



"... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

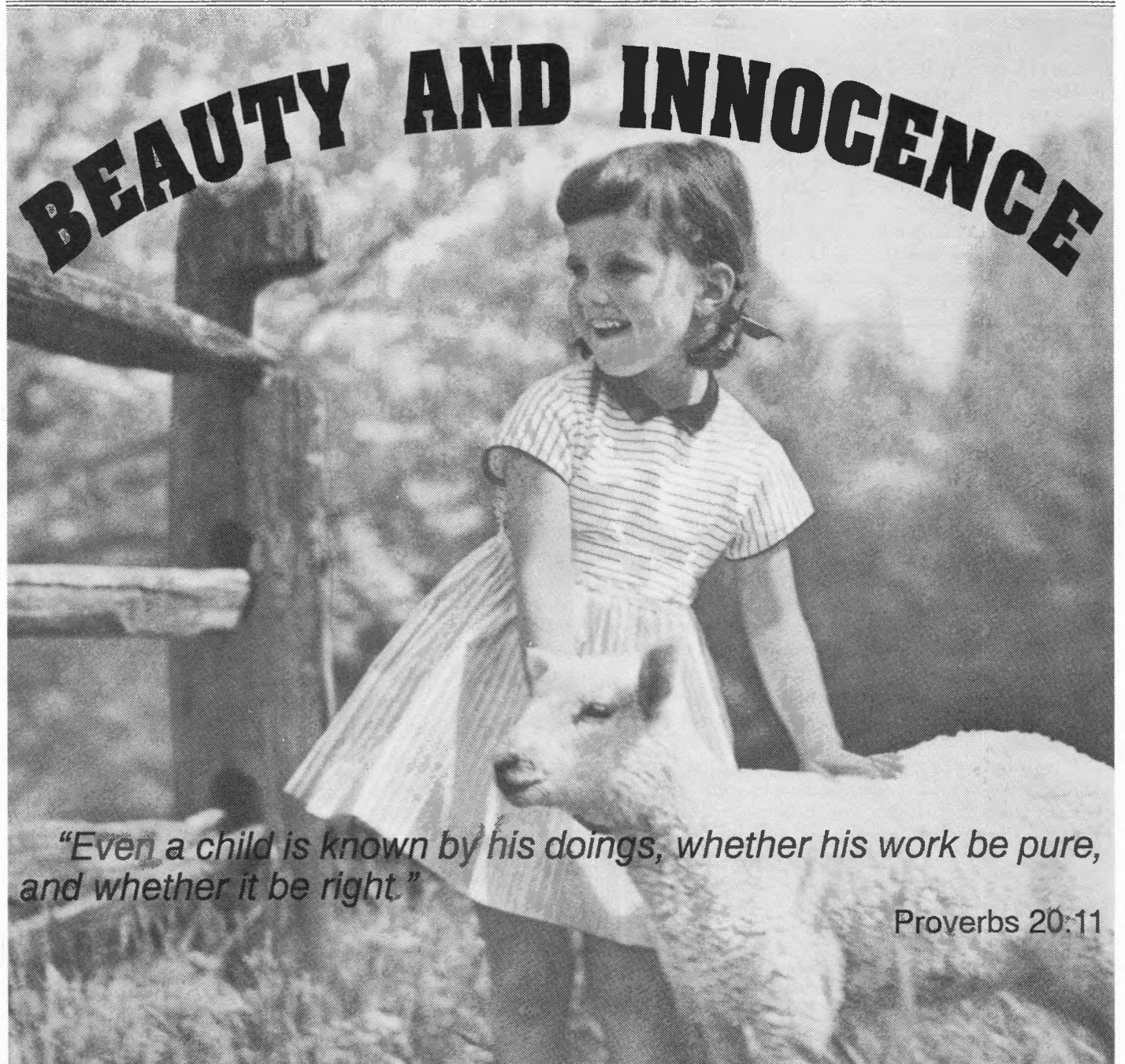
"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:4

VOLUME 41

AUGUST 1991

NUMBER 8



BEAUTY AND INNOCENCE

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

Proverbs 20:11

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

APPRECIATION

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle — Shioda, Japan

We borrowed a van from a kindergarten parent to take the children on an educational trip to the zoo. When we returned the van we gave the lady some health food bars in appreciation for the use of the van. Later that same evening the lady appeared with a box of fruit they had grown, in appreciation of my appreciation gift. If I would have responded with another gift for her, this might have gone on indefinitely. It is a common practice in Japan to give a gift for any kindness shown.

There is a danger that we do not show enough appreciation. The word appreciation is not in the King James Bible so far as I know but the giving of thanks, which is closely related, is very much exhorted upon in the Bible. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." II Thessalonians 5:18. If we give thanks to God

as we should, that frame of mind will automatically cause us to also show appreciation to others who show us kindness. That's not a bad idea.

There are several areas in which we should show appreciation to God. The first area concerns salvation and the fact that we can get rid of guilt through the Lord Jesus Christ. The assurance that we are ready to meet God and can enjoy fellowship with Him even here on earth on a day-to-day basis, is a very wonderful gift indeed. We should give ourselves to Him in appreciation.

Another area to be considered is the area of human relationships. There are many problems in this area but still we would not want to part from other believers or other human beings. They're wonderful.

Finally, there is the area of nature. How thankful we are for the

wild birds, the animals, the plants, the mountains and rivers. Let's get busy with this thing of showing appreciation.

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.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

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

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$9.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

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).

THE CARES OF LIFE

The cares of life come in many forms including the fears, temptations and common stresses confronted by every human being. Cares can cause emotional pain, anxious concern, distraction and uneasiness. They can pull us in different directions and, if permitted, can inhibit the overall effectiveness of a believer's spiritual life. No one can escape the cares of life. We can either allow them to pull us apart and destroy us or we can, by the grace of God, manage cares in such a way that we can benefit from them and be a more effective light in the world.

The risk of being overcome by the cares of life is great. In the parable of the Sower and the Seed, Jesus taught, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22). The promise of God to provide sufficient grace for every challenge gives us the assurance that we need not succumb. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

The Apostle Peter exhorts, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). If we allow cares to build up in our minds, we can become overcharged with anxiety. This limits our ability to distinguish reality from imagination. Peter also wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Notice that Satan is described as a roaring lion, not that he actually is a lion. This means that he makes a pretence of ferocious power. Satan works by the power of suggestion. He causes us to exaggerate the cares of life, allowing them to preoccupy our thoughts and finally tear us apart. Perhaps when

we see Satan unmasked someday we will be amazed that such a spirit was able to cause so much havoc upon the earth. Isaiah wrote of Lucifer, "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?" (Is. 14:16). We must not give in to unfounded fear. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

How we cope with our cares teaches those around us a lot about our faith. People who are carnally minded turn to alcohol, drugs, cheating, threats, abuse, divorce, and many other evil means to fight against the reverses of life. If we are spiritually minded, we will portray a peaceful attitude, even in the face of distressing circumstances (Rom. 8:6). We will equip ourselves with godly armor as instructed by the Apostle Paul: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:13). The true faith and steadfastness of believers can help attract lost souls to Christ. It will help them recognize they are lacking something essential which far exceeds any human determination or strength.

Many of the cares of life are brought upon ourselves. Living above our means creates untold stress. The Word teaches that we should be diligent in our earthly labors and give proper attention to our occupations (Prov. 27:23). We are warned that we should establish a livelihood first before spending significant amounts of money for our own comfort. "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house" (Prov. 24:27). Consumptive lifestyles and craving for wealth bring much grief. "But they that will be rich

fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Tim. 6:9).

Job held to his integrity in the face of terrible temptation and loss. At one point he cried out, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). He faced his cares in a way that brought glory to God, and he was blessed even more in the end than in the beginning of his life.

God provides many excellent spiritual remedies for coping with cares. Prayer and reading of His word provide our first line of defense. Singing of hymns and listening to soothing music create a calmness of heart which can help prepare us to meet a challenge. Before Elisha prophesied before the king, he called for a minstrel to play music; then the hand of the Lord came upon him (2 Kings 3:15). The singing of hymns just prior to a church service can have a similar effect. We are also exhorted to do this on an individual basis: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).

Fellowship with believers of like mind is very effective in helping us to handle our cares. Sharing our burdens can be enlightening, enabling us to understand the spiritual benefits of the trials of life (Rom. 5:3-5). We are to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

It is part of God's beautiful plan for the believer that the inevitable struggles with the cares of life will lead to spiritual growth and the bearing of more abundant fruit. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see (fear) when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful (worried) in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8).

WHERE IS YOUR SOUL ANCHORED?

Hebrews 6:19

Bro. Robert Miller — Portland, Oregon Church

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2:7

Man is both physical and spiritual, with an eternal destiny awaiting him after death and judgment.

Daniel 12:2, Hebrews 9:27

"What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul."

