



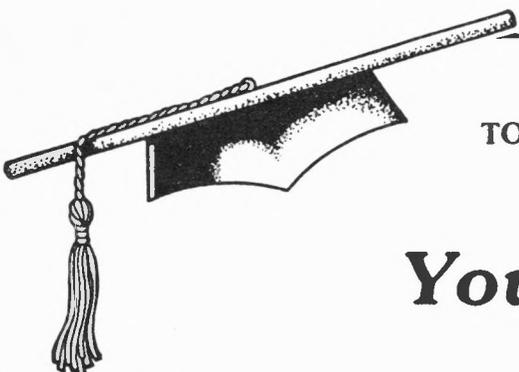
"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: . . ."
Psalms 127:3

". . . and a little child shall lead them."
Isaiah 11:6

VOLUME 41

JUNE 1991

NUMBER 6



TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Your Church Cares

On that day, many years ago
When in your Mother's arms,
You came to the church that cares,
To hear the gospel's charms.

On another day, many years ago
As you left your Mother's hand;
You went to Sunday school that day,
To learn about the narrow way.

In Sunday school programs, over the years,
Your innocent verses sometimes brought tears
As you memorized the gospel's fare,
And your church continued to care.

Four years ago, on graduation night
As you came closer to accountability
Prayers were then uttered continually
And your church continued to care.

With joy and deep gratitude,
We rejoiced when a few of you
Repented for your sins, and in Jesus grew.
Your church continued to care.

We care today for the souls of men.
That through the clouds of flesh and world,
The sunshine of Christ can be unfurled
For this, your church always cares.

We, your parents and teacher, love you!
But, we've done all that we can do.
In your hands lies your soul's welfare
And oh, how your church shows great care.

The Word says you'll "reap what you sow,"
So for others work to achieve;
And may "giving" be part of what you believe.
In these things, your church really cares.

You are graduating soon, the reins are free,
For you to choose, what you want to be;
Our hope is for your salvation, you see.
Because your church will always care.

A great and notable day is coming;
A trumpet will sound, an angel will shout;
Then, we'll learn what heaven's all about!
Ah, yes, for salvation, your church really cares.

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein
Gridley, IL congregation

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

FATHERS SYMBOLIZE STRENGTH

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

As a lower elementary school child I took pride in my father's strength. I thought he was stronger than the other children's fathers. As children we cling to our mothers, but when it comes to physical strength, we choose our fathers.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus Christ taught us to address God with the words, "Our Father which art in Heaven." Since in the beginning, "God created the heavens and the earth," He certainly is the pinnacle of strength. Let's always think of Him in that way. "With God all things are possible."

Those of us who are fathers must ask ourselves on Father's Day how we are measuring up as a symbol of strength. When we are healthy we are quite strong physically. However, there are other strengths to be considered. How about spiritual strength to resist evil and live a

holy life? How about the strength that comes from loving and respecting others, and speaking kindly of them to others?

A father's strengths should show clearly in his relationship with his wife. He should ask what he can do to lighten her load, even as she asks what she can do to lighten his load. He should be kind and understanding, as well as forgiving even before being asked to forgive. Fathers usually have some things of their own for which they need forgiveness.

A father's strengths should show clearly in his relationship with his children. He should not lord it over them after they have grown up, but he should be willing to learn from them. This is also a strength.

A father's strengths should show clearly in his relationship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He should

seek to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit who works through the Scriptures and other believers. After all, fathers symbolize strength.

NOTICE

Silver Lining Subscription Rate Change

Due to the last two U.S. Postal Department increases in the postal rates, the annual subscription rate for the Silver Lining will increase from \$7.00 to \$9.00 per year, effective June 1, 1991. The Silver Lining is a volunteer effort and the subscription rate increase is needed to pay for printing and mailing and supply costs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bro. David Bertsch

WORKS PROJECTS COORDINATOR

RE: Obtaining a volunteer to fill the position as an Apostolic Christian Haiti Liaison Coordinator.

Beloved Brethren:

Christian Greetings in the name of our Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

At the Apostolic Christian World Relief/Work Projects Committee Meeting held in Congerville, IL, April 6, 1991, the Apostolic Christian Caribbean Board requested an invitation be extended among our brethren to obtain a volunteer to serve as a Haiti Liaison Coordinator. The World Relief Committee unanimously approved this invitation. Preferably a couple or two brothers would help with various duties during the time our work teams are in Haiti -- November 1991 through March 1992. Helping with school roof installation, material procurement, water aid, well drilling, pump installation, hospital and agricultural assistance programs.

The length of stay would be five months, with compensation to provide wages, travel, and living expenses. A combination of several persons, each staying a shorter term would be acceptable. Any interested brethren, please address all inquiries to:

Bro. Roger Sauder, Chairman Apostolic Christian Caribbean Board
6261 S.W. 5th Street.
Plantation, FL 33317
Phone 305-584-0947

On Behalf World Relief Committee

In Christian Love,
Jim, Hoerr
Secretary World Relief Committee

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lester Stoller

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

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

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word.

Light From The Word

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

"THINK ON THESE THINGS"

Thoughts can be allowed to drift freely, they can be self-willed or they may be placed under the control of the Holy Spirit. The inner thoughts of a person ultimately determine his character and pattern of life. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). The consequences of habitual thought patterns are profound: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6). If allowed free reign, Satan will find great success in planting disturbing and evil thoughts which can lead to disaster.

Negative ideas can arise in our minds without any effort on our part. One of Satan's most effective weapons is the power of suggestion. He seeks every opportunity to stimulate unwholesome thoughts. Some of the more common types include: worry, fear, doubting, complaining, hurt feelings, self-pity, lust and covetousness. The Word exhorts the believer to make an active effort to nurture good thoughts. One of the most frequently mentioned positive thoughts is thankfulness. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thes. 5:18). The Apostle Paul left a beautiful message regarding wholesome thoughts. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Maintaining sound spiritual thought patterns requires a cooperative effort between ourselves and the Holy Spirit. One part of the fruit of the Spirit is temperance (Gal. 5:23) which is self-control or self-discipline. The Spirit will provide the motivation but we must be willing to work hard and persistently to maintain sound thinking. If we recognize the importance of fighting this battle, we will continually pray for God's

help to overcome. We should echo this heartfelt prayer of David: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psa. 19:14). In another time of trouble David was greatly distressed because of reverses in battle. Yet we find that "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (1 Sam. 30:6) and he was able to press on. Perhaps he was able to call to mind a spiritual truth which had been deeply embedded in his heart when he was tending the sheep as a youth or during the many times while he was in hiding when he communed with his God.

It is imperative that we accumulate in our minds a library of spiritual truths which we can call upon to correct our thought patterns when they go astray. This is the purpose of teachings such as: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col. 3:16) and "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19). Are we making sufficient effort to fill our hearts and minds with spiritual truths?

Of equal importance is the sharpening of our vigilance so that we can immediately recognize Satan's efforts to pull our thoughts down to his corrupt and seductive sphere of influence. Christ's all-important warning is the best defense: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37). If we are vigilant we will be able to stop evil thoughts before they take root.

Fear and lust are examples of suggestive weapons used by Satan which can easily overpower us. Many scriptural teachings can be used to counterattack such thoughts. "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:6). "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound

mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). If we give in to fear, we will become greatly weakened spiritually and unable to fulfill our duties in the Lord's service. We may even faint in despair (Luke 21:26). The only effective way to deal with lust is to repel its dangerous attraction at the onset. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22). "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof" (Rom. 13:14). This means we should not be thinking about how we might fulfill the desires of the flesh. If we allow lust to reside in our hearts we can lose everything. "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jam. 1:15).

The Pharisees were very particular about cleanliness with regard to eating. Jesus had to reprove them. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man" (Matt. 15:19-20).

The benefits of nurturing thought patterns on a high spiritual plane are beyond description. It will bring joy to our own hearts, "My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord" (Psa. 104:34); and will benefit all who are around us: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (1 Tim. 4:15).

We are challenged by God's Word to give our all to fight this battle for control of our thoughts with the faith that the Holy Spirit will prevail and lead us to victory. "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We recently said "fond farewells" to Nancy Wernli and Barbara Hostetler as they moved to Sabetha, KS, to the newly completed group home, Lakeside Terrace. We will miss them, but we are happy for them to be close to their families, and we wish them God's blessings in their new home. They will soon be joined by a third resident, Brian Birkeland, who will be leaving us May 13. Other recent transfers are: Jackie Barton from Oakwood to 540 N. Main where Rhonda Gerst and Gloria Heiniger also live; Angie Massner from ACHH to Oakwood. Jackie and Angie are both enjoying their new homes, along with more independence and responsibility, so we rejoice with them.

On April 16 we welcomed a new resident to ACHH, Anne Marie Carrescia. Anne lived with her parents in Peoria before moving here, and she attends Schramm Educational Center in Pekin. We welcomed another new resident April 30, Kimberly White (Bloomington, IL). Kim attends PARC in Peoria with many of our residents.

On April 27, 45 of our residents participated in the Special Olympics track and field events at Morton High School. Nineteen of these will be going on to the state Special Olympics in June. Other activities this spring included a play in Peo-

ria, leather craft classes and bowling with the pros. A special, annual highlight for a group of our residents is Easter Sunday dinner at the home of Edith Getz. God bless you, Edith, for your kindness and generosity.

Birthdays at ACHH for June: Aldine Winger and Rodney Blaum (15), Donnie Parks (18), Sharilyn Rowell and Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Chip Johann (22), Lyle Steffen (24), Willis Belsley (25), Edwin Gehrig (29). At Oakwood: Doris Hutchison (18); and at Hazelwood: Harold Miller (7). Birthdays for July at ACHH: Billie Tatum (1), Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Cindy Virkler (6), Michael Oates and Dan Zimmerman (18), Michelle Maloney (19), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29). Birthdays at 540 N. Main: Gloria Heiniger (July 26); at Hazelwood: Ed Getz (July 31).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL

Thank You, God, for Summer, is our theme as we started out our summer program June 3. Many of the children continue right through summer at the Preschool, and we pick up a few school age children as well. The children look forward to longer hours outside, playing in our wading pools, and meeting new "teachers" that come to help. Anyone who would like to come still this

summer, please write to Sis. Joan Meister at Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611 or call 205-233-0591 anytime. We would appreciate any amount of time that could be given to help here at the Preschool.

We finished up our school year at the Preschool with a graduation program in which all of the children helped spread the love of God to parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and friends. We have fourteen students who have completed their years here at the Apostolic Christian Preschool and will start "Big School" in the fall. We hope and pray that the seeds which have been planted in their hearts will remain with them throughout their lives and bring forth fruit in the Lord's timing. Please continue to pray for the work being done here at the Preschool and we wish to extend a warm welcome to anyone planning to vacation in the area to come and visit the Preschool anytime.

PLEASE PRAY ABOUT THIS SINGLE SISTER AND HOUSEPARENT COUPLE NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

Houseparents are the very core of our program for the troubled children. Without these committed workers we really have no program and our children have no one to be their mother and father figures. A single sister is needed for the team in our All-Girls East House while an opening for a married couple is in the New House. We are trusting that mature individuals will respond to our urgent need and to the Lord's leading to be parents to teens who need Godly love and guidance. The work is challenging, rewarding and inspiring.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below to learn more about qualifications, training, competitive salaries and excellent benefits.

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

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

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1991
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1991

Plans have already begun for our annual Sale on August 10, 1991. If you have items to donate or would like to volunteer your time at the Sale, please contact your local representative for information [or you may call us directly at (219)627-2159].

**GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Rhonda Stoller**

"We love you son."
 "You did a good job!"
 "If you need us, we are here."
 "Your father and I have been praying for you."
 "Jesus loves you."
 "Let's spend time together!"
 "Do you want to talk about it?"
 "You are a gift from God."
 "Your feelings and thoughts are important to us."
 "I'm sorry, I was wrong."
 "May God keep you in His care."

Since the day most of us were born these words have been a part of our lives. Our Godly parents loved and cared for us according to God's Word. In fact, we may have heard these phrases so often that during our teen years we took our parents' love for granted. This action may have hurt our parents but one thing never changed, the prayers dad and mom said for us each day.

It is God's will and desire for parents to raise children that will glorify Him and respect mankind. It is the parents that build the family unit and this unit will stand if the foundation is God. Sad to say, this is not the same attitude that society has set forth.

As teens arrive at Gateway Woods

one of the first things we discover time and again is the deterioration of the family. The teens are hurting and unable to trust that their houseparents and the staff can love them "a total stranger." They watch closely as the married couples show love and respect for each other. Their eyes are constantly open to see if our actions match our words.

A feeling and sense of security will soon fill the child's heart as they begin to trust in our love. This trust doesn't come easy and in some cases it never comes while the child is in our care. The staff members are constantly asking God's help to plant seeds in our youths' hearts. Many of the prayers brought before God's throne during our staff meetings carry the concern of God protecting the tender hearts and minds of our children. "Please God, we pray, hold our children in the palm of Your hand."

As time progresses, we see our teens leave our care to either return home or move into a different facility. Our hearts ache as we say our goodbyes. "Will they remember what they were taught about God? Who will answer their questions about choosing God's will for their life? And when they stand up for what is right, will there be someone to back them up?" And then there is the child who never seemed to show an interest in God's Word or going to church. "Will the time come when

they will turn their ways around and cry out to God?" Our only hope and peace is to continue to give that child unto the Lord.

Recently our administrator had the pleasure and joy to receive a phone call from a former resident. It seems her husband and herself having been living in sin and their marriage was in trouble. She knew she needed help and direction. She started to think of what she was taught at Gateway Woods. She then realized it was God she needed. She called to ask for help. It had been over eight years since she lived on campus when the seeds were planted in her heart. Not only did the houseparents she had while she lived here pray for her, but the present staff continues to pray.

But we can't do it on our own. We need your help. Please keep our teens in your prayers. Not just the teens that currently live on campus, but also those that have left. Please pray that God will continue to supply our staff with dedicated

FEMALE COUNSELOR NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

We hope to hire a sister to provide counseling to children and families and consultation to staff at Gateway Woods. Our present counselor, Judy Stoller, will be focusing her energies on our expanded Foster Care Program beginning this summer.

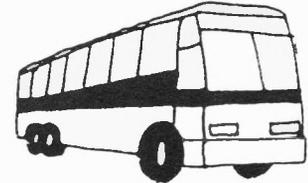
Qualifications include a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, Psychology or Counseling (experience or Master Degree preferred). We offer competitive salaries, benefits, and excellent training and continuing education opportunities. For further information and job description please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Please pray about being a part of a unified team treatment approach with fellow believers working to help troubled teens in a residential setting.

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

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

RIDE THE BUS



Central Illinois bus trip to the Gateway Children's Home Auction and Sale on August 10.

Noah and Evie Herrmann are chartering a bus from Central Illinois for the Children's Home Auction and Sale Saturday, August 10.

The bus will leave Peoria Apostolic Christian fellowship hall Friday, August 9, at approximately 12:30 p.m. and make passenger pick-ups along Route 24 with overnight stay in Fort Wayne at a motel.

The bus will return Saturday, August 10, leaving the Children's Home at 4:00 p.m. The first forty-six reservations will be honored. The cost of the bus trip is \$40 per person.

Contact Noah Herrmann, 804 James Street, Princeville, IL 61559, phone: 309-385-4872.

servants who are willing and desire to uplift the needs of our youth in prayer. It is so vital to remember, as noted before, our youth do not have the blessing of Godly parents praying for them. They depend on and need us, as well as you, to be on our knees. May our Lord bless and honor your support.

ANOTHER CHILD TO HOLD

She looks down at her angel
Sleeping in his bed
She gently kneels beside him
And then she bows her head

And just like other mothers
Who lived so long ago
She brings her child to Jesus
And gives him to the Lord

Jesus here's another child to hold
Keep this child safe and warm
This world can be so cold
Take this child in your arms
And never let him go
Jesus here's another child to hold

He watched his only daughter
Leaving on a date
He doesn't want to worry
But now it's getting late

-- NOTICE --

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We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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 -- Eighth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1990 —	3024	3024
September 1990 —	1270	4294
October 1990 —	2847	7141*
November 1990 —	3155	10,296*
December 1990 —	3319	13,615*
January 1991 —	3751	17,366*
February 1991 —	2086	19,452
March 1991 —	2297	21,749
April 1991 —	3005	24,754
May 1991 —	2482	27,236

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and testaments, 3rd shipment

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.

Waiting in the darkness
He kneels down on the floor
And offers up this silent prayer
As he listens for the door

Jesus here's another child to hold
Keep this child safe and warm
This world can be so cold
Take this child in your arms
And never let him go
Jesus here's another child to hold

Wherever there are children
Lord

In danger or in need
May you find someone there
Praying on their knees
Oh please Lord . . .

Jesus here's another child to hold
Keep this child safe and warm
This world can be so cold
Take this child in your arms
And never let him go
Jesus here's another child to hold

Jesus we give you our children
to hold
Words by Ray Boltz

Bros. Tim Sauder, Wally Ramsier and Wally Gerst attended the Apostolic Christian Long Term Care Conference in Detroit on April 27. Tim did a presentation on Gateway Woods.

We appreciate the summer volunteers who have arrived. We give thanks to Bros. Dave Berns (Peoria, IL) and Chris Frautschi (San Diego, CA) for their help.

Our annual Garage / Bake Sale held May 18 was a success. The staff and teens worked together to earn money for each house's summer vacation. We usually have a car wash at the same time but the weather was rainy and the car wash was rescheduled for June 1.

Wednesday, May 29, was the day

Barb graduated from New Haven High School. It is the prayer of the staff that Barb will discover and be willing to do God's will for her life. Congratulations Barb, you did a good job!

Plans for our annual Sale are well on their way. The Sale is scheduled for August 10 which is a week earlier this year. We welcome donated items from individuals, as well as from businesses and merchants associated with our churches around the country. Sale information and brochures were mailed to your Representative. Please see them for details. Also there will be a chartered bus coming to the Sale from Illinois. Please see the ad in this issue.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Lisa Huette

Springtime in Alabama brings an abundance of growth as well as change. We rejoice in the beauty of the flowers and the green of the trees as they are now in full bloom. But it takes the rain as well as the sunshine in order for that growth to occur, much like in our spiritual lives. Without the hardships and trials we encounter everyday we could never experience the growth and change that brings us closer to God.

We wish God's richest blessings on David Naffin as he makes a change and heeds God's call to live his life as a Christian. David and his wife, Pela, are a special part of our Athens church, and though often far apart from us in miles, they are never far from our hearts.

We want to congratulate Tim Hall as he graduates from high school this month. Graduation is an important milestone in life, and our prayers go with him as he leaves school and enters the workplace.

Ola Mae Barnes continues to recuperate after her time spent in the hospital. Let's try to remember those who are hospitalized or homebound with our time and efforts as well as our prayers. So often what we do means so much more than our words ever could.

We were reminded this month of the special place our mothers occupy in our lives. Though near or

far away, we know a mother's love is never ending.

It's a special time when the whole church can gather together to spend an afternoon sharing thoughts and feelings with each other. May 19 was a special day as the Athens church held their monthly potluck at Sawn Creek Park in Athens. Everyone enjoyed the hot and sunny weather as well as the fellowship with those we don't often see.

We'd like to thank our visitors from Leo and Bluffton, IN, as well as Peoria and Bradford, IL, for making the effort to spend time with us this month. We appreciate those who make the distance between friends seem so easy to span.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

Mark 7:16

In a month's time we hear many good teachings and much encouragement to be worthy of our Lord and Master's love. We recently heard "God is not going to deny us any good thing: If we "do" as He would have us follow Him. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Loren Knapp, Nathan Lehman and Curtis Kaufman (Tucson), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN).

With joy in our hearts we gathered to hear the testimonies of Carol Doolittle (the late Paul); Verna Puschel (Raymond); and Frances Martin (John). After stepping into the baptismal waters May 19, we greeted our new sisters-in-faith. Later on we enjoyed a fellowship dinner and singing.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Ann Zollinger are the happy grandparents of Ann Shirley Klotzle. Bro John and Sis. Cheri Klotzle (Smithville, OH) are Ann's parents.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery on his brother's death May 4. Bro. Maynard lived in Tucson.

We pray for the Lord's healing for surgical patient's Bro. Ted Kno-

chel, Sis. Dorothy Kraft and David Schrenck (outpatient).

We listened to the winter conference report on a recent Wednesday evening and are grateful to all the elders.

Sis. Connie Massner (Roy and Ilse) graduated from N.H.U. May 10. Congratulations.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Bro. Maynard Beery has passed away after many years of struggling with heart problems. Bro. Maynard is now at peace. This church will surely miss him, especially the children, who Bro. Maynard was so fond of. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Billie, and the rest of his family during their time of grief. We pray the Lord will lend His comfort and assurance.

Our Sis. Angie Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria) was involved in a car accident last week. We are extremely grateful she was spared serious injury, receiving only facial cuts and a lot of bruises. It has been said that she was "lucky" but I'm sure we all realize she was being taken care of. We praise God for watching over her.

On a happier note, we are celebrating with our friend, Corinne Hari (Daryle and June), who will graduate from high school and attend college here in Tucson in the fall. May the Lord walk with Corinne and guide her life in a blessed direction.

Our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) was with us to share the memorandum. We enjoyed his visit and thank him once again for his efforts.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

We are grateful to have had several visiting ministers with us this past month. They are Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) aided Elder Bro. John Klotzle in serving holy communion April 21.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) This scripture

is so commonly used that it has become a cliché among even the unconverted. When it is put to the test, it is to me, one of Christ's most significant statements.

Giving to others has a powerful impact on one's spiritual life. Giving can provide blessings for those in need, and, equally important, can lift the benefactor out of the doldrums as well. Problems seem to diminish in scope for all involved. I believe this is what Christ intended. He does not want us to become so wrapped up in ourselves that we forget others. Giving to another person can produce such an uplifting feeling, that, if it is continued over time, receiving no longer seems important or necessary.

Concern for the needs of others can purge one of selfishness, and reliance on material things that can tie us down. It should ultimately help leave us free to go anywhere and do anything for the Lord without thought as to where we shall lay our heads, what we shall wear, or eat. After all, Christ provided the best gift of all, not only by living in such a manner, but in giving His life.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Cindy Schmidt - LaNae Meyer

We take time to recognize our earthly fathers at this time of year and to thank them for what they have done and are doing for us in our lives. Let us also remember to praise our Father and God of all things and encourage one another to be builders of what God has given to each of us.

"For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."

Hebrews 3:4

AM I A BUILDER?

I watched them tearing a building down,

A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell.
They swung a beam and the side wall fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,

And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"

He gave a laugh and said: "No indeed!

Just common labor is all I need.
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."

And I thought to myself as I went away,
Which of these roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?

Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town

Content with the labor of tearing down?

Author Unknown

We want to thank our visiting ministers for their encouragement in the Word of God and in everything we do. We thank Bro. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. James Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Ken Martin (Detroit, MI) has found employment in the San Diego area and we welcome him. May we always strive to be builders through the power of God's Word.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

The Kansas Choir spent a weekend with us and along with them came three ministers, Bro. Max Remchisel and Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). The Sunday previous to that Bro. Glen Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) was with us and the Sunday after, Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) was here. God has given each brother talent just as in the parable in the Bible. How thankful we are that they share that which God has given them rather than wrapping it in a napkin and hiding it. We are truly a blessed people to have such good gifts given to us.

May God bless these brothers and all who speak and live the truth.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Luginbuhl

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful but his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doeth he meditate day and night."

Psalms 1:1, 2

He faithfully fulfilled his responsibilities for many years as a true, diligent and watchful shepherd in keeping the flock together according to the Word. Our beloved, retired Elder Bro. John Bahler (90), died April 21 and many of us continue to speak of and remember his wise and kind counsel when the perplexities of life surrounded us and we saw no way to continue on this narrow way. Our sympathy is with his wife, Sis. Julie (Martini); son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Corbin and Sis. Ginny; as well as his five grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. We are sure they will have many fine memories (as we all have) of a man who labored in the sweat and heat of the day and can now rest in peace forever.

We appreciated the message that Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) brought us April 5. Bro. Dave has a son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle, living near Boston and when he visits them, we also benefit. We thank him and his wife, Sis. Ethel, for taking time out to spend a Sunday with us.

On April 8, Sis. Esther Heintz (79) died after a long illness in a nursing home. She leaves a brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Doris Heintz, and several nephews. We are thankful she sought and was accepted by the Lord even in her younger days and now has the better part.

Bro. John Ruch was hospitalized. Our prayers are always for the sick as life loses all meaning and purpose when the body is "out-of-sorts" and functioning improperly. Also undergoing surgery were Mi-

chael Hoffman and Sean Croghan and both are recuperating nicely. Sean is the infant son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole.

"Seek and ye shall find" is a promise that has been answered many times. Again we see the evidence that the door of grace is still open as Rachael Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella) and David Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge) are seeking to come out of the world, follow Christ, and be a separate people through their conversion and repentance.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

We have had a lovely spring here in the nation's capital. The flowering trees, shrubs, and flowers all point to their Maker, our Heavenly Father.

Again this month we were blessed with ministering brothers willing to come to serve us. We were glad to have Bro. Jim Plattner and wife, Sis. Marlene (Princesville, IL), with us May 5. On May 19 we were able to welcome our Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and his wife, Sis. Nancy. May 12 was not a scheduled Sunday, but many of us assembled in the home of Ed and Ginny Stoll for a tape and brunch, along with visitors from Minneapolis, MN, and Philadelphia, PA.

Our visitors this month included Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein. How good it was to see them. Our church sure misses them and hopes they come often. Bro. Dick and Sis. Betty Fetter (Toledo, OH) came to visit their son, Bro. Matt Fetter. Other visitors were from Rockville, CT, Chicago and Elgin, IL.

Some of you may have been thinking about a vacation to this area, but put your plans on hold with the news of the riots in early May. The Sunday evening Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene were here, we went to see the major sites in the city. We were quite surprised to hear the next morning that there had been a major disturbance - we were totally unaware of it.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the

Tysons Westpark Hotel located on Route 7 about 1 mile west of I-495 (Beltway). Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. For more information or assistance, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

The Sunday school children enjoyed a busy day at the park in May. There were horseback trail rides, pony rides for the younger ones, relay races (parents were recruited to participate in those!), a cookout and a hay ride. In fact, we were so busy that we didn't even have time for the scheduled canoeing and softball! While we waited for the hamburgers to cook, the middle class performed a small skit about the apostles after Jesus' resurrection. They did a tremendous job!

Our eighth grade graduates this year are Benjamin Gress (Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally) and Angie Hohulin (Keith and Connie).

Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider (Rockville, CT) have been in town, and Bro. Al has ministered over the pulpit. We thank him for his willing service.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl wish to thank all members and friends of the Apostolic Christian faith who prayed for them and their family and/or sent cards during his recent hospitalization for cardiac surgery. He returned home from Milwaukee's St. Mary's Hospital Monday, May 6, two weeks after surgery, and is making a rapid recovery.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer Jeanette Yergler

How thankful we are to hear the true Word. We give thanks to God for Elder Bro. Darrel Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL). We also give thanks to our Bros. Dave Eisenmann and Victor Beer for God's precious Word.

We are grateful to have Bro. Vic-

tor Beer back with us after his recent surgery.

We rejoice with Marvin and Rae Steffen on receiving their peace and awaiting baptism. We rejoice with the angels in heaven when souls can turn their back on this world and find grace unto repentance.

We wish congratulations to Corey Keller on graduating from high school.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Gala Gerber

Mothers are much more than "magnets", gathering up clothes and picking up toys around the house. As willing as mothers are to do such chores, they have a higher calling than that. A good mother loves her family and provides an atmosphere where each member can find acceptance, security, and understanding. She is there when the children need a listening ear, a comforting word, a warm hug, or a loving touch on a fevered brow. And for the Christian mother, her greatest joy is in helping her children trust and love Jesus as their Saviour.

Of all the earthly things God gives
There's one above all others,
It is the precious, priceless gift
Of loving Christian mothers . . .

So thankful for our mothers, when as babes in their arms, up until this very hour have loved us with an unconditional love and shown us that the most important thing in this life is Jesus. Bless each mother.

We want to welcome Sis. Marjorie Pittman as a full time resident here in Sarasota. It is always a blessing to add another child of the king to our small congregation.

Thankful also for our home ministers Bro. Doug Sabo and Bro. Glenn Price as they both so willingly stand to teach us the good news. Remember them both dear Father!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Michael Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), and Elder

Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). We pray they are richly rewarded for their willingness to bring forth God's Word to us.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Jae Gerst as they welcome Kayla Ann. Her brother, Kyle, will be happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marjorie Gerst (Taylor, MO).

Bro. Trent Schrock (Congerville, IL) is here in Atlanta for the summer. We welcome him and look forward to his worshiping with our congregation.

Services are held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel every Sunday. 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

Tudy Schmied - Carolyn Fischer

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) with us to assist our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm as communion was celebrated April 17. Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury). We also were blessed with joyful singing unto the Lord from the Princeville Choir (April 28) and the Gridley Men's Group (May 19).

"O, bind together fully with love's devotion holy, they people, dearest Lord for whom thy blood was given to ransom them for heaven, O, hal-low them and keep them, Lord!"

Assembly Hymn

We are very pleased to welcome Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie Young and their family, Jamie, Rick, Tony, and Corey, who have recently moved to our area from Cissna Park.

We also rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman as they welcome their new son, Clinton Joshua, into their hearts and home May 5. Clinton has one big brother, Nathaniel. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton) and Bro. Samuel and Sis. Anna Leman (Roanoke).

This year's Mother-Daughter Banquet (May 10) provided an opportunity to reflect on the "mysteries of motherhood" and the bountiful blessings which God provides through mothers and motherhood. A special "thank you" to those who labored to make the banquet a special night.

It is with much appreciation for a loving and protecting God as we report that Tom Anderson has returned home safely from the Persian Gulf. His parents are Sam and Sis. De Anderson.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

REMEMBRANCES

Now the long awaited day is here;
It seemed the time went by so slow.
Reaching this milestone in our lives,
We wonder where the time did go.

Even when we were just little tots,
We learned the basics of our Lord
By singing songs and hearing told
The many stories in God's Word.

Sitting around the horseshoe table,
Listening with eager ears,
The flannelgraph was our favorite
choice
For learning through those early
years.

Every year when Christmas dawned
We stood before you with knocking
knees;
And happy the day when we reached
fourth grade
With no more worries of saying a
piece.

The unexpected straw fights
Became the highlights of the fun
When our teachers planned the
wiener roast,
With food and games for everyone.

The whole church went to the picnic
Which brought each year to a close.
The baseball games, the ice cream,
the trails,
Are the things we remember most.

At last, oh joy, we reached junior
high,
With all its privileges to own

Like the summer outings at Cutty's,
And the wisdom of the Bible shown.

June '87: Our first ACYF Day . . .
And though we weren't sure of our
place,
We soon found that we enjoyed
Learning many a new name and
face.

Part of the fun of ACYF
Was practicing in each others home.
There were always huge lunches to
eat,
And lots of fellowship, fun, and
games.

As we look back over the last four
years,
We recall the lasting friendships
that were made.
Whether being the host or invited
away,
The efforts put forth were richly
repaid.

All our mothers we do thank
For taking the time to really care,
In doing all the thankless jobs,
We always knew that you'd be there.

Our greatfulness goes to our dear
fathers,
Who work to provide our every need,
Taking us to church each week,
Teaching us by work and deed.

As we round another bend,
These memories stand out so clear;
When down the road of life we go,
The times past we'll hold very dear.

The above poem was composed by our Bible class seniors and was read to their parents at the Senior Breakfast. Our high school graduates this year are Wayne Tanner (Bro. Dick and Sis. Marilyn), Darrel Ehnle (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), Rob Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky), Valerie Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell), and Sis. Ann Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole). We certainly wish each of them God's guidance as they go out into the world to find employment or go on to school for higher education.

Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville) were our visiting ministers this month. We certainly thank them for serving us from God's Holy Bible.

We are thankful that Sis. Stephanie Rumbold (Bro. Mark) and their little son, Jonathan, are able to assemble with us again, after both being in the hospital with pneumonia.

Our congregation sang farewell to Karen Makela (daughter of Bro. Richard Frank) and her two sweet children, as she plans to move with her husband, Ron, to Oklahoma where he is stationed in the service. We will miss their smiling faces, and we all hope and pray that they will assemble with us whenever they come home to visit their dad and grandpa.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Kim Walder

Our annual business meeting was held this past month. May God grant grace to those who fill new positions: Sunday school - Bro. Justin Koch, Sis. Kim Walder; Trustee - Bro. Bob Fehr; Usher - Bro. David Bauer. We certainly appreciate all who have given of themselves to work for the Lord through their church duties.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Aeschleman and boys on the sudden passing into eternity of Joe's mother, Sis. Mardell Aeschleman (Roanoke). We pray that the Comforter can fill the void in this earthly life and that they can meet again on heaven's shores.

The blessings of holy communion were shared by our congregation May 8. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) came to assist in the service and we truly appreciate his traveling to be with us. The closeness that communion brings through remembering Christ's broken body and shed blood upon Calvary is always uplifting.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN). As always, we do appreciate their fellowship and sharing the gospel with us.

We rejoice with Tina Fehr and Jami Steinbeck as they are looking to the Lord in repentance. May they follow the Lord's direction as they build the foundation to their salvation.

May marks the end of another

semester at the U. of I. and Parkland College. We will miss the students who have completed their studies and wish them Godspeed in their endeavors.

We also have two high school graduates this year: Doug Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Sandy Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma). It has been a joy to watch this young man and woman grow and mature. We now send them to a new plateau with our love and God's richest blessings.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

I could not believe it, but I was very certain. Those flashing red lights behind me were for me. I had been in an unfamiliar area, and when I saw the speed limit sign, I started slowing down -- but I had been going too fast for too long already. Not only that but when the policeman asked where I had been going in such a hurry, I couldn't see that he would believe it made such a difference. (And, of course, getting the ticket takes extra time. I hadn't really had to go so fast.) After that, I began to be very careful of my speed. What I found out was that I was habitually impatient and terribly leadfooted. I found going so slowly a drain on my patience, yet I began to realize how definitely I deserved that ticket! Also the Lord let me know that I might be racing through the life He has lent me in the same way. The bursts of speed and impatience are not what He has in mind for my life. The life that Jesus led, our Model, which accomplished more than I can ever hope to, does not direct me in that way -- nor does His Word. I need to pay more attention to the Lord's speed limits, for He can impose flashing red lights as well. Doing what is expedient rather than what is edifying because of my perception of time constraints is dangerous. Many verses remind us of the importance of taking time. May I be a willing learner, Lord, before Thou must issue a ticket. "For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift . . . And therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him." Isaiah 30:15, 16, 18.

We are always thankful for our visitors, especially our visiting ministers: Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL). We are also appreciative of special times together. We were granted a blessed time once again at communion the evening of May 3. Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and deacon Lenard Meyer were the instruments of the Lord on our behalf. The sacredness of the occasion reminded us of our high calling and our holy bond.

Many of us also enjoyed an extended time together on our bus trip to Lexington, KY, the end of April. It was a privilege to sing and share together on the trip itself. Our hosts in Lexington also opened their hearts and church to us. We were so well-blessed as we basked in His love reflected by them. We spent a short time at Fort Boonesborough, learning more about our country's history and crafts and tasks of the time. The more we come to know of our heritage as Americans, as Christians, the more likely we are to be able to resist inroads into the important values we find there.

A blessing for all is the repentance of a soul. Penny Stahl, daughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria, has responded to the Lord's calling of her heart. We pray for her firm foundation and rejoice with the angels above. Our hearts melt and flow together, mingling even tears of joy.

We welcome two others. Sis. Paulette Feucht has a temporary traveling nurse assignment in Lombard. We are glad for the chance to become acquainted with another worker in the Lord's vineyard.

The joy of a new child born to loving parents also envelopes us all. Azame and Sis. Rose Yahi have been granted a son Aaron. Born in April, Aaron has a big sister Leila and grandparents Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kato Bako (Akron, OH) and the

Yahis of Chicago. Our hearts are open as we pray for this growing family, so dear to us. May God continue to grant them His strength and mercy and abundant blessings.

This is the time of year when students mark milestones, one year, then two, then three. They seem to grow so fast and to reach those graduation years so quickly. We offer our congratulations and prayers to these graduates and their parents. Our eight grade graduates include Richard Badnara, Tom Bozzay, Ben Gudeman, Andrew Howell, Casey O'Shea, Kurt Pfeifer, Andrew Rassi, Brandon Rinkenberger, and Blake Stahl. Sis. Terisa Meyer and Rachel Rassi are graduating from high school. In the fall they both plan to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign. Rachael Plattner has received her Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University. May the Lord direct the steps of each one, that they may live abundant lives and make ready all their ways.

Bro. Gottlieb Lehmann was 88 when he died early in May. He and Sis. Emily had been at Elgin Resthaven for five years. She still lives there. His son, John, from the Chicago area, and daughters, Esther Cody (England) and Nancy Samuelson (South Dakota); 9 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and a sister, also survive. Three brothers and three sisters preceded him in death. A faithful brother, Gottlieb was grateful and steadfast, never more so than in these last years, giving of the "Hymns of Zion" song, "Open the Wells of Salvation," (#171) many times at Resthaven services. He came as a young man to this country from Germany, and he truly knew about trusting the Lord in a new land. (He and the Haas brothers sat on the same school bench in their small German hometown.) Of the difficulties of this life, he said, "It must go . . . We have to take it" His meek and quiet spirit, his acceptance of the Lord's will in all things, are a heritage to his children and his posterity and to all of us who were privileged to see his walk of faith -- never hearing a complaining word. We pray that the Lord may comfort the bereaved, all the family, and Sis. Emily. May we not forget them in our prayers.

June has often been called the month of weddings. I know of several anniversaries then among family and friends. However, more and more there are people who no longer celebrate anniversaries. For many reason, they are no longer committed to each other. Sadness and turmoil seem to follow in the wake of all broken commitments. Early in July we commemorate the birthday of our country. This year we may be more aware of the preciousness of our freedoms. Are we honoring our commitments of service to our country? But most importantly, we were put here on earth to bring glory to our Creator. We must make our highest commitment to Him. He gave us His ultimate sacrifice. How are we doing? Honoring a commitment means we give of ourselves. Do your prayers, as mine, sometimes reverberate with too much petition? Could we add more praise, so that we become ever more aware of the value of the One to whom we need to commit our lives. Horatius Bonar wrote "A Life of Praise": "Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God, In every part with praise That my whole being may proclaim Thy being and Thy Ways. Not for the lip of praise alone, Nor even the praising heart, I ask, but for a life made up of praise in every part. So shall no part of day or night From sacredness be free; But all my life, in every step, Be fellowship with Thee." "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:3.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Karol Stock - Bev Knapp

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 11:19

As we think of Mother's Day which has just passed and as Father's Day approaches, we think of the great responsibility we have toward our children and the future generations. What is more important than that they learn of the

ways of our Lord and His wondrous love and salvation? We are thankful for those very teachings that were placed in the hearts of dear ones in our congregation as they have now brought forth fruit. On April 24, our Sis. Helen Janssen was able to share with us her testimony of faith and was baptized into our Lord's death and suffering. Likewise, on April 28, Bro. Todd Kaeb, Sis. Valerie Kaufmann and Sis. Rachel Conrad were taken into the fold and now are sharing in the blessings of being children of God. Our elder brothers that were with us for these occasions were Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury). Other ministers who worshipped with us this month were Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). It is times like these that encourage us to work diligently as parents to teach our children the ways of the Lord.

These teachings are also important when it comes to making life-long decisions. We rejoice with Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville) and Harvey and Sis. Kate Young in the marriage of their children, Bro. Doug Young and Sis. Janet Walder on April 7. As they establish their own home, many will be the times that they draw from the teachings and examples of their believing parents.

Other children who will benefit if they heed the counsel of their parents are our high school graduates. Our 1991 graduates are Bro. Dan Walder, Greg Kaeb, Vickie Kaufmann, Derek Krumweide, David Martin, Andrea Maul, Matt Waldbeser, Derek Yergler and Jamie Young. As they embark on new experiences in life, we pray they will turn to the same God their mothers and fathers did and will strive first of all to do the Lord's will.

As we look to our parents and our older brothers and sisters-in-faith for examples, we also want to encourage them when they may become sick and discouraged. Our prayers have been with Sis. Gladys Winger and Sis. Ida Laubscher as they have been hospitalized. We are

thankful they are both among us again. In spite of their suffering, their cheerful dispositions are an inspiration to us all.

Speaking of parents, we rejoice with new parents in our congregation. Mark and Sis. Dinah Wilkening, along with Brandon, Jared and Marissa, welcomed little Micah Evan May 18. We pray for all of them as they teach him of God's love and ways.

As we rejoice with this family, we also feel a sense of loss as we bid farewell to another family. Our Bro. Lynn and Anne Marie Young and their boys have moved to the Bloomington, IL, congregation. We are thankful for the blessed times we have spent together and pray God will continue to be near them in their new home and community.

In pondering the many aspects of parenthood, we realize that much wisdom and understanding is needed to teach our children of God's ways. However, if we could use one word to describe parenthood, Charity (of God's Love), is the most important ingredient. Our Mother-Daughter dinner theme, "A Mother's Love Just Grows and Grows" helped us think about the need for that love and how important it is to teach God's love in all aspects of our children's lives.

As we continue on in our important task of parenting, let us keep God's love burning brightly so we can teach our children in all His ways!

There's a special kind of caring,
That only parents know,
That begins with that first breath of
life,
And deepens as you grow.

There's a special kind of happiness
In sharing what God's done,
In talking and in walking -
They tell of His great love.

There's a special kind of wisdom,
That God-fearing parents show,
For only with God's perfect love,
Can truth and blessings flow.

There's a special kind of comfort,
In knowing they are there.
To back you up, to cheer you up,
To understand and care.

Of all the treasures life may bring,
Godly parents share the most.
And come what may -- if tears or joy,
Their love will hold you fast.

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, and gifts and for attending our surprise birthday, making it a wonderful day we will always remember. Special thanks to our children and families for the great day. God bless you all.

Helen Lackey and
Louise (Drayer) Manz

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Becky Ott - Myra Steffen

... As you leave us to seek your
employment my boy,
By the world you have yet to be
tried.
But in each temptation and trial
you face,
May your heart in the Saviour
confide.
Hold fast to the Right, Hold fast
to the Right.
Wherever your footsteps may roam.
O forsake not the way of Salvation
my boy,
That you learned from your mother
at home.

We are thankful to have loving fathers and mothers who have taught us the way of salvation from our youth. We are especially aware of this blessing as we remember our dear fathers on Father's Day.

Also, as we see several young people who are graduating and will be taking up various posts of duty. May the teachings of their childhood stay with them. Our high school graduates include: Bro. Deron Schrock (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janet), Bro. Jim Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri), Mike Schrock (Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol), Kristi Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Brent Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria), Sis. Sara Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Larissa Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary), Sis. Lynnette Stahl (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma), Sis. Denise Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene), Mariam Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley), Dan Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn), Chris T. Miller (Chris C. and Phyl-

lis, Scot Zobrist (Amy). Graduating from Illinois Central College were: Bros. Brent Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Brad Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria). Illinois Wesleyan graduates: Jeff Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Doug Young (Sis. Janet).

We rejoice to hear of a soul turning his life to God. Brad Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) has heeded the call to repentance. May he feel God's nearness.

The engagement of Bro. Jim Roth and Sis. Deb Dietrich has been shared with us. Parents of this couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth and Bro. William J. and Sis. Sherri Dietrich. Also engaged are John Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and Jackie Sollis (Jim and Sherry, Bloomington). May God bless these dear ones.

Visiting ministers recently were Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH). May God continue to bless and guide our ministers that the Word may continue to come forth in truth.

Sis. Emma Schieber was hospitalized this month. May God grant His healing hand.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

In commemoration of Father's Day, how we love and appreciate our earthly fathers! How much more should we love and live for our Father in heaven who so lovingly supplies our every need.

Bro. Gottlieb Lehmann, 88, passed away May 7, in St. Joseph Hospital. He and his wife, Sis. Emily, who were formerly from Chicago, have been residing in the Apostolic Christian Resthaven. Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Esther Coady (Patrick, England) and Nancy Samuelson (Maynard, Brookings, SD); a son, John Lehmann (Lila, Glen Ellyn); nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Martha Fichter (Germany). Bro. Lenard Meyer of the Chicago congregation conducted the funeral service.

Saturday evening, May 4, our congregation received manifold encouragements and exhortations as

our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen so ably shared the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. We also appreciate Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) for visiting us and sharing the heavenly manna.

We do rejoice, as well as the angels in heaven, over every sinner that repenteth. Walter Schambach and Gail and Jerry Wonneberg have heeded the loving invitation. May they seek and build upon that sure foundation which is found in our dear Saviour's death and resurrection.

Sis. Lucile Knupper remains in the hospital after a unfortunate fall injuring a replaced hip. Also Sis. Anna Schmidgall had eye surgery recently. May God bless them with renewed strength and faith as we pray for them.

Stanley Paul was born April 14 to Larry and Bett Moore. He joins the family with Sarah, Shawn, and Scott. Happy grandparents are Robert and Eleanor Weiss and Barney and Velma Moore (Bloomington, IL).

May God comfort the hearts of our dear ones, Sisters Edna Bolliger and Sandra Kinsinger (Bro. Bill) who have recently been bereft. We also share our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue (Schifferer) Aeschelman in the passing of his dear mother of Roanoke, IL.

Our sincere congratulations to seven young men who will be graduating from high school soon. As they go their separate ways, we pray for God's guidance and direction in their lives. These include: Dan Cargill, (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay), Tony Feucht (Chuck and Carolyn), Scott Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peg), Tony Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean), Todd Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne), Andy Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy), and Ben Tober (Sis. Madeline).

We prayerfully support Bro. Ed Strahm and Sis. Sue Davis who were selected to teach our Sunday school youth. Our special thanks to Bro. Roger Weiss and Sis. Mary Gasser who in the past have taught our children.

My sincere appreciation for all the prayers, gifts, cards and kindness extended to me during my illness. With love, Bro. John Feucht.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

"To break Thy bread we now have gathered, In covenant to drink Thy wine; As brethren we unite together, That unto death we might be Thine." Zion's Harp #25. On April we gathered together to partake of the Lord's Supper. We thank Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Walter Anliker in serving this holy sacrament. Truly it was a holy hour.

We thank Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer, Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Glenn Dill (Tremont) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke) for visiting us and bringing forth the Word.

We have eight high school graduates: Ellen Banwart, Dan Bradle, Brent Cottrell, Alan Huber, Kent Kupferschmid, Sis. Shelly Kupferschmid, Teri Martin and Sis. Deb Schumacher. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they go out into the world either to further their education or seek employment. May they remember the Book for all life's answers - the Bible.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Claribel Anliker (Elder Bro. Walter), Sis. Sarah Blunier (Bro. Lee) and Sis. Jane Stoller (Bro. Jim). May they feel the Lord's healing touch upon them.

"This union of hearts,
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Were God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart."

Zion's Harp #79

We have two couples who have recently celebrated their "Golden Wedding Anniversaries." We sincerely wish Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley, and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman the continued blessings of the Lord in the future as He has been with them in the past 50 years of marriage. "We find a threefold cord, not lightly rent apart."

We also want to remember our dear fathers as we soon will be setting aside a day to honor them. Truly we are thankful for our earthly fathers and their important role in

the family. We also remember our Heavenly Father who gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, to be the supreme sacrifice for our sins. "Rejoice, the Father love us here, In sympathy remembers, And all the gifts we need to cheer so graciously He renders." Zion's Harp #206.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

As Father's Day approaches, we are reminded of our God-fearing fathers, who have cared and loved us. Let's respect them every day. We know that Christ is the head of the church and man is the head of the home.

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

Exodus 20:12

Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart were blessed with a baby boy, Drew Earl, May 5. Dana, David and Denise welcome home their little brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat Hartman and Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart (West Bend, IA).

We are thankful that another soul, Michael Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) has found grace to turn from the world of sin and start walking in the light of God's Word. We pray that he will be founded deeply on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Sis. Lillian Zimmerman, 89, passed into eternity April 15. She was praying and wishing that the Lord would take her home. Now our departed sister can have her heavenly reward.

Those that spent time in the hospital this month were: Sis. Dorothy Hoffman, Sis. Tami Bahler and Rodney Steidinger.

Our congregation was blessed by the ministry of visiting Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We thank them for the timely exhortations.

As the school year comes to a close, we wish our graduating seniors God's richest blessings as they

venture into the world. They are Daren Ashba (Robert and Cherie Kaisner), Tresa Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol), Bryan Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Orlyn Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma), Kara Kaisner (Robert and Cherie Kaisner), Sally Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna), Galen Schaffer (Ron Schaffer and Barb Schaffer), Dawn Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene), Rick Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne), Anna Fehr (William and Helen), Sis. Bonnie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie), Sis. Kim Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley), Bro. Phil Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Mark Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie).

To all my friends and family: I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards and gifts I received while I was in the hospital and since at home. It is all greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Sis. Dorothy Hoffman

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson

Sandra Schneider

On May 4, we gathered together to partake of holy communion.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament, which
we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5

We thank Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for serving us.

We also thank the many other visiting ministers who lent themselves to share God's Word with us. May God richly bless Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Steve Sauder (Tremont), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville).

On April 16, Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Steidinger welcomed a little son, Isaac John, into their home. His brothers and sisters are Daniel,

Laura, Joshua and Jacob. Grandparents are William and Helen Fehr and George and Caroline Steidinger.

Three dear ones needed to be hospitalized this month for a short time. We are glad Katie Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Sis. Dorothy Bachtold and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss are able to be home again.

Sis. Leona Wallace, 86, was called to her eternal reward April 28. Our sympathy is extended to her daughters, Royalene Davis and Nancy Honegger.

Bro. Dan Schlatter also has our sympathy in the death of his sister, Caroline Swanson. May God comfort each one in their loss.

Brian Bounds and Rebecca Weber have announced their engagement. Their parents are Tom and Sis. Jane Bounds and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Weber. They are planning an August 3 wedding.

Planning to be married October 5 are Jennifer Ebach and Douglas Dierkes. Bro. Lyle and Gloria Ebach and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dierkes are their parents.

June is graduation month for many of our young people. Whether it be high school or college, they have reached a milestone and are entering into another stage of life. Our high school graduates are James Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne), Kathy Agner (Timothy Priscilla), Brad Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Leslie DeFries (Alan and Peggy) and Darla Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly). May they seek God's guidance in their future lives.

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

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

If I can't find the time to wash the
floor,
Who will remember or care?
If I don't patch a hole in their old
blue jeans,
They can wear another pair.

The dust can sit right where it is,
For tomorrow there will be more.

If the day is too short to bake a cake,
I can always run to the store.

But if I forget to wipe a tear
Or to kiss an injured knee,
To cheer a frown, turn it upside
down
Til they're chuckling with glee:

If I would fail to stop and chat
When their tales are filled with woe,
To listen for unspoken words
That only sad eyes show.

If I missed the chance to see the
world
Through their precious eyes . . .
A dandelion, a crawly bug,
A rainbow in the sky,

Then I've missed a chance to share
the day
With one I hold most dear;
For God was knocking at my heart
And I was too busy to hear.

Margaret D. Nanny

This poem is a gentle reminder during the busy summer months when the children are home from school and life is so unorganized. The time that they are young goes by so fast . . . that we must be sure to teach them the important story of Jesus and impress upon them the importance of taking advantage of God's glorious plan.

We thankfully welcome our new sisters and brother to God's family. We enjoyed the testimonies and baptisms of Nancy Wittaker, Barb Brim and Josh Beer.

The services of visiting ministers are always appreciated. This month we thank Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Steph Baner (Gridley) and Steve Martin (Eureka).

Thank You Note: We very humbly thank each and every one who made our 50th anniversary so special. For those who took time to come; for those who came from a distance; and for those who had other commitments and couldn't be there, all we can say is, may God richly bless each and every one.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Vera Hei-
nold

Goodfield Silver Lining sub-
scriptions are due this month.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

"Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gaveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

On Father's Day our hearts are often drawn to the above Scripture found in the Ten Commandments. For those of us whose dear earthly fathers have passed on to their reward, some of us lament that we didn't accord them their due honor while they were alive.

One of our Sunday school teaching brothers expressed that view recently concerning his father's sudden, unexpected death. The story he told was centered on the fact that he wished he would have been more prone to telling him how much he loved him.

As he told the story, he was with his family at a nearby church fellowship hall on a July 4 holiday, when word came that his father had died suddenly. At once, he and his family drove back to Gridley. On reaching the family farm, he embraced his two younger brothers and they huddled in an emotional scene of sorrow and tears.

After awhile, he began walking around the barnyard, and pondered his father's passing. He noticed the simple things his father loved -- his garden, his orchard, the barn, the animals, etc. All at once he noticed a spade stuck silently in the ground where his Dad had left it. So vivid did the spade remind him of his dear father that he was overwhelmed. He turned his head and looked up to the skies and shouted, "Dad, I love you, I love you, I love you."

On May 21, our graduating seniors were honored with a supper at the Elms Restaurant in El Paso. Truly, we, as a church, wish our graduates well, and pray that their future successes will be built on a spiritual foundation. Our high school graduates this year are: Sisters Karin Kiefer, Elizabeth Klopfenstein and Charity Klopfenstein; and Ronald Kinkade, Whitney Maurer, Alan Miller, Hayley Schlipf, Sheila Schlipf, Mark Stoller and Jay

Wettstein.

On April 30, Bro. Timothy and Sis. Sandra Yergler became the parents of their first child, Benjamin Lewis. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm and Sis. Bernice and the late Lewis "Knute" Yergler, for whom the baby is middle-named. All are from our Gridley congregation.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Esther Yergler, Ed Meiss and Gregg Umland.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney - Cheryl Wuthrich

We rejoice that God is still calling and converting souls to Him. On May 1 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Sarah Frank. On May 4 and 5, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Andria Moushon, Bro. Billy Daniel (Sis. Sheri), Bro. Bill Kaufman (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Mary Phillips. We rejoice with them and their families.

Bro. Frank Stephens was relieved of his earthly suffering and pain May 5 when his heavenly Father called him home. May the Holy Spirit minister to his wife, Shirley; his sons, Robert, Larry and Bro. Mark; his mother, Helen Stephens; his brother, Gerald; his sisters, Jeanette Stegmaier and Donna Wirth; his grandchildren and his many friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Harold Schmidgall and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

We wish to remember the seniors as they graduate and begin their adult lives. Our prayer for them is that they "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Only then will they have the assurance that all their other needs will be met.

Bro. Myron and Sis. Anna Springer wish to thank everyone who remembered them on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Jim David

On May 5, the Peoria congregation witnessed the baptism of four dear converts: Karin Meister (Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda), Eric Hodel (Bro. Irv and Sis. Sharon), Faith Herrmann (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ardith) and Brandon Endress (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy). May they always serve the Lord with joyful hearts, and may they follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives.

It is with joy that we report the engagement of two couples. Bro. John Ginzel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Amy Rieker (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol) announced their engagement, as did Bro. Joel Hoerr (Bro. Carol and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Tania Schock (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan, Morris, MN). May God be with these young couples as they plan their lives together.

Sis. Eunice Kaisner, Bill Aeschleman, Bro. Joe Herman and Bro. Paul Meister have all been hospitalized recently. Let us pray for their successful recovery, and if possible, let us visit our hospital patients. Even a brief visit can really brighten someone's day.

We express our sincere appreciation to the following ministers for visiting our church this past month: Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Nate Stoller and Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Sis. Elsie Geef sends this thank you note: "To all the loved ones who remembered me with prayers, love, cards and gifts during my convalescence from knee surgery. Words fail to express my heartfelt appreciation. God bless all of you."

Jordan Jeffrey was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marie Hoerr April 25. Lauren welcomed Jordan home, and she is really excited about having a little brother. Jordan's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marlene Seidel (Princeville, IL).

God also blessed Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel with a precious little boy, Charlie Daniel, April 25. Renee, Rachel, Willie, Bonnie and Rosie are already helping take care of their baby brother. Charlie's

grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel, and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz.

This has been an exciting month for the Waibel family! On May 8, Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel were blessed with their first child, Jessica Lynn. Jessica's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel, and Bro. Victory and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA).

Thought for the day: If the Bible ever seems to be dry reading, why not dampen it with a little sweat from your brow?

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

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

On May 4 and 5, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four young converts: Chad Geetz (Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Jan), Lenny Martin (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Mary Lou), Krista Fehr (Matt) and Kathy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol).

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). May God bless them both for bringing the message of salvation to us.

Our congregation was deeply saddened at the sudden passing of our Sis. Mardell Aeschleman. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Bro. Joe; and her children, Bro. Joe (Champaign), Bro. Steve, Joyce Blunier, Sis. Marge Hodel, Kathy Fehr, Sis. Patty Hodel, and Bev Luginbuhl, and their spouses, all from Roanoke.

Several from our congregation have been in the hospital this past month: Joan Burton (Richard), Sis. Marge Fischer (Bro. Jerry), Sis. Cindy Leman, Bro. Dave Knapp, Bro. Lloyd Gerber and Sis. Angela Rassi (Bro. Joe). We pray that God will be with each one as they recuperate.

Levi Beer passed away May 13. We extend our sympathy to his family.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

We thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Dewayne Dill (Champaign), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). May God richly reward each one for their endless labors of love.

Little Heather Marie was born May 16 to Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy (Bradford). May God grant wisdom and guidance as they rear this little one.

Our hospital patients this month were little Trent Kaiser (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Harlan Bolliger. We are thankful they are doing well. Sis. Emma Aberle (Bro. Al) had eye surgery and we are thankful everything is fine. We are also thankful Sis. Mary Baurer is assembling with us after a long absence.

We were privileged to gather and hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Jody Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane) and Gwen Leuthold (Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane). We pray God will keep them in His loving care.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch in the passing of his brother, Lester Koch.

Janet Sinn (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen) and Thomas Hanlon (Mr. and Mrs. John Hanlon, Galesburg) were united in marriage April 27. May God bless their marriage.

The eighth grade graduates this year are Jamie and Joel Koch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy), Michael Meister (Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy), Melissa Pulfer (Kathleen), Eric Rocke (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Kathleen), Christy Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice), Kevin Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann), Jim Schweigert (Dan and Connie) and Daniel Wagenbach (Simon, Jr. and Sis. Lavonne).

The high school graduates are Sis. Sarah Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann), Rebekah Meister (Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy), Nelson Koch (Sis. Nancy Koch), Matthew Lane (Larry and Sis. Sandra), Rob Mooney (Robert and Judy), Christopher Schweigert (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky) and Jonathan Wagen-

bach (Simon, Jr. and Sis. Lavonne). May God grant them direction in their lives.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the death by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

We have recently added three new brothers and a sister to our household of faith. They are Bro. Philip Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally), Bro. Philip Kellenberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol), Bro. Brent Teubel (Bro. Dane and Sis. Pauline, Lester, IA), and Sis. Dana Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vickie). What a joy to see souls still surrendering at the foot of the cross!

On April 209, Scott Schick (Sis. Dolly and the late Bro. John) and Dawn Streitmatter (Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny, Princeville) exchanged wedding vows. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they walk life's pathway as one.

We are happy to welcome two new families to our congregation. Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen have moved here from Alto, MI. They have also just celebrated the birth of their precious new daughter, Myca Joy. Also Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner and their three sons, Grant, Logan and Kyle (Eureka) have joined us.

Congratulations to our high school graduating seniors. They are Dawn Elsasser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lona), Michelle Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally), Nate Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth), Chad Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon), Jason Monagle (Gary and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Jill Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie).

We're thankful for several visiting ministers this month. Bros. Don Braker, Nelson Beer, Wayne Miller, Dean Steffen, Jim Vierling and Randy Kellenberger.

"... But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are

behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13, 14

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

We rejoice with Sis. Rhonda Gerber (Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois Gerber) and Bro. Jay Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Kristi) as they were announced to be wed August 4. Also looking forward to a July 14 wedding are Bro. Shawn Reinard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni) and Sis. Marci Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene). We wish them God's richest blessings.

We were fortunate to witness the wedding of Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Marie) and Sis. Denise Heyerly (Bro. Ray and Sis. Amelia) April 28. We thank Bro. Carol Gerber (Bluffton North) for sharing in the day's events with us. We are happy for Bro. Brent Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann) and Sis. Rachele Funk (Sam and Sis. MaryJo Gerber) who were wed April 21. May God bless these two marriages and continue to be the center of their lives.

Congratulations to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy Isch on the birth of their grandson, Joel David, born March 26. Joel's parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch (Philadelphia, PA).

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ella Yergler, Sis. Martha Moser, Sis. Luella Aschliman (Bro. Harold), Sis. Lucille Kaehr (Bro. Walter), Bro. Russell Moser (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Lester Meyer (Sis. Carolyn).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Katie Maller and Sis. Marjorie Ringger in the death of their daughter-in-law, Sophia Maller.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Terri Mueller - Lori Kieser

We truly want to thank our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Homer Reinick (Toledo, OH), Lynn

Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) for allowing the Spirit to work through them by sharing God's Word with us.

With thankful hearts, we rejoice that three souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. May God richly bless Kurt Sundling, Jennifer Culp and Melanie Craighead as they begin their new lives in Him.

This past month we were happy to hear of two engagements. Sis. Marci Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene) is engaged to Bro. Shawn Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni Reinhard). Sis. Rhonda Gerber (Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Jay Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Christy) also have faith and believe it is God's will that they be joined in holy matrimony. May His blessings be with these dear couples.

April 21 was the wedding day for Sis. Rachele Funk (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber) and Bro. Brent Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane, Bluffton). May God bless them as they make their home together. We also wish to extend our congratulations to Sis. Laura Dubach (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda) and Bro. John Beeks (Tom and Paula) as they were united in marriage May 19.

Our congratulations to Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber on the birth of their grandson, Thye Lee, born to Dave and Andree (Gerber) Petty. God's richest blessings go to this precious baby.

Other grandparents in our congregation who have been blessed with family additions are Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger. Little Anna Laura was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Marty (Habegger) Stoller (Bluffton). Isaac and Emma were on hand to welcome their little sister home.

Our hearts were deeply saddened by the sudden death of our dear Bro. Ralph Troxel. Our sympathy is extended to his mother, Sis. Ida Troxel; his three sons, Bro. Dick (Sis. Patti), Bro. Robert (Sis. Mary Jo) and Dave (Kris); daughters, Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bro. Sam) and Sis. Connie Vidrine (Bro. Paul). He is also survived by three brothers, four sisters, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Ralph was such a loving and caring soul and our congregation will greatly miss him.

We trust that God will be with Bro. Russell Moser as he is recuperating from his surgery and we offer our prayers for his healing.

After 30 years of faithful and unwavering service, Bro. Wendell Gerber has made known that he will be leaving the pulpit to retire. We all have very fond memories of the way that Bro. Wendell used real-life situations or stories to bring about God's message. We want to wish him and his family all of God's richest blessings for being the bearer of the Living Word for so many years.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Bev Huber

Sis. Mary Hitz passed away April 28, just two weeks after her husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Sis. Jane, and Bro. Larry Nuest and their family.

On May 11 and 12, we had a blessed weekend to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. Tracey Putt, daughter of Norman and Sis. Mary Putt, and Reggie and Andy Wuethrich, sons of Bro. Robert and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich. Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) were with us to share in this special weekend.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers this past month and appreciate them coming to share with us. They are Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Walt Steffen and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Lennie Myer (Chicago, IL), Vernon Schwab and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

"While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22). This was the promise God gave after the flood that still continues to this day. Just like the promise, the Winter is over and we see Spring blossoming into Summer. In

ise, the Winter is over and we see Spring blossoming into Summer. In the same way, our lives can blossom and be given a new beginning.

A NEW LEAF

He came to my desk with a quivering lip --
The lesson was done --
"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf," he said;
"I have spoiled this one."
In place of the leaf so stained and blotted,
I gave him a new one all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes smiled --
"Do better now, my child."
I went to the throne with a quivering soul --
The old year was done --
"Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf for me?
I have spoiled this one."
He took the old leaf, soiled and blotted,
And gave me a new one all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled --
"Do better now, my child."

From *The World's Best-Loved Poems*, pg. 260

In the same way, Luke Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo) has found peace with God and is now awaiting baptism.

This past month we had many timely and loving teachings from God's Word given to us by the following visitors:

Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). They have all shown a willing servant attitude that is a wonderful example to us.

We paid tribute to our mothers at a luncheon on the first weekend in May. We were reminded of the many "hats" a mother wears during her lifetime.

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

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

LISTEN, DADS?

To get his goodnight kiss he stood
Beside my chair one night
And raised an eager face to me,
A face with love alight.

And as I gathered in my arms
The son God gave to me,
I thanked the lad for being good,
And hoped he'd always be.

His little arms crept 'round my neck,
And then I heard him say
Four simple words I can't forget --
Four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul,
To search my heart anew.
They startled me; I hear them yet.
He said, "I'll be like you."
(With apology for 'slight variation'
to unknown author)

Blessed is the child whose father has been faithful in sharing the love of the heavenly Father with him. Happy Father's Day to all Dads!

Our ladies' Spring Luncheon, held in the unique setting of an Amish home, was very well attended and enjoyed.

Congratulations to Bro. Gene and Sis. Minerva Stoller upon the arrival of a new granddaughter, Michelle Rose, at the home of Wade and Pat Stoller. The new baby has two brothers.

Sis. Mildred Schlatter has a new great-grandchild, Deborah Shari, born to her granddaughter and husband, Scott and Michelle (Schlatter) Toth, who are missionaries in Brazil. Baby Deborah is also welcomed by four sisters.

Bits of This and That:

"God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself because there is no such thing. (C. S. Lewis)

Whenever God's hand touches our lives, it leaves fingerprints of love!

It may be difficult to wait on the Lord, but it's worse to wish you had.

Life is short and we never have enough time for gladdening the

hearts of those who travel the way with us. Oh, be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. (Henri Amiel)

Every prophesy of the Bible is on target. No one can find one that is not on time.

God's work done in God's way by God's person will never lack God's supply. (J. Hudson Taylor)

For a smile: Shouting to make your children behave is like steering your car with the horn!"

(from various sources)

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

I LOVE YOU, DAD

Dear Dad, this not is to say,
I love you more and more each day;
I love you for your years of toil,
And lessons taught me of the soil,
Your struggle to provide for me
And for each blessing given free.

I love you, Dad, for gifts unseen,
And your father shoulder on which to lean,
Your firm, yet gentle touch of hand,
And the magic way you understand.
Thanks for patience kind and strong,
And the way you straightened out the wrong.

Yes, Dad, I love you for your smile,
And prayers of thanks at eventide;
Good things you've taught I hold in store;
These gifts and many, many more.
Of all the blessings I have had,
One of the greatest is you, dear Dad.

Author Unknown

Sometimes we find it difficult to measure the depth of love we have for our Christian dads, but as we attempt to reflect on this love, we can't help but view the perfect love of our heavenly Father.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Ben Beer (Sis. Kara, son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie) who recently received his degree in Electrical Engineering from Indiana Univer-

sity/Purdue University in Fort Wayne. We pray Ben will use his talents and wisdom to glorify the Lord.

This month we were blessed by the visits of Bros. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton) and Earl Kilgus (Remington). Bro. Jim lead a topical Bible discussion on The Lord's Prayer. The evening left us with a greater understanding and appreciation of that precious prayer. Bro. Earl ministered to us one Sunday when many of our home ministers were visiting other congregations. We appreciated their willingness to come and serve us.

Our hearts ache for those who must bear pain and suffering. Two elder sisters, Aldine Reimschisel and Florence Stieglitz, have been hospitalized this month. Sis. Aldine was recently transferred to Greencraft Nursing Home, while Sis. Florence remains confined in the hospital. We lift up those two dear sisters in prayer, especially during their time of need.

Is anybody happier because your
passed his way?
Does anyone remember that you
spoke to him today?
Can you say tonight, in parting with
the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of
the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what
you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were
fading now with courage look
ahead?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or
a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber,
do you think that God will say,
You have earned one more
tomorrow, by the work you did
today?

Reader's Digest

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

O, give us homes with Godly
fathers and mothers,
Who always place their hope and
trust in Him.
Whose tender patience turmoil
never bothers,

Whose calm and courage trouble
cannot dim.

A home where each finds joy in
serving others,
And love still shines, tho' days be
dark and grim.

By Barbara B. Hurt

First, my apologies to all moth-
ers who read this column. I'm sorry
I failed back in April, when I wrote
my column for the May issue, to
include a tribute to mothers.

Now with Father's Day coming
up, I chose this verse from a hymn
to honor both father and mother.
Truly, we cannot think of one with-
out thinking of the other since Chris-
tian parents are one. May such a
desire for a Godly home be instilled
in all of us.

Congratulations are due to our
graduates? We have Sara Steffen,
daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis.
Vickie Steffen, graduating from 8th
grade at the Rensselaer school.

Brian Schneider, son of Bro. Ken
and Sis. Loretta Schneider, gradu-
ates from Tri-County High School.

Sis. Sue Waibel, daughter of Bro.
Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel, gradu-
ates from Purdue University. Her
B. S. is in agriculture having ma-
jored in agronomy.

Sue's brother, Dean, received an
associate degree in Aeronautical
Technology. He plans to continue
his studies at Purdue.

We surely enjoyed having Bro.
Mike Thomas, wife and family, and
those who accompanied them from
Valparaiso, IN. It was good getting
to know each other better and to
hear his kind ministry. We thank
you, Bro. Mike, and hope you feel
welcome to come again.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

April 19 was the church clean-
ing day; a good time was had by all
as we shared a time of fellowship,
along with the work.

We were happy to have Elder
Bro. Jesse Beer come for our com-
munion service. There is a sacred
and joyous atmosphere during com-
munion when we can humbly par-
take of the offerings of bread and
wine. How wonderful it is to have
the words of Jesus Christ set down
for us in Luke 22:14-20.

Sis. Carolyn Frank took her Sun-
day school class on an outing that
included a visit to the Francesville
Nursing Home to see Bro. Dan Claus.
He took all of them out for a meal
and on a tour of the nursing home.
We're grateful to Sis. Carolyn, as
well as all the other Sunday school
teachers, for the loving guidance
they show our children.

Mother's Day was celebrated this
month with the Sunday school chil-
dren serving lunch, which was ap-
preciated by all.

You are the bows from which
your children as living arrows are
sent forth.

Kahlil Gibran

We pray that God will continue
to lead us as we send forth our
"living arrows."

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

Happiness is like manna; it is to
be gathered in grains, and enjoyed
every day. It will not keep; it cannot
be accumulated; nor have we got to
go out of ourselves or into remote
places to gather it, since it is rained
down from heaven, at our very doors.

Tryon Edwards

We were thankful, privileged and
blessed to partake of the Lord's Sup-
per May 4, and thank Elder Bros
Dale Eisenmann and Jesse Beer
(Milford) who gave of their talents
and love.

On another happy occasion this
month, Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene
Frieden were privileged to celebrate
their 50 years together.

Also, we'd like to congratulate
our two college graduates this month,
namely Sis. Sheryl and Larry
Bucher.

We enjoyed also Bro. Bob Meyer
visiting and ministering here in Val-
paraiso.

It's so renewing of spirit to see
spring burst forth, green growing
things, beautiful flowers, fruit trees
in bloom and time to plant again. So
soon the month of roses is here.

Mothers were also remembered
with love and special occasions.

Mother Love -- God's gift to His
children,
With heavenly fragrance fraught,
The brightest flower in God's
garden,
His truest forget-me-not.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Tracey Putt

We recently were blessed by our dedication service to dedicate our new fellowship hall to the Lord. Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) was our visiting minister. We were so uplifted by seeing so many of our friends and relatives there to show their support. After the service, we enjoyed wonderful fellowship and refreshments. It was such a blessing to end the school year with so many loved ones at the service.

On April 22, the Purdue Young Group, along with friends and families of the surrounding area, enjoyed our bi-annual picnic at Happy Hallow Park. We had a terrific turnout and after the food and fellowship, we elected new officers for the upcoming year. The new officers are: president - Matt Gudeman; vice president - Jason Furrer; secretary - Tracey Putt; and treasurer - Lisa Anliker. We really appreciate all of the hard work that the past officers put forth in making the year a success.

The close of the school year also means the end of our regular scheduled services at Purdue; however, a summer service is scheduled for July 11. We hope to see a big crowd assembled with us in July to hear the beautiful words of our Lord and to give praise to His holy name.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

Believing it is God's perfect will, our Sis. Sandy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) has made known her engagement to Bro. James Hartter (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie, Sabetha, KS). We rejoice with them and wish them many blessings as they look to God to direct their lives together as one in Him.

Our thoughts and prayers have

also been with those requiring medical attention. Our Sis. Josephine Farney submitted to knee surgery and Sis. Edna Kyburz to surgery on her hands. We are thankful that both have seemed successful in relieving the pain they have endured so patiently. Also, Sis. Frances Bahler recently suffered a hand injury. We pray for God's healing touch on each of these dear ones.

As we approach Father's Day, we want to express a special thanks to our dear dads and husbands for all their selfless deeds for us and our children.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER

A father is a guiding light
Sent to us from above.
He listens to our sorrows
And soothes them with his love.

A father is a teacher
Whose place no one could take,
For he's the source from which
We learn to think and navigate.

A father is a gift from God
From which we learn to be
Patient, strong and loving,
Filled with integrity.
Byron P. Tousignant

We pray God's blessings upon
all fathers. May they be granted a
double portion of God's grace and
wisdom to fulfill this great responsibility
of fatherhood.

There are little eyes upon you,
And they're watching night and
day;

There are little ears that quickly
Take in everything you say,
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

Author Unknown

Our hearts are also filled with
gratitude for our heavenly Father
who so lovingly adopted us as His
own sons and daughters, though
we were so wretched and unde-
serving.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We are thankful Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) could be with us and teach us from the Word of Life. We pray God will bless him for his efforts.

Bro. Paul Eisenmann had the misfortune of breaking his leg, but we are thankful it is healing and he can again minister to us.

April 19 we were happy to hear the betrothal of Sis. Karla Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) to Bro. Dave Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby, Oakville). We wish them continued guidance and blessings from above as they plan their wedding.

Our sincere prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Verna Woodward and her family in the passing of her mother, Sis. Bertha Wagenbach. We pray she can feel God's comforting Spirit in her loss as her mother will surely be missed. We are thankful for the beautiful hope of meeting our loved ones again in the realms of heaven.

O the friends that now are waiting,
In the cloudless realms of day,
Who are calling me to follow
Where their steps have led the way;
They have laid aside their armor,
And their earthly course is run;
They have kept the faith with
patience
And their crown of life is won.

They have laid aside their armor
For the robe of spotless white;
And with Jesus they are walking
Where the river sparkles bright.
We have labored here together
We have labored side by side,
Just a little while before me
They have crossed the rolling tide.

On those dear familiar faces
There will be no trace of care;
Every sigh was hushed forever
At the palace gate so fair.
I shall see them, I shall know them,
I shall hear their song of love,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
In our Father's house above.

Chorus:

They are calling, gently calling
Sweetly calling me to come,
And I'm looking thro' the shadows
For the blessed lights of home.

Gospel Hymns #791

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

A blessed time was shared as we hosted the single groups from the Iowa churches the first weekend in May. Our thanks to all who came to worship and fellowship with us.

Danette Moore (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl) and Gene Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Lavern) are our high school graduates. It is quite an accomplishment to complete 13 years of school. It brings you to your commencement which is not the ending but the beginning of many new challenges. May God go with you and guide you each step of the way.

College graduates are Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Lavern), Bro. Byron Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Mark Fehr (Sis. Janet). All have completed two-year courses at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar. Also, Sis. June Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) has completed four years at U.N.I. in Cedar Falls.

Meet today and part tomorrow

Smiles of joy and tears of sorrow
Such is human life.

Christian friendship is a treasure

Pure in nature, rich in measure
Filling us with pleasure.

While the moments last . . .

While the moments last.

Over the years we have been blessed with young folks coming to this area while furthering their education in their chosen fields. Each have been a blessing to us but the parting hour comes. It brings sadness to bid farewell but we are thankful for the time they spent with us and the memories they leave behind.

Again the parting hour has come and we bid farewell to Bro. Byron, Bro. Mark, Sis. Janet and Sis. June as they return to their homes in West Bend. God bless you all.

Sis. Marie Butikofer would like to thank all who remembered her with cards and letters on her 101st birthday.

I placed myself in Jesus' hands
And there abide forever

No griefs, no joys shall loose the
bands

Nor yet our union sever!
In these dread days when earth
decays,

Who stays in Him and thus obeys
Shall be preserved forever.

Zion's Harp #177

Sis. Marie reports that her mother found comfort when opening to these words before leaving her family in native Switzerland to come to America with her new husband. The words also brought her comfort down through the years as they do to us today.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A heartfelt "thank you" to all who travelled to assemble with us this month. Among our visitors were Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) who shared with us the memorandum and exhortation for communion. We thank them and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch (Elgin, IA) who travelled with them to share the evening.

Also visiting us this month were ministering Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and their families. May God richly reward each of you for your efforts of love.

We congratulate Sis. Wendy Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce) on graduating from high school. We trust as she has committed her life to God, she will continue to search out His will in the many decisions facing her in the days and years ahead. How comforting it is to leave the future in God's hands, knowing He will provide what is best for us!

Being perplexed, I say,
"Lord, make it right!
Night is as day to Thee,
Darkness as light.

I am afraid to touch
Things that involve so much;
My trembling hand may shake,
My skillless hand may break;
Thine can make no mistake."

Being in doubt I say,
"Lord, make it plain;

Which is the true, safe way?

Which would be gain?

I am not wise to know,

Nor sure of foot to go;

What is so clear to Thee,

Lord, make it clear to me!"

Streams in the Desert

Surely this prayer is applicable for all of us who daily search out God's will in our lives.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

God has blessed the lives of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger with a new baby girl. Amanda Jane was born May 14 and joins two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler (West Bend).

Another school year is about to end and graduations are here once again. Our best wishes along with many prayers for God's blessings are extended to both high school and college graduates.

The high school graduates are as follows: Brad Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Tricia Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Craig Knobloch (Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee), Eric Gerber (Jim and Sis. Suzanne), Stuart Moser (James), Darin Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherry), Blake Wysong (Jack and Sis. Janet), Wade Popkes (Sis. Eleanor) and Pam Van Houten. Foreign exchange students graduating are Ovidio Garza from Mexico (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold) and Katja Hurskainen from Finland (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch).

College graduates are Stephanie Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte), Bro. Stan Knobloch (Sis. Dawn), Paula Vogel, Steve Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Todd Martin (Ed and Judy) and Jason Feucht (Jerry and Judy).

We wish to offer love and thanks to our fathers, not only on Father's Day, but each day of our lives. But as Father's Day is set aside each year, we reflect on the many times our fathers so willingly gave of themselves throughout our lives. May each one be blessed.

Much more should we honor and

thank our heavenly Father for the many blessings and love he so willingly showers down upon us. His promise is sure and if we are obedient to His Word and follow that narrow path, we have a promise of life eternal in the heavens above. Might we all strive to that end.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life . . ."

Zion's Harp #237

April 21 was the wedding day of Bro. Mark Musselman and Sis. Dana Massner. We wish this dear couple the Lord's blessings and guidance as they become one in Him. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman (Pulaski) and Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee Massner.

Our prayers and best wishes are extended to Bro. David Eberhardt and Sis. Karla Massner (Burlington) as they have recently announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington).

We are rejoicing with two dear families as they welcome new little babies into their hearts and home. Whitney Lynne was born to Bro. Colin and Sis. Barbara Wagenbach April 29. Helping to welcome her into this world are big brother, Reilly, and sisters, Alicen and Carly. Also rejoicing are Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Sis. Hilda Gerst, grandparents of Whitney.

A precious baby boy was born May 10 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach. They have named him Jaydon Jon. Brittny and Lindsay are sure excited to have a little brother. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Sr. and Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington). A special prayer goes out for these dear couples as they strive to raise their children in this evil world.

On May 11, we laid to rest a dear sister and pillar of our congregation. After a recent illness, Sis. Bertha Wagenbach has received the

reward she has so longed for. Our sympathy is extended to dear family. It just never seems to be easy to lay a dear one to rest. She is survived by three sons, Bros. Paul Wagenbach and Gerald Wagenbach, Sr. and John Wagenbach, Jr.; nine daughters, Sisters Verna Woodward (Burlington), Ada Massner, Barbara Massner, Dorothy Schulz and Edith Wagenbach (Morton, IL), Emma Jean Lanz, Bertha Lee Massner, Dolores Anliker and Teresa Marti; one sister, Sis. Emma Gerst; three brothers, Bros. Chris, Les and Richard Gerst; also 53 grandchildren and 71 great-grandchildren. Besides being such a light and example to so many of us that are younger, Sis. Bertha's life has blest many in our congregation as a lot of it is made up of her relatives. We surely rejoice with her but pray for her family as they feel a deep loss. May the Lord ever comfort their hearts.

Our prayers are with Bro. Doug Weiss as we welcome him into our brotherhood. The Lord was surely with him as he brought his testimony before our congregation. We just pray Bro. Doug and his wife, Bonnie, can feel the love and support of our brotherhood.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Russell Wuthrich and Doug Schock (Pulaski), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Carl Weiss (Washington, IL) and John Rowell (Burlington). We thank each of these brothers for expounding to us the precious truth of God's Word.

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

As of this writing, we here in the Pulaski area are experiencing a very wet spring-time season. In just a matter of a few years, we have seen some opposite extreme-like weather conditions. Realizing nature is all in God's hand, we just watch and marvel at His creation and its changing ways.

A word of encouragement to all fathers, to be the light and example, foremost and first, to one's very own household and loved ones.

Visiting us this past month was

Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). We thank him for the "wonderful words of life."

Little Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) had eye surgery. We're glad he didn't have to stay overnight at the hospital and is doing real good.

April 21 was the wedding day for Bro. Mark Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Dana Massner (Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha). Many from Pulaski traveled to Oakville to witness this union.

Just in time for Mother's Day, Gunnar Kline was born May 9 to first-time parents, Curt and Kristi Kline (Des Moines). Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich.

Thank You Note: I wish to thank our loved ones for their prayers, cards, gifts and visits of love while I was in the hospital and since being home. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Richard Teubel

IOWA, WEST BEND
Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

God has blessed us with messengers of the Gospel this past month. Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) shared communion with us April 14. It is such a blessing to rededicate our lives to the Lord. To be able to search the heart and renew our vows is so refreshing. Other brothers who shared God's message this month were: Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Alphai Moser (Morris, MN) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA).

On April 21, Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber observed their 50th wedding anniversary at the fellowship center, hosted by their children and grandchildren. They are very appreciative of everyone who remembered them at this special time.

John and Cindy Bruellman welcomed Melinda Sue into their family April 18. Big brothers and sister, Mike, Jonna and Calvin, will be on hand to help with her care. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Sarasota) and Margaret Harms (Algona). May God di-

rect their lives as they raise their family.

We are thankful Bro. Arnold Metzger can be home recuperating after submitting to knee surgery. May God continue to share healing to him.

May 3 was the wedding date for Lynn Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille) and David Petersen (Norman and Joyce). Sis. Pat Banwart hosted a reception at our fellowship center April 27 for her son, Steve and Kris Banwart, who were recently married in California. We pray that God will direct and bless both of these couples.

Remembering our mothers on Mother's Day as we speak of:

MOTHER'S LOVE

You can't define a mother's love.
It's faith and hope and power.
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.
You can't define a mother's love.
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a tear.
You can't define a mother's love;
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a mother's love is
found
The path that leads to Him.

Memorial Day is a good time to remember our wonderful heritage and some of the blessings we do so take for granted. But much more let us remember the freedom of heart that has been our privilege because Christ was willing to pay a price on the Cross.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

On April 28 we had our annual business meeting. We are thankful to the Lord for His continued blessings upon our small church.

The first week in May is known as Golden Week in Japan since it contains three national holidays. On Boys' Day, the Sunday school children, along with a few adults, joined the Shioda church for a fishing trip and fish fry in the mountains.

Sis. Marie Inoue's Uncle Fred and Aunt Marge (Wuethrich) Hess

came to Japan. It was a blessing being able to fellowship with them.

Bro. Tim Martin (Morton, IL) was recently transferred to Japan for a couple of years. We welcome him and count it a special blessing to have another believer assemble in our small church.

KANSAS, BERN Diane Kaeb - Kathy Strahm

THE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God most
High?

Zion's Harp #113

After much prayer and careful consideration that God direct and reveal to us a brother to take a place on the pulpit with our other ministering brothers, our support was shown for Bro. Galen Rokey. As Bro. Galen undertakes the duties and responsibilities of this calling may he and Sis. Nancy feel the Spirit of God blessing, directing and even giving words to utter as he stands before us. If we read further in Hymn #113 we find . . . 'The love of God dispels the fear and makes my faith in Him more dear.' Surely Bro. Galen can feel the love of God and the love and support from our congregation.

We do so appreciate and esteem our ministering brothers as they willingly labour among us. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and his family spent a Lord's Day of worship with us April 28. Bro. Roger spoke about charity; that charity never faileth, how we need to apply it in our efforts to live our lives more Christ-like.

Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) also was with us at Bern assisting our Elder Bro. John in the serving of holy communion. On April 21 it was our privilege to partake of this holy sacrament, made possible only by Jesus' suffering and love for

us. We thank Bro. Sam for his service at this most solemn occasion.

On that same weekend our eighth grade through high school age Sunday school students traveled to Lamont, KS, for a time of fellowship and worship services together with other Kansas area youths. Our thanks go to the brothers, sisters and young folks at Lamont who helped make the trip enjoyable.

Jesse Curtis Grimm, infant son of Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharon Grimm, arrived to be a part of their family May 6. His grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie Grimm and Francis Mason (Topeka). Also happy for a new granddaughter are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Weneta Plattner as little Lena Marie Hartter was born to Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha). May God bless these precious babes as they learn and grow in the love of a Christian home.

Proverbs 4:1-2 tells us, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law." As we remember our fathers June 16, let's be thankful we have our dear fathers who are loving and God-fearing to give us good doctrine we can follow.

Congratulations are extended to Michelle Rokey, daughter of Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda, as she graduates from nurses' training June 28. We pray Michelle will seek the Spirit's guidance in her life as it unfolds before her following graduation.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

I inadvertently forgot to mention last month that Kayla Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie) graduated from senior high school. She plans on going to college, majoring in journalism/communications.

We thank our ministering brethren for their efforts in bringing forth the Word to nurture and encourage us in our spiritual walk of life. Visiting ministers include Bros. Larry Winger (Latty, OH), Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS).

Our prayers and thoughts are

with Sis. Leona Kraft who recently had surgery. She has been residing at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Sabetha.

**KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIV.
Michelle Braker**

The spring semester has come to an end and as we look back, we have learned many good teachings. We would like to thank the ministers who took time out of their busy schedules to teach the Word to us Wednesday nights. They would include Bros. Alpha Strahm and Darrel Stoller (Bern), Jay Luthi and Bill Emch (Lamont) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita).

This year there are three seniors who graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. They are Shari Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois, Bern) in Elementary Education, Bro. Todd Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda, Bern) in Agriculture Technology Management, and Sis. Michelle Braker (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) in Accounting. Also, Tamara Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn, Sabetha) and Sis. Diane Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise, Bern) plan to transfer to another college to finish their degrees. We wish all of them God's blessings.

On May 8 we enjoyed a picnic at a nearby park to finish off the semester. It was nice to fellowship with people of like mind and like faith. We would like to extend our thanks to those who made the picnic a success.

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

THE GOLDEN HARVEST

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Children come the grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine;
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of
grain?

He who gathers not at harvest,
Will a beggar be at last.
Therefore rise today and labor,
Gath'ring golden sheaves with
haste!

Chorus:
Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Harvest; a busy time of year for the wheat growers in our area. Comparing it to the above song from our Hymns of Zion, I again have to marvel at the awesome wonder of our God: That tiny seed is sown in the fall, dies, and springs up green until the spring when it heads out and ripens for the harvest. Then it is cut and taken to the elevators where the good is separated from the chaff. The chaff is destroyed, and the good is used for so many things in our lives. Likewise, as the seed has been sown in our hearts by our beloved parents, we have the responsibility of sowing it in the hearts of our children, friends or family, praying that when our lives are over, we may be accounted worthy to enter into everlasting life rather than be as the chaff and suffer eternal destruction forever. Precious Lord, may we all "gladly do our part," that many more might be saved before the day of grace is ended.

Our choir (Kiowa, Wichita and Fort Scott) had the privilege of traveling to the Denver, CO, church one weekend this month. It was a truly blessed trip and we extend our deepest thanks to our brethren in Denver for the love and fellowship we enjoyed.

It was our turn to hold services at the Lifecare Mother's Day, and though our group was smaller than usual, we had a wonderful time.

Sis. Dorothy Brown was our only hospital patient this month, but we have several others who are not well also, and cannot worship with us on Sunday. We miss each one and pray God will be ever near to

grant them peace in their pain.

Dedicated to our parents on
Mother's and Father's Day:

- P - is for Patience through life's
passing years.
A - is for Always showing how much
you care.
R - is for Reaching out to show us
the way.
E - is how Earnestly you took time
to pray.
N - is our Need for your guidance
and advice.
T - is for Teaching us to trust God
with our lives.
S - is for Sharing your love, faith,
belief and sowing the seed
that eternal life we may
receive.

Thanks Mom and Dad, we love
you!

**KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch**

On April 27 and 28, we experienced that true "Christian Friendship" when couples were invited to share the weekend with us. We certainly appreciate the efforts of Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God richly bless them.

Our retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker had the misfortune of falling and breaking his leg. May God's unending love and healing power be with him as he endures this physical affliction.

Graduation is here once again and we extend our best wishes and God's blessings to our three graduates. Jeff Burnham (Bro. Max) and Jennifer Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) graduated from nurses training. May each one beseech God's divine guidance as they further their education or seek employment.

As a day has been set aside for fathers, truly we can be thankful for those dads who brought us up in the way of the Lord. Most of all, may we be thankful for our heavenly Father who has provided the way of salvation.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

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

While many of us are enjoying the great outdoors and the beauty of the season, we do not want to forget that there are those who for health reasons cannot come and go as we. Sis. Leona Kraft has recently been hospitalized for surgery. We hope her recovery will be speedy so she can soon be up and about. We are pleased to report that Bro. Eli Meyer is feeling much better after having surgery.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth Hartter are thankful their little daughter, Lena Marie, has safely arrived. Lena was born April 19, and is welcomed home by her brother Jacob. Lena's grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern).

On April 20 and 21, grades eight through twelve of our Sunday school were week-end guests of the Lamont church. We want to thank the Lamont congregation for all the planning and efforts put forth to make this a memorable and blessed time together.

Our church enjoyed many visitors on the Sunday of May 5 when family came to help Bro. Joe Steiner celebrate his ninetieth birthday. Among those present was Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City) who shared the Word of Life to us. We are always happy and thankful for our visitors.

The engagement of Bro. James Hartter (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie) to Sis. Sandy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) was made known Mother's Day. We wish Bro. James and Sis. Sandy God's nearness and blessings as they make plans for their future together.

Last month we were reminded of the goodness of our "mothers;" let us now take time to acknowledge the appreciation we have for our fathers. For those who may have lost their spouse, or for some reason are an only parent, we pray a special blessing for you. May God help you to see and understand the needs of those who depend on you for their love and care.

We want to congratulate our high school graduates for their accomplishments. They are Rachel Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Bro.

Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen), Shawn Harold (Jim and Beth McGuire), Bro. Gale Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marion), Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) and Troy Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon). As these loved ones venture on in life, may the choices they make be directed by God, and surely His blessings will follow.

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

Sis. Ann Warner and her family hosted our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet Saturday, May 11. This event is a special time of renewing friendships and associations developed through the Wichita church.

A church reception is planned for our graduates May 29. Graduating from high school are Melanie Epps (daughter of Bill and Nancy) and Teresa Gallegos (foreign exchange student living with the Max Reimschisel family). Sis. Laurie Galatin will be honored as our college graduate.

Teresa Gallegos will return to Chichuahua, Mexico, June 4. When I asked her what was special about spending a year in the States, she quickly answered, "My family." It was been a rewarding experience for our congregation to know Terri. One can easily recognize the mutual love and respect that flows between her and her hosts, Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel and family. Terri hopes to continue her education at the University of Texas at El Paso with a major in business management. We trust the Lord will direct her paths wherever she goes.

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

There is beauty all around,
When there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home.
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Kindly heaven smiles above,
When there's love at home;
All the earth is filled with love,
When there's love at home.
Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
Brighter beams the azure sky;
O there's One who smiles on high,
When there's love at home.

We honored our mothers recently at our Mother-Daughter banquet held May 11. It was a nice afternoon and we were reminded how quickly the years with our children are swallowed up and we see them growing before our eyes and having families of their own. A few mothers and their daughters put on a skit that left tears on the faces of many mothers who were reminded of the preciousness of those days.

We are thankful for our mothers and the sacrifices they surely made for us and the many prayers they gave for us. And truly no matter what the world would have us believe with so many mothers in the work force today, being home with our children is still the most important "job" that we can do and the Lord will bless our efforts if we only trust in Him!

Those who were in the hospital this past month were Michelle Blough (Martin) for surgery and her father-in-law, Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite). We are thankful that Bro. Noah did not have anything serious when he went in for tests on his heart. We are again reminded of the healing powers of our precious Lord and Saviour!

Visiting here in Alto to minister the Word was Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and we ask the Lord's blessings for him and his family for traveling and giving of themselves in the service of the Lord! We are always glad to meet and greet those who are traveling near Alto and hope to see many of you this summer!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Peggy Waibel**

Bay City has received many blessings from God this month. Each one, coming in its own special package.

Grace is the first blessings that was shared with one very special

friend in our congregation. Rhonda Knochel (Ron and Kathryn Wack-erle), through God's grace, surrendered her heart and life to the cleansing touch of the Master's hand. Thank God that He can take a sinner like you and me and make us instruments in His service.

Baptism is another one of God's many blessings. Through the waters of baptism, Bro. Jim, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kay Knochel all felt the wonders of new life in the Lord. We praise God for His continued faithfulness and welcome Bros. Jim and Tom, and Sis. Kay into the family of God.

The blessing of inspiration was endowed upon Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) as he spent a weekend in our Bay City congregation. We deeply appreciated his inspiring messages as given to him by God and may we remember the words of Bro. Doyle when he prayed; "Lord burden my heart with what burdens Yours." Maybe the outlook we have on life would change dramatically if we prayed that humble prayer.

The fourth blessing, is the blessing of healing. Ed Wieland, Sis. Elizabeth Waibel and Sis. Loretta Mosher were all hospitalized this month. But God was merciful and extended His healing hand to each one.

May God continue to work in your life in this new month, and remember that:

"... He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Marlene Reinhard

Holly Barton

"There shall be showers of blessings..." (Gospel Hymns #315). We, in Detroit, have been "flooded" with spiritual blessings this past month! We were richly reminded, in various ways, of the new life that is in us as believers in Jesus Christ. The Goodfield choir presented this message in song to us the weekend of April 20 and 21. We wish to thank them and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger, who came along with them and

preached the same gospel message Sunday.

Our congregation received a blessing when we hosted the meeting of the representatives of the long-term care facilities the following weekend. Thanks to all who participated in this effort and a special thank-you to Bro. Tim Sauder who gave us a presentation on the Children's Home, and to ministering Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

We were doubly blessed the weekend of May 4 and 5. On Saturday we were vividly reminded of the life and hope we have in our Lord and Saviour as we partook of holy communion. Surely only Calvary is where we, and all mankind, can find this new abundant life. On Sunday we had evidence of how the Lord continues to provide for His flock as we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) as our deacon. We hope that Bro. Mark and his family can feel our prayers and support as he takes on this additional responsibility. We were grateful for the presence and service of Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for these special and solemn occasions.

May 18 and 19 was a time of yet another beautiful reminder of God's love and mercy as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Mike Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) and Sis. Trudy Schmidt (Bill). Both were able to testify of the new life that God has given them through their faith in Jesus Christ. We pray that God who "hath begun a good work in [them] will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6). We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Sam Schlatter (both of Junction, OH) for sharing this weekend with us. Also, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. John Popp (Budapest, Hungary) minister to us Sunday. Special thanks to Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) for translating Bro. John's message for us.

Several young people in our congregation have completed a chapter in their lives. Eric Gudeman (Sis.

Ruth) has graduated from Michigan State University in Business Administration. Alan Gleichman (Bro. John and Sis. Martha), also from MSU, is now pursuing a career in Electrical Engineering. Karen Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) has completed a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Oakland University and Sis. Harriet Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) has finished her degree in Accounting at the University of Windsor. We congratulate these four graduates and pray that God will lead them in the paths He has planned for them.

Our congregation was delighted to hear of the engagement of Sis. Shelle Massner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Greg Schumacher (Washington, IL). Sis. Shelle was part of our congregation for several years and still holds a special place in our hearts. We pray that God will bless them in their future life together.

A tiny new life has come to bless the lives of Bro. Von and Sis. Janell Ringger. Lauren Elizabeth, their first child, is also welcomed by grand-parents, Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger (Oakville, IA) and Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN).

As there is joy in our lives, so there are disappointments and sorrows. We sympathize with Carole Maibach (Bro. Doug) on the loss of her grandfather, Frank Baseford, and with Marsha and Walter Henschke on the loss of his mother, Olga Henschke. We also pray for God's continued healing for Sis. Anne Tacher, who broke her shoulder, and Sis. Bev Bahr (Bro. Mark), who had surgery on her ear.

We welcome Bro. Tim Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) home from an extended stay in Haiti, but we are saddened to have to say farewell to our dear Bro. Nick, Sis. Suzanne, Chet and Whitney Gutwein. They have relocated to New Jersey and will be attending the Philadelphia, PA, church. We are thankful for the years they have spent and the contributions they have made here in Detroit and wish God's continued blessings and guidance for the.

We wish to thank all who participated in our Woodhaven Craft and Bake Sale May 17 and 18. Special

thanks also go to Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), who conducted our monthly services at Woodhaven. Our next service will be Tuesday, July 9, at 7:00, hosted by Toledo, OH.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Marcy Schmidgall

Throughout the year, we need to keep our "spiritual" house in order and ready for the Lord's return. But, at this time of the year, we need to get our "physical" church in order. As we have had our annual church cleaning and business meeting, we wish God's grace to those who have been elected to hold an office. Realizing the responsibility this is, we also pray for those brothers and sisters.

We bid a blessed farewell to Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall who moved to Hancock, MN, this month. We will miss them very much, as they have been "lights" to all of us. We wish them God's blessings in their new employment, home, and church. Also, leaving us the end of May, is Sis. Melody Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA) who has finished school and will be going to Sioux Falls, SD, for an internship. God bless and keep her until we meet again.

Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) were here this month to fellowship with us and to minister God's Word. We appreciated their guidance and direction as inspired by God.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

The month of May usually means another school year has come to an end for school-age children. For some, it means the goal of graduation has been attained. The high school graduates of the Morris congregation are: Bob Dommick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Carter Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Jamie Joos (Jerry and Cathy), Jeri Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne), Annette Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Lori Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte), Sis. Michelle Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Charlotte), Sis. Michelle Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) and Mary Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and

Sis. Linda). We pray that these graduates will seek God's direction for their future plans.

A farewell potluck and singing was held April 28 as we bid Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer a fond farewell. They have moved to Peoria, IL. We wish them God's blessings in their new home.

We welcome Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall and their son, Austin, to our congregation. They have moved here from Minneapolis. We trust the Lord will bless them as they worship and fellowship with us.

We are grateful for our faithful ministering brethren who willingly preach the Word from Sunday to Sunday. We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS).

Everyone must experience illness and bodily afflictions at various times in our lives. Those of our congregation requiring medical treatment or hospitalization were: Sis. Julie Gramm (Bro. Rick), Sis. Kathy Nohl, Sis. Doris Koehl (Bro. Edwin), Sis. Doris Zeltwanger, Sis. Barbara Schmidgall (Bro. Gilbert) and Bro. Ernest Koehl (Sis. Gladys). May God comfort and strengthen those who wait upon Him.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) were present to assist Elder Bro. Harold Messner with holy communion. May God richly bless them in their labors of love. At this time it was made known that Elder Bro. Harold Messner would be taking a temporary leave of absence from his elder duties.

We had our annual Sunday school voting and Bro. Marlyn Messner and Sis. Carol Ann Messner were voted in as teachers, with Bro. Paul Messner and Sis. Joleen Messner as substitutes. Superintendent responsibilities fell on Bro. Marlyn.

After a fall, Sis. Ceclina Schmidt was hospitalized for a short time

and now resides in the Burn's Manor Nursing Home in Hutchinson, MN.

We pray that God's healing hand will be upon those that are suffering with health problems at this time and may they accept His guidance.

We are thankful for God's grace in calling friend, Jan Messner (Bro. Paul), (Bro. Don and Sis. Viola, Peoria, IL) to repentance. She now has received his precious gift of peace and awaits baptism.

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

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martin Hohulin
Janel Kellenberger

Our prayerful support and sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Edna Frieden. She was lovingly cared for by her family until God called her home May 16. She is survived by Gary Frieden (Norma), Lon Frieden (Virginia), Sis. Janice Frieden, Tim Frieden (Brenda), all of Lamar.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller welcome Heidi Dawn. Enjoying their new sister are Robin, Phil, Kristen, Greg, Dana, Lisa and Rachel.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Mark Leman

Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and ministering Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) joined us May 5 for our annual business meeting and communion service. We thank these brothers for their efforts. Also ministering to us this past month were Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

At the business meeting nominations were taken to fill two va-

cant positions. Bro. Jerry Leuthold was put in as a church trustee and Bro. Kevin Leman was selected to help teach Sunday school. We pray that the Lord will give these brothers an extra measure of grace to help them in their duties.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

Pondering about the day that is set aside to honor fathers brought to mind the song "Faith Of Our Fathers." How precious it is to have had fathers that have taught us about our loving Saviour and our heavenly Father. No one truly can realize the importance of a father in the home unless you have been reared in a home without a father. We pray God will grant a special blessing to all the fathers.

Grandparents Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge Gerst are delighted to report Kayla Ann Gerst, born April 23 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jay Gerst (Atlanta, GA) is doing well. Fatherhood and motherhood was especially exciting to first-time parents, Kevin and Robin Hodel (Atlanta, GA), with the birth of twins, Reuben John and Emily Marie, May 5. Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel are the grandparents from here. The Mark Gersts and Kevin Hodels were recently transferred to the Atlanta area. Mark's address is 1912 Greenhouse, Alpharetta, GA 30202. Kevin's address is 2181 Dee Dee Trail, Buford, GA 30518.

Sis. Kris Sutter (Bro. Jim) submitted to surgery this month and is doing well. Bro. William Cottrell is presently at home, enduring complications of Parkinson's and is an inspiration to all of us.

A blessed and joyful occasion May 19 was the baptism of two dear souls, Jamie Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann) and Tammy Grimm (Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona). We wish them God's grace in their new walk of life.

My life, my love I give to thee,
Thou Lamb of God, who died for me;
Oh, may I ever faithful be,
My Saviour and my God.
(I'll Live for Him - C.R. Dunbar)

Sis. Jamie Knapp was our only

graduate from high school this year. Sis. Susan (Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann) received her degree in nursing. "The Lord preserveth all them that love Him." (Psalms 145:20). May He guide their pathways.

Tragedy struck our neighborhood when Kelly Tallman, 20 years old, died suddenly from injuries in an auto accident. Kelly had been attending our church. It is a very grim reminder of the shortness of life. One of his favorite songs was "A Beautiful Life", which begins with "Each day I'll do a golden deed".

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Ken Weuthrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). May God bless each one for sharing God's Word with us.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

We gathered together Saturday evening, May 18, to hear the encouragement and loving guidelines which were shared with us through the reading of the memorandum of the August conference. May this serve as another reminder to each of us of our important duties and responsibilities which must be carried out each day in whatever station of life we find ourselves. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and his wife, Sis. Lea, for traveling to share this weekend with us and for Bro. Ed's service to God in the messages he shared with us. Our thanks also go to our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Duane Farney for sharing the memorandum to us and for their love and concern each day for us.

We are happy to report that Bro. Leland Hirschey has completed his schedule of radiation treatment and can assemble with us each Sunday and continue his duties in the ministry. Bro. Leland wishes to thank each one who has remembered him in prayer and may we continue to pray for him as he will soon begin a series of chemotherapy. May God be his Great Healer and continue to be with him in the coming days.

Sis. Corinne Virkler has been unable to assemble with us for many weeks. She recently underwent cataract surgery. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of our dear ones who cannot be with us on Sunday. They are missed in our small congregation. May God stay near each of them.

Tim Virkler, son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae, graduated from Clarkson University. As he looks forward to another phase in his life, may God be his guide in whatever his undertakings will be.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"A June bride," a common saying for the bride whose engagement comes to a June wedding. The story of a bride is told in Song of Solomon by King Solomon, to be an example for others not to make a mistake as he did of not being the friend for a bride. He tells of the Shulamite girl who was keeping the vineyard, and he took her to the capital to try to win her with his dazzling glory amid surroundings of splendor, but the Shulamite girl spoke of the shepherd whom her "soul" loved, and who would be her "friend." The shepherd risked his life to get her out of Solomon's court, as the king could have done him harm, but the shepherd did it because he loved her to give himself for her and loved her as his own body. Ephesians 5:28. With this love, the Shulamite could say the shepherd is my "beloved and friend", Song of Solomon 5:16, and so the shepherd wins and gets to take her for his bride.

We rejoice that Eric Spangler gave a wonderful testimony and was baptized and became a brother-in-Christ. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder and Bro. Gary Maibach were with us for the occasion.

Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) blessed us with inspiring messages recently.

We were blessed to partake of holy communion. Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Henry Dotterer assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer.

Our Sunday school Bible class treated us by taking care of the noon lunch at church Mother's Day.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

We express our thanks and appreciation to the ministering brethren and their families who have assembled with us recently. Sharing God's Word with us were Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) also ministered to us during a mid-week service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sandy Zimmerman (Bro. Mike) as she has had surgery and been hospitalized. May God bless her and keep her and may she soon be feeling well.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and his wife Sis. Emily welcomed home a precious little bundle. Michael John joins Warren, Charlene, Missy, Kent, Gary, Beverly and Anita. Michael's grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. David Graf (Akron) recently visited our congregation and ministered unto us. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

Little Brenda Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) was hospitalized with pneumonia. We are thankful she is doing so much better and is home again.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We are very grateful to the brothers who allowed themselves to be used of God during the past month. They include Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

God has again answered many prayers and supplied abundance grace for another soul. Tim Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) began the change of turning his life over to the way of the Lord. "By whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:2.

God's healing hand was supplied to Bro. Donn Steffen (Sis. Karen).

We are very thankful as he is able to assemble with us again.

On April 6, Bob Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) and Sheila Franklin (James and Jackie) were united in marriage. May God richly bless this couple as they begin their new life together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." (Psalm 11:1, 2) What a beautiful commandment; it doesn't say make a harmonious noise, it doesn't say make a melodious noise, just a joyful noise. Our congregational singing provides that we can do just that . . . make a joyful noise. "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 89:1)

Hospitalized have been: Bro. LaVern (Sis. Christine) Dotterer; Sis. Lucille Groh, eye surgery; and Sis. Dorothy Durkin (surgery). Injured due to falls were Bro. Pete (Sis. Karen) Baltic and Sis. Mary Witschi. "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses." (Psalm 107:13). May God continue to be near and bless them with renewed health and strength.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:10, 27, 28). On Mother's Day the Sunday school children served lunch. It was delightful for both moms and kids, they really seemed to enjoy the serving duties.

On Sunday, May 19, we had breakfast at church to recognize our high school graduates: Dale Sauder (son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline Sauder) and Holly Jones (granddaughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka). Also graduating is Melinda Zimmer (daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmer). Melinda will graduate from the school of nursing. And our wish and prayer for them is "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye trans-

formed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:3).

June is Silver Lining collection month for Mansfield. Please pay your local reporter: Linda Morrison, 7113 CR-59, Route 9, Mansfield, Ohio 44904. Thank you.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus, . . .

Zion's Harp #16

Four precious souls were baptized on April 28. We welcome our brothers and sisters: Sis. Amy Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Gary Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette) and Sis. Tanya Zierau (Bro. Heinz). Assisting Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with this precious work were Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Also, visiting us for the weekend were ministering Bros. Fred Domka and Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH).

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

Proverbs 22:6

We have had five dear children born into our midst, of which three were to first-time parents. Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty Zollinger were blessed with Eric Robert April 21. Grandparents are Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler.

Anne Shirley (born April 23) was the name chosen by Bro. John and Sis. Cheri Klotzle. Anxiously awaiting her arrival were Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Phoenix, AZ).

Dan and Sis. Anita Pope welcomed Carla Nita April 23. Danelle and Paul are happy for a new playmate. Loving grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Forthofer and Carl and Sis. Martha Zollinger.

Troy Steven (born May 10) has

two big sisters, Lisa and Lynn, to help care for him, along with his parents, Bro. Steven and Sis. Jenneé Rufener and grandparents, Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Ralph and Cheryl Beery named their son Jason Edward (born May 11). Loving grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Ruth Beery and Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik.

Bro. Philip Keiper (Sis. Theresa) had been hospitalized this past month. We are thankful that he can assemble with us again.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Karl Beery (Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Donna Young (Bill) in the passing of their brother, Bro. Maynard Beery (Tucson, AZ).

We extend our best wishes and God's blessings on our graduates. Our high school graduates are Tom Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Janice Blough (Joe and Sis. Lucille), Fred Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Sam Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Dennis Maag (Bob and Martha), Cherie Maibach (Jeff and Elsie), Dean Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri), Philip Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Marty Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce), Barry Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) and Ruth Zollinger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH).

OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

A blessed evening was spent as holy communion was held the evening of May 18. Surely we felt humbled and yet renewed in our faith. May we go on our way with increased desire to walk close to our Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) who accompanied Bro. Ken Indermuhle. We are appreciative of those who give of themselves on our behalf in the labors of the Lord.

As Father's Day approaches we want to let them know how much we appreciate the part they've shared in our lives. "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord . . ." Genesis 18:19.

Often illness brings us to a time of being still before God, and the heart becomes more sensitive to our soul's needs. It is our prayer that those among us who have been ill in this past month may sense and know the reality of God, both in suffering and healing.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Stephanie Luginbuhl Kim Stoller

We rejoice with Angie Blough (Sis. Janette and Ben) as she has begun her walk with the Lord. May God be her daily guide.

On May 14, Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle welcomed Bethany Ann. Brianna and Brittany are happy for a sister. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera Indermuhle.

Curt Samuel joined the family of Bro. Joe, Sis. Rose, Tim, and Craig Dotterer May 15. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Sis. Ruth Hilty.

We were thankful to have Bro. Doug Harmon minister to us May 5. May God bless him for his labor of love.

OHIO, TOLEDO Frances Laidig Josephine Rehlau

Jesus said, "... do this in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24, 25

We were privileged to partake of holy communion to renew a closer walk with Jesus. This service was conducted by Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and William Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Walter Rager. We thank then for being with us for this solemn occasion.

On May 2, Elder Bros. William Schlatter and Ben Maibach and Bro. Walter Rager read the conference memorandum which gives us guidelines so as to preserve our most precious faith.

Our dear Sis. Ida Fetter has gone to her eternal rest. Even though she was living in the Rittman Home, she was still a part of us. We extend

our sympathy to her family and especially to her sister Grace who lived with her in the Rittman Nursing Home.

Kelly Sancraint (Sis. Connie and David) has moved to Tampa, FL, and is employed there. We wish her good luck in her new location. We miss having her here with us.

Congratulations to Michele Kipfer, who is the daughter of Janet. She has graduated from Hillsdale College, MI, with a Bachelor Degree in Accounting. We wish her God's blessings in her chosen field of endeavor.

Our Sis. Mary Harmon had the misfortune of falling in her apartment. At the present time she is in the hospital. We pray that God will grant her a measure of good health.

Sharon Harris and family, her mother, Sis. Frances Laidig and her sister, Sis. Connie Sancraint want to sincerely thank everyone for their thoughtfulness during the time of loss due to a fire in her (Sharon) home. So many kind things were done in every possible way to help by loved ones here and elsewhere. It truly shows the goodness surrounding us that we are not even aware of and also of the quick response when others are in need. All things were so much appreciated and their prayer is that God will bless all of you for your wonderful support.

OREGON, PORTLAND Pearl Miller

"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Isaiah 40:11

The lamb abides in this good
Shepherd's keeping;
Though all the depths of hell in
anger roar,
No raving wolf shall pluck it from
His bosom;
It trusts in Jesus' might
forevermore.
It rests in blest security,
And in the vale of death, the Lord
its shield will be.

Zion's Harp #16, vs. 3

April 28, Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton) visited us as Bro. Ed ministered the life-giving Word of God to us. A number of Silverton brethren were with us also. We appreciated the song leaders, Bro. Kip Edelman, Bro. Nick Kuenzi and Bro. Mike Leman. Our thanks to each one for coming!

Our prayers go out for the shut-ins, Bro. Ray Banwart and Bro. Ray Cooper, Sr. We miss each one!

We welcomed our dear Sis. Golda Ditch (Medford, OR) who was able to be with us May 5. Distance prevents her from attending as often as she would desire.

Visitors Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) are visiting here. Sorry to report that Bro. Bill was taken to the hospital having a blood clot in his leg. He is in our prayers that he'll improve speedily. Their stay will probably be extended residing with their dear children, Bill, Jr. and Teresa and family.

STILL UNDECIDED

Still undecided, tho' close to life's gate,
O why not now enter, already 'tis late;
Jesus is waiting and calling for you;
Chains He will never -- all things He can do.

Still undecided, why yet still delay?
All things are now ready, love shows you the way,
Night fast approaches, the day passes by,
Heed now His pleading - "O why will you die?"

Still undecided! for thee He was slain,
And why should His suffering for thee be in vain?
Think of the scourging, the spear and the cross!
Life He would give you, -- all else is but loss.

Still undecided! His voice sounds so clear:
"Come all ye who weary who falter and fear,
Freely I pardon, and cleanse and receive

Why not accept Him and on Him believe?

Still undecided! O wait not too long;
O turn from the world and its wild, restless throng;
Jesus now calls you-once more doth He call-
Come while He's waiting, and trust Him for all.

by Ernest G. Wesley

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

Oh, what is more delightful,
And in what blessed state,
When we our souls and bodies
To God do consecrate?
We live in blessed nearness to Thee,
Lord, day by day,
As if our eyes behold Thee;
And joy attends our way.
Our lips may be in silence,
Yet prays our heart to Thee;
Our thoughts are e'er ascending
To heaven constantly.
With mercy and with goodness
Our hearts are oft refreshed,
And when we need his presence
He answers our Request.

Zion's Harp #139

The weekend of April 27 and 28 saw the answer to many of our prayers. Saturday April 27 after a church supper we shared in God's Word. On Sunday, April 28, Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy) was ordained as our elder. We thank Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Donald Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for being here to carry out God's work. Our prayers are with Bro. Ed as he takes on these new responsibilities. May we not only pray for Bro. Ed but for all our elder brothers who carry a heavy load.

We thank all who were with us on this special weekend. A church supper was held after the ordination service. It is such a blessing for all to share at times like this. We also thank Bro. Kevin Ryan and Bro. Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Duane Farney

(Croghan/Naumburg, NY) for also allowing themselves to be used.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Romans 10:17.

We also thank Bro. Joseph Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Bro. Duane Dill (Champaign, IL), and Bro. Arthur Baurer (Princeville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us recently. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

We also would like to thank Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Donald Sauder for reading us the conference memorandum earlier this year.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Don Sauder

Unto thee will I cry O Lord my rock; be not silent to me lest if thou be silent to me I become like them that go down into the pit.

Psalms 28:1

How thankful we should be that the Lord is not silent to us, but speaks to us through the Holy Ghost, His blessed Word and willing ministers.

We are very thankful for Bro. Wally Ramsier (Sis. Helen) for driving so many miles to feed us with God's Holy Word. It's a long way from Mansfield, Ohio. May God richly bless those who visit us.

Again if anyone is in our area, please contact us. Faye and my phone number is 615-373-8928. Don and Enis Milers phone number is 615-384-1081.

TEXAS, DALLAS/HOUSTON Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

Once again we thank our dear Bro. Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) for visiting us in Houston and willingly bringing forth God's Word to our gathering in April. We deeply appreciate Bro. Lee and his family who provide so much support and service to the Texas brethren and friends.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of the month at

10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest Freeway. Please contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 542-0763 for information regarding Houston services.

Our thanks to ministering Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Remington, IN) for serving us in Dallas May 5. We also appreciated the visiting brothers from Eureka who planned their vacation around our service.

On May 19, we were blessed with two ministers from our Lamar, MO, church; Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra Marti and Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera Frieden. Special thanks also to Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker who accompanied these ministers and provided support with song leading. Many of the functions that are so readily filled in large congregations are missing when numbers are small. We are very appreciative when extra effort is made like this to increase the numbers at our services.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp, at (214) 867-4074, are the local area contact for Dallas services which are normally held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-DeSoto, TX.

As previously published, Dallas services will be held on the third Sundays of June, July, and August services are scheduled on the first and last Sundays of these months as part of our special summer rotation. The normal Dallas/Houston rotations will resume in September.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Most of our winter residence have gone north of the summer. Now when we assemble at church Sunday mornings, we are few in number. We still feel the presence of God and also feel the Christian love among us.

The first two weeks of May we received some much needed rainfall. It was a special joy to see the rainbow in the sky to remind us of God's promise.

Continuation of May Sermon

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." Now this is sad, but it isn't lost to any who are gathered here today, dear ones, not one of you should it be lost to, but to those who will not even accept God as our Creator. To those who will not even assemble in a church to worship, who don't take time to read the Bible, to them it is lost because they don't care for it, but it's up to the individual to turn from it or against it. We must marvel sometimes, when we consider as it is written, that in this country alone there are fifteen million Bibles printed annually. Fifteen million, dear ones, and yet the report also comes out there are thirty million homes without a Bible. But there could be a Bible in every home, there could be a number of Bibles in every home, and if they aren't read, what good will it do? And if it is read and it is not obeyed, what good will it do? Always it goes back to you and to me and the efforts that we are going to make in serving our Lord and in having our faith toward him. And these things the apostle tried to bring out. He said, "We preach unto ourselves, but Christ Jesus, the Lord and ourselves, your servants, for Jesus' sake. For God Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shines in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Now this light, dear ones, is what came and drove out sin. Darkness and light can have no part with each other, as you well know. It's either day time or it's dark. Yes, there is a dusk but it really is the most dangerous time of the day to travel or to go about, isn't it? We often hear of the accidents that happen at the time of dusk and the spiritual light is the same way. If a person is walking half in the light and half in the darkness, and thinking he is doing well, he is walking in a dangerous time. So let us walk in the light, for the light is our Lord Jesus Christ. We can read of it in the Revelations, that at that time in that heavenly home, in that beautiful city, there will be no sun nor any moon, because the Lord will be our Light. It is something that we cannot quite understand in the

way that we think of it, in the material way, but in the way of peace and a freedom from sin or even temptation, then we can see where it will be a light, won't it? And how wonderful it will be for this Light, dear ones. This Light brings peace that we need not have to fear. This Light brings comfort. This Light brings encouragement. Yes, it is only light that is peace with God and sin is always darkness. It refers to it in the scriptures always that way. Where he spoke here of being troubled on every side, yet not distressed or persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. He was speaking mostly of Himself. We do not have to endure these things in this time and yet, dear ones, we have more temptations and trials, I believe, in the way of earthly things than they ever had in the time of old. So in one way or another, let us consider that we are going to have to prove our faith to God and our faithfulness to our Lord. We are going to have to prove by our works whether we will be fit for the kingdom of heaven, whether it would be in the way of persecution or whether it is in the way of self-denial. We must walk in this, our life. Let us look at our life in that way and in the things that we meet up with, in the week as we go about our duty and this way we can prove to ourselves, for what strengthening it is even if it is a small temptation that is put aside. It's a strengthening to us in our faith, but it's quite the other way if we give in to it, for there is always that excuse of why we don't.

SILVER THREADS

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS . . .

LOVE: The adoration or devout affection of man toward God; the kindness and charitableness man should show toward others. (St. Mark 12:30-31)

JOY: A strong feeling of happiness arising from the expectation of the hope of salvation. (Philippians 2:16-18, Lamentations 3:26)

PEACE: In a state or condition of order and harmony; a state of reconciliation after strife or enmity; being in full harmony and fellowship with God and our brother and sister-in-Christ (as far as we are able.) (St. John 14:27, Romans 12:18)

LONGSUFFERING: Patiently enduring over a long period of time; sickness, injury, misfortune, abuse; bearing those things in others we consider wrong but know we cannot change. (II Timothy 3:10)

GENTLENESS: Mild and amiable in nature or disposition; kindly patient, easily entreated and easily instructed (II Timothy 2:24, 25)

GOODNESS: Moral excellence, virtuous, righteous, well behaved, charitable, generous. (I Timothy 4:12)

FAITH: A total belief in and a complete dependence on God; believing what we know to be true but cannot see with physical eyes. (Hebrews 11:1, 17)

MEEKNESS: Being submissive and compliant unto God and the directives He has given in His Word. (St. Matthew 5:5)

TEMPERANCE: Under subjection, self-controlled, not given to excess; habitual moderation. (Titus 2:2)

“... against such there is no law; and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

world in general. We have often mentioned this . . . the things that happen in the world, the things that take place in the world in general are creeping over into the church because it isn't the “in” thing to do. I'll have my way.” “I will demonstrate if I don't get my way.”

It was quite interesting, in Egypt, our guide who was a Moslem, as we talked about things, used the same terminology that we use so much. It was kind of shocking and kind of surprising at this point, but they are very, very dedicated to their cause and to their form of religion. But he mentioned of some that weren't and he alluded to them as the world. He said, “The world.”

We have heard this so much in our faith and in our circles. We talk about the world, those that don't believe in the faith and in the precepts of the Scripture as we do, according to the Word of God. We consider that of the world. The Scripture uses the world.

I was kind of amused when he mentioned that they have the same difficulties and the same problems in their country. I imagine this exists throughout all the world. But he alluded to this, he said, “Those of the world don't understand.” We certainly can appreciate that statement, can't we? These men -- the scribes and Pharisees -- didn't understand.

But He said, “But yes say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest by profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.” Matthew 15:5, 6. I had to think in just these few verses we have what we have in the world today -- pay-offs. If you have enough money to pay somebody off, you are scot-free.

This is what they were alluding to. They were buying their way instead of using their heart and the Scriptures in being real in their heart and showing a real love, admiration and respect for their parents and their forefathers. They were doing it with money. They were using a gift. This pacifies it -- “I gave a gift so that makes everything okay.”

It is like as if we haven't treated our wives or our children or somebody fairly or properly, or we have misused them in some way or disappointed them in some way, and then we come home with a gift. That is the same thing. We should have given the gift before. We should

have treated them right before. We can't give them a gift to buy them off. We can't give them a gift to say that everything is okay because, “I have spent some money. I have given you a gift. This isn't from the heart.” It is trying to solve the problem quickly.

This is what the Lord Jesus Christ was talking to the scribes and Pharisees about. “You are trying to cop out. You are trying to take the easy way out, and not use the Scriptures, the Word of God, for this.” He called them hypocrites, and that is a pretty harsh word. He called them hypocrites and said, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth . . .” oh, yes, we can talk a good fight, “. . . honoureth me with their lips; but, “he said, “their heart is far from me.” Matthew 15:7, 8.

This is what we need . . . to let our heart show our emotions, our love and our respect to our family, to our church, to our God, and . . . be real, be genuine, not a false pretense.

There is so much of that, and it hasn't changed, has it? We see it here and we see it in the world and everything around us. There is so much pretense as to what goes on and we can see through that.

That is why it is so important when we raise our families, when we bring up our children that we are close to them and that we start early to initiate and to put into our lives that genuine feeling that there is a full trust and an admiration.

When I read this in Proverbs here, It started out, “A soft answer turneth away wrath.” Proverbs 15:1. I had to think of you mothers and sometimes the fathers, too, but because the mothers have the children in their youth early on, sometimes it is hard to give a soft answer, isn't it? You are frustrated, tired and everything has gone wrong all day and your children come to the point that you think, “Don't they love me any more?” They show no respect or love and they become exasperated and you want to scream rather than give a soft answer. You want to shout and say something loud and want to say something nasty. This is natural.

But that isn't what works, is it? All of us will have to admit that it

never worked doing that . . . shouting back and give retaliation.

Solomon experienced this and he was a wise man. He said, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1. We've seen this in all our children, haven't we? Then we must learn from this. We must go to the Word that tells us how to cope with those kinds of things.

I know it is not simple, and especially in this day when our children are going to school and their peers are being involved in things that if we don't let our children, it seems like they feel they are left out and they are not one of the gang . . . not one of the group . . . not one of the elite. There are groups in school. There are peer groups. "Do you belong to this one or do you belong to this one or this one here?" It is difficult. It is very difficult.

We must shore up those deficiencies and we must help our children to have a good self image. In spite of all this, I think many of us went through those things. Many of us went through the things in school, even many years ago, that we felt left out sometimes. We felt totally alone, and that we weren't part of the group. But many, many times if we can just see through it and if we can have parents that gird us up and grandparents that help us out and say, "Don't be afraid to be a Daniel."

It is difficult, I know. I went through some of these things, too, and you probably have it tougher today than what I had, but we have got to give them the fortification that they need as mothers and as daddies so that they will be able to get through that trying and difficult time and still have their faith built upon the firm and Solid Rock.

Because as a child, it is difficult to understand those things. Their feelings are for now. "It is hurting me now, and it is difficult now. My best friend has forsaken me. She is included in the "in" group and I am left out because I won't participate in drinking, sex and immorality and all of these things."

How do we tell them? We must use the Word and go back to the Scriptures and see what is really right and convince them that right

will prevail. Even adults, many time today, feel insecure and left out.

I talked to a lady not too long ago that is a very, very wealthy woman and she has difficulties in her life at this very moment of being a part of the world. She doesn't appreciate being a part of the world, but her society, her circles, her husband, and all things that is the "in" thing to do, she is having a struggle with this. I kept telling her that right will prevail.

You can't go wrong by being right. Regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the ridicule, regardless of anything else, you will never go wrong being right.

Because you are going to feel good about yourself when you go through all the battles and struggles of life. You are going to finally feel good and say, "I can live with myself because what I have done is right." Otherwise, we have gone in the stream of least resistance. We have let the multitude suck us into something that will lead us to hell, not to heaven, for a few moments of pleasure, for a few moments when we feel accepted and then we feel, oh, so empty again.

"He called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man;" don't worry so much about what you eat, "but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?" Matthew 15:10-12.

The disciples were sensitive to this and people were talking and saying they didn't like what Jesus was saying. He was introducing something new, something different and something that we can't accept and something is stepping on our toes. He suffered a lot in our behalf.

When we were in the Holy Land, we stood there in the Garden and looked at Jesus' tomb, looked at Golgotha, looked up on the Mount where He came down into the valley and up into the place of the skull. We retraced His steps, and when you stand in silence and you think about all of that, there is no pride in your heart.

For the first time in my life, as I stood there, I would have willingly given my life for Jesus Christ right then. Nothing else mattered. Being alone . . . being there . . . being near where our Saviour bled and died, it was touching and there were many tears shed. It changes you life! It makes you realize how little we are and how much our Saviour means to us.

Yet these men that were right with Him . . . these men that were near Him couldn't even so much as honor their father and their mother.

I am so glad that we feel the way we do. I am so glad to be able to come back to a congregation that I believe is God-fearing. I believe you are Godly people. I am so thankful to be associated with all of you because I think we are on the right road, and it is so precious . . . so precious! Let us not lose it. Let us keep it.

Let us teach our children and our grandchildren and let us hold fast to what we have until the Lord returns, regardless of the cost. Let us never let little petty differences or anything drive us apart, but keep us close. Keep us near so then we, as one great band of angels, can all leave this earth together to meet our Lord in the sky. And we will! We will!

We stayed in a hotel on the Mount of Olives, very near to where our Saviour left this earth. We went to the spot where He ascended. It says in the Scriptures that He will return. We read these Scriptures verses as we stood on those very spots. He is going to return in like manner. It says, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? The Lord will return just as He left." (See Acts 1:11).

Then He is going to come down and walk through the valley and up into the Eastern gates into the Temple. We saw all of this from a beautiful vantage point in Jerusalem. I understand now why they say Jerusalem, the Golden. All those buildings are made of the same kind of stone and when the sun shines on it, it looks golden!

The next time I sing the hymn, "O, Jerusalem, the Golden," I will understand a little better why they said that.

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SERMON BY BRO. ROBERT J. MEYER OF BLUFFTON, IN

God Had Great Love and Mercy Toward Us
Proverbs 15 and Matthew 15:1-20

What could be more appropriate this day than to open to this Scripture? If all the young people throughout the world, the little babies on up and as they grow and are taught, could be taught this very teaching of honoring their father and their mother, it would eliminate so many of the anxieties that exist today.

We have to think that -- and we can include mothers and fathers -- we are in this together. We are one. We are bringing up our families together and if we have understood and if we have taken on their age as it should have been, we are no longer twain, but we are one. What applies to one applies to the other, and we have the responsibilities of bringing up our children.

But because of the time that mothers spend in the home with the children, they seem to have the brunt and most of the load, at least early in life. They see more of their children, their sons and daughters, than their husbands do in many cases simply because of our occupations and that sort of thing.

So they need the support of us, as fathers, to back them up, to see that the children understand the appropriate things in life, to see that mother and dad are on the same team, to see that mother and dad are surely one rather than divided.

This situation can arise where they sense there is a division as sometimes mother and dad see things differently. Consequently, the children have a wedge . . . they have

something that they can use to their advantage to their way.

This not only happens in homes, but it happens in churches. Initially, if there is a division here upon the pulpit, you would immediately see it. You would immediately sense it. You would immediately have favorites. You would immediately take sides, and eventually the church is divided. It is the same thing in a home.

He talks here to the scribes. It says, "Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." Matthew 15:1, 2. This was typical of those in that day that put so much stress upon things, upon doing things in a certain way and in a certain manner, and in a certain method, and not coming from the heart.

This is what made it so beautiful when our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world. He set for us the perfect example by dying, by shedding His blood, by showing us He truly loved us, and that He really cared for us. In that manner, making us want to respond in that kind of a loving manner, and letting our heart through the Word dictate how we feel and how we are to react to all these things.

But the scribes and Pharisees were different. They thought every "t" had to be crossed and every "i" had to be dotted, regardless whether it made any sense or whether it did

not. This was to their detriment and downfall.

But Jesus answered and said unto them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Matthew 15:3. The Lord never spoke many words as far as we can read them in the Scriptures. There are very few when we think of all that He must have written and must have talked. It says if everything that could have been written about Him, the books of the world could not contain it. (See John 21:25).

But we have sufficient here. He retaliated to them with a few words here, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." Matthew 15:3, 4. Now there was one of the first commandments and they didn't even use that properly.

The scribes and Pharisees didn't even use that one properly. It should be very simple, shouldn't it? It should be very simple. I think there is becoming more and more a lack of respect, and I don't want to say this derogatory towards the young people, but I think it could be a lesson to them. They should take stock and they should look into their hearts. There is less and less respect of the young to the old than there used to be many years ago.

I believe this is simply something that is wearing off from the

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