from these morally degrading influences. Sensitivity to their anxieties and problems will help to maintain open communication between parents and children.

Opportunities abound to promote the scriptural patterns of sound family life. Godly order, respect, Christ-like love and a wall of defence against evil will provide the kind of home on this earth which will help precious souls prepare to spend eternity in Heaven.

REPORT ON TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE

Elder Bro. Gene Marti, Kansas City, MO

Sunday, May 27 was dedication day for the new church building in Budapest, Hungary. Several of us were privileged to be present for this dedication and then traveled to Romania and Yugoslavia the following week. This is a report on that trip and we trust this will give a better understanding of the conditions that exist in that area.

Our group consisted of the following: Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) and his brother, George (Apostolic Christian [Nazarene] Church, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO).

In order to prevent any misunderstanding we will not use the titles of brother or sister when we refer to individuals in this report. Certainly this is not due to any lack of respect of the brethren and we trust you will understand.

It was after much prayerful consideration that we had faith to believe that the Lord opened the way for us to travel to Eastern Europe. We must confess that we had mixed feelings as we began this long trip because some of us were not experienced world travelers.

We were apprehensive as we thought about the language barrier and wondered if this would be a major problem. There was also concern about staying healthy because we realized we would be faced with a tight schedule, a different diet and a water supply that may not always be acceptable. Another concern was that we would be good representatives of our brethren in America. We did not want to do or say anything that would be an embarrassment to our loved ones at home.

On the other hand we had many positive thoughts. We looked forward to meeting those of like faith that we had never met. We were confident we all had the same hopes, desires and conflicts even though many miles separate us.

HUNGARY. The country of Hungary covers approximately 35,902

square miles with a population of 10.9 million. Compare this with the state of Missouri which covers 69,270 square miles and a population of 4.7 million and you can see that it is fairly densely populated.

We drove through beautiful agriculture area much like our Midwest. There were fields of wheat, corn, sugar beets, potatoes and other crops. All collective farms with large fields and fairly modern equipment but we also saw much hand labor in the fields.

We understand that this soil is very productive with yields exceeding ours in the United States. This area is called the bread basket of Europe. The highways were very adequate in Hungary.

BUDAPEST. Budapest has a population of 2.1 million which makes it much larger than Kansas City. It is a very old city and it seemed rather drab to us and not very clean. Smog is a problem due to many, many vehicles and also industrial pollution. The Danube River divides the city which at one time was two cities -- Buda and Pest. Many of the streets are very rough and inadequate to handle the traffic. New streets are being built but it is a slow process with much manual labor. We really did not see much work being done.

Even though travel is not as restricted as it was under Communist control, it was necessary for us to purchase visas before we could clear customs at the Budapest airport. This took us over an hour because there were several in line and the officials were somewhat indifferent. They were cordial but they took plenty of time and language was a problem. In the days to come we would find that this was a typical scene as we crossed borders into other countries.

It's amazing that we can travel almost half way around the world and someone that we have never met can pick us out of the crowd without any problem. We immediately felt the love of God flowing from heart to heart and it was obvious that His love spans oceans and international boundaries.

LIVING CONDITIONS. The Budapest brethren live a much more conservative and subdued lifestyle

that we do in America. Their homes are comfortable but rather small. Many live in apartments because of the high cost of housing. We found this to be the case throughout Eastern Europe. Most all homes are surrounded by a wall or heavy fence with a strong gate that is locked at night. Evidently police protection is inadequate and walls or fences are needed for security.

We ate several meals at the church or in their homes and the food was excellent. It was served in several courses, starting with soup and ending with a variety of desserts that many of us particularly enjoyed. This contributed to the addition of several pounds to our weight while we were there. They do not rush through their meals as we do but they take their time to eat and enjoy the fellowship. Even on Friday when we had lunch in the old church building with those who were working on the new building, they took time for a Scripture reading following lunch and then a hymn was sung. We found that singing a hymn after eating was customary wherever we traveled. Usually it was our Zion's Harp hymn #236, "Now Thank We All Our God." This is an excellent practice and one that we should consider adopting.

They are not nearly as pressed for time as we are here in this country. They never seem to be in a hurry which means they don't keep on a very tight schedule. This was sometimes frustrating to us but we could see some value in not being totally regulated by the clock as we are in America. Probably a good comparison would be somewhere between their schedule and ours.

BUDAPEST CHURCHES. The old and new Budapest churches are located on a fairly narrow street directly across the street from one another. It is in an area much like our downtown sections where the buildings join and there is no off street parking as we have for our churches.

As we walked through the old church it was obvious they definitely were in need of a new building. This property was purchased in 1909. They used a building on the property for church services for 23 years until 1932 when they built this building. First services were held in the new

(Continued on Page 28)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

This summer has proven to be typical here at ACHH. Many activities are going on including camps, mini-vacations, birthday parties, 4th of July picnic, swimming, and much

more. Included in group activities with all our agencies are the week-end trip to St. Louis, MO, and Sunday trip to Forrest, IL. Sharing time with the brethren at these churches is greatly enjoyed by everyone. As always, we are thankful and appreciative to those volunteers who so

generously give of their time to make these activities go more smoothly.

Our friend Rosemary Finlay has been required to move to a facility more appropriate for her needs. She is now living at the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home. Though we know she is being well cared for, we miss her happy smile and large repertoire of songs.

Lord willing, in August six men plan to move to our new house on Hazelwood Street in Morton. We wish them the Lord's blessings in making this house a home.

The ACHH Resident Council continues to meet monthly. This meeting has proven successful where residents can voice their concerns and have them addressed by staff. They also have planned and enjoyed a picnic this summer.

Birthdays for September are: ACHH - Angie Massner and Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin and Janet Schweigert (10), Dave Taylor (13), Janet Christensen and Lester Miller (16), Lois Egli (19), Dave Maupin and Glenn Getz (20), Jim Maupin (24), Nancy Theis (25), Marsha Miller and Doug Steffen (26) and Ethel Borinstein (20); and 540 N. Main - Marlene Esslinger (8). There are no birthdays in September for our Oakwood Home.

GATEWAY WOODS CHILDREN'S HOME

Liz Martin - Shelly Riggenschach

THANK YOU

"... Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave..."

by Ray Boltz

The staff and children would like to thank the volunteers who spent time here in July, especially Ron Macklin (Bluffton, IN), Ross Meyer, Marvin Wieland, Dena Lewis, Rose Bozzay (Chicago, IL), Doug Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Brian and Cindy Wiegand and family (Oakville, IA), Camille Strahm (Bern, KS), Mark Wettstein (Gridley, IL) and David and Jana Kieser (Bradford, IL). We are looking forward to those of you still coming.

-- 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
Seventh Year -- August 1989 thru July 1990 -- 25,501

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	20,892
June 1990 --	1601	22,493
July 1990 --	3008	25,501

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.

July has been a busy month with a staff Recognition Dinner July 20, followed by a staff reunion Saturday, July 21. Thanks to everyone that made it possible for these wonderful evenings.

Several of the children are detasseling corn and find it a learning experience of endurance and responsibility mixed with fun!

Our prayers continue to be with Wayne S. and Wendy E. as they move on.

We welcome Shelly Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) to our staff. The East House "family" grew as Tracey N. and Misty K. arrived.

We're also looking forward to our Annual Sale August 18. Details of the outcome will follow in the September issue.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

On Saturday, June 23, many from church, family and friends gathered at Sis. Anais Perry's home to celebrate her 84th birthday. A dinner was enjoyed by all, followed by a birthday cake, of course, and singing "Happy Birthday." Sis. Anais is an inspiration to us all, with her faithful attendance in church every Wednesday night and Sunday. Sis. Anais has her priorities straight, even though she may not feel so well, she's always in church, the Lord has blessed her for her faithfulness.

We also appreciated the help of Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) this same weekend, as we sought the direction of the Lord concerning the need for a new minister.

The weekend of July 7 was the Christian Pre-School Board meeting. Saturday evening we enjoyed a singing at the fellowship hall with our visitors, following the School Board meeting held earlier that day. Sunday, we were thankful to hear Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), preach the Word of God. Bro. Bill Hart (Goodfield, IL) and his family were also present for the School Board meeting.

July 1, Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) brought the Word of God to us. We enjoyed the visit of he and his family.

This past month, we've had visitors from Goodfield, Peoria, Forrest, Bradford and Princeville, IL, Rockville, CT, and Bluffton North, IN.

We want to thank the volunteers who spent time in Athens, helping at the Preschool and various other church-related needs. They were Sisters Lisa Kieser and Janna Kieser (Bradford, IL), David Kieser (Bradford, IL), Sis. Laurie Siebenthal (Princeville, IL), Sis. Brenda Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Mitch Leman (Bradford, IL).

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Minnie Kyle July 1, however, rejoice that she can go to her long-awaited heavenly home. Sis. Minnie lived to be 97 years old, and was faithful to her Lord through these years. Her funeral was held July 3, and Minnie is survived by 3 daughters, and 1 son, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Again, we want to invite everyone to visit us in Athens, whether you are passing through on vacation, or make a special trip to come visit us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion."

Psalm 145:8

Father's Day was special this year. Vacation Bible School had just finished so our youngsters sang messages of what they learned. What joy they give us participating in activities honoring our Lord Jesus. God bless each of you who helped make Bible School so pleasing to so many.

Bro. Dan Kokanovich was hospitalized in June. Little Lauren Meiss was in for studies. Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy appreciate the prayers you are offering in Lauren's behalf. Ed and Jane Kilgus are waiting for better health days to get back to church. Quite a few of us need an extra measure of His healing hand.

Our sympathy to Sis. Jan and Martha Elsasser and Bro. Ron Hoerr and family on the death of Sis. Anna and Bro. Harold spent many winter months visiting Phoenix. God is such a Comfort, if you just lean on Him.

We've been enjoying several fami-

lies of tiny hummingbirds -- some dark, some light, and some with white bands. The same families will drink from the feeder at the same time but they don't share with their cousins. A current hot spell is interrupting daily visits, glad cool air is just a short fly-away.

Those of us fortunate enough to live in Phoenix, June 25 and 26, got in on record-breaking heat, as temperatures got to 120 and 122 degrees. The early morning temperature was 91 - 94 degrees. Knowing that God is in charge was "blessed assurance" relief is coming.

We enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) July 7 and 8. After two inspirational messages, some of us gathered at the Piccadilly Cafeteria for good food and great fellowship. There is just nothing quite as wonderful as fellowshiping in God's presence.

"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."

Psalm 56:11

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our congregation said farewell to Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn and little Jonathan. They have moved to Oregon and we miss them already! We pray the Lord will fill their every need as they start a new chapter in their life.

We were pleased to have Bro. Dotterer (Phoenix) and his family visit us recently for the day. Bro. Bill shared the Word with us and we thank him for his service.

Jim Funk (Sis. LouAnn) was hospitalized recently for surgery. He has made a nice recovery so many prayers have been answered.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

On June 9, we gathered to hear the testimony of our friend David Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois). The next day, many were on hand to witness his baptism and welcome him as a new brother-in-faith. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Richard

Schupbach with us from Phoenix for the occasion.

We have had a steady stream of visitors with us during these summer months, including ministering Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Our friend Bill Opplinger (Sis. Laura) has been in poor health recently and we are glad to have him with us in church again.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

LaNae Meyer - Cindy Schmidt

We are so thankful for the many visitors we have had this past month. We greatly appreciate Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for sharing with us God's Holy Word. We also are thankful for the visit from the Phoenix, AZ, and Altadena, CA, single's group. It was such a blessing to feel their love and enthusiasm for the Lord in their singing and fellowshiping.

We had our semi-annual business meeting this past month. Bro. Roy Metzger was re-elected as Sunday school superintendent. May we support Bro. Roy with our prayers and help in this important job. Also at our meeting there was a report given on what has transpired over the last couple of months concerning the building of a new place of worship. We encourage you to pray on our behalf for this big undertaking.

As you plan and consider your vacation this year, please come visit us in San Diego. It is such a blessing to worship with visitors across the land! Our church address is: 410 W. Felicita, Suite H, Escondido, CA. We are easily accessible from Interstate 15. For more information you may contact Bro. Peter Petrovich at (619) 789-1504.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Recently a severe hail storm passed through our city. Hail stones as large as baseballs pelted trees, cars and homes leaving much destruction in its wake. Some things were severely damaged and the damage was obvious at first glance, others were damaged to a lesser degree to be seen only when the light is just right, depending on how close to the main path of the storm things were. Some were

warned that the storm was coming and to move their cars to shelter -- those who did escaped damage, those who didn't suffered. This reminded me of our life here on earth. When the storms of life beat upon us, some are caught in the midst and are severely beaten or even destroyed, some folks' lot is not so bad and their lives are repairable, some seemingly are unscathed but in close examination with "The Light" there are dimples and chips, too. Those who take the warning that danger is near escape having to go through that particular storm. May we all be alert to the warnings that God gives.

We were blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month and we do so appreciate these brothers taking time to visit us and allowing God to use them for our benefit. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), may God bless you for your loving kindness toward us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Luginbuhl

The following recently engaged couples have been married and we wish them the Lord's blessings as they now walk together to attain that ultimate goal -- life eternal! June 24 was the wedding day of Sis. Melisa Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Roy Feucht (Bro. August and Sis. Martha, Lester, IA). On July 1, Bro. Steve Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) and Sis. Janis Lanz (Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda) were united in holy matrimony. May the Lord always be the third partner in their marriages.

Visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Gary Anliker, Ron Schambach, Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). We thank them for taking time out to visit us and for their words of Biblical exhortation. May they continue to lean upon the Lord for His guidance and direction in the future.

Michael Zahner, 15-year-old son of Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie, was in the hospital for constructive sur-

gery on his face due to a bicycle accident some time ago. Our prayers are for him and others who may be under a doctor's care as well as those who are carrying heavy burdens -- known or unknown to us.

"As for man, his days are as grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more but the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him."

Psalms 103: 15, 16, 17

Our sympathy is with Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim (Niemann) Schneider, who lost their infant son, Aaron, upon birth at Rockville Hospital June 22. He leaves two sisters, Alison and Diana. Grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marjorie (Honegger) Schneider, Clifford Niemann and Joyce Townsend. Also, John Spielman, 88, died July 2 leaving two brothers, Arthur and Walter, and three sisters as well as several nieces and nephews. Kind thoughts of love are also with the family of Bro. Jacob Trueb, 86, who died July 15, especially for his wife, Bert (Schneider), who now must stand alone after many years of having a companion. Bro. Jake leaves two sons and daughters-in-law, Bro. Ron and Sis. Adele Trueb and Wayne and Peggy; three sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Leah and Fred Zahner, Barbara and Ruth Schneider. Also, seven grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon."

Matthew 6:24

We rejoice with LaNae Gerber (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly) and Tom Bahler (Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine) who are in repentance. They have found a need to come out from the world and be a separate people, as the Word directs, and to have communion with fellow believers who have, at one time, also been born again out of water and spirit. May the Lord grant them much insight, courage and belief as they read and hear His Word spoken.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Catherine Klopfenstein

Ministers in July were Bro. Merle Hartzler, along with his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and two children (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake, with his wife, Miriam, and four children (Sardis, OH). Their visit and ministry is much appreciated.

Other visitors in July were from Fort Lauderdale, FL, Union City, NJ, Roanoke, Morton and Normal, IL, and Philadelphia, PA. Visitors are so much appreciated as they add so much to the fellowship and services in a small assembly.

On Sunday, July 8, twelve of us from Washington travelled to Philadelphia to attend services there and to witness the baptism of our dear friend and new Bro. Matthew Aeschlemann. We rejoice with Matthew in his new walk of life. He regularly attends the church here in Washington and his conversion has already stirred the Spirit within several of our friends. Join us in praying for each one.

We truly regret that the Huber family, Bro. Dave, Sis. Debbie, Jaron, Eric and Dustin have returned to their home in Bloomington, IL, after a 5-month assignment with his employer here in the Washington, D.C. area. They contributed greatly in all our church activities and will be sorely missed. Our prayers and best wishes go with them.

Jodie Volk, daughter of Gloria Volk (Gridley, IL), has moved to this area where she is employed as a Nanny (child care). We welcome her to our assembly. Child care employment opportunities are abundant in this area and if others are interested, please call us at the phone number listed below. We can assist in finding positions or in temporary room and board.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark Hotel at 10:30 a.m., located on U.S. Highway 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. For information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476. Visitors welcome.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Jeanette Yergler - Dorothy Beer

We were thankful to have Bro.

Doug Sabo (Sarasota) minister to us this month.

Our church is looking forward to our summer picnic at Lakes Park July 22. It is always a time of good food and fellowship for both the young and old.

Bro. Ralph Yergler, who has been in the hospital for several weeks, returned to his home for continued physical therapy. We praise the Lord for his healing progress!

We appreciate and welcome the many families, who are on vacation, come and worship with us. You are always welcome!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Suellen Ott

As summer comes to Florida with the heat of the day, we see the beauty of an afternoon rain that waters the grass and helps it to stand the intense sun. It is the same in our spiritual life; we gather in God's Word to help us through each day we spend out in the world, and its intense pressures and heat.

We are grateful to all the families that have visited us this summer. Especially Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) who was so willing to shower us with God's Word.

Sis. Lydia Voina remains under medical care in a health care facility and we wish to uplift her in thought and prayer.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

We were blessed July 15 as Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman served 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 Bro. Wendell and his wife, Marcella, for their labor of love.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Vic Beer (Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). How thankful we are for these brothers and their families who visit and serve us.

We always look forward to visitors stopping in the Atlanta area to worship with us. Our congregation meets every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance. The hotel is located off

I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-378-5918) for further information.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carolyn Fischer - Marcia Bauer

How quickly time moves on, but God's blessings are always present and bountiful.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean Greiner's new addition, Eric Andrew, born June 29. Welcoming him home is his brother, Evan.

July 1 we welcomed into God's family Bro. Aaron Steffen, son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen. We praise the Lord for another soul turning away from Satan's deceiving power.

We thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) for sharing with our Bible class many good teachings Sunday, July 15.

We thank Bros. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) for their many good teachings from God's Word as they visited us this month.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

We were blessed this past month with several visiting ministers: Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville). We pray they are richly rewarded for their willingness to bring forth God's Word to our congregation.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee Endress are the first-time parents of a precious baby girl. Andrea Jean was born June 24. Happy grandparents are Sis. Lois Endress and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor, MO).

June 23 was the wedding day for Robb Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) and Kelly Geary (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Geary of Wyoming). May God bless their home with many years of happiness.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held the last Sunday of June. The weather was just perfect and we all enjoyed the children as they sang songs of praise before we ate.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

The engagement of Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) to Bro. Craig Wettstein of Chicago (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda, Gridley) was announced July 1. We certainly wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their future together.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Bill Elsasser (Sis. Violet), for he has spent several weeks in the hospital. May the Lord be near him and his dear family. Also spending some time in the hospital was Mike Buckman (Deonna). We are thankful he is back home and recovering from his surgery.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN LaRae Dill

We are blessed to have several additions to our church family. Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr have moved to Mahomet, IL, from Ames, IA. Bob is employed at Kraft Foods in Champaign. We're also thankful for the Fehr's children, Lana, Tina, Tom and Donna, who will be a welcome addition to our Sunday school. We also look forward to the fellowship of their sons, Bro. Joe and Mike (Ames, IA) when they come to visit their family.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda (Stahl) Knobloch were married May 27 in Princeville, IL, and are now living in Champaign. Linda is a student at the University of Illinois and has lived here for the past year. Jerry originally is from Lester, IA, but most recently lived in Bern, KS.

Also, Bro. Darwin and Sis. Laurie (Young) Steidinger, who lived here as college students, are now establishing their first home in Champaign. They were married June 24 in Cissna Park, IL. We welcome these couples and know God will bless them as they serve Him together.

We will miss Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser as they have moved to Fairbury, Il. They assembled here several years while Renae finished her degree at the University of Illinois. We will miss them.

We were happy to have Bro. Jaye

Rinkenberger visit and minister God's Word this month.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

On a trip to Indianapolis with Sunday school students, the Lord blessed us richly in all ways. We were privileged also to tour the Indianapolis 500 Speedway and see the museum. What most impressed me was the information on how long it took a crew to service a car or change a tire during the race. We were told a time of 15 - 16 seconds! Because of the time requirements, each pit crew put in a great deal of preparation. Thus each pit crew has practiced much teamwork. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." I Corinthians 9:24. Maybe the race we are in isn't listed in seconds -- but I emphatically believe that the more teamwork we practice the smoother will be the race. Those who are spiritually disabled will be so for less time, and we can all stand in the Winner's Circle. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1.

We are always hungry for visitors. Visiting ministers especially season our spiritual food with variety. Always we are grateful for Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). May the Lord reward them and bring them back again soon.

We appreciate Bro. Miklos Bozay, who has served as superintendent this year, and Sis. Gloria Stahl, both of whom have completed their full terms in Sunday school. Sis. Joyce Kaiser, Sis. Lynnette Lang and Bro. Jim Schlatter are also leaving after shorter times, and we thank them. Bro. Jake Plattner will now be superintendent. New teachers coming in are Bros. Clark Baurer (returning), Jeff Leman, Sis. Cindy Gomez and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. May they have our prayers and support so that they may always teach as the Spirit guides.

We welcome Bro. Ron Knapp, Justin Gramm and Kelly Fehr to our

fellowship. Bro. Ron has taken a job in finance at Motorola in Schaumburg and lives in Wheeling. Our gain is Detroit's loss. Justin, a convert from Peoria, IL, has begun at DeVry. Kelly (West Bend, IA) is living in Willowbrook and is working as an engineer at Case. We wish the three of them great ease in their transition in living here and much joy as part of our church family. May we extend ready hands and listening hearts.

The second greatest step we take in our lives is that of seeking a helpmate. Bro. Craig Wettstein, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda (Gridley) and Sis. Mary Ann Kieser, daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma (Princeville), have faithfully sought His will and become engaged to be married as a reflection of that faith. We look forward to their union in Christ. Other new couples are at home here after their recent July marriages, Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill (Bogart) Rager and Bro. Dale and Sis. Pam (Gramm) Steiner. We delight in their youth and faithfulness and offer our love and prayers to them in their new beginnings.

Most important to our lives here and hereafter is the state of our souls. We rejoice that Lance Pfeifer, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy, and Brandon Rinkenberger, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon, have sought the Lord in repentance and He is to be found. Now that they have come to Him, starting the journey of knowing Him and reflecting His love, we are so happy for these answered prayers. Yet we redouble our prayers for these so dear to us, who yesterday were only boys, that their faith may be strongly rooted. "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:23.

We have those who suffer in the body. Lance Pfeifer is recovering from a severe injury. Our prayers and support are much needed for him and his family. Sis. Char Feldman and Sis. Kathy Grimm are recuperating from a broken leg and a dislocated knee, respectively. Bro. Tibor Bozay is recovering from surgery, and Arlene Ryan was also hospitalized. Pain can steal our energy but bring us

closer to the Lord. We pray for our loved ones' complete recoveries in the Lord, just as soon as He wills. May He grant each of them an extra measure of grace and solace as they walk with pain for a time.

Sadness comes into each life. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Matt and Dorothy Strahm upon the death of her mother and to Bros. Tibor and Miklos Bozzay whose sister has died in Hungary. May they all feel the comfort and hope of the Lord.

We have an apple tree in the front yard which I enjoy every spring for its beautiful head of white blossoms. However, it also bears apples every two years. Two years ago we had some help and enjoyed our frozen apple supply. Last year was a freebie. This year, however, has been different. First of all, for whatever reason, the apples have remained so small. We left them on the tree for that reason, but many have fallen to the ground. We have been taking turns picking them up. During my first foray, at least fifteen went into the wheelbarrow for every one good enough to put into the refrigerator. And the Lord said, "Hey, think about it." It's almost as though the blossoms could represent His promises. The apples require some work before they can be counted as fruit. In fact, they may be considered God's opportunities. We had not taken advantage of these opportunities -- because they were so small. So 15 out of every 16 fell down and were no longer available (rotten) because no one worked on them in time. Maybe I have been remiss with the opportunities the Lord has for me. Did I see the beauty of the promises and look forward to the fruit -- but reject them because they weren't big enough -- at the center of attention or well-paid? Did they seem too humble, so many of them? If so, I am responsible for the wasted fruit and at fault for missed opportunities. Lord God and Savior, I want to be fruitful for Thee. May I be more faithful in small areas. "Remember, soul, that not the humblest Obedience shall the Lord forget; Because the most unselfish spirit In humble service here is met. In small things then begin thy training . . . For in obeying, love is gaining; And loyalty grows more and more." Zion's Harp #179, vs. 2.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

MARRIAGE IS A PROMISE

A marriage is a promise
That two hearts gladly make,
A promise to be tender,
To help, to give and take.
A marriage is a promise
To be kind and understanding,
To be thoughtful and considerate,
Fair and undemanding.
A marriage is a promise
To share one life together . . .
A love-filled promise meant to be
Kept lovingly forever.

M. F. Ames

We have been blessed this past month as we were able to witness the vows of two dear couples in our congregation. On June 24, Bro. Darwin Steidinger (Fairbury) and Sis. Laurie Young were united in marriage. His parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice (Fairbury) and her parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie (Cissna Park). We wish them God's nearness as they establish their home in the Champaign area.

God provided another beautiful day July 1 as Bro. Les Kaeb and Sis. Christine Kaufmann were united in marriage. His parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and her parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Kaufmann (Cissna Park). We also wish them God's blessings as they establish their home here in Cissna.

Jim and Betty Hofbauer are happy to welcome another granddaughter into their family. Sadie Lynne Jacob was born June 22 to Brian and Terri Jacob (Streator, IL). She also has a sister, Sarah, to welcome her home.

Funeral services were held June 22 for Charles R. Knapp, 66, of Hoopeston, IL. He passed away June 19. He was the son of the late Bro. William and Sis. Priscilla Knapp. Surviving are two daughters, Pam Richards (Georgetown, IL) and Connie LaMar (Westville, IL); two sons, Charles and Kevin (both of Champaign, IL); two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; four brothers, Roy (Cullom, IL), Bro. Lynn (Hoopeston, IL), Kenneth (Laguna Beach, CA) and Irvin (Francesville, IN); and one sister, Sis. Mary Ann Mann (Rossville, IL). We extend our

heartfelt sympathy to his family and pray that God will be near each one in this time of loss.

We had many visiting ministers who came to worship with us and share the Word of Life with us in the past month. We certainly want to thank each one of these brothers and their families for coming; Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Den Dietz (Bradford), Marvin Leman (Bradford), Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Bro. Ray Eisenmann was a hospital patient this past month. He was kept overnight for observation following an accident. We are thankful that he was spared from serious injury.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 23:8

We are thankful God has blessed our churches with elders and ministers to sound forth the trumpet and feed His children. May God be near the watchmen as the annual brotherhood conference approaches.

God's Word was shared with our congregation through Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington). May God bless them and be near the ministering brothers.

Our prayers go out to those who have been hospitalized. Our Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion) is home and improving. Also, little Kelsey Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail) is improving, yet hospitalized.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." St. Matthew 6:33. We thank Bros.

Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Dean Steffen for their love and efforts in behalf of our Bible school students. May God bless each of your.

Greg and Brenda Gudeman are thankful to receive little Drew Stephen born June 19. Lisa and Dan are also happy about this addition, as well as grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman and Arthur and Emma Glover (all of Elgin).

Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen and Alex are delighted to welcome Heather Nicole born June 25. Grandparents include Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. John and Sis. Wava Steffen.

Ashley and Christopher Leman are eager to help with their new baby, Jesse William, born June 26 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby. Also helping are grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Rich and Sis. Edna Leman (Eureka, IL).

We are thankful for God's healing upon several of our loved ones. This past month Sis. Frances Kaptain has undergone surgery and remains in the hospital at this time of writing. Sis. Hilde Schumacher (Bro. Georg), who for some time has cared for her aged mother, suffered a heart attack recently and is recuperating at her home. Also, Nan Stettner (Bro. Don) and Sisters Lenora Steffen and Katherine Kachelmuss received hospital care.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine." Zion's Harp #209. With thankful hearts we gathered together to hear the testimonies of four dear souls Saturday, June 16. They were Cherry Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev), Kent Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) and Rick and Brenda Wuethrich. How wonderful it was to hear the beautiful experiences of souls that were lost, but now have a hope in Him. We appreciated Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) being with us and assisting our Elder Bro. Walter Anliker in this important work. The following day we

welcomed these dear souls as our brothers and sister-in-Christ. May He ever keep them in His grace.

Other visiting ministers with us during this past month were Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May God bless the messages that were inspired through these dear brothers.

Sis. Emma Rocke (late Bro. Paul) was our hospital patient this month. We are thankful that she has returned to the nursing home and wish her God's nearness.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Vernon Leman in the recent passing of his sister, Sis. Hilda Leman (Goodfield). May God be his comforter.

"The family of Bro. Robert Wettstein wishes to express their deep and sincere appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbors for the many prayers, gifts of love, food, cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy shown to them during the long illness and great loss of their dear husband, father and grandfather. Also, a special thank you for the anonymous givers for everything that was given. May God bless each one of you."

Sis. Verna Wettstein
Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin
Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn
Wettstein
Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein
Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman
and families

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
When we do His good will
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

Our congregation rejoices and are thankful for four dear souls who have turned their backs on the world of sin and have begun this walk with the Lord. They are Suzanne Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice), Chris Steid-

inger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice), Jennifer Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Jason Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene). May the Lord grant abundant grace throughout their repentance and as they walk with the Lord all their lives.

On July 6, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie Edelman welcomed a new daughter, Bethany Lee, to their home. Bradley and Tiffany are excited about the new addition to their family. Grandparents are Levi and Donna Edelman and Barb Baker.

"Hand in hand, O may love bind us, for each other's welfare strive." On June 24, Bro. Darwin and Sis. Laurie Young were united in holy matrimony in Cissna Park. Parents of the newly married couple are Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Steidinger and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anna Marie Young. May God bless their lives together.

We were blessed to have Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) visit us and minister to us.

Our prayerful support is with Bro. Ben Kafer, Sis. Lollie Young and Sis. Jean Bachtold as they are recalled to teach the youth in Sunday school. May God richly bless Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro. Dale Stoller whose terms have expired. May God add the increase.

June 24 was our annual Sunday school picnic. It's a time when the children can enjoy one another. The seed that was sown in their hearts, hopefully can be remembered throughout their lives.

Hospital patients this month were Sisters Elsie Bachtold and Ida Steffen. May the Lord continue to be by them as they recover from surgery.

Sis. Rose Fehr departed from this world into eternity June 22. We have a hope that Sis. Rose had that wonderful peace that passeth all understanding in her heart. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. Herbert, and family.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. George, Joseph, Sis. Leona Broquard, Kathryn Broquard, and Sis. Perseda Moser over the loss of their sister, Sis. Ella Kuerth (Gridley).

Let's remember our elders in prayer as they travel to Cissna Park for the annual conference. We are thankful that they are concerned about our undying souls.

Reminder -- August is collection

month for the Silver Lining in Fairbury.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider**

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!
 Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not.

Zion's Harp #112

Surely Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss has been a faithful watchman as he has carried out his duty as minister of the Word for 33 years. On June 24, Bro. Clarence retired from the ministry. We, as a congregation, certainly want to thank Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura for their many untiring efforts for the church. May God bless him for his labors.

Wednesday evening, June 27, Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline) brought his testimony and was baptized and we welcome him as our brother-in-faith. Bro. Joe has been very sick and it is a blessing that he was well enough to be in church for his baptism. It must have been a special evening for Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) to help prove his own brother and we extend our thanks to him for coming and helping out.

We are thankful that Bro. John Kyburz (Sis. Nettie) is home again after spending some time in the hospital. Though we don't have very many hospital patients to report this month, for which we are thankful, we do think of those in their homes or the nursing homes that quietly suffer pain day after day. They certainly need us to remember them in our prayers that they can continue to bear the pain. As hymn #165 in the Hymns of Zion says, "... some time, some time, we'll understand."

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and his wife and thank him for serving us Sunday, July 1.

July 15 was a special Sunday as Doug Steffen (Bro. Rich and Sis. Lou Ida) and many of his fellow residents from the Home for the Handicapped came to spend the day. Doug has just

recently moved to the Home and it was such a joy to see him in Forrest church again, excitedly meeting the many who came up to him to say hello! We can learn so much as we spend time with these dear ones from the Home. They are so appreciative of the little things in life. May God's blessings be with each one of them and especially Doug as he adjusts to his new home.

Evolution, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, sports, rock and roll music -- these are some of the topics that were talked about in Vacation Bible School and these are some things that our children will again face as they head back to school. May we, as parents, ever be aware of what is happening in our children's lives so that we can give them the support and encouragement they need to face and resist the pressures of the times in which we live.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Louise Honegger want to thank everyone for making their 50th anniversary so memorable by sending cards, gifts and flowers. They especially want to thank their children for all they did. May God bless each one.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Janny Schneider sincerely want to thank each one who remembered them during Duane's stay in the hospital and since he's returned home. The cards, gifts, phone calls, visits and most of all your prayers and encouragement were so very much appreciated. May God bless you richly for the love and concern shown to them.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kris Leman have a blessed addition to their family. Luke welcomes his baby sister, Anna Marie. Anna's grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman.

First-time parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa Rieke. Little Brittany Lea will be loved by her grateful parents and grandparents, Rick and Fonda Rieke and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm.

Michelle Renee is the name Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold gave to their little bundle from heaven. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and

Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Morton) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold.

Our congregation will greatly miss our precious Sis. Hilda Leman. She has gone to meet the Lord. Much sympathy is extended to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Laura Hohulin, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin and Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan Steffen in the loss of their sister and aunt. What a shining example of a true Christian this great lady was!

We're thankful Bro. Mark Steffen is recuperating after his accident and stay in the hospital. Bro. Ivan Nohl is home also, following hip surgery. We pray for God's healing hand to be ever present.

Thanks to Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) for sharing God's Word with us.

Note: I wish to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards and expressions of love and concern for me while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God richly bless each of you.

Dan Wiegand, Jr.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

As time unfolds over the generations joy and sorrow continue to mingle in the household of faith. The events of birth and death, and of betrothal lend themselves to joy and sorrow among the saints.

Death, while sorrowful, can lead to joy in knowing the departed one was prepared for death, and can thence inhabit that place void of sorrow where all tears are wiped away.

It was shocking to learn of the unexpected death of Sis. Ella Kuerth, 82, who passed away July 5, two days following routine knee surgery. Sis. Ella personified the Bible's characteristic of a godly woman who had the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Her cheerful manner and gracious, reserved countenance was an example that will live on in our hearts as we think about her.

She was married for 51 years to her dear husband, Robert Kuerth, who survives. May God extend much grace and favor to him as he adjusts to this great loss. Also surviving are

two daughters, Marjorie Zielke (Elgin) and Janet Lavallier (Pekin); three brothers, Bro. George Broquard and Joseph Broquard (Fairbury) and Benjamin Broquard (Robein); four sisters, Sis. Leona and Kathryn Broquard (Fairbury), Sis. Esther Herman (Princeville) and Sis. Perside Moser (Fairbury). Sis. Ella was the younger sister of deceased Elder Joshua Broquard (Fairbury).

On July 1, Bro. Craig Wettstein was announced to be married to Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bradford). He is the son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein. Her parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bradford).

On July 5, a daughter, Wendy Lee, was born to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. She was welcomed home by her sisters, Candace, 7, Holly, 5, and Natalie, 3. Her grandparents are Sis. Lucille Stoller and the late Bro. Clarence; and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum (Forrest).

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Esther Miller and Bro. Alwin Funk.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

School doors will soon be opening around the country and our students will be returning to their classrooms. We entreat each student to ground themselves in God's truth so they will be able to recognize deception and false doctrines that are so prevalent in the world today. "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:5. Satan is crafty and comes in many guises. Only by knowing the Truth can we recognize his deceit. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32.

We share in the joy and excitement of Sis. Chris and Bro. Dana Taufer and Jed and Kip as their little Emma Kathryn was born June 14. Emma's grandparents are Sis. Marie and Bro. Robert Taufer and Sis. Alvina and Bro. Russell Zimmerman (all of Morton). Emma is indeed fortunate to have been born into a family with a Christian heritage.

Our Sis. Carolyn Strunk died July 12 after a sudden illness. She taught

school in the Morton District for 46 years and many people in our community and in our congregation remember her lovingly as "their teacher." Our prayers for comfort go to her brothers; Albert, Arnold and Lester; her sister, Sis. Oleta Strunk, all of Morton; and her nieces, nephews and many friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for again ministering the Truth to us this month.

We want to remind the Morton congregation that August is the time to renew their subscription to the Silver Lining.

Emma Rapp wishes to thank everyone who remembered her on her birthday with cards and notes. May God bless all who were so kind.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Jim David

Due to the hospitalization of their son, Colton, Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Herman are unable to continue writing the Peoria church column for the Silver Lining. We thank Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie for dedicating their time and efforts to this publication, and we continue to keep little Colton in our prayers.

On June 23, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of Vic and Elsie Stickling, and we witnessed their baptisms June 24. We are happy to welcome our new brother and sister-in-faith, and we thank Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) for being with us on this special occasion.

We have been blessed by the visits of several ministering brothers, Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA).

We have three new babies in our congregation. On April 30, Zachary Allen was born to Randy and Becky Marx. Katie welcomes her new little brother home. Zachary's grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett and Loretta Marx.

God blessed the home of Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier with a new daughter, Sandra Elise, May 7. Sandra is welcomed home by her big sister, Monica. Grandparents are Bro.

David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford, IL) and Bob and Dolores Heilman (Lena, IL).

We also rejoiced with Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel in the birth of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, May 9. David, Philip, Benjamin and Rhoda welcome little Sara into their family. Sarah's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister, and Elton and Connie Sceggel (Glastonbury, CT).

Recent hospital patients have been Colton Herman, Bro. Jesse Schrock, Bro. Alvin Domnick and Marie Heller. We pray that they will experience God's healing power.

The theme of our Vacation Bible School this year was "Happiness is the Lord."

On June 15, the children presented a program in which they sang many uplifting songs to the glory of God. We thank all those who helped make Vacation Bible School a great success.

As our nation celebrated Independence Day this month, a call went forth for greater patriotism. This is admirable; we certainly should have a love for our country, and for the freedoms which God has allowed us to enjoy. However, patriotism alone cannot heal all that ails our nation. The solution is found in God's Word. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14). We have much to be thankful for; as we thank God for His abundant blessings, let us not forget to pray for our government and for our land.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

It was a special blessing for us Sunday, June 24, as Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) stopped to worship with us on his way home from out West with his family. We thank him for thinking of us and expounding God's precious Word to us. We also appreciate Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for bringing us the inspired Word of God July 8. May God richly bless these dear brothers and their families.

Vacation Bible School was held

the week of June 18. We pray that all who took part will be blessed. May the good seed have been planted in the hearts of our youth.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held July 1, a new place this year (Hickory Grove Park) and was enjoyed by all. We thank both the students and teachers.

On July 4 (birthday of our nation) we are reminded of the blessings of freedom in our country. May we have thankful hearts and pray that our nation can enjoy this precious freedom and the freedom of worship which is so precious to us.

God has granted Bro. Rueben and Sis. Nathalia 50 years together. May God bless them in the years ahead.

"Marriage is honourable in all." Hebrews 13:4. Donna (Streitmatter) O'Kane (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou) exchanged vows with Kim Smith (Bloomington, IL). May God bless them as they walk hand in hand through life. On July 15, Bro. Douglas Stahl and Sis. Ann Sauder (Tremont) exchanged their holy vows before God and man. May the Lord bless the happy couple as they walk hand in hand. We welcome you, Sis. Ann, to our fellowship. Parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joan Sauder (Tremont).

We are thankful for three more souls that have heeded the call to repentance. May God grant much grace to Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene), Janna Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna) and Eric Hoover as they seek their soul's salvation.

Austin Kenneth Knobloch, born June 19, is the second addition to Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch's little family. He is welcomed home by big brother, Devon. Happy grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch and Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pflederer (Francesville, IN). May God bless this family as they bring up these little children.

Our dear Sis. Louise Martin is now calling home "The Apostolic Christian Home" on Skyline Drive, Peoria, IL. May the Lord grant her the needed help to make this adjustment as she feels this the time for her to do it. Our prayers are with you dear Sis. Louise.

Hospital patients this month are Katherine Baer (surgery) and Derick

Menold, age 11 son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon (appendectomy). May God heal and restore health as only He can do.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther Herrmann (Bro. Robert) in the loss of her sister. Another dear sister, Caroline Joos, age 64, was called to her eternal rest June 24. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family who will miss her presence in their family circle. Bro. Walter; daughter, Sis. Linda; son, Bro. Rolland; his wife, Sis. Linda; and three grandchildren, Denise, Byron and Brian. Also, Sis. Marjean Lehman who made her home with the Joos family. May God comfort each one in their time of sorrow and grant them many precious memories of their departed loved one.

May each one of us remember our dear elder brothers in our prayers as they gather for the annual conference in August. May God be the unseen guest in every decision and concern that will be met. May we be supportive of their conclusions that we might be able to keep the true faith.

Thank you notes:

I want to thank the ministers, relatives, neighbors and friends for all the prayers, telephone calls, visits, cards and gifts received during my illness and stay in the hospital. May God bless each one of you.

Ezra Rumbold

The family of Anna Streitmatter wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for the many prayers, cards and deeds of kindness shown to us during her illness and passing. We deeply appreciate all you have done. May the Lord bless you.

The family of Caroline Joos send their heartfelt thanks to everyone who shared with her and them the many prayers, gifts of flowers, food, memorials and words of encouragement during her illness and since her passing.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

We were blessed to hear from visiting Bro. Will Shieler (Milford, IN) this month. We appreciate his willingness to be used to bring us God's Word.

Jacie Kristen Fehr was born to

Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane July 1. Her sisters and brother are June, Jerome, Jena and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Whited.

Our annual church picnic, sponsored by the Sunday school, was held June 24. We enjoyed the afternoon of fellowship and the children seemed to have a good time with all the games and activities that were planned for them. We appreciate the time and effort that our Sunday school teachers invest in helping to "train up" our children and young adults in the way they should go.

Bro. Rob Leman was baptized July 1 after giving his testimony June 30. We rejoice to recognize God's awesome nature and His goodness in his dealings with us.

Hospital patients this month were Michael Rebbec (Bro. Marty and Sis. Patty), Bro. Sam Martin (Sis. Jane), Sis. Clara Scherer, Bro. Gaylord Blunier, Bro. Rol Rumbold (Sis. Carol) and Joan Burton (Sis. Dorothy Bertschi). We pray for a speedy recovery for each of them.

Note of thanks: Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts of love during my stay in the hospital. May God bless you.

Sis. Margaret Hodel (Willis)

Our dear Sis. Mae Sauder has been called "home" by our heavenly Father. Her funeral was July 18. We extend our sympathy to her family, sons, Bro. Howard, Bro. Don and Bro. Gerald; and daughters, Sis. Mae Kae Hodel, Sis. Myra Leman and Sis. Mary Ellen Schwind; 27 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren. Sis. Mae was a brightly shining light among us, and we will miss her in our congregation.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Marsha Koch - Carolyn Bolliger

Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) visited our congregation this month. We thank them for their labors of love.

Emily and Abigail Sparks welcomed home their new brother, Andrew William, born June 23. Andrew's parents are Curtis and Tiffany (East Peoria). Larry and Sis. Sandy Lane (Delevan) are his grandparents. We

wish them grace and patience as they raise their family.

Jeff Wagenbach (Si, Jr. and Sis. Lavonne) and Anita Prather (Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn) were joined in marriage June 23. Also Sis. Ann Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. JoAnn) and Bro. Doug Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty, Princeville) were married July 15. We wish each couple God's richest blessings.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Lynnette Menold (Bro. Ron), Sis. Marilyn Dill (Bro. Glenn) and Terrie Ehle (Russell). We are thankful each one is recovering and doing well.

Bros. Dean Beutel and Bruce Sauder were selected for Sunday school teachers and Bro. Dan Steiner, Jr. for trustee. We pray for these brothers as they now have new responsibilities. Bros. Mike Meister and Howard Sauder have rotated out of Sunday school and Bro. Nelson Rocke out of trustee. We wish to thank these brothers for their service.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Carol Schick

This past month brought us many blessings as the following visiting brothers ministered to us; Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Virgil Metzger (Chicago) and Marvin Leman (Bradford). God bless you all.

Sunday school came to a close for a few weeks because many people take this time to vacation away from their home church. Our annual all-church Sunday school picnic was held on the last day of class. The morning started out drizzly and chilly, it even rained as we drove to the park, but as we gathered under a shelter to eat, the sun came out and it was a beautiful afternoon. It seems we can never finish thanking God for one thing before He sends another blessing.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Fritz as she undergoes surgery. May God see fit to heal her and ease her suffering in this life.

Much is done in the month of August to prepare for the next school year. Whether it is the first day in kindergarten or the beginning of college it takes much effort on the part of parents. We try to prepare them psychologically and physically for their next big step in this quest for

higher education. This is all well and good but how much time do we spend preparing our children for their life as a child of God? I think besides the rituals of prayer and worship that we set, the most important teaching tool we, as parents, have, is our example. They watch our every move and will most likely do as we do, not as we say. Let us always be mindful to let our love for our Lord come first before the love of this world.

We are all praying for the brothers as another brotherhood conference is being planned. May God bless our churches across the nation and bless all the dear souls who sacrifice so much of themselves to keep it going and growing.

Greetings and love from the Washington congregation.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

This month we can really see many of the fruit of the Spirit at work. The love seen in the wedding of Bro. John Eisenmann and Sis. Trudi Steffen was truly God sent and served as an important reminder that we should love one another. John is the son of Roger and Sis. Linda Eisenmann and Arlen and Jeannie Gerber and Trudi is the daughter of Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen. We also rejoice with Brent Byerly (Wayne and Edith) and Sharlene Steffen (Bro. Marv and Sis. Della) who were united in marriage June 9. May God fill their marriage with His divine love. We've witnessed an example of a love that has grown and endured for fifty years as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene Reinhard. We pray God would allow their love to continue to grow in the years ahead.

We were excited to hear about the engagement of Bro. Tom Steffen (Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Lyn Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean). We wish these two nothing but the richest and most fulfilling blessings from

above as they begin their lives together in faith.

The precious fruit of peace is evident in the lives of our five new converts, Myra Isch, Sandy Herman, Natalie Kipfer and Cybil Lantz. What a wonderful feeling to see so many souls eager to serve the Lord and hungry to learn of His Word.

Joy has come to some families in the form of a small and precious child. Wendy Rose was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter July 6. Wendy is very fortunate to come home to five older sisters, Heidi, JaNon, Amy, Shauna, and Holly. Proud grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber. John and Sis. Verona Myers rejoice with the arrival of Jamie Kay born June 25. Jamie joins three big brothers, Eric, Adam and Andy. Bro. Dwight and Sis. Beverly Troxel are grandparents. Tom and Theresa Mulkey were blessed with their first child, Sean Russel, born May 16. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Russ and Sis. Bonnie Mulkey. What wonderful news to hear of the birth of Tianna Jo born July 5 to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz (Leo). Proud grandparents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister, welcome Tianna into their growing family.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo), Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North). We thank them for sharing with us out of the goodness of their hearts.

Another fruit that is not always desirable but essential for Christian growth and fulfillment is longsuffering. Let us remember those who have been hospitalized this month: Sandy Herman, Bro. Ralph Baumgartner (Jeannie), Bro. John Reinhard (Pam), Sis. Rose Kipfer (Rich) and Bryan Aschliman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie). It is such a comfort to know that even in these times we have a promise . . .

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

II Corinthians 9:2

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Lois Drayer - Deb Aeschliman

We wish to thank Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) for coming to share God's Holy Word with us. We hope they feel welcome to visit us again soon.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as we have two more dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance, Ruth Ifer (Frank) and Ginny Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy).

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

The weekend of July 21 and 22 was a joyful one as we had testimonies and baptisms. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) was with us for this blessed occasion and we warmly thank him for coming and sharing his time with us. Our new brothers and sisters-in-Christ are Bro. Vince Aschliman (Bro. Steve and Karen), Sis. Rochelle Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Todd Baller (Bro. Steve and Sue), Bro. Jeremy Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) and Sis. Kristi Curry (Brian). We wish each one an abundance of grace.

Rob Troxel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo) and Tonya Milholland were united in marriage June 23. We extend congratulations to them and wish them much happiness.

Our sympathy is given to Mike and Sis. Melissa Smekens in the loss of their son, Scott, who passed away at the age of 26. Likewise, we extend sympathy to Scott's sister and brother, Amy and Chad, and grandparents, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

The Spiritual Battle . . . Whose side are you on? was our theme for Vacation Bible School this year. Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), John Zeller (Morton, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) inspired our hearts each evening. The children shared with us in verse and song what they learned

all week at the Vacation Bible Program June 24.

On June 20, our dear Sis. Elizabeth M. Wenger, 97, went to her eternal rest. She is survived by one son, Sylvan Wenger (Francesville).

July 1 was the wedding day for Sis. Jill Bogart and Bro. Kent Rager. Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Eleanor Bogart and Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon Rager (Toledo, OH). We wish them God's richest blessings as they start their life together.

July 7 and 8 was a special weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. Curt Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky) and Matt Gudeman (Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella). It is with joy that we welcome them as our brothers-in-Christ.

We welcome Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger and their daughter, Serenity, back into our congregation from Fort Lauderdale, FL. Sis. Amy's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Harold Gutwein and Sis. Juanita Norman. They both have returned home and are thankful.

We extend our love and sympathy to ministering Bro. Karl Westphal and his family in the passing of his mother, Elfrienda Westphal (Monticello, IN).

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). We appreciate their willingness to preach God's Holy Word.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

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

Proverbs 22:6

August is the month when most of our children return to school and our graduates go off to college. May the Lord bless all our children, and be with them in the new school year.

Our congregation has been blessed with two new converts who have given their lives to Christ. We rejoice with Greg Baumgartner and Betty De-

Michieli as they begin a fulfilling life serving God. We pray that God will grant them grace and strength as they seek their peace and protect them from Satan's deceptions during this tender time in their lives.

On July 13 and 14, our high school Sunday school class went to King's Island and enjoyed a weekend of fun and fellowship together. On these special occasions, may the children feel the warmth of Christian fellowship and kindle a desire in their hearts to someday be a part of the body of Christ.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Will Schieler (Milford) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton). Our thanks and appreciation go to these selfless individuals who put forth their time and efforts in bringing us God's Word.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

Lord, please slow us down and help us remember what's important and eternal.

In May I couldn't wait for my children to get out of school and for summer vacation to start. But softball practice and games, summer band, camp, 4-H projects, fair, getting ready for a family wedding . . . and look! The summer has sped by and school is ready to start again! But I learned a valuable lesson. My children have been falling asleep at night listening to a beautiful tape sung by Steve and Annie Chapman. A song called, "Goodnight Kiss," written by Tom Taylor, catches my attention. "I count it as a privilege, I count it cause for praise, to kiss my children goodnight at the close of every day. For I know too soon they're up and gone, and walking out the door; and I'll never have a child to kiss good night anymore." As tears come to my eyes I continue to listen. "It's very strange how times have changed from present to the past. When did they grow so quickly? The time has flown so fast! For it seems only yesterday I helped with his shirt, or pat my baby on the back, or kissed away a hurt. Mommy bounce me on your knee, Daddy hold me high. Let's go outside for a ride, or make a kite to fly." . . .

"For I know too soon they're up and gone and walking out the door. And I'll never have a child to kiss good night anymore." Well, my children have received many extra goodnight kisses and "I love you's" because the time slips away from us so fast. Do we spend enough time with our children so they will know how much they are loved. Do we teach them of the love of God and Jesus, for that is truly the greatest gift of love we can give them.

Happy is the home
Where Jesus' name is sweet to every
ear;

Where children early lisp His name,
And parents hold Him dear.

Author Unknown

May the Lord be with all our children who will be going off to school soon, from the new little kindergartners to those starting college. Hopefully we have prepared them for anything they'll have to face in the coming year.

Our special thanks to visiting minister Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), who spent a Sunday with us this past month.

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

One of our local ministers expressed it so clearly when he said, "It's Christ's blood that covers us entirely. Nothing else is needed. The total payment is finished. So we're free -- free to do anything as long as it's honorable to Him." We thank those brothers who preach the Word.

A new baby girl, Tianna, was born to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz.

Sis. Shelly Riggenbach is now gathering with us. She moved here from Smithville, OH. We are happy to have her. Sis. Shelly is working at the Children's Home.

Sis. Dana Trumbower gave her testimony to the church Saturday evening. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) assisted Elder Bro. David Bertsch during her testimony. She openly explained her earlier conversion and long journey searching for a church from Chicago to Philadelphia and then to Leo. On Sunday she gave her covenant to God, was baptized and wholeheartedly accepted into our

fellowship. We appreciate having her with us.

We welcome all of our newcomers, newborn and older.

Our dear Sis. Mildred Schlatter has suffered serious illness the past several weeks. Sis. Mary Lantz and Sis. Frieda Bertsch have had cataract surgery. Our prayers are with and for them and their families.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in serving our congregation holy communion. We thank Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan for lovingly sharing this time with us. We also wish to thank Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse), Marshall Heino (Washington, IL), Bob Meyer and Steve Ringer (Bluffton North) for taking time out of their busy lives to minister to us and to our Sunday school children.

June 23 marked a special day for Coalter and Kathryn Longcor as they celebrated their 50th anniversary. Our love and congratulations reach out to them. May God continue to bless this lovely couple.

With sadness in our hearts we bid farewell to Bro. Lonnie Moser, whose job has taken him to the Mansfield, OH, area. He has been a source of joy to our congregation. Our prayers continue with him during this transition period.

Once again we have seen Satan cast down and defeated and the Lord victoriously lifted up when we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our dear friend, Esther Welty. With open arms we welcome our new sister into Jesus' fold. May she feel our love.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

June 24 was our Sunday school picnic. Because we are a small church, everyone is invited and it was well attended. The children were promoted to the next class and they had a short program.

Wesley Robert Kaeb made his appearance June 26. His new parents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Leann (Kaisner) Kaeb. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner

(Fairbury, IL) and his paternal grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL).

Sunday evening, July 15, was our third week monthly singing at our fellowship hall which is attended by both Wolcott and Remington congregations. Some of the brothers on the World Relief committees showed us some slides of Russian Christians who have gone through much persecution over the years. It makes us realize again how blessed we are in this country to have the freedoms we have. Let us thank God every day for these blessings we take so for granted.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Anna Marie Stoller

"WARNING!! The bright red railroad track warning lights incessantly flashed stop. I approached the crossing slowly and looked both ways, but there was no train in sight. After waiting a reasonable length of time, I proceeded to cross the tracks even though the lights flashed. The lights must have been stuck. On my way back later that day, the same lights were still flashing and no train appeared. Twenty-four hours later I came up to this crossing again, the lights were flashing as the day before, so I assumed there was no train and zoomed toward the crossing not intending to stop. Immediately before I arrived on the tracks -- horns sounded -- and a huge train engine came barreling down the tracks. Fortunately, I was able to stop in time, but because I had assumed I was right and had not heeded the flashing warning lights, my life was in extreme danger. God's warnings are flashing every day; His Word is a warning. The Lord is going to come, and if we haven't heeded His warnings, it will be too late, and we will die." Such was the experience and inspired message from the Lord's servant, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) who ministered to us.

Suppose you were swimming in the middle of a farm pond, and suddenly you began to sink. As you desperately scream for help a merciful bystander throws you a life ring? What would happen to you if you did not reach for the ring when it was offered? The Lord is directing us the

soul saving ring of salvation. Will you grab the ring and be saved?

The South Bend congregation was taught that God deserves more than a slice of our lives, more than a slice of the pie. He wants and deserves our whole life. We were questioned as to where the Lord may be missing in our lives, and exhorted to let Him reign.

Acts 16 was meditated on one Sunday morning. How amazing that Paul and Silas, after being beaten and wrongly accused, were thrown into the inner, maximum security prison. What was the first thing they did? They prayed and sang praises! How do we react when the going gets tough? Do we sing and praise God when we are wrongly accused? God looks out at us, sees our every situation and will help.

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) spent a Sunday afternoon with us recently. Bro. Jesse is the elder of our congregation and we sincerely appreciate his time and effort on our behalf.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

We here at Valparaiso have had a very busy and blessed month. "Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee." (Proverbs 4:5, 6).

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls: Sis. Stacy Miller (Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Karen Susdorf (Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy). We thank God that He is yet affording time for the calling of souls.

We are also rejoicing with Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger (Bro. Lyle) as she has recently graduated from Purdue and is beginning her nursing career. May the Lord grant her many opportunities to be a strong witness to those around her and also give her the wisdom to become a great nurse.

This month we also had a church picnic at Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser's home. There was no special reason for it, just a chance to share special fellowship together. This faith we have is just so precious. I can remember one particular sister in our church saying, "Back when times were really hard we would get a call

from another couple who would say 'We have some potatoes' and another would call and say 'We have some extra of this.' Thus, it happened many times that we would all get together. Though we didn't have much, we had each other and that sweet gift of fellowship from the Lord and how encouraging that was for us all." The closeness and love we can share with one another is just overwhelming. May God help us to preserve our wonderful fellowship.

Also this month we were privileged to have our Vacation Bible School program. We had some inspiring messages from Bro. James Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North). Thank you dear brothers for your labors of love. We could feel the Spirit's presence as the Lord blessed us all.

We were also blessed this month with Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), our own dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). Brothers, thank you all again for your faithfulness to the flock. The Lord keep you strengthened and encouraged as you give so freely of your time. Though none of us are worthy, the Lord needs good faithful vessels to carry out His work. God bless you and your families.

Please come and fellowship with us in Valparaiso. It really makes some special memories in our hearts and encourages us all.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

Our prayers have been with Sis. Marilyn Schieler who broke her leg and Sis. Karla Bahler (Bro. Lowell) who had foot surgery recently. We pray for those who suffer afflictions of the flesh, whether short or long term, that God will grant them grace to patiently endure and even let their trials serve to their spiritual strengthening and edification. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. May we do our part to uplift and encourage them from day to day.

God blessed us with beautiful weather for both our annual Sunday

school picnic June 24 and our day trip to Turkey Run State Park held July 17. We pray these days will remain as warm memories of fellowship in all of our hearts, especially the youth that they may some day desire to be children of God. May we always be proper lights and examples wherever we are, and glorify God and not self in all we do.

On July 15, slides were shown at the fellowship center concerning Bible distribution in Russia. May we pray for and help these souls as God allows, hunger for the Word as they do, and appreciate the religious freedoms we so often take for granted.

We also appreciate the service of Bro. Glen Hackenjoes (Altadena, CA) who was our visiting minister this month. May God bless each one who is willing to speak the truth.

We sincerely apologize for the omission of Chad Oberlander's name from our list of graduates last month. We certainly wish him God's guidance and blessings in all his decisions in life.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Norma Blume wish to express their sincere thanks and gratitude for the overwhelming response of cards and expressions of love on their 40th anniversary. God bless each one.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Carolyn Wulf - Deyona Massner

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Elaine Eisenmann and family on the recent passing of her dad, Bro. Orel Steiner (Oakville). We are thankful for the example he has left and will miss his dedicated support to the monthly evening singings at Burlington church.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller share the Word with us this past month. May God richly bless him and his family for giving of their time to spend the day with us.

Our prayers and thoughts are with our elder brethren as they meet in the coming weeks. May they feel God's nearness and guidance in all things and may we always be willing to support and heed their conclusions.

Note of thanks:

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all who remembered me on

my 90th birthday with gifts and many cards, and also at the time when I moved from Burlington. May God bless each and every one richly, as this brought happiness to me.

Rekie Anliker

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"... get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding."

Proverbs 4:7

Again, so soon, the summer school vacation is coming to a close and the students will be returning to schools and colleges. Even though we are thankful for the teachers and that our children are granted the privilege to learn, it is not without concern that we send them back for another year of learning. May we keep them in our daily prayers that they may be able to resist the evil and will remember the teachings in Thy Word.

"... go thou and preach the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:60

We are thankful for the three visiting ministers who came this past month to our little church here at Elgin. Bros. Paul Eisenman (Burlington, IL), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX). We appreciated them all and pray that God will continue to bless them.

"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."

romans 8:18

Sis. Elizabeth Moore is currently a hospital patient (surgical) and we are thankful that she is on the road to recovery. May she ever keep her faith and trust in the One who knows all our needs.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser

We would like to thank our many visiting ministers who gave of their time and allowed God to work through them to teach and exhort us out of His

precious Word. They are Bros. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Joe Stoller (Princetonville, IL). Along with these ministers we have had many other visitors, too. We also would like to thank them for coming and fellowshiping with us. Your encouragement and support is appreciated greatly. We know many have been here to see Verle and we would like to thank you for your love and prayers that are given on her behalf.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; . . ." Matthew 26:26. On June 3, Elder Bros. Joe Stoller and Sam Huber were with us to remind us of Jesus' suffering and death on our behalf by sharing holy communion with us. As always, it reminded us of how frail and weak we are and how thankful we should be for a loving Saviour.

Our Sunday school has been busy. The first week of June we had Vacation Bible School. I'm sure the teachers learned as much as the students did. They were eager learners and really pitched in and helped plan the program and performed beautifully. Again, we had many children from the community and we pray that we planted seed into fertile soil. Our Senior Bible class has done some travelling. They have visited Pulaski and Oakville, IA. We would like to thank these churches for inviting us. Our children had an enjoyable time and heard many good instructions, especially to seek the kingdom of God first and then all of the other things will be added to them.

Our beloved friend, April Palmer, daughter of Sis. Verle, is doing just that. She has acknowledged that she is in need of a loving Saviour and is learning all about repentance, forgiveness, restitution and justification. What an uplifting time for all of us to know that the Spirit of God is still active in our midst, calling to those who are unrepentant sinners. Dear April, our prayer to you is that you may "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18).

The family of Sis. Verle has had to make some tough decisions this past

month. They decided that with her growing physical frailty that a nursing home would be the best place for her to receive the kind of care she needed. She had been living with her daughter, Sis. Rachel Smith. We know that the family needs your love, prayers and support as well as Sis. Verle. If you wish to write her, the address is: Westview Acres Care Center, 203 SW Lorraine, Leo, IA 50144.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A heartfelt thank you to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his family. Our congregation had the privilege of hosting "Iowa Churches Weekend" this month. We appreciate all those who made the effort to come, and hope they received a blessing, as did we.

We are thankful that Karen Belsley has found temporary employment in Cedar Rapids and appreciate her assembling with us. We also welcome Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) as he has accepted a position in Tama, IA, and plans to attend services here.

We were reminded in a recent Bible study on the 23rd Psalm that in order to lie down, a sheep must be free from danger, from hunger, from friction among the sheep, and from pests and parasites. May God give us all the spiritual insight and grace to work on any of these areas that may be hindering us from being content and from growing in Christ.

The Lord is my Shepherd, no want shall I know;
I feed in green pastures, safe-folded I rest:
He leadeth my soul where the still waters flow,
Restores me when wand'ring, redeems when oppressed.

Thro' the valley and shadow of death tho' I stray,
Since Thou art my Guardian, no evil I fear;
Thy rod shall defend me, Thy staff be my stay;
No harm ca befall with my Comforter near.

In the midst of affliction my table is spread;
 With blessings unmeasured my cup runneth o'er;
 With perfume and oil Thou anointest my head;
 O what shall I ask of Thy providence more?

Let goodness and mercy, my bountiful God,
 Still follow my steps till I meet Thee above;
 I seek by the path which my forefathers trod,
 Thro' the land of their sojourn, Thy kingdom of love.

Tabernacle Hymns #302

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

The pages of God's Holy Word have been parted and dear brethren have shared this Word with us. Visiting ministers among us were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Paul Zaugg (West Bend), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), and Alphai Moser (Morris, MN). May God richly bless them for bringing their love into our fellowship.

A wedding reception was held for Bro. Roy and Sis. Melissa Feucht July 13. They exchanged their marriage vows in Rockville, CT, June 24. With Christ as the head of their home, may Bro. Roy and Sis. Melissa feel His guidance and nearness as they establish a home together.

God has again blessed the home of Dennis and Diane Leuthold. Kale Ryan was born July 5. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their precious little son.

May God's healing powers restore good health to Bro. August Feucht, who remains hospitalized at this time.

IOWA, PULASKI

Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein

As of this writing, the weather here in the Pulaski area has allowed our area to remain green and pleas-

ant looking. Such a contrast from a year ago.

A like contrast has likewise taken place in the lives of two new brothers. We rejoice with and welcome into the faith, Bros. Mark and Mike Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy). We were privileged to hear and witness their testimonies and baptisms on the weekend of June 16 and 17.

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend) were here to help in this wonderful occasion.

On June 20, our annual Sunday school picnic was held. Rain postponed it, but the Lord soon provided a real nice evening.

We were blessed with visits from other ministering brothers this month. Namely, Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) and for a Wednesday evening service, Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA). We sincerely thank them.

June 25 brought another rich blessing into our congregation, as Caleb Walter was born to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein. His brother, Nathan, likewise welcomed him into their home. Grandparents are Sis. Verna Wettstein (late Bro. Bob) and Elder Bro. Walt and Sis. Clarabell Anliker (all from Eureka, IL).

Jacob Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris) as a hospital outpatient this month.

We wish to extend our sympathy to our Bro. Ron Joos and family for the passing away of his aunt, Sis. Karoline Joos (Princeville, IL).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We feel a blessing when we can be without brothers and sisters on Sunday. This past month, we felt a special blessing when Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) were with us and shared the Word of God with us.

We want to wish God's blessings to Jeff and Penny Zaugg (Richard and Dorothy Zaugg) and (Max and Joyce Probasco, Chariton) on their marriage June 23. Our best wishes also go to Shon and Julie Bruellman (Bro. Don and Sis. Verda) and (Dennis and Judy Besch, Algona) who were married July 7. May these young people entreat God's blessings as they establish their homes.

We're thankful to report our hos-

pital patients are back home again, namely, Bro. Fahey Gress (Sis. Marie) and Bro. Lawrence Schneider (Sis. Ella).

We extend sympathy to Brad, Julie, Joshua and Brittany Banwart in the loss of Julie's Grandma Berte. Also, experiencing a loss in their family circle are Bro. Clifford and Sis. Rosene Grimm and Arlo and Marilyn Grimm and families with the death of their sister, Sis. Caroline Joos (Princeville, IL). May God share His comfort to each one.

May the Lord bless Bro. Ted Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Kelly Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois, Winthrop, MN) on their engagement announcement July 1. An August wedding is being planned.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Renee Baurer

Buddist altars are as common to Japanese homes as a Bible is to a Christian home in America. The amount of time spent praying before the Buddhist altar varies from family to family, just as the amount of time spent with the Bible varies with American families.

Annual conferences were recently held with mothers of my kindergarten students. One mother mentioned that her son kneels before the Buddhist altar and prays to Jesus rather than to ancestors or some other god. He seemed to be a little confused. He wanted to fit in at home while also following the teachings of Jesus from kindergarten.

Another mother mentioned that her daughter gets quite upset to see adults in her family praying in front of the altar in their home. She adamantly tells them that there is only one true and living God. Therefore, they must not pray in any other way or to any other God.

We're thankful to see children taking teachings of Christ into their homes. Thinking of the two children's attitudes is thought provoking. Do I, as the little boy, try to fit Christ into situations in which I'm comfortable? Or, as the little girl, am I willing to stand up for Christ and not compromise the teachings of the Bible?

It's always a blessing for us to have the opportunity to visit churches in America. Several of us are plan-

ning trips to the United States this summer. These include Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle, Sis. Eiko Nazawa, Sis. Terri Gramm and myself. We wish everyone a safe trip.

We look forward to our summer fellowship meeting. This year it will be held July 26 and 27. We pray that God's Spirit will bless our time together.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Each year at the end of July, the believers in Japan and their families gather together near Mt. Fuji for two days of fellowship and meetings. In Tokyo, we count it a blessing that it is our turn to host this meeting. We pray that all who will attend will be spiritually encouraged.

We rejoice with Kiyoshi and Sachiko Fujii over the birth of their first child, Makoto. Seven years ago, Kiyoshi lived in Champaign and became acquainted with the believers there. He moved back to Japan and lived in Okayama . . . about 10 hours away from Tokyo. On several occasions, business brought him to Tokyo and he became acquainted with some of the believers here. Last year, his company transferred him to Tokyo. So he decided to move into an apartment house within walking distance of the Tokyo church, even though it meant over an hours commute (one way) for his work. Being close to church was important since his new wife would be far away from family and friends. During this past year, Sachiko has become quite active in our church's activities. We pray that the Fujii family will grow in understanding our Lord and that some day they will experience not only the love of an earthly family, but most importantly, the love of the family of God.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

A singing reception was held June 24 at the fellowship center for Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Knobloch who were married in Princeville May 27. While Bro. Jerry attended church at Bern for several years, he and Sis. Linda will be making their home in

Illinois. We wish Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda God's blessings and His presence in their home wherever He may lead them.

Sisters Marie Grimm (Bro. Harvey) and Esther Moser have been our hospital patients. Sis. Marie has returned home, feeling some better; Sis. Esther has entered our Home in Sabetha where we trust she will receive loving care and God will keep her in the hollow of His hand.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott). We appreciate the labors of these ministering brothers on our behalf and believe God will reward them.

Saturday, July 14, was the wedding day for Angela Plattner and Richard Robuck. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner and Stan and Donna Robuck. May God bless Richard and Angela in their life together as they make their home in Wichita.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Raymond Beyer and Melanie Sill exchanged wedding vows June 15. Raymond is the son of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada. Melanie is the daughter of Claude Sill and Nancy Rupert. For this newlywed couple our hope would be: "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

Sis. Liseten Strahm is at home recuperating from surgery. How thankful and comforting to know that God loves us and is able to meet our every need.

Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita) brought forth the inspired Word Sunday morning, July 8. Afternoon services were held at Lamont to witness the baptism of Sis. Jody Isch.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

I have a poem or thought taped to my pencil holder at work, and every time I read it I realize how little the things of this world matter when compared with a life lived for the Lord Jesus Christ.

It says: If we meet, and you forget

me, you've lost nothing: If you meet Jesus Christ and forget Him you have lost everything.

Satan will use every possible method to make us forget Jesus, from spending all of our time in front of a tv to following sports and school activities to just being so busy all the time that we have no time left for communing with our Lord. And if we have no time to commune with Jesus, how can He possibly talk to us, and guide us through every day we live on this earth? How can we have the peace to handle the trials and unrest all around us if we forget to take the burden to our Jesus and leave it there? In our churches, our world, our personal lives, we are "losing everything" because we are forgetting Jesus. May we all realize what's happening before it's forever too late and we've "lost everything" eternally!

Our thoughts and prayers are ever with our loved ones who suffer illness, and we pray for God's healing strength. This month our hospital patients included Sis. Dorothy Brown, Sis. Elizabeth Diel, Sis. Laverne Roth, Kathy Miner (surgery) and Vandy Frieden (tonsillectomy). There is so much power in prayer! May we ever use it for one another fervently.

Summer vacation is almost over and our children are about to start school again. Let's, as parents, try to remember the stress, the peer pressure, the problems they face too, and hold them up on wings of faith, prayer and love continually. In fact, do our best and let God do the rest.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

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

Luke 15:7

Sunday, July 8, was a day of praising and rejoicing for what the Lord hath done, for Jody Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) when she was baptized into a newness of life. There is no higher standing than to be a lamb of Jesus and to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.

Yet this is but the foretaste of the
fullness
Of the joys to follow in eternity.
The Lambs elect shall feed on heav'nly
pastures,
With waters from life's stream
supplied shall be.
Then shall be fully manifest,
How happy is a lamb of Jesus and
how blest.

Zion's Harp #16

Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) were here to share the day with us, also, Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha).

Sis. Hulda Jacobs (Melvin and Frieda Young) were all hospital patients recently.

Reminder: August is Silver Lining collection month for the Lamont congregation.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

It is with joy that we once again can report of three dear souls who have been added to our church family. Elder Bros. Edward Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Sam Huber on the weekend of June 23 - 24 when Lance Meyer (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Susan), Darin Edelman (Clemens and Sis. Marjorie) and Korbin Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) shared their testimonies and were welcomed into our church. Ministering Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott) and Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL) were also among us to share in this special occasion.

Also visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA). On June 30 we partook of holy communion -- a very special time of quiet reflection and solemnness spent with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Elder Bros. Edward Lanz and John Lehman helped Bro. Sam with this work. We appreciate the wonderful Words of Life ministered to us by our visitors in the by-gone month.

We look forward to getting acquainted with Bro. Carl and Sis. Luise Ingalls (Lamar, MO) who have moved into the retirement apartments

here. We welcome them to Sabetha and trust they will soon feel right at home among us.

Lana Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta) and Eldon Kaster (grandson of Sis. Pearl Meyer, Bern) have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. September 8 is the day chosen for this special occasion. We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they plan and make preparation for this important step in life.

Bro. George Lambert, who had undergone quite extensive surgery, is now feeling much better and wishes to thank all his friends for the flowers, cards, visits, and many prayers, and everything done so lovingly in his behalf during this time of illness.

We have missed having Ellsworth Dobson assemble with us for quite some time now. He has done much doctoring for a foot infection and is unable to be out and about. May God give grace, patience and endurance for all who wait upon His healing powers.

With having the retirement village here, and subsequently many older folks, many times we, as reporters, are not aware of the special problems, burdens and events of our loved ones and apologize for whenever we have missed mentioning things we should have. Please bring to our attention items worthy to be printed in the news.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott) was our guest minister June 24. It was refreshing to have Bro. Charles, Sis. Karen, and their family worship with us.

We concluded our Bible study sessions on the epistles of John and Jude. In the interim between this study and our new one in September, Wednesday evening study is devoted to Bible memorization.

Recently Bro. Godfrey Miller was a surgical patient for the third time this year. We have only praise and thanks to the Lord for His healing powers.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glendoris Huber

"Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

How precious is the book divine,
By inspiration given!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines
shine,

to guide our souls to heaven.
It shows to man his wandering
ways,
and where he feet have trod;
And brings to view the matchless
grace of a forgiving God.

It sweetly cheers our fainting
hearts in this dark vale of tears;
Life, Light and comfort it imparts,
and calms our anxious fears.

Hymns of Zion #12

Inspiring messages were brought by our visiting ministers. They were: Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN). We are thankful and grateful for their willingness to serve and the many miles they've travelled to visit our small congregation.

We were privileged to have the Edwin Ringger family gathering held here at Lexington Saturday, June 16. In the evening, we had a singing at the church which was uplifting and enjoyed by all.

We appreciate all our visitors so much and look forward to their coming. Christian fellowship is truly a blessing.

Sis. Katherine Deak is slowly recovering from heart surgery. She had been able to be dismissed from the hospital and is in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Allen Rieman. We are thankful to God and pray for His continued blessing of healing.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

II Timothy 3:16 - 17

We were recently reminded again of how we ought to live, with the reading of the memorandum. The enemy of our soul tempts us daily and tries our faith in subtle ways. Our faith is very precious and we need to heed the advice that our elders and ministers convey to us, for the Word tells us what our lot will otherwise be.

In the same evening, our prayers were again answered as the Lord provided a brother from our congregation to be a minister of His Word. Bro. Kurt Heimer was chosen for this work and our prayers are with him and his wife, Sis. Sue and their children. May the Lord grant them an added measure of grace.

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Andy Virkler (Bay City) were with us for this blessed weekend and we pray a special blessing for their labors.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 9 - 13 and the theme this year was friendship. The stories told to the children were of Abraham being God's friend, of the special friendship between David and Jonathan and how Jesus is our special friend. In each story they were taught that doing the right thing and putting God first will always be rewarded. It is a lesson we need to apply daily to our own lives and isn't it special when the greatest lessons we can learn are through our children!

The first summer that Alto had Bible school, a mother related to us an experience with her little girl, who had been coming to Bible school. One night when the family was sitting down for dinner, the little girl said what they though was, "No play first." Her mother told her to eat first, then she could go play. After the little girl repeated it a few more times, her father spoke up and said to his wife, "I think she means 'pray first'."

"... and a little child shall lead them."

Isaiah 11:6

We were blessed that Wednesday evening as Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford,

IN) came and spoke about friendship. Saturday evening, Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) came and shared also. We pray a special blessing for those ministers who come to visit Alto. It is always a blessing for our little church and so appreciated.

Joel Schlatter, son of Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat, graduated from high school this year. It is our prayer that his paths will be directed by the Lord.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

June and July really flew by for Bay City. What eventful months they were. Somehow I managed to get behind on the news for June, so this is what you need to catch up on.

Vacation Bible School was completed June 22, after inspiring messages were given by Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL). These brothers were certainly used by God as they spoke on, "Man Made Foundation," "End Times," "Revealing the True Foundation" and "The Grace and Glory of God's Eternal Foundation." We thank these brothers for their love and the time that they took out of their busy schedules to be with us.

Bro. Dan Kaiser moved to Bay City from Morton, IL, after accepting a job at Dow Chemical. We are thankful to have him with us and we pray that he will feel loved and welcome.

Bro. Brent Steffen (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Kent Andrzejewski (Norm and Sis. Linda) graduated from high school. We wish them God's richest blessings and pray that each new era of their lives will be full and complete in His love.

"The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

II Corinthians 10:16 and 17

We partook of holy communion here at Bay City. What a blessing it is to know and remember what Christ did for us on the cross. Elder Bro.

Jesse Beer served with Bro. Andy Virkler for that special service.

"Follow me, the Savior calleth: Come to me, I am the way!"

Zion's Harp #95

Kayleen Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) has chosen to follow after the Savior. We rejoice in the announcement of her repentance, and remember her in our prayers.

Visiting us this month was Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) congregation. We thank God for Bro. Gary's service of love.

Sis. Nina Wieland continues to recover after her surgery and wishes to thank those of you who supported her during that time with this note:

I wish to say thanks for the many prayers, cards, telephone calls and love gifts shared with me during my recent illness. Thank you sincerely and may God bless you all.

Nina Wieland

We pray that God will continue to touch Sis. Nina's life both in healing and by the love expressed by the brotherhood.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights . . ."

James 1:17

Little Brian James is one of those good gifts from God. Brian was born to Brenda and Jim Wrzesinski, July 17. We rejoice with Brenda and Jim and share in the excitement that Brian's big brother, Jerod, feels. May this new little bundle of life be a constant reminder of the beauty of God's creation.

Well, that about wraps up another month in the eventful lives of our Bay City congregation. It is so amazing to look back on all of the happenings of this month, and see God's direct hand in each life. How beautiful to know that even when we can't see Him, hear Him, or touch Him, HE'S THERE, guiding our lives as we seek to do His will.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sue Gasser

We are thankful that Jane Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and

Alisa Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) can testify that they have experienced the perfect peace that only God can give. What better state can we be in than to be at peace with God and our fellow man.

We thank Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) for sharing God's Word with us July 10 at Woodhaven.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi who have been unable to assemble with us recently.

We had elections recently with the following people chosen to serve us in Sunday school: Bro. Dana Knochel as superintendent, Bro. Phil Bahr and Bro. Bob Feller with 3 and 2-year terms respectively, Sis. Charlotte Barton with a 3-year term and Bro. Mark Ramsier and Sis. Marlene Reinhard as substitute teachers. Bro. Nate Wieland was elected usher, Bro. Bill Kujawa, trustee and Bro. Von Ringger, treasurer. We thank all of those who filled these positions before and for all of their efforts.

We look forward to having Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) talk to us on our church history September 29.

As our students go back to school, our prayers go with them that they could make right choices.

Our prayers are also with the elder brothers as they meet.

Alto, MI, will host services at Woodhaven September 11 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

On June 24, many of our congregation and visitors attended our annual Sunday school picnic at the park. The children are such a joy to all of us and it is encouraging to see their love and excitement.

An occasion for rejoicing comes as the wedding announcement of Sis. Kelly Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois, Winthrop) to Bro. Ted Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn, West Bend, IA) came to our small congregation as they both live here in the cities. Let us remember to pray for them as they plan an August 26 wedding.

We appreciated our guest ministers, Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forest, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) this month.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We appreciate the visitors who have worshipped with us this past month. We pray God will bless the brethren who have ministered the Word to us. Visiting ministers have been Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ).

Several of our brethren have experienced illness and accident recently. May God provide strength and healing and grace to bear these afflictions. Those who were hospitalized are Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger, Howard Goll and Bro. Leroy Fehr.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

We rejoice with Sis. Kelly Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Ted Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn, West Bend, IA) as their engagement was made known. An August 26 wedding is being planned. We pray that they will feel God's love as they plan their first home.

The engagement of Becky Messner (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. Jim) to Marlyn Braulich was announced. They are planning a September 29 wedding. May they look to the Lord as they plan their future together.

Mona Bruns (Marvin and Verna Schmidt Bruns) was united in marriage to Terry Forst July 7. May God's blessings be with them as they start their life together.

What a pleasant surprise when one Sunday morning we walked into church and Elder Bro. Leo Moser and his wife, Sis. Leona, had come to spend the day with us. We want to thank him for ministering unto us that day.

We would like to thank West Bend and Elgin, IA, as there were several couples that traveled to our congregation for the July 14 weekend. A special thank you to ministering Bros. Bert Butikofer (Elgin) and Duane Metzger (West Bend). It is a very special blessing when the visiting ministers give of themselves to bring forth the precious Word.

As the time approaches once again for the annual brotherhood conference, we would express our thoughts and prayers for our elders as they

gather together to discuss the concerns of the church.

The month of August starts another Sunday school year. We all should have a special prayer for the dear brothers and sisters as they teach our young ones about the precious Lord and Savior. Also, as a congregation to give our support and love to them all.

As the summer comes to an end, the school bells will be ringing once again. It brings a tear to see our young ones going out in the world but we can't protect them forever. We just have to pray and be there for them when they need us.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Carole Kellenberger

With many people vacationing during the summer months, we really appreciate all who stop to worship with us in Kansas City.

We were very thankful to have ministering Bro. Ben Wysong and family (Sabetha, KS) assemble with us July 15.

It brings us much joy to have Mamie (Baumgartner) Abshier well enough to be in our midst again.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at the right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Psalms 16:11

MISSOURI, LAMAR Janel Kellenberger Becky Marti

The first week in July we were served holy communion by our Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City) and Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) assisted. We are thankful for their willingness to come and help us remember what the Saviour has done for us.

Bro. Troy Luthi was involved in an automobile accident July 17. We are thankful the Lord was watching over him, since his injuries were not severe.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Mark Leman

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kurt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Jim

Plattner (Princeville, IL), Carl Westbaum (Francesville, IN) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). It is always a joy and a privilege to hear our ministering brothers spread the Word and they are always welcome here in St. Louis.

Bro. Mark Leman was chosen to be Sunday school superintendent recently and Sis. Betsy Schrenk has agreed to continue in her position as a Sunday school teacher.

Believing Christ to be the chief cornerstone, the ground-breaking ceremony for our church was held June 24. We are all looking forward to completion of the church when we will be able to worship in a temple of the Lord. Until that time, we will be meeting at the Ben Franklin Motel at 10:15 every Sunday and we invite visitors to worship with our small but growing congregation.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Louanne Gramm
Lori Marquart**

We wish to congratulate Grant Haab (son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab) upon his graduation from college. Grant is continuing his studies at the University of Illinois working towards his Master's degree. Our apologies, Grant, for not recognizing this last month.

Our prayers go with Sis. Lori Bostrom as she relocates due to employment opportunity in Delaware. We will surely miss her presence but trust that God will keep her in His care. Sis. Lori will be attending the Philadelphia, PA, church.

We've received bountiful blessings from several ministers: Bro. Doug Schock, Bro. Lenny Meyer and Bro. Nelson Beer. We also have been enlightened and strengthened through the scheduled speakers from our topical Bible presentations. On July 11 Bro. Wayne Laubscher spoke of "Judgment," the various definitions. On July 18 Bro. Ted Witzig warned us of the signs and dangers of "Satanism." We appreciate both brothers taking the time out of their busy schedules to share with us what the Lord has opened to them.

The following is a "thank you" from Sis. Marie Butikofer who was thrilled to receive so many cards and letters from you.

"I want to thank all who wrote to me from some of our different churches after reading the Silver Lining. I really appreciate everyone. I usually read the Silver Lining from cover to cover myself and enjoy it very much. May God richly bless each one who wrote."

Sis. Marie Butikofer

NEW YORK, CROGHAN/NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

On the evening of June 25 our Sunday school children, teachers and families enjoyed the annual wiener roast at Whitaker Falls Park.

Our best wishes go to Melynda Beyer and Duane Brouty II who were married by her grandfather, Elder Bro. Robert Beyer, June 23. Their parents are Philip and Louise Beyer and Duane and Elaine Brouty (all of Castorland). May they look to God for their guidance and strength as they begin their lives together.

On Sunday afternoon, July 1, we gathered in the Naumburg church for a covered dish meal and song service as we had several families visiting in our midst.

Jacob Farney (John and Matie) was a hospital patient. At this writing, we are glad to report that Roy Sturtze (Sis. Edna) is recovering well from his heart surgery in a hospital in Syracuse. We hope he will be home in a few days and be able to assemble with us soon. Sis. Lovina Farney is a patient at this time after suffering a broken hip. She is 97 years old and will have to be hospitalized for several weeks. Our prayers are for these loved ones and the many more who suffer bodily afflictions from time to time. May each one feel the strength and love of God in their lives.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the Ark of His Testament..." Revelation 11:19. The Ark symbolized God's presence and was used by the Hebrews to lead them to victory. It contained the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant. It is recorded the Ark of the Testimony because of

the testimony of the law inside; the Ark of the Covenant because it represented the covenant between God and Israel; the Ark of Thy strength because it represented God's power and blessing; and the Holy Ark because of the sacredness. The Ark was in the Tabernacle and in Solomon's temple. When the Israelites went into captivity, nothing further is recorded of the Ark, but history has it that Jeremiah hid it in a cave. In the Bible Lands, the guide showed us many things, but all he shows pertaining to the Ark is the carving in stone of the Ark in the remains of the Capernaum synagogue, and it is being carried on an ox cart instead of by the priests as God commanded. Jesus is our Ark now, and born-again Christians are the Temple. When we redeemed have the victory into heaven, not only will we see the opened Temple of God and Ark of His Testament, but we "shall see His face..." Revelation 22:4.

Sis. Jill Schamback, daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Schamback, was chosen through our local government as a high school ambassador to visit England, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union and their embassies and shared their different government opportunities and freedoms.

Michelle Lohr has turned to the Lord in repentance. The Lord Jesus loves Michelle and will give her grace for all her needs.

Sis. Olga Trostle had cataract surgery and is home recuperating.

Bro. and Sis. Lester Huber and Sis. Barbara of Kentucky visited us and Bro. Lester gave us an inspiring sermon.

OHIO, COLUMBUS John Grimm

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who so willingly share the Word of Life with us. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) have been with us. May God bless each one.

On June 24, the Columbus church had holy communion for the first time. Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer and Ken Sauder served us for this blessed occasions.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Laurie Schlatter**

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz as they welcome a new granddaughter. Deb Densmore (Jim) has a new baby girl named Brittany Marie. We wish her the best with her new little one.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalms 122:1

Our congregation has welcomed many visitors from the community and our churches as we held an open house and dedication services for our remodeled building. Ministering brothers who shared with us included Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Ray Sinn (Latty). We also welcomed Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Doug Harmon (Toledo).

We are indeed thankful that our building has been completed without any serious accidents or injury. We praise and thank God for all and give this building for His honor and glory. We again wish to thank all who contributed financially and otherwise.

"The House of Prayer" is no further away
Than the quiet spot where you kneel
and pray,
For the heart is a temple when God is there
As you place yourself in His loving
care.

Helen Steiner Rice

OHIO, LATTY**Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn**

Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager were blessed with a baby boy, Jesse Richard. He was welcomed home by brothers, David and Daniel, and sister, Alisha. Happy grandparents are William Sr. and Sis. Elsie Rager and Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller (Wolcott, IN).

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held at the fellowship hall Sunday, July 15. The brethren gathered for a potluck supper and a singing.

Heidi Hackenjos (Bro. Myron and

Sis. Lorine) was announced for peace. She is looking forward to her testimony and baptism August 4 - 5.

The high school seniors were treated to dinner by their Sunday school teachers during the past month. Elder Bro. Loren Stoller spoke with the entire high school class after the meal.

As we were reminded lately, we must not forget in prayer, visits and letters, the brethren who we no longer see from Sunday to Sunday. These souls often enjoy the remembrances so very much.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Linda Morrison**

Sis. Katherine Bocka died July 7 at the age of 93. Although "... we spend our years as a tale that is told (Psalm 90:9) we know "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15). Sis. Katie will be missed by her daughter, Sis. Sara Rice who has so lovingly and patiently cared for her mother. Bro. Harry Bocka and Edith Snyder will miss their dear mother. "Grammy" Bocka as she was lovingly called by many, will be missed by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Lord provided beautiful weather Sunday, July 8 for our annual Sunday school picnic. Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker provided a beautiful place for our picnic. Old and young alike enjoyed the beauty of God's creation and the wonderful fellowship and singing was a blessing to each one.

OHIO, RITTMAN**Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ."

Psalms 27:3

Twin daughters were born to Tim and Kim Hanzie. They have been named Megan Josephine and Molly Ann. Andrew is their big brother and pleased grandparents are Glenn and Sis. Ella Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hanzie.

Janette Erin is the name chosen for the new daughter born to Bro.

John and Sis. Jody Calame. Welcoming her home are John, Josh, Jeremy and Jami. Happy grandparents are John and Sis. Margaret Calame and Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Troyer.

Joined in marriage June 23 were Tony Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda) and Julie Wilkinson (Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wilkinson).

July 1 was the day Bro. Roscoe Hilty (Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Wanda Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario) were joined as one in the Lord.

The wedding day of Mike Gasser (Sis. Doris) and Kristen Graber (Bruce Graber and Elizabeth Chirillo) was July 7.

Bro. Jonathan Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Mary Emch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen) were joined in holy matrimony July 8.

May the Lord's blessing rest upon each of these couples and may He grant to them many years of happiness.

Those requiring hospitalization from our congregation this past month were: Kim Hanzie (Tim), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce), Sis. Helen Hartzler, Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace) and Sis. Carol Beery (Bro. Everett). May each experience the love and healing powers of our merciful Father.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend July 14 and 15 when eight new souls were added to the fold. Our new brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord are: Philip and Teresa Keiper, Frank Steidl, Marsha Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane), Mary Beery (Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol), Vicki Pelfrey, David Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge) and Eric Keiper (Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty).

We are thankful to Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer in this important work.

We were also blessed this past month to have other ministering brothers come visit and expound God's Word unto us. They were Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Don Manz (Junction), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Paul Gasser (Akron), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Ramsier (Sardis), Wallace Ramsier and Pete Baltic (Mansfield).

OHIO, SARDIS**Paula Figel**

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35. When we sought the Lord in true repentance we felt a great hunger and thirst after righteousness. As we became broken and truly humbled, the grace of God became abundant in us and we were filled with the righteousness of Christ and His Spirit. Then we knew God had truly forgiven us and had accepted us as His child. His peace became a special treasure in our cleansed and purified heart.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted . . ." Acts 3:19. Thus is the call still put forth, and we rejoice that Robert Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Dana Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) have answered this call and has found peace with God and man. Lord willing we will hear their testimonies along with Bridget Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) and witness their baptism September 8 and 9.

God's Word was brought to us this past month by visiting ministers Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). His Word comes to us in various ways through His Spirit to fill our various needs. We want to thank these dear brothers for lending themselves to us.

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

"... and the power of the Lord was present to heal them."

Luke 5:17

We are certainly thankful that the power of our loving Saviour is still present today to heal our afflicted bodies. This month Timothy Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Helen Hartzler were hospitalized, but both are home and doing well.

We pray for God's blessings on Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca Germann as their fourth son, Christopher Douglas, was born July 10. Christopher's brothers are Kyle, Philip and Scott. They happy grandparents are Alberta Germann (Valparaiso, IN)

and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp (Eureka, IL). Paternal great-grandmother is Sis. Anna Hari (Francisville, IN).

This summer the Smithville congregation has begun assembling at Rittman every Wednesday night due to the crowdedness at Smithville. This will be only for the months of June, July and August. We thank the Rittman congregation for welcoming us there.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Frances Laidig

Happiness is a peaceful state of heart and mind which grows up among strong convictions and the faithful performance of our duties as our service to the living God who dwells in the heavens above. God desires our lives to be helpful and sacred.

Bro. Mark Ramsier with his wife, Sis. Alice and family (Sardis, OH) were with us Sunday, July 15. We thank Bro. Mark for his service of love.

It is with prayerful hearts that we approach the time for our annual conference. May we in one accord give our shepherds our faithful support.

Sis. Jill Bogart and Bro. Kent Rager were married July 1. May many be the blessings and happy years that they spend together. Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Eleanor Bogart (Francisville, IN) and Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon Rager.

Gayle Harmon and Nathan Hebert were married July 14. We wish Gayle and Nathan God's blessings as they walk this path of life together. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Collette Harmon and Peter and Davidia Hebert.

Andrew and Tracy Fetter are happy parents of a darling baby girl, Alexandra Elizabeth.

The children enjoyed their Vacation Bible School classes which were held June 25 - 29. We extend our thanks to the teachers and parents who participated in the planning of this program.

OREGON, PORTLAND**Ginny Cooper**

We were privileged to have Bro.

Jim Leman and his wife, Sis. Myra (Roanoke, IL), here July 1 to minister unto us. Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) was also with us, and we wish to thank these dear brothers for their efforts.

Elder Bro. David Wiegand, and his wife, Sis. Ethel (Champaign, IL), were with us Wednesday night, July 4, and the Word of Life was again brought to us in truth and clearness. Thank you, Bro. David.

We were happy to see dear Sis. Margaret Banwart (Bro. Ray) in church the other Sunday, and we are glad to report her broken arm is on the mend.

We are very sorry to report that dear Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth) broke her leg while they were vacationing in Europe. May the Lord give her strength in this trial, and heal her in due time. We pray for their safe trip home.

Thought for today:
Do a deed of simple kindness;
Though its end you may not see.
It may reach, like widening ripples,
Down a long eternity.

Joseph Norris

OREGON, SILVERTON**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

What a joy! We have two new little baby boys to include in our news this month. Jonathan Dean Sinn, first-born for Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi, can tell the story to his children of moving to Oregon in extreme heat when he was only two weeks old. He won't remember a thing but it's a trip his parents and Grandma Sinn won't ever forget. Jonathan was born June 4 in Tucson, AZ. His grandparents are Otto and Marian Sinn (Silverton) and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle (Tremont, IL). We heartily welcome this little Sinn family to Oregon and pray that the Lord will bless them.

Our other little baby boy, Tristan Todd Kuenzi, arrived July 3 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa. Little sister Audrey and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA) also welcomed him home. Grandpa and Grandma Fehr timed their arrival from Iowa within hours of Tristan's birth. Also on hand to help out were great-grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mathilda Fehr

(West Bend, IA). Due to space and to avoid repetition we do not normally mention great-grandparents, but it is interesting to note that these two little boys share the same great-grandfather in Harvey Kuenzi (Salem, OR).

We are thankful for two visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Dave Weigand (Champaign, IL). Both of these dear brothers were here on the same Sunday and often on such special occasions our ushers leave the front two benches empty and after gathering in the Sunday school classrooms the Bible class, and this time also the junior Bible class, walks in together and sits in the front of the church. It doesn't sound like much in the telling but it never fails to bring a lump in my throat and tears to my eyes to see these lovely young people walk in together, respectfully sit down and attentively listen to the Gospel's old, old story. This, we know, is the church of tomorrow.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

July 8 was a special day for our congregation when Matthew Aeschleman (Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) was baptized into the family of God. It was so uplifting to hear his testimony and a time to remember that it was the shed blood of Christ that paid the price. We welcome Matthew as a brother-in-Christ and that he may feel God's nearness in his new life. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) for allowing themselves to be used in doing God's work. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Nathan Gasser was our high school graduate this year. As he goes onward we wish him God's blessings.

We miss Sis. Gala Gerber who has been unable to be with us the past few weeks.

We express our sympathy to Bro.

Edward and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman in the passing of Nancy's brother-in-law, Brachter Huschen (Roanoke, IL), who died suddenly June 9.

We also thank Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) for sharing God's Word with us. May the Lord bless him and his family for his labour of love.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4-7

After much prayer, our request unto God and the elder body, if it is God's will, we plan to hold monthly services on a six month trial basis here in Nashville, TN. Services are planned the second Sunday of the month with the first service September 9 at 10:30 a.m.

*Please note there will be no services in November, but plans are to continue again in December. Services will be held in the home of Don and Faye Sauder (formerly of Mansfield, OH), phone 615-373-8928, 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

Since I travel, sometimes it may be difficult to reach me by phone. If you cannot reach me by phone, drop a card and I'll call you. Or call one of our elder brothers, Bro. Lavoyd Moore 205-232-2035 or Bro. Ken Sauder 419-892-3677.

Since there are only a few of us here in Nashville, we invite you to come and worship with us. I'm sure God will bless you for it. Any ministering brother who would be willing to serve us, again, please contact Elder Bro. Ken or Lavoyd.

Finally brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified even as it is with you. II Thessalonians 3:1.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Several months in the summer many of our regular members are up north and we have fewer visitors.

We are thankful that Jesus assured us that He would be with us even though we were few in number.

Eastern Europe . . .

(Continued from Page 4)
building August 20, 1932.

Elder Janos Pap gave us a report on the Budapest church building project. He acknowledged that it could not have been accomplished without the financial help received from America and asked that we convey their thanks to all of our brethren and friends. He mentioned that the second American collection made it possible for them to retain the old church building. At this time they do not know what they will do with the old building. They need a home for the aged but it may not be feasible to remodel this building for that purpose. It is possible they might sell the property and apply these funds to the cost of construction of a home elsewhere. Elder Pap said, "We have used this property for 81 years. There have been many prayers and we have many memories."

The new building had never been used and they were working hard to finish it in time for the coming Sunday dedication. We wondered if they were really going to have it ready. We were impressed with the building and the workmanship seems to be very good. There are actually two building separated by a court yard.

The main building has Sunday school rooms in the lower level, dining room on the ground floor, sanctuary on the second level and balcony on the third floor. It will seat 500 persons but we were informed that they now have 330 members, 40 friends and 160 children and this totals to 530. We can see that this new building is not any too large but they don't seem to mind standing during church services because they have done this for years.

The building contains very little carpeting because the government authorities would not permit it. The government assigned an architect to the project and they had to get ap-

proval on everything. There were many restrictions but they were most thankful they could proceed with the construction. The pews are padded on the seats but not the backs. They are much more narrow than ours in America and we would consider them less comfortable. However, these were very comfortable compared to other churches we visited in Romania and Yugoslavia.

Across the walled court yard is another three-story building that is part of the church project. The lower floor contains a garage and maintenance shop and two guest rooms for visitors. The second floor has a storage area and a fellowship room that they use for singings and possibly other functions. The boiler room is on the third floor along with an apartment for a young couple who serve as custodians for the church. No doubt it is good to have someone living on the church property for security reasons.

The Budapest church has eight ministers and two elders. Two additional elders were to be ordained within a few weeks and this has probably been accomplished by this time. This makes four elders in one church but one is rather aged and very likely will retire before too long.

BUDAPEST DEDICATION SERVICE. On Saturday evening, prior to the dedication service there was a final singing in the old church. It was very beautiful and inspiring. We were impressed with the manner in which everyone sings out and it really seems to come from the heart. Hymns with many moving parts that we struggle with are no problem for them. They do not need books because they have the words and melody memorized. Sometimes we had a problem to just remember the first verse of a hymn - we need to work on this. This last service in the old church building was very heart warming and tearful.

Church services started promptly at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 27. The opening hymn was our Zion's Harp #129, "The Heart, God's Sanctuary." Elder Sandor Albert from Hodmezovasarhely, Hungary, had the morning service. They insisted that an American elder speak after Sandor. We had informed them earlier that we were not there to participate in the services but only as observers. Evidently this did not impress them

and Gene Marti, rather reluctantly, spoke a few words which were translated by Andy Hunyady. Next was the hymn, "Song of Praise," our Hymns of Zion #235.

The closing prayer by Elder Karoly Kovacs from Szeged, Hungary, was not interpreted for us but it must have been touching because there were many tears shed. Following this they sang Zion's Harp hymn #28, "Jesus, Our Head." Elder Pap gave recognition and expressed appreciation to the government officials who were in attendance. He gave a brief history of the building project which took 2½ years to complete.

They insisted that one of the Americans have the afternoon service. We prevailed upon Don Sauder to conduct this service with Andy Hunyady interpreting. Elder Istvan Szemmelroth from Pogany, Hungary, then spoke a few words and Elder Geza Csik from Kaposvar, Hungary, had the closing prayer.

The church was filled with many standing. They estimated an attendance of 700 and the church seats 500. Some twelve countries were represented.

ROMANIA. Romania is more than twice the size of Hungary. It has an area of 91,700 square miles and a population of 22.7 million. We were able to enter that country after a delay of about 1½ hours at the border. This is much better than in the past when delays of many hours were expected. The guards were fairly pleasant but somewhat indifferent and they were surely in no hurry.

Travel in Romania is much slower than in Hungary. Road conditions are not good and roads must be shared with wagons, horses, bicycles, tractors, pedestrians and anything else that happens to come along. Crops appeared to be in excellent condition just as they were in Hungary.

The cities that we passed through were quite depressing. Much building construction started but not completed. Evidently they run out of materials or funds and just stop. Government mismanagement is evident everywhere. Smog and smoke from trash fires make breathing difficult. We saw a long line of vehicles at a gas station which is normal. Many streets in the cities are badly in need of repair but they are passable.

We were thankful for the opportunity to meet with all seven of the Romanian elders, as well as nine of their deacons. It was somewhat cumbersome as we needed translation from Romanian to Hungarian and then to English in order for us to understand. It was, however, a very impressive meeting and surely we could feel the love of God as we visited, prayed and shed tears together.

They reported that just the previous Monday, they had received a document from their government dated May 10, 1990, for the first time, recognizes their church in Romania. This gives them the right to freely worship and to promote their creed unhindered. This is, of course, a complete change from what they have lived under for the past forty years. Elder Alexandru Virtaci said, "The wall built by darkness has been destroyed. Thanks to the Americans for your help. There is no way we can repay you -- may the Lord reward you." We assured them that we, in America, feel it is a blessing to us to be of some help and we give the praise to God.

In 1951 all of their 45 churches were taken by the Communists. Some were boarded up, some torn down, some used for warehouses, some used for movie houses and some used for various other activities. Most have not been properly maintained. They are now making application with the government for these properties to be returned to them and they feel there is a good chance that this will happen. They will need help to restore these buildings to make them suitable for worship services or in some cases to build new structures. There are now 38 or 39 congregations in Romania with 1,200 members and 200 friends.

The homes in Romania are small and lack most of the modern conveniences we take for granted in America. They have pigs, chickens, fruit trees, a large garden and possibly a couple of goats in the back yard. They don't purchase much at the store because there is not much to buy and money is in short supply. The conditions of the food stores were deplorable with very little food to purchase that would have been edible by our standards.

Shortages of food and medical

supplies continue to be a major problem in Romania and there are opportunities for us to help. It seems ironic that they are short of food when we see the beautiful crops growing in their country but his is the result of a food supply controlled by the government. The food they served us was excellent and most enjoyable.

Many changes have taken place in Romania since the uprising in 1989 and the assassination of Ceausescu. Our visit was the first time that it was not necessary for Americans, visiting our brethren, to check in with the police when they arrived. So, they do have much more freedom but there continues to be much unrest and suspicion of the government.

YUGOSLAVIA. Yugoslavia is slightly larger than Romania with an area of 99,000 square miles (smaller than Colorado) and a population of 22.8 million. It also took us about 1½ hours to cross the border into Yugoslavia. We thought the guards were quite rude, but maybe it seemed that way just because we are not accustomed to this type of treatment.

In Yugoslavia, we, again, drove through a beautiful agriculture area. Roads were much better than Romania but they are poorly marked and night travel was rather difficult because of bicycles, pedestrians and farm machinery on the road.

Yugoslavia has also seen favorable changes in the attitude of their government. Young men previously were sentenced to three years in prison for refusal to bear arms and to swear allegiance to the Communist party. Often they were required to serve several terms. They have now all been released from prison and they may serve their country in some form of alternate service but they are required to serve two years instead of the normal one year of military service.

In times past many young men were required to serve several prison terms and often were treated very badly. We were told of one case where their feet were tied together and they were lowered into the sea head first. When they almost drowned they were pulled up and revived. Sometimes this was done more than once.

We had an opportunity to visit with a young man who was just recently released from prison. He served

a three-year term and then was sentenced to another three-year term, but was released before serving all of this second term. He readily admits that this experience was most unpleasant but it did bring him even closer to God.

Living conditions in Yugoslavia are much better than Romania but they are certainly not without problems. We visited two of their churches which are quite small and some do not have indoor rest rooms. Rooms used for worship services are small and the benches have no backs and are very close together. The brethren seem to be satisfied and they appreciate the blessings God has given them.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. We did not visit Czechoslovakia but we did get a report at a meeting in Budapest. In Czechoslovakia there are no church buildings but private homes have been remodeled to be used for worship services. The approximately 120 members in that country can now worship freely and they may be permitted to build houses of worship in the future. There are no young men in prison or in the mines at this time. Elder Jan Zibritovsky expressed appreciation for American help and said, "There are no boundaries for love." (To be continued with Russia in the September issue of Silver Lining)

"SONG OF PRAISE"

Hymns of Zion #235
Sung at Dedication Service

Praise ye in His sanctuary
Him who does such wondrous deeds!
Who to His eternal glory
All His ransomed children leads!

Laud ye Him with tears of gladness,
Praise Him now with harp and song!
Let us crown Him highest ruler,
Sound the chorus loud and long!

Then rejoice ye in His glory
Who from death to life arose!
Who a white and glorious garment
And rich gifts on you bestows!

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)
brings us back to the flock, to the church, the bride of Jesus Christ! Oh, how thankful each one of us should be!

I am reminded of a plaque that goes

on the wall. There are two sets of footsteps and then all at once one set of footprints is gone. Underneath it says, when the person complained that God had left him or whoever it was making these footsteps, "Oh, no, that is not right. That is when the Lord picked you up and carried you." How true that is!

If we can just call on the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd will pick us up and carry us safely home.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7.

He goes into the story of the woman, ". . . having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" Luke 15:8. I don't know what that piece of silver was worth in that day's economy. I have no idea. I don't know what that lamb would have been worth in the economy of that day that this was written in, but it couldn't have been that much. One piece of silver couldn't have been worth that much.

Our body -- our physical body -- what is it worth? We are made up of water, minerals, proteins, and all these ingredients. What is that worth? Probably it would astonish each one of us to know what our physical body is actually worth in dollars and cents today. It's not worth very much, is it?

This lamb wasn't worth very much and probably this coin isn't worth very much. But what does it represent? What does this coin represent? What does your body represent? Your body represents a living soul! My body represents a living soul! Maybe we can compare this coin to the title of your car, or the deed to your house. Actually the paper that it is written on isn't worth very much, is it? But it is what it represents!

You and I represent a living soul that dwells within our heart. You and I are responsible for that souls that dwells within our heart. Now what happens if that is lost? What price is there going to be to pay if that soul is lost?

It says this woman had ten pieces of silver and she lost one. It is a little different with silver, isn't it, than it was with that sheep? That sheep could bleat out, make the noise and knew it

was lost. But now we have a coin, a piece of silver that has no knowledge. That piece of silver can't think, or talk, or have any knowledge whatsoever. It doesn't even know it is lost.

How many people in this world today are going through this life and don't even know they are lost? They think their works are going to take care of them, and they really haven't been into the Word and can't comprehend that they are really lost.

That is much the same way as this piece of silver. It didn't know it was lost. But the one who was to look after it, knew it was gone. This woman knew it was gone.

What does it say here? ". . . if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle . . ." Luke 15:8. Light a candle! Sin represents darkness. Sin represents filth, doesn't it? I wonder in those days, probably in the house that that woman was living in, there was probably a dirt floor. It was probably dark because they never had electricity in those days, because It says here that she had to light a candle.

Now where was that coin at? Was it under the dust and dirt? So she lit a candle . . . the light of the Word of God. Oh, beloved, let's let the light of the Word of God into our hearts so that the light can shine back into all the corners and find the filth . . . find the filth that is in our hearts and minds.

That light . . . what wonderful things it can do! When we are searching for something, let's let that shine into our hearts and into our minds that it can wake us up. It can wake us up so we can see our condition in the eyes of God.

It says here that she lit a candle, she swept the house and sought diligently until she found it. Now when she found it, she rejoiced! It says here, "When she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me." Luke 15:9. It's the same as with the man with the sheep. Likewise, joy shall be in heaven.

He said, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." Luke 15:6.

She said, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." Luke 15:9.

"Likewise, I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of

God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10. That comes up every so often. When we are speaking with converts and they say, "I have a loved one that has gone on before." like their parents or brother or sister or whoever it might be, "do they really know that I am making a change in my life?" Let us read this:

"Likewise, I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

Now we come down to the sons. It says, "A certain man had two sons." Two sons! "And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me." Luke 15:11, 12. "Give it to me!" he demanded it! He wanted it before it was even time for him to have it.

The father said, "Whatever you want to do, that is up to you." The Word tells us to be prepared for the consequences. Be prepared for the consequences if we go against the Word of God.

The Word of God is so loving. The Word of God is so sure. The Word of God gives us salvation throughout all eternity. The Word of God gives us these assurances, and when we turn our back to the Lord and to the commands of this Holy Bible, be prepared to take the consequences because, beloved, there are consequences.

This young man found them out. "Not many days after the younger son gathered all together . . ." Luke 15:13. Right at first, the old devil likes to make it look real good, doesn't he? "I made a right decision; I am going on my own." But there comes a day of reckoning. Don't forget this.

"Not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want." Luke 15: 13, 14. It seems that God has a wonderful way of working, but we have to give God time.

I am reminded of the Scripture verse in Psalm 27, verse 14, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Then this man, ". . . went and joined himself to a citizen of that country;" because he was in want, "and he sent

him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" Luke 15: 15-17. He finally woke up!

No this young man said, "I will rise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." Luke 15:18. These are the words that you and I, if there is any sin in our hearts, we have to say, "Father, I have sinned before heaven and before Thee." He said, "I am no more worthy to be called thy son." Luke 15:19.

I believe each one of us that are gathered here today can say we are not worthy to be called a son of God, or a sister or brother to the Lord Jesus Christ. Are we worthy of that? Oh, no!

Remember it was the shed blood of Jesus Christ that paid our sins!

"He arose, and came to his father." Luke 15:20. What happened? The "Good Shepherd," the father saw him a great way off. He saw him a great way off and he ran and kissed him, hugged him and fell on his neck. The son told him, "Dad, I have sinned. I have done wrong." (See Luke 15:20, 21).

What did the father say? "Bring hither the fatted calf." Luke 15:23. In other words, if we can just turn our heart to God, the "fatted calf" is to come . . . the blessings will come! Oh, they are untold, if we can just give our heart to the Lord Jesus Christ!

He said, "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." Luke 15:24. Oh, this is the prayer we have for everyone here today, whether we have Jesus Christ in our heart or not. Let us make sure that we are not like that coin, believing we have salvation when we really don't. Or like that sheep that was wandering in the wilderness with his head down minding his own business and finally looked up when it was too late. It was lost.

Let us be like this son who woke up and said, "I will go to my Father and I will confess my wrong," and then receive the blessings, the wonderful blessings that are waiting for each one of us.

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"Reconciliation Brings Rejoicing"

Luke 15

There is much food for thought in a chapter such as this . . . so much food! It is very interesting as we read in the Word here, "And he spake this parable unto them, saying . . ." Luke 15:3. This parable . . . ! Singular. Now these three stories here must have been tied together with one meaning.

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Today we have these three stories and he says, "One parable." "He spake this parable unto them, saying," then he goes on to tell about the sheep. Then the Word tells us about that woman having ten pieces, and He starts in the next story with no difference. So there must be a central meaning between each one of these three stories.

He said, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" Luke 15:4. One sheep, and he left the ninety and nine. In other words, he was looking for just one percent . . . just one percent!

Now in the second case, there were ten pieces of silver and one was lost. Ten percent. Then the two sons . . . and one was lost. Fifty percent. Brothers and sisters-in-Christ, and friends, what category are we in?

Let us consider each one of these just to see what the Spirit can offer to each one of us. We have here the story about the sheep. One lamb was lost out of one hundred, making one percent, but the good shepherd went after that sheep, didn't he? The good shepherd went after that sheep because that one percent was lost.

I don't know how familiar you are with sheep, but sheep are some of the dumbest animals living. Do you know what? The Word of God compares you and I to sheep. He talks about the lambs and the Chief Shepherd. Who is the Chief Shepherd? The Chief Shepherd is none other than Jesus Christ. You and I are the sheep.

Now this sheep that was lost, how did he get lost? How did this sheep actually get lost and get away from the rest of the flock? He probably had his head down, grazing, eating the grass and, shall we say, minding his own business. He kept eating and wandering until he looked up and the rest of the flock and the shepherd were gone. Makes the chills go up my spine!

How many of us are so engrossed in self, minding our own business, and someday look up and find that the flock is gone and the Chief Shepherd is gone? What are we going to do? Again, sheep are like people. Sheep have no homing instinct. People have no homing instinct.

You can take many animals and take them away from their environment -- their central home -- and take them miles away, and leave them out by themselves, and many, many times they will find their way back to their central location. How about you and me? If they would take and blindfold us and take us out to some secluded place and we had to find our way back, would we have an instinct to tell us which way to go, because we didn't know whether they took us, north, east, south or west? We don't have that instinct. Sheep don't ei-

ther. Again, a good comparison for people and sheep.

That sheep could not find his way back. The good shepherd had to find him. Can you imagine that sheep in the wilderness with lions in that country, tigers were around, and all the evil forces that could have destroyed the sheep? But, no, that sheep probably called out realizing that he was lost and he had a sense that he knew he was lost at that point. He probably bleated out, but the good shepherd . . . what about the good shepherd? He left the ninety and nine to seek after that sheep, and so when the good shepherd could hear the bleating of the sheep, he went after that sheep.

Oh, beloved, to those of us who are here this morning, if there is anyone here that feels that they are lost, call out to the Good Shepherd and tell Him that you are lost. You need the way home. You need a way to go back to that home in heaven that we are talking about. Oh, the Good Shepherd is so willing and so loving!

That good shepherd came and It says here that he left the ninety and nine in the wilderness and went after that which was lost until he could find it. When he found it, he laid it on his shoulders.

Oh, the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes to you and to me and puts us on His shoulders and carries us, doesn't He? How thankful . . . Oh, how thankful you and I must be that the Good Shepherd actually picks us up and carries us . . . carries us back through the wilderness and

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