Mark 8:36, 37

It is our heavenly Father's intent for man to share the glories of heaven with Him, but because of sin, all men are condemned to eternal death. God, who is "not willing that any should perish--" II Peter 3:9, proved a way of escape. He sent Jesus to suffer "death for every man" Hebrews 2:9. This included physical and spiritual death. His substitutionary death was complete paying the penalty for our sin. Through "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ," Acts 20:21, all may be cleansed. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteous-

ness." I John 1:9. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!" II Corinthians 9:15.

If there was ever a time precious souls need an anchor, it is today. We have reason to believe we are in the last days, while observing perilous times described in II Timothy 3:1-7.

The Word of God declares there will be a falling away before the day of Christ. II Thessalonians 2:3. Jesus warned of deception first, when His disciples inquired of the time of His coming. "Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:4, 5.

God's Holy Word also warns us of self-deception! "If a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James 1:26.

"Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls, but be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:21b, 22.

We avoid deception by meditating (Joshua 1:8) and obeying the "holy scriptures, which are able to

make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 3:15.

Only by the all-sufficient grace of God (promised to the humble, I Peter 5:5) can we be obedient, fruitful and joyful believers. John 15:5, 7, 11.

Where is our soul anchored? Hope in Christ is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. Hebrews 6:19. "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness" "On Christ the solid rock I stand -- all other ground is sinking sand." Matthew 7:24, 25, Ephesians 1:7. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" Colossians 1:27b.

We are not only saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8) but we also "are saved by hope." Romans 8:24.

We are Christ's place of abode" if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Hebrews 3:6 "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Hebrews 3:14.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward." Hebrews 10:35. In II Peter 1:5-7 every true believer is given a list of Godly qualities pertaining to lifestyle beginning with faith and concluding with charity. Each follows the other in proper sequence, and we read in I Timothy 1:5 "now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart." Peter declares "if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus". He concludes with "wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" II Peter 1:10. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13. There is nothing more rewarding for a precious soul, than to believe that "it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:14, Titus 2:11-13.

PART-TIME ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENT OPENING AT GATEWAY WOODS

We will very soon have need for a married couple to serve on a part-time basis as Alternate Houseparents at the Children's Home. This brother and sister team would be responsible for houseparenting duties when the regular houseparents are off duty. This part-time position would include alternate houseparenting in one of our three group homes, as well as some maintenance responsibilities.

This could be an excellent opportunity for a retired couple to work on a part-time basis, with a unified team of brothers and sisters toward a common goal of helping troubled young people.

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

SUMMER

**Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan**

What does summer mean to you?
Is it a happy time or a dismal time?
Is it a time for work, or play, or a
combination of the two?

Summer is mentioned in Jeremiah 8:20. "The harvest is past, the

summer is ended, and we are not saved." So far as seasons are concerned, we are presently in the midst of summer. We hope and pray for a good harvest from the crops that are being grown. Most agricultural plants are annuals so after harvest when the frosts come, they die. In summer we still have some time to

apply weed killer or fertilizer to increase the harvest. After frost it is too late.

The above scripture verse relates a human life to the four seasons. Summer refers to the middle years of one's life. They are good years, wonderful years, but time is getting away from us. Sooner or later the frost will come and it ends the growing season. It may be all right to take a vacation in summer but we better not be asleep. Some things should be taken care of promptly and salvation is one of those things. The opportunity could get away from us.

For those of us who are saved and happy in the Lord, there are many things which we should be doing before the harvest is past. There is, of course, the matter of sharing God's love and the Gospel with others, especially where we detect any interest at all. Sharing in this way may help some to repent but there are other things which people need to be saved from besides their sins. We need to do what we can to help save others from loneliness, discouragement, lack of self-worth, etc. Each person needs to realize that he or she is of tremendous value and to facilitate that we need to show them much love and respect. My experience is that those who need such love and respect the most are the most difficult to reach, but we must keep trying, Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

-- NOTICE --

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

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
Eighth Year -- August 1990 thru July 1991 -- 32,677

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
June 1991 —	3060	30,296
July 1991 —	2381	32,677

*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.

EUROPEAN UPDATE

**Andy Hunyady
Columbus, OH**

Greetings beloved brethren and friends,

After more than a year and a half of overthrow of the Communist domination, the political and economic conditions in some of the East European countries are still in a sad state of confusion and uncertainty. Transition into a democratic and free enterprise system is yet to get a good start. Shortages of daily essentials are as scarce as ever. Outside assistance is needed more now than before. Your love and care for the many needy and your continued support is very much appre-

ciated. May God richly bless and reward you for your deeds of kindness!

Every effort is being made to keep in touch with our brethren in each of the countries where help is needed. Often it is difficult as mail is very slow, so we often make use of the telephone communication when necessary.

At a recently held telephone conference call, the brothers on the European Board discussed the current ongoing and soon upcoming events.

Much focus is directed to Romania, where food and clothing shipments are being sent regularly on monthly basis. Because we receive some reports from various sources that some of the food parcels or finances are not distributed properly, the brothers emphasized the need to have a team of brothers, representing the Mission and World Relief Committees, to observe and study the conditions and bring back a report to the brotherhood. As reported earlier, the brethren now enjoy a complete freedom of assembly and worship in Romania, and attendance has increased to such proportions that there is a need to increase the existing facilities. Because all the church owned properties were confiscated by the Communists, all meetings were held in private homes. Old church buildings were misused and totally neglected and now, the big task is to build new ones or repair those that were returned, or purchase land to build upon, or purchase such an existing building that can be adapted for church use. Without outside help such an undertaking would be impossible to accomplish. Brethren in Austria, Germany and Switzerland are reaching across the borders to offer financial help and counseling. Recently we received several phone calls from Germany, Austria and Hungary, asking us to come and help the brethren in organizing the churches and committees in order to operate more efficiently. It appears that they lack in both experience and leadership.

It is hoped that at the August meetings such a delegation of brothers can be organized, as the urgency is great. Because there are a lot of

areas to be covered, it may be necessary for the brothers to spend several weeks in order to make a proper evaluation of the conditions. Knowing that the Romanian banking system often delayed fund transfers as long as a year or longer, gave us not little concern as to how to transfer funds by the Mission Committee for the church building projects that would not tie up our monies. After months of search and investigation a channel was found, which promises to be safe and reliable. The first transfer was successful and a second should be available for the brothers to draw on. These monies are needed for the purchase of building materials and related furnishings.

A three-ton, closed-bodied truck was purchased in Hungary with funds appropriated by the World Relief Committee last April. It is a Czechoslovakian manufactured truck, said by Elder Bro. Heinrich Schmidt to be very economical, both to operate and maintain. It was already used by the Hungarian brothers to take a load of food and clothing to the Ukraine, accompanied by several brothers from Germany who purchased the food. Bro. Schmidt and other brothers from Austria and Hungary have recommended to us to look into the possibilities of purchasing food items from Hungary, where such supplies are plentiful and available, with the exception of fresh meat, and would be far less expensive to deliver it across the board into Romania, or USSR. Considering the cost of a shipment from Bluffton, IN, to Arad, Romania, of about \$7,000, is well worth considering.

We are very thankful to the Iron Curtain Ministries, who so faithfully support this food program by paying half of the cost. May God be their rich rewarder!

There is an urgent need for Romanian Zion Harp hymnals. This is yet to be determined in the near future, whether to reprint the existing old edition, or revise the entire book, which would require at least a year. Hungarian Bibles are also needed in Romania. These may have to be reprinted and possibly in Hungary, where the local brethren are investigating such possibilities.

The Mission Committee has offered to underwrite the cost of these Bibles and hymnals.

Bucovina (in Ukraine): The needs of Bucovina and Romania are very much the same. In addition to food, we had requests for shoes, clothing, for both small children and adults. While in the region, the brethren will have the opportunity to find out if it is possible to take some of the clothing sent to Romania across the border. Elder Bro. Peter Carcia spent several weeks in Germany where he underwent medical treatments. No surgery was needed. He is doing well and upon his return he was given a good supply of medications. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Ileana, and his brother, Mihai. They also spent a few days in Hungary before going home.

The situation in Yugoslavia is not good. Civil strife and ethnic disorders have plunged the entire country into a serious situation. Since the first part of May, very few letters came from our brethren. Occasional phone contact is our only way of communication. At the request of Elder Bro. K. H. relief funds have been stopped for the time being. The economy is in very big trouble. Prices are out of control. Travel is, in some parts of the country, rather risky. U.S. citizens are not to go into the country at the advice of the State Department. Several of the young brothers have been called to military duty, but no details are given as to their safety. Some of the brethren we know live in the areas where some of the military action has taken place. No injuries are reported. We are thankful to God, and shall continue to pray for their safety.

In Hungary, a new church building is being planned in the city of Szeged. The congregation have selected a plan and working plans are being drawn and expect to have it ready along with cost estimates by late fall. A home for the elderly is also being planned next to the new church. This home is going to be a national project and when the old Budapest church is sold, along with the old Szeged church, the funds will be used to help finance the home. Bro. Ben Maibach received a report recently that the old church

building in Ersekcsanad has been condemned. The foundation is badly deteriorated and a new, larger one needs to be built. In both cases, when final costs are in, along with plans, the brothers will send us documents, and very likely, the Mission Committee will be called upon to help provide some funds as the local members are not able to support such a big undertaking.

Elder Bro. Janos Pap, of Budapest, spent the second half of May in our midst. We were most happy to have him. He visited a few churches, meeting with a number of brethren whom he met previously, while visiting in Hungary. We received two letters since his return and he expresses his "most sincere thanks and appreciation for the gracious love and hospitality that was so evident wherever I went." He sends hearty greetings to everyone! Also he gives an extended invitation to the visiting brothers who plan to go to Romania in September.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Also, "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, . . ." May God bless you all!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Doesn't it appear our lives are constantly undergoing change? ACHH is certainly no exception. Mark Gundy moved from ACHH to Oakwood. We welcomed Kristie Ramp into our lives at ACHH May 13. She moved there from the Nursing Center of Canton. Kristie attends Holiday Center with several other residents.

Summer is keeping everyone busy and thankful. June 14 - 16 were the days for State Special Olympics in Normal. Eighteen residents participated in events from gymnastics to swimming to track. Many resident have enjoyed week summer camps at Lake Bloomington. Bowling, horse riding, biking and swimming are keeping us all active. As always, we enjoyed and

appreciated our families joining us at our Fourth of July picnic.

God has truly moved an incredible amount of loving hearts to give to the enrichment of all of us, staff and residents alike. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the Floran and Twyla Streitmatter family in Brimfield who hosted a picnic-singing on their farm June 2. Many others gave of their time and we thank them also. On July 7, a number of us spent a blessed day at the Forrest church. As always, a special thank you to them for opening their hearts to us.

Birthdays at ACHH for September include: Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin (10), Janet Schweigert (10), Janet Christensen (16), Lester Miller (16), Lois Egli (19), Glenn Getz (20), Cindy Sigulas (22), Jim Maupin (24), Nancy Theis (25), Marsha Miller (26) Doug Steffen (26) and Ethel Borinstein (29). At Oakwood: Angie Massner (9), Dave Taylor (13) and Dave Maupin (20). At 207 Wagler: Marlene Esslinger (8). There are no birthdays in September at 540 N. Main or 200 E. Hazelwood.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Meister

Our semi-annual board meeting was held July 20. Each of our board members was able to attend and the meeting went fine. We wish to thank each member of the board for the time, effort and especially prayers they put forth on behalf of our Preschool. We also had Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Joe Braker from the National Education Committee here and we appreciate these brothers' attendance and support for our work here. We know each one of these brothers covets your prayers as they consider the many decisions that have to be made each time they meet.

August is back-to-school time and that is no exception here at the Preschool. As the last of our graduating class of 1991 now go to "big school" (kindergarten), there is mixed emotions on behalf of both student and teacher. Many of the students will come back to visit in the years to come, but oh how they change so quickly. We only pray

that the lessons they learned here and the seeds planted, may some day bring forth fruit in each of their lives.

For the rest of our students who will be staying here, there is the excitement of changing classes, welcoming back students who were out for the summer, and adjusting to the many new students who have just come to our Preschool. We all look forward to this new school year with great anticipation. We pray the Lord will bless His school as He sees fit and ask that each of you remember us in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Bill and Joan Schick

Summer is action packed here at Gateway Woods with many helpful volunteers and busy children. Most of the young people here have summer jobs, and the youth and younger children work around the Home. Our energetic volunteers are buzzing around campus fixing and tuning up the grounds and property. Volunteers this past month include: Kami Isch and Marie Sprunger (Bluffton, IN), Dave Kieser and Mitch Leman (Bradford, IL), Margie Heintz and Jonathan Sutter (Champaign, IL), Larry Gramm and Tom Waldbeser (Chicago, IL), Joe Walder (Cissna Park, IL), Marcia Metz and Andy Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Jill Gramm (Gridley, IL), Brad Martin (Peoria, IL), Chris Frautschi (Phoenix, AZ), Lori Martin (Princeville, IL), Kristine Price (Sarasota, FL), Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN), Chris Bucher and Becky Heinold (Washington, IL). We also want to mention Ben Masten (Francesville, IN) who is volunteering here all summer. As houseparents, we cannot say enough about our helpful volunteers except to say thank you!

Vacation Bible School began an enthusiastic summer vacation. The teachers learned as much as the children and youth. One teacher encouraged us that as we grow to deeper spiritual depths, we need to be a reflector of God's love and compassion to others.

We've enjoyed our "second stay" as interim houseparents here at Gateway Woods since January. New children and staff are here this time, but the same bottom line continues; the opportunity to share life and God's love to needy kids.

We bid Stephanie, Jackie and Rich F. farewell from the Home but do look forward to continuing to see them on Sundays and Wednesday nights at church. Stephanie, Jacki and Rich moved into local foster family homes. We are happy for them and pray the Lord will continue to guide their lives.

As they have left, new youth arrive. Jason E., 11, from Fort Wayne, and Ida D., 15, from DeKalb County join the New House. We now enjoy two sweet Ida's on campus! Jason is fitting in well with the New House boys. We also want to welcome Becky M. (Francesville, IN) to our Transitional Living Program. We feel quite privileged as each individual child comes here as we know the Lord hand picks each one to live here at His home. It thrills us as new children come, and not having much background in Christianity, will offer to pray at the table or express the change in themselves after being exposed in a Godly atmosphere.

High school Bible class students enjoyed the weekend of Christian Endeavor in Francesville, IN. It amazes our new children when they have opportunity to travel to other congregations. The girls from the West House and Girls House, with the women staff, travelled to Sea World in Cleveland, OH, and visited Smithville, OH, church on Sunday. Thanks to all our brothers and sisters for the wonderful hospitality shown to our children and staff.

Not only are there changes with the children on campus, we have new staff that will be joining us in August. We want to welcome Sis. Denise Duckworth (Bloomington, IL) to our Gateway Woods' team. She has been hired as a counselor to take Sis. Judy Stoller's place. (Sis. Judy will be our Foster Care Manager now.) Also Sis. Jan Stoecker will join our All Girls' House as a houseparent. She is replacing Sis. Susan Getz who will be attending

college this fall. We are pleased that Sis. Susan will be working as a tutor in our classroom when school starts. We are also thankful to God for answering our prayers and providing willing workers to fill our staff openings.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Lisa Huette

We wish to thank Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) for sharing the Word of God with us this month. It's encouraging to witness the dedication of our ministering brothers. It's also encouraging when we have visitors from far away. Those spending time in Athens this month came from Atlanta, GA, Bluffton, IN, Detroit, MI, Cissna Park and Peoria, as well as Goodfield, IL. Summer is a busy time here, so please forgive those churches perhaps not mentioned.

Our prayers are with Sis. Eunice Kelly as she spent some time in the hospital, as well as with her husband, Winfred, who is awaiting surgery.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."
Revelation 21:4

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Doris Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd), Bro. Roy Barnett (Sis. Christine), as well as the rest of their family at the passing away of their mother, Bertha Barnett. We all know the deep loss felt when a loved one leaves this life. We pray those left behind will cherish the many memories.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"If God be for us, who can be against us."

Romans 8:31

Hearing the Word on Sunday morning (i.e. in person, via phone or tape) is more than a routine -- it is a need of food for our soul, as surely

as our need of food for our body. We can be assured of a feast, often served by a visiting minister. We thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for spending June 30 with us. We enjoyed a church supper and singing later.

Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace — "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, . . . because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3.

Our dear Sis. Marjorie Rebbec passed on to her heavenly home June 21. She and husband, Bob, showed much love for the Lord Jesus as Sis. Mary endured her physical disabilities. Memorial services were held at Muneke Funeral Home prior to funeral services and internment in Roanoke, IL.

We pray the Lord will comfort Bob, their family (in Illinois) and other relatives. There is comfort to be found in Psalm 23, I Thessalonians 4:18.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."

Psalm 34:14

Carmen Langhofer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy) has found the peace to become a child of God. She is waiting to give her testimony and be baptized.

In Phoenix, we are enjoying Bible study classes, the second and fourth Sundays at 8:45 a.m. Visitors are welcome to join us.

Hospitalized this past month, three different times, were Bro. Ted Knochel and Herbert Mohrman. Sis. Gerry Beyer was also in for studies. Bro. Melvin Miller and Bro. Gordon Greenbank were surgical patients. Sis. Joanne Knochel has a broken ankle, and Jacob Hand (Dennis and Sis. Jenny) had a fractured pelvis.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

II Timothy 4:7

July 16 was the date our Saviour called Herbert Mohrman home to rest in peace. Herb and Sis. Shirley have served the Lord well despite years of his physical suffering. Though we will miss Herb, we are thankful he could go on and wait for us. Our prayers are with Sis. Shirley

and their family. May the Lord comfort you. Funeral services were at the church Friday, July 19 with interment in our church cemetery.

Proverbs 3:5 and I Thessalonians 5:17 will give a better day.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

We are rejoicing with Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Drester in the birth of their first child, Rebecca Jean. Rebecca was born July 2.

We are also thankful that the Lord is watching over our congregation as many of them have traveled during the summer season.

The earthquake we experienced this summer left us temporarily unable to occupy our church building. Thankful no major damage was sustained. The Lord continues to grant us progress in our church building project. The end result will be a safer and more adequate place for us to worship.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Our little church has bid farewell to several of our dear ones this past month. Bro. Paul Foote, who has been working temporarily here in the San Diego area will be returning to his family in Connecticut. We will all miss him, especially the little children to whom he has become "Uncle Paul." May God richly bless Bro. Paul and his family as they are reunited once again.

Bro. Rod and Cindy Schmidt, with their two little girls, are relocating to the Denver area. Although our congregation will miss them greatly, we entrust them in God's care and guidance and pray that He will richly bless them in their new endeavors!

Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) were our visiting ministers this past month. We appreciate the willingness of our ministering brothers in faithfully expounding God's Living Word to us.

Once again our thoughts and prayers turn to our beloved elders as they will unite to seek out God's guidance and council in regards to our precious faith. may we who are

the members of the body of Christ do our part that they may fulfill their duties with you. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Two of our sisters have had injuries resulting in surgery. Sis. Kathe Hasty had injured her knee in a fall and had surgery to correct the situation. Sis. Beth Ann Martin cut her thumb, severing a tendon, in an accident at work. Both seem to be recovering, thanks be to God!

Our church is seeing a bit of a growth spurt again. We welcome Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt and their daughters, Kristie and Erica, back from San Diego; Kent Braun is back from Illinois; and Wayne and Teri Forrest and daughters, Tanya and Heather, have moved here from Texas. We pray they will all feel God's love as we meet together.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Leland Hirschey (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). We appreciate each one and those that come with them.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Luginbuhl

We welcome Bro. Ben Aberle to Rockville for the summer. Bro. Ben is the son of ministering Bro. Richard and LaNae (Altadena, CA), and is living with his sister, Becky and Jeff Bailey.

We gathered and walked together, speaking of heavenly things the weekend of June 29-30 and perhaps in our thoughts, many of us even experienced a tiny bit of what heaven must be like. Four dear sisters, prompted by the Holy Spirit, told us of their longings and conversion with which each of us can identify thinking of our experience, perhaps recently or even 70

plus years ago. June 30, a day many of us will remember as the following were baptized: Sisters Melanie Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy), Lanae Gerber (Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly), Heidi Moser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Joni) and Martha dePosch, who found her "anchor" at 89 years old! Our thanks to Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). May the Lord reward them and their wives for their labors of love.

Who of us is there that does not suffer in one way or another? We sing "Brethren, suffering is a favor which in various ways the Saviour to His own elect has shown . . ." Zion's Harp #245, vs. 8. From this, we take courage to pray for one another and continue on as He knows our often unseen, inner burdens. We are happy that Sis. Caroline (Fehr) Hartmann is able to attend services despite a persistent complication as a result of recent cataract surgery. Thankfully, Bro. Corbin Bahler has apparently regained his strength and can also assemble with us again, along with Bro. Jim Moser who was recently hospitalized.

It was edifying and uplifting to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), ministering Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) with us during the month. Along with our appreciation, we extend an invitation to return again real soon.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

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

Proverbs 22:6

Our entire congregation joined with Ed and Ginny Stoll in welcoming Victoria Lyn June 26. Happy grandparents are Gilbert and Sis. Vickie Knobloch (Lester, IA), Ed and Linda Stoll, Sr. (Corpus Christi, TX) and Betty Milam (Cocoa, FL).

We also welcome Leigh Simpson

from the Champaign, IL, congregation. She has found summer employment in this area while on break from studies at Purdue University.

Our ministers in July were Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Each was accompanied by his wife and other family members. Other visitors this month were from Morris, MN, Rittman, OH, Milford and Indianapolis, IN, Rockville, CT, Goodfield, IL and Pulaski, IA).

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495 (Capital 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, assistance or just to let us know you are in town, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

It is with regret that I report on the final sermon preached by Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, who has decided to step down after about 28 years of service in the ministry. Bro. Roy forewarned us last year that he would be "retiring" at the age of 70, but we are still going to miss hearing his voice and anecdotes from his travels.

Bro. George Bolliger was surprised by the church with a get-together to mark his 89th year on this earth. Bro. George and his wife, Sis. Elsie, moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1954, and attended church here when it was held in rented facilities. They are still able to join us every Sunday, and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless them with strength and health. Bro. George has been in the family of God for 48 years.

A few were able to travel to North Fort Myers for the testimony and baptism of Marvin and Rae Steffen. It is encouraging to hear testimony of God's love and power, and it is wonderful to know that their two-year-old daughter will be raised in a Christian home.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer Jeanette Yergler

How precious and how uplifting it was to hear the testimony and witness the baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rae Steffen. Assisting Elder Bro. Darroll Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) was ordained deacon Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL).

Also, Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) shared God's Word with us this month. We thank our visiting brothers and our own brothers in serving us the true Word of God.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Gala Gerber

Summertime brings vacations to many. In times such as these, we learn to appreciate each other as our gatherings grow smaller. We are comforted to know our Father promises to be present always. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) However, we often have visitors which we are so thankful. What a joy it is to come into the house of the Lord and to meet and greet those of like mind and faith! We welcome one and all!

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and his wife (Smithville, OH). So willingly he shared with us about the ten virgins (Matthew 25) who were to prepare their lamps to make ready for the bridegroom and about the diversities of gifts, but having the same Spirit (I Corinthians 12:4).

It is a real joy for us to have Sis. Julia Kittl back worshipping with us! God truly can be a Healer for all things.

With sadness in our hearts, we wish Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Brüllman God's traveling mercies. Such a blessing it is to have fellowship one with another . . . however we must realize "Where He leads, we will follow." May His guardian angels be with both of them!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We enjoyed a special July 4

weekend as our congregation was blessed with many visitors from Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. We certainly enjoyed the time of fellowship and thank each one for visiting here in Atlanta.

May God richly bless our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word with us. Those who came to Atlanta this past month were Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Our congregation meets every Sunday with ministers scheduled on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month and a singing/Bible study scheduled on the alternate Sundays. Our services begin at 10:30. For further information, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-378-5918).

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Tudy Schmied Carolyn Fischer

THE TEACHER

Lord, who am I to teach the way
To little children day by day,
So prone myself to go astray?

I teach them knowledge, but I know
How faint they flicker and how low
The candles of my knowledge glow.

I teach them power to will and do,
But only now to learn anew
My own great weakness thru and thru.

I teach them love for all mankind
And all God's creatures, but I find
My love comes lagging far behind.

Lord, if their guide I still must be,
Oh, let the little children see
The teacher leaning hard on Thee.

Leslie Pinckney Hill

August is an exciting time for children as they begin a new school year. It is also an exciting time for the many brothers and sisters who have lovingly agreed to take on the role of Sunday school teacher. Most persons embark upon this task with feelings similar to those expressed in the above poem. Few feel they

have a sufficient knowledge of God's Word or the teaching abilities necessary to take on one of the most important tasks a person could have . . . to train up a child in the way he should go -- Proverbs 22:6.

But most Sunday school teachers would agree that the blessings from the experience are bountiful. To hear praises of God from the pulpit is a supreme blessing, but to have the privilege of hearing young children share their knowledge of God's Word and tell of how Jesus is a part of their lives is an uplifting experience that all should enjoy. Don't forget to pray for our Sunday school teachers.

We thank our home ministers for their faithful service and also the visiting ministers who lovingly shared God's Word: Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

June 30 was our annual Sunday school picnic. The children all sang songs of praises to our Great God, before partaking of a delicious potluck meal in the park. Sunday school is now on summer vacation and will resume September 8, for another year of learning from God's Holy Word.

A dear friend, Ivan Graham, who has assembled with us for several years passed from this earth into all eternity June 22. We extend our sympathy to his two daughters, and several grandchildren.

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

Ephesians 5:31

On July 7, our congregation heard the engagement of our dear Sis. Leann Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) to Bro. David Berchtold (Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan, Princeville). We certainly wish many blessings to Bro. David and Sis. Leann as they make plans to enter into the sacred bond of matrimony.

Our thoughts and prayers have

been with Sis. Sharon Elsasser (Bro. Jordan) as she underwent surgery this month. Also at this time, Bro. Don Knobloch is still recuperating in the Indiana University Medical Center. We hope and pray that it won't be too much longer and Bro. Don will be able to be released from the hospital.

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

Acts 2:38

We are rejoicing with our new Bro. Perry Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie), Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorraine, Peoria) and Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) as they each brought a testimony of a new life in Jesus and were baptized the following day. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Charles Hemmer (Peoria) and Joe Stoller were with us for this special occasion. Visiting ministers that were with us on this day were Bros. Clifford and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Ron Joos.

Also ministering to us this month were Bro. Ron Schamback (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction). We thank each minister for his labor of love.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Kim Walder

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't --

My sin - not in part, but the whole --

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

Hymns of Zion #55

We rejoice with Tina Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) as she has announced peace with God and awaits her testimony the first weekend of August.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Sue Aeschleman (Bro. Joe) as she has been recovering from a foot injury.

Deepest sympathy goes to our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand and his family as we heard the news of the passing away of his brother, Lester Wiegand (Quincy, IL). May God be their comforter in this time of sorrow.

We also have the joyous news that Dean Kaisner (Colleen Tholen and Robert and Cheri Kaisner) has turned his heart toward God and made a beginning in repentance. We pray for grace and God's guidance for Dean.

Sis. Jill Kaufman (Cissna Park), Sis. Karen Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. Aaron Steffen (Bloomington) have all recently been employed in the Champaign-Urbana area and we welcome them.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I learn so much from the classroom. In the summer program I am fortunate to be in, we visited the Shedd Aquarium/Oceanarium. At the Coral Reef, a 90,000-gallon circular aquarium, many aquatic creatures co-exist in very close quarters. One student mentioned that there were so many in there that "they had to get along." We had just finished an exercise in cooperation where several refused to listen to anyone else. I was reminded of our life together as a church family. How well do we get along? As Christians, we "have to" -- not because we all live so closely (remember the communal living of the early church?), but because we cannot be known by His name if we do not do His commandments. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. What does it take to get along? Always we need His grace to subdue our own will -- so that we can listen and discern and love despite differences. The sea creatures in the Coral Reef appear to get along because of instinct, God's plan within their beings. We can have Him, too, and "they will know we are Christians by our love" for each other!

We have been grateful for our visiting brethren. Ministers who lent themselves for the Word's sake have been Elder Bro. Don Sauder, Bros.

Jim Leman and Hoffman (Roanoke), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). May their treasures in heaven increase.

The weekend of July 6-7 we were privileged to hear David Leman's testimony and welcome a new brother into the fold. Elder Bro. Don Sauder was present, and together with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, he carried out this precious work in the Lord's name. We look forward to our continued fellowship with Bro. David and entrust him to the Lord Christ who called him and has begun in him this precious life and journey of faith.

We rejoice that Esther Bozzay has truly realized Christ's blood was shed for her and seeks Him in repentance. Our prayers and our love reach out to her in this new beginning.

Vacation Bible School was a blessing for all who sacrificed time and energy, both children and parents. The Lord expands our joys when we spend time with Him. Those six nights we practiced the books of the Old and New Testament in song, examined the teachings of the Bible, and made crafts to remind us of Jesus, including making things for others. Bro. Jake Plattner passed the mantle of Sunday school superintendent to Bro. Tom O'Shea, and Bro. Dave Kiefer replaces Bro. Jake in teaching. We are so thankful for Bro. Jake's faithfulness in his years in Sunday school, and we pray, trusting in the Lord's grace, for those who take over his duties.

Several have joined our family circle. What joy! Bro. Kevin and Sis. Liz Leman and their young son, Richard (St. Louis, MO) have moved to Chicago Ridge. Kevin is a computer consultant. Bro. Jeff Dotterer, newly graduated from Purdue, originally from Bluffton, IN, is living north. He also works for a computer firm in Oak Brook. May we envelop them with the love of Christ as we link hands and hearts in fellowship.

On the other hand, we have said farewell to a dear couple, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer. They are worshipping in Sarasota, FL. She has purchased a medical practice and he will be continuing his work

on a degree in civil engineering. We know the Lord will bless their purpose in His name. But we miss them even so. Nevertheless, we can remember each other in prayer as we are apart.

I was driving to VBS after taking a test. Because of the overflow of construction, I was far back from a stoplight, so I stayed back from a smaller intersection also, allowing several cars to turn left. Behind me, a man laid on his horn. I couldn't understand his frantic signalling because the light was red. Neither of us was going anywhere. Just before the light changed, he opened his car door and spoke. Finally I understood that I had been to blame. When I had changed lanes earlier, I had put on my right turn signal. It was still on! He had had every right to expect that I could have turned and gotten out of his way. I had not meant to mislead him. I really knew where I was going and what I was doing. But it had not made sense to him. Forgive me, Lord, in this much more important journey of life. May I know where I am going and what I am doing, that what people see in me may point directly to heaven. And please help me to correct my unwise, unnecessary or misleading signals in my words, thoughts and deeds, for I would not frustrate anyone, nor would I lead them in mis-steps because of my lack of clarity. I would, with Thy grace, that any who look on my footsteps would never be led astray. Thou alone hast such power.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Joanne Roth - Myra Steffen

Sunday, June 30, was our annual Sunday school picnic and singing. "... We thank you loving teachers too, For all your love and care. You teach us of the heavenly home, How we may enter there..." (Hymns of Zion #73). May the seeds planted in Sunday school take root deeply in the hearts and minds of our Sunday school children.

Brandon William is the precious new arrival at Mark and Teri Schrock's home. His brothers, Bradley and Brian, welcomed Brandon home. We pray for God's blessings as Mark and Terri raise their boys.

Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock and Bill and Amy Cotton (Metamora).

Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol are also rejoicing with their son, Mike Schrock, as he has made a beginning in repentance. (Our love and prayers are with Mike now for God's mercy and grace.

Recently engaged couples are: John Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) and Renae Edwards (Gary and Sis. Wanda, Goodfield); also Mark Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley) and Michelle Myers (Michael and Denise Myers, Eureka). We pray God's blessings on them now and in the years to come.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We are thankful God's Word continue to come forth in truth. May we always continue to pray for our ministers, for God's continued guidance and the presence of His Holy Spirit, and especially now, as our elder brothers meet for the annual conference.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

Praised be the Lord who gives us strength,
 Who leads and gives direction.
 My brethren, when you kneel in pray'r,
 For me make intercession.
 'Twill not be vain; Pray'r as a chain

Binds us in God together,
 And when we part,
 Unites each heart
 In Jesus' name forever.

Zion's Harp #195, vs. 8

Believing the Lord has given direction and opened the way, some of our brethren have felt moved to establish an assembly of believers in the Belvidere area. May the Holy Spirit direct as the Word is ministered all to the glory of God and saving of souls.

We share our love and sympathy to Sis. Hilde and Bro. Georg Schumacher who lovingly cared for her mother many years. Sis. Rosine

Gschwind, formerly of Germany, passed away July 1 in their home at the age of 98.

Oh Jerusalem, the golden,
Where God's praises ever ring;
Heav'nly choirs to Thee beholden,
"Holy, Holy, Holy!" sing.
Oh, when will God grant to me
Thy glad citizen to be!
Zion's Harp #53, vs. 1

Likewise, our sympathy is extended to all those who mourn the loss of Lydia Kachelmuss 91, of Elgin.

Our church family was also saddened to learn of the sudden death of John W. Tolvstad, 36, of San Diego, CA. He was the son of John and Louise Tolvstad, formerly of Elgin.

Again we have young and old who were hospital patients this month. These include Sisters Helen Banwart and Pat Schifferer (Bro. Howard) and Sarena Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby).

Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) visited us on a Wednesday evening and shared the Word. We thank you.

Sis. Lucile Knupper wishes to express her love and gratitude to all who so kindly remembered her during her hospital and convalescent days -- especially, the many cards of encouragement, flowers and gifts of love.

We just want to thank everyone who remembered us with love and cards on our 40th anniversary. God bless you all.

Bro. Charles and
Sis. Leola Schambach

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

We were thankful to gather together Saturday evening, June 22, to hear the testimonies of Eric Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda), John Cottrell (son of Sis. Judy), Brad Kupferschmid (Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth) and Tom Zimmerman (husband of Sis. Janet). We appreciate Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for assisting our Elder Bro. Walter in this important work. The next day we were able to welcome them into the brotherhood as our brothers-in-faith! We do rejoice with them and pray they will be beacons

for Him in this dark and troubled world wherever He will lead them. We pray that while the Lord is calling that many would not pass him by, but come and taste and see of His goodness and mercy.

Along with Elder Bro. Ed, we appreciate ministering Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Kenny Dietz (Bradford) for bringing us the Word.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Delores Martin (Bro. Roland) and Sis. Boni Blunier (Bro. Sam). May God visit them in this time of illness and provide for them.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Eunice Martin in the passing of her husband, Bro. Ray. Services were held in Peoria.

On June 14, Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr were blessed with Bethany Lynn. She has Jason, Ryan, Janell, Brenda and Michael to welcome her home. Also, grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin (Eureka) and Richard and Doris White (El Paso, IL).

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy Blunier were thankful for a son, Andrew David, born July 3. Andrew has two sisters, Amy and Kelly. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier (Eureka). May God bless these dear families as they strive to bring up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

Bro. Kurt Eastman and Sis. Kelly Meece were married July 14 at Goodfield. Parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece and Bro. Richard and Sis. Nelma Eastman. May God bless them as they walk this earthly life together.

Bro. John Huette wishes to thank everyone who remembered him on his 90th birthday with cards, gifts and good wishes.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystall Fehr

THE NARROW WAY

'Tis such a narrow pathway,
Yet there's room enough for two,
There's room to walk with Jesus
And for Him to walk with you.

You would lose Him on the broad way,
The crowd would press between,
And only in the narrow path
The heart on Him can lean.

'Tis in the narrow pathway
Your eyes can meet His own,
No need for other counsellors,
Help comes from Him alone;
Oh, blessed, narrow pathway
Where there's but space for two,
Just room to walk with Jesus
And for Him to walk with you.
Beatrice Cleland

We are thankful for five dear souls who have chosen the "Narrow Way." July 6 and 7 was a special weekend for Bryan Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy), Julia, Helen and Elizabeth Fehr (William and Helen) and Kara Kaisner (Robert Kaisner and Colleen Tholen, Champaign). They gave their testimony and was baptized in Christ's death. We welcome them into the fold.

June 30 was our annual Sunday school picnic. The children all enjoyed the time they could spend together.

We appreciate Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Earl Gerber (Forrest) for expounding God's Word to us. We pray that God will bless their efforts.

We laid to rest our Sis. Lydia Wiedman, who died June 23. We extend sympathy to her three sisters, Minnie and Margaret Bachtold and Frieda Pfladderer (Kouts, IN).

Also we extend sympathy to Sis. Marie Kilgus in the passing of her sister, Leona Hoffman.

Our hospital patients this month were Fannie Steffen and Sisters Alene Broquard and Aldine Steffen. May the Lord be by their side each day.

The family of Sis. Gertie Moser would like to give a special thanks to all who remembered them in prayer and kind deeds during Sis. Gertie's illness and death. May God reward each one.

Reminder: August is Silver Lining dues collection month for Fairbury. Please remit \$9.00.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider**

We gathered at the park for our annual Sunday school picnic June 30. It was a beautiful evening of singing, fellowship and delicious food. We are grateful to our Sunday school teachers for taking the time to teach our children the true doctrine throughout the year.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Martha Huber as her brother, Bro. Carl Huber (Morton) passed away.

Also, we remember Sis. Virginia Hilti, Sis. Leona Steffen, Bro. Paul and Bro. Wilbur Wiegand in prayer in the loss of their brother, Lester Wiegand (Quincy).

On July 1, Larissa Dawn joined the family of Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger, Craig, Katie and Betsy. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman. May God give grace and wisdom to this dear couple as they strive to raise their family in the Lord.

"Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2. We do appreciate and thank Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Dean Steffen (Elgin), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury) for serving us.

A busload of dear ones from the Home for the Handicapped spent the first Sunday of July with us. We appreciate the many efforts put forth to share the day with us.

Even as the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repeneth, so we rejoice as Mary Schmidgall is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God fill her with wisdom and understanding to build a firm foundation.

On July 13 and 14, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sara and Sheila Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Ray Steffen (Sis. Doris). As they could testify of the thankfulness in their heart for God's love and mercy, we are thankful, too. It is a joy to wel-

come them into the fold.

Sis. Nathalia Honegger and Mary Schmidgall were hospital patients this month. We trust both will feel God's nearness.

On July 19, the Lord called home Bro. Sam Honegger. May God comfort the hearts of his dear wife, Sis. Leah; and their sons, Lyle, Jerry, Gordon and Sam; along with his brothers and sisters.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Sis. Kelly Meece and Bro. Kurt Eastman were married June 14. Rejoicing with them were their parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece and Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman (Eureka). Thanks to Elder Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka) and Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Everett Hari (Bloomington) for sharing this blessed day with us.

Jared Wyss was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna March 16. His brothers are Phillip, Benjamin and Caleb. The happy grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Shirley Wyss and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arlene Huette (Tremont).

Michael Martin, along with his parents, Darin and Jenny, welcome Courtney Nicole into their family. She was born June 22 and her grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Carol Martin and Mary Beth Knott (Eureka).

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kris Bauman have been blessed with another little boy, David Michael. David was born June 28 and Luke and Anna are his new brother and sister. His grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO).

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne Plattner as they announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Darren, to Sis. Sue Heinfeld (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan, Washington, IL).

The wedding of Sis. Jill Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg) to Bro. John Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary, Roanoke) was a blessed event. We all wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together in Him. Thanks to Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) for assisting with the ceremony and to Bros. Ed Alt

(Cissna Park) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

"Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:21

While our citizenship is in heaven, we nonetheless are very appreciative of our nation and our benevolent government. As we observed Independence Day on July 4, we gave thanks to God for the blessings of our beloved land.

While there is much cynicism toward government and low voting levels in our "participatory" democracy, we were very impressed recently when a young sister in our Gridley congregation wrote about our spiritual values, using the format of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. We persuaded her to let us print it in the Silver Lining.

"Two thousand and twenty-four years ago, our God brought forth His only Son, conceived in Mary, and dedicated to proclaiming that all men should be converted.

Now we are engaged in a spiritual war, testing whether God's Word so conceived and so dedicated can long endure in our lives. We are always on a battlefield of that war. We have come to defend the Word for that One who gave His life that we might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot disregard - we cannot change - we cannot withhold - this Word. The One Man now living, who lived also then, has consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what He did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the work which He who was here has so nobly addressed.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from that Jesus;

we take increased devotion to that cause for which He gave His full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that an innocent man shall not have died in vain; that these people, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

By Sis. Shelly Knobloch

Amanda Nicole was the first child born to David and Sis. Peggy Poppin June 25. Grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss and Alwin and Ruby Poppin (Normal). We rejoice with them in this gift from above.

Hospital patients recently have been Sisters Vyra Stoller and Lydia Kuntz and Bro. Todd Witzig.

On June 30, the funeral of Sis. Clara Bruellman, who resided at the Eureka Home, was held at the Froelich Memorial Home in Gridley, with a funeral supper following at the Gridley church. Her survivors include two sisters, Sis. Lydia Kuntz and Sis. Ella Cargill (Normal).

It has been requested that we include the following news item: Mrs. Dorothy Romersberger Gledhill (Jerseyville) passed away July 4. She was the sister of Bro. Bill Romersberger and Sis. Marjorie Schlipf (Gridley).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Helen Acherman died June 22. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Sam; her daughter, Cindy Ingold; her son, Tom; her brothers, Bro. Harold, Bro. Jack and Robert Krantz; her grandchildren and her friends.

Our Father also called Bro. Carl Huber to his eternal home July 4. May the Holy Spirit comfort his wife of 64 years, Sis. Ida; his sons, Robert and Vernon; his daughter, Eileen Spring; his 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held July 7. It was an opportunity to all ages to fellowship on an informal basis.

School will be starting soon and our students will be learning many

necessary and important things. But remember the Bible, the greatest textbook of all, teaches true wisdom. "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28.

We thank ministering Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and his family for being with our congregation and bringing the Word of Life to us.

To my beloved brethren across the land, Words cannot express the deep appreciation I have felt from the prayers, cards and love you have shared with me during my recent surgery. I have always felt a very deep appreciation for our fellowship, but this experience has only enhanced the love I have always felt. May God bless you. "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1.

Your least brother-in-faith,
Elder Bro. Joe Braker

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following visiting ministers for bringing us the Word of God this past month: Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL).

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of Bro. Ray Martin and Sis. Ruth Hofstetter, who were called home to be with our Lord. May we pray for those who are sorrowful. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

We also pray for our hospital patients: Bro. Rolland Scholl, Bro. Bob Waibel and Steve Kaisner. May God bestow His healing powers upon them.

GIVING

The world has many happy folk
who smile each day they live,
Because they've found that
happiness depends on what
you give.

For a giving man is different from
his neighbors in the pod.

When his thoughts are of his
brothers, then he's closest to
his God.

And the spark of love he kindles
in a breast where hope has died,
Sheds a warmth that's like no
other, for it feels so good inside!
And every time he gives a bit, he
adds a little part,

To that something deep within
him, that the poets call a heart.

M. Buxbaum

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). They were here for their Camp Pickett Army reunion. May God bless them for sharing God's Word with us. We also appreciated the many other visitors that came for this army reunion.

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38 On June 29, we gathered to hear the testimony and June 30 we witnessed the baptism of our new sister-in-faith, Sis. Heather Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth). We wish her God's grace and blessings in her new walk of life.

Believing God has led them to each other, Bro. Wayne Streitmatter and Sis. Deonna Massner (Burlington, IA) and Bro. David Berchtold and Sis. Leann Endress (Bradford) have made their engagements known. Their parents are Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner, Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress. We wish these dear couples the Lord's richest blessings as they make plans for this important step in life.

Congratulations to Kevin Scholl (Bro. Robert and Sis. Arlene) and Joyce Johnson on their marriage and Larry Martin (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna) and Tiffany Kerns.

We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Two precious babies have come to bless the homes of two couples, Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Gerst welcome a boy, Bradley James. He is welcome home by two sisters, Kristen and Andi, and grandparents, Bro. Dick and Clea Gerst (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch. Kayla Dianne is welcome into the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ. She has another sister, Lanae and two brothers, Nathan and Dane. Happy grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ. Also, happy grandparents are Russell and Sis. Roma Rumbold, their daughter, Sis. Martha, and Bro. Chris Stickling welcome another boy. May God bless these family circles as they raise these children in the fear of the Lord.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held July 14 at Hickory Grove Park. It was a beautiful day and enjoyed by all. May God bless the teachers and students.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 24-28. May God bless all those who gave of their time for teaching our youth and may the memories remain deep in each child's heart. A special thanks to Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton) and Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington) for speaking to our Bible class students. Also, a special thanks to Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) for the inspired Bible study "First Love" for the single members. May God richly bless each brother for taking the time for these topics.

Congratulations to our college graduates, Sis. Robin Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen), Sis. Cindy Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray), Bro. Phil Baurer (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol) and Brian Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth). May each graduate seek God's guidance with making the right decisions in life.

Our sympathy to Kate Streitmatter in the death of her brother, Herman Koehler.

Hospital patients this month are Jacob Menold, Bro. David Ehnle (Sis. Beulah) and Bro. Fred Schafer (Sis. Esther). Bro. Fred is at the Eureka Home at this time for ther-

apy. We pray for God's healing powers for our loved ones.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

An old man going a lone highway
 Came at the evening, cold and
 gray,
 To a chasm vast and wide and
 steep,
 With waters rolling cold and deep.
 The old man crossed in the twilight
 dim,
 The sullen stream had no fears for
 him;
 But he turned when safe on the
 other side,
 And built a bridge to span the tide.
 "Old man," said a fellow pilgrim
 near,
 "You are wasting your strength
 with building here.
 Your journey will end with the
 ending day,
 You never again will pass this way.
 You've crossed the chasm, deep
 and wide,
 Why build you this bridge at
 eventide?"
 The builder lifted his old gray
 head,
 "Good friend, in the path I have
 come," he said,
 "There followeth after me today
 A youth whose feet must pass this
 way.
 The chasm that was as nought to
 me
 To that fair-headed youth may a
 pitfall be;
 He, too, must cross in the twilight
 dim -
 Good friend, I am building this
 bridge for him."

Will Allen Dromgoole

As I read this poem, it moved my heart as I thought of the many brothers and sisters in their older years who have been such examples and builders of bridges for those of us who are younger. We appreciate the heritage that the older brothers and sisters of our faith have handed down to us. May we each one work to preserve it for the next generation.

Our congregation is rejoicing with the angels in heaven as we have four new converts. They are Robin

Zimmerman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene), Matt Gastman (John and Barb), Courtney Sauder (Gary and Phyllis) and Doug Knecht (Bro. Wally and Kay).

On June 30, we witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls, Scott and Bev Luginbuhl and Jamie Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol). David Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen) was baptized in Chicago July 7. We pray that God will richly bless each one as they begin walking with Him.

Our Sis. Marge Rebbec (Phoenix, AZ, formerly of Roanoke) passed away. She was the mother of Bro. Marty of our congregation and Bob (Bloomington).

We were thankful to have Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger visit us and bring us the message of salvation.

Our Sis. Marie Blunier celebrated her 97th birthday July 7. We pray that God will bless her richly as she has been such an inspiration to so many of us.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Barth are the happy parents of their first child, Cody Michael. Cody's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth, all of Roanoke.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Alvin Farney, Bro. Dick Moser and Bro. Gaylord Blunier. We pray that God will be near to each of them.

We are thankful to have our Sis. Angela Rassi again worship with us after her long hospital stay and recuperation.

We rejoice in the engagement of our Bro. Steve Byrd (Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota) to Sis. Colleen Fischer (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara). May God bless them as they begin to live for Him together.

Note of Thanks: I wish to express my sincere thanks to the many who remembered me while in the hospital and since returning home with food, cards, gifts and prayers. These gifts of love will always be remembered and I pray that God will bless each of you.

Bro. Alvin Farney

 Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New
 Address To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Carolyn Bolliger****Marsha Koch**

We thank Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Marvin Wagenbach (Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy) is engaged to Sis. Paula Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice). We wish these two God's richest blessing.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach had a baby boy, David Michael, July 18. He is welcomed home by Paul, Gary, Holly, Lisa and Wendy. Grandparents are Bro. Simon Wagenbach Sr. and Aaron and Iris Gschwind. Little Mary Catherine was born July 19 to Bro. Stanley and Sis. Jennifer Koch. She is welcomed home by Elizabeth and Jerad. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Matilda Koch and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang. May God grant wisdom and love to rear their families.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin on the passing of his father, Bro. Raymond Martin. Also sympathy to Helen Schmidgall on the passing of her brother, Walter Schmidgall from Arizona. May God comfort them in their losses.

Sis. Marjorie (Maurice), Cindy and Tim Schaefer were in an accident and we are so thankful that nothing serious happened to them. Tim was hospitalized for a few days but is back home. Other hospital patients were Carla Leuthold and Bro. Curt Zuercher. Sis. Sophia Sauder has been ill at home and we pray she will be able to assemble wish us shortly.

We thank our Sunday school teachers who are rotating out for their years of service, Bros. Roger Beutel and Vernon Koch. Bros. Tom Bolliger and Nelson Rocke have our prayers and support as they now will teach our youth. We also thank Bro. Kenneth Huette for his years as trustee. Bro. Dean Martin will be the new trustee.

the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalm 127:3

We celebrate the births of four new babies in the Washington congregation. A daughter, Michelle Katherine, was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy (Schlipf) Wyss. Also a daughter, Kendra Rose, was born to Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori (Wyss) Leman. A son, Adam Frederick, was born to Bro. Max and Sis. Mary (Schick) Pfafman. Also a son, Obed Nathaniel, was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica (Gutwein) Fritz.

On June 16, Bro. Fred Wyss and Sis. Dianne Leman were united in marriage. On July 14, Bro. Fred Schumacher and Sis. Shelli Massner exchanged their wedding vows. We wish these couples an abundance of God's blessings and joy as they begin their new lives together.

Our sympathy is offered to Sis. Jan Heinold on the loss of her father, Bro. Raymond Martin (Peoria). Though families mourn the loss of loved ones, there is also rejoicing in knowing their loved one has gone "home."

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Sue Heinold, to Bro. Darren Plattner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne, Goodfield). May the Lord's blessing be upon them as they seek to do His will in their lives.

We're always grateful when we have visiting ministers to share from God's Word. In the recent past, we've had Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Jim Leman (Roanoke), Walt Herrmann (Princeville), John Leman (Bern, KS), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign).

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Hebrews 6:10

and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"A time to be born..." Ecclesiastes 3:2. On April 5, James Allen was born to Jim and Pam Agler. Proud grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger. Bro. Marv and Sis. Kim Reinhard are first-time parents to Alex Michael, born June 29. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat Moser. Doyle and Sis. Lisa Weil have been blessed with a son, Joshua James, born July 3. Joshua joins brother, Justin, at home. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Delores Fiechter.

"... a time to die" Ecclesiastes 3:2. We share in the sorrow of the loss of three loved ones. Bro. Walter Kaehr passed away July 1, at the age of 74. Our condolences go to his wife, Sis. Lucille, and their children. Bro. Walter is survived by Bro. Ezra Kaehr, Bro. Fred (Ted) Kaehr, Sis. Mabel Kipfer, Sis. Aldine Moser, Sis. Frances Kaehr and Mrs. Laurin (Sis. Lillian) Bertsch. On July 3, Sis. Sylvia Isch went to her heavenly home at the age of 92. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Joe, as well as the rest of the family, including a sister, Sis. MaryAnn Fiechter. A special prayer goes out to the family of Roger Maller, who passed away July 15. Eugene is survived by his mother, Sis. Katie Maller; a sister, Sis. Marge Ringger; and two brothers, Bro. Eugene Maller and Dale Maller.

"A time to love..." Ecclesiastes 3:8. We witnessed the wedding of Bro. Shawn Reinhard and Sis. Marci Gilliom July 14. Parents are Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni Reinhard and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom. Our prayers are with this new couple as they begin their lives together. Also we July 13 were Wayne Reinhard and Susie Schlagenhaut. Parents are Bro. Ezra Reinhard and George and Marlene Schlagenhaut.

"A time to embrace..." Ecclesiastes 3:5. We want to welcome Bro. Stan Fiechter on his return home after living in New York for the past few years. We're thankful Stan had a safe journey home.

"... a time to heal" Ecclesiastes

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold**

"Lo children are an heritage of

INDIANA, BLUFFTON**Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer**

"To everything there is a season,

3:3. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Tom Pfister (Sis. Barb), Bro. Mano Moser, Sis. Emma Baumgartner, Sis. Edith Stultz, Bro. Ezra Kaehr and Bro. Aden Strahm (Sis. Mae). We pray for God's healing power as well as His comforting love to be among them.

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: Also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

Artist Ron DiCianni got the idea for his painting "Spiritual Warfare" as he was getting ready for bed one evening. In the painting is a father praying by the bed of his child. Most people see the two warring angels beyond the window, but the centerpiece is actually the shadow of a cross falling across the father's shoulder and onto the little boy. It takes an act of will to get on our knees and pray for our children, but as it says in James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Two dear souls have felt their parents prayers and have turned from the world. They are Jason Bussel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy) and Tyson Campbell (Mike and Sis. Janet). We wish them God's grace during this time of repentance.

Our of the depths to the glory above,
I have been lifted in wonderful love;
From every fetter my spirit is free -
For Jesus has lifted me!

Christiansen

We had the privilege to witness the baptism and testimonies of our dear Sis. Jodi Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) and Bro. Kirt Fiechter (Rick and Sandy Mendenhall). May they always remember the joy and peace of that day!

July 14 was the wedding day for Bro. Shawn Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni) and Sis. Marci Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene). We extend congratulations to this

new union, and wish them God's blessings.

We have grandparents in our congregation rejoicing in the birth of their new family members. Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser were delighted to welcome Alex Michael. He was born June 28 to Sis. Kim and Bro. Marvin Reinhard. Also celebrating are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber as Cecily Noelle was born to Sis. Tami and Bro. Doug Kaehr.

Our dear Sis. Emma Levy has been a recent hospital patient. We want to extend our prayers to her for a speedy recovery.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

The week of June 24-28 we enjoyed Vacation Bible School in our congregation. It was such an encouragement to attend each evening. Our topic was, "Christ's Return Is Near . . . Don't Miss It For The World." We appreciated Bros. Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for coming to share with us each evening. On June 30 the children shared with us in verse and song what they learned all week.

Bro. Robert Huber (son of Bro. Bill and Betty Huber) and Sis. Joy Vogt (daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt) are engaged to be married, another example of the Lord's gracious guiding hand. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their wedding day.

"Not flesh of my flesh. Nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own. Never forget for a single minute -- you didn't grow under my heart -- But in it."

Anonymous

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne Overmeyer and son, Joshua, gladly welcome Chelsey Renee into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol Overmeyer and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum (Bloomington, IL).

Recently, two couples, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber,

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We appreciate their Godly examples of trust, faith and love.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ruth Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee) and Nicholas Wuethrich (son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne). We're thankful that they are feeling better and fellowshiping with us again.

Our congregation was blessed with Words of Life from the following visiting ministers: Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Alphai Moser (Morris, MN). We appreciate their labors of love.

Thank You Note: We wish to thank each and every one who came to our 50th wedding anniversary and made it a special day. For all the good wishes and lovely cards. May God richly bless you.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

We also want to thank Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us July 14.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

We are happy to report that both Bro. Virgil and Sis. Ruth Heinold have been able to return to their home from the hospital. May the Lord continue to be their strength.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace

I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you . . ."

John 14:27

Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) has found this wonderful God-given peace and is awaiting baptism in the near future.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

What state do you live in? Arizona . . . California . . . Michigan . . . Kansas . . . Ohio . . . Illinois . . . Contentment. The first seven are places of physical residence. Contentment is a state where we may live spiritually. In Philippians 4:11, Paul says, ". . . I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content." In I Timothy 6:6, we find, "Godliness with contentment is great gain," and in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your manner of life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Contentment, not always easy to attain or maintain, is a beautiful state in which to live!

Visiting ministers, Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North) were welcomed by our congregation.

Sis. Frances Bertsch (Bro. Otto) is wished better health following a recent hospital stay.

Bits of This and That:

When a shower brings a rainbow, we hardly remember getting wet.

The believer is like the tree whose strength does not come from how tall it stands, but how deeply rooted it is in the Source of Life.

The Lord leads His people. Satan drives his slaves.

Those who gossip often get caught in their own "mouth trap."

THE POWER OF WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

We always look forward to the encouragement and love brought to us from visiting ministers. Willing to serve our Milford congregation this month were Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Bros. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL), Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North). We greatly appreciate their labor of love.

Welcoming grandchildren into their heart and family are Bro. Alan and Kathy Wuthrich and Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen. A precious baby boy, Mark Alan, was entrusted into the care of Mike and Barb (Wuthrich) Siedler of Durham, NC. The home of Wade and Pat (Steffen) Stoller of the Grabill, IN, area was blessed with a little daughter, Michelle Rose. May the Lord grant wisdom to these couples in raising their children for Him.

On June 26, our church gathered together for our annual Sunday school picnic. Our evening was blessed with bountiful food and fellowship. It's times like these which draw us closer to one another. We must never take for granted these gifts the Lord continues to supply.

Bro. Fred Schafer (Princeville, IL) had the misfortune of being hospitalized in our area while visiting his son-in-law and daughter, Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor. Because further therapy and care was needed, following the stroke he suffered, it was necessary to transfer Bro. Fred to the Apostolic Christian Church Nursing Home in Eureka.

Gwen (Herman) Weisser was admitted to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne to surgically repair an aneurysm. Surely this has been a very difficult time for Gwen and her family but we feel the Lord has been gracious and prognosis at this time looks optimistic.

Certainly these two souls need our prayers. We must not neglect our Christian duty and privilege to lift up one another to the Lord.

I NEEDED THE QUIET

I needed the quiet so He drew me aside.
Into the shadows where we could confide.
Away from the bustle where all the day long
I hurried and worried when active and strong.

I needed the quiet tho at first I rebelled
But gently, so gently, my cross He upheld
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things
Tho weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly He drew me away.

I needed the quiet, no prison my bed,
But a beautiful valley of blessings instead --
A place to grow richer in Jesus to hide.
I needed the quiet so He drew me aside.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in thy righteousness."
Psalm 31:1

We are very much in need of rain here. It is at times like this that we need to remember this strengthening verse. He never has failed us.

Bro. Paul Gasser of Akron, OH, was our visiting minister in the forenoon of July 7. In the afternoon he went to Wolcott for a wedding there.

On Wednesday evening, July 10, retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) was our topical Bible study teacher, the topic being on the benefits of a Christian home. Some of his opening words were that the greatest job we have is to share God's Word, especially in the home.

On Sunday, July 14, Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) was our visiting

minister. We thank all three of the ministering brothers for your visit and inspiring message. It is so faith strengthening when a visitor comes who doesn't know us or our needs but through his submissiveness, God can supply our needs.

Thought for the day: Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Renee Mangold

How to keep the Holy Spirit dwelling strongly within us and Forgiveness were our topics this year for our adult Vacation Bible School. Helping us to gather better insights into the Scriptures pertaining to these subjects were Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo). Everyone who attended received such a wonderful blessing.

We were fortunate to have with us, also this month was Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North), along with many others from the Gerber family. It's always a special day for us when we have visitors come to fellowship with us in our small church.

As we once again celebrated Independence Day, we are mindful of how fortunate we are that we have the freedom to gather together under God's Word without fear of repercussion. Our prayers continue to be with those from other countries who are not as fortunate.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

Father's Day -- 'Twas so nice to remember fathers. This is a privilege that no one need be without, for God in heaven will be a Father to everyone. All He asks in return is obedience to His Word.

We are glad to report Bro. Roy Frieden is getting along well after major surgery this past month.

Many good seeds were sown in the hearts of children during Bible school week. May God have a special blessing for each teacher who put forth much effort. The first evening we were impressed with the definitions of love. They are fleshly love, family love, friendships and Godly love. Charity and agape

were the definitions given for Godly love. We must seek to obey God's commandment "love thy neighbor as thyself." I Corinthians 13 gives sixteen definitions of Godly love.

Our joyous Bible school week concluded with the topic God's Love Forever and Ever. The presentation was very thought provoking, convicting and yes, comforting. What a pity not every seat was filled. We give heartfelt thanks to ministering brethren, Jim Rinkenberger, Ron Kipfer and Dennis Kauffman. Also thanks to our beloved Elder Bro. Dale Eisenman who came one Sunday just to be with us.

Tolerant sympathy. There are two kinds. The one comes from indifference. No matter what you believe, it seems to say, you'll have to take the consequences. That does not affect me, because you have the right creed.

The other kind of tolerance comes through sympathy. You and I do not possess the same understanding it says, but we seek the same end: the glory of God and the good of our fellow man. Our points of view, our circumstances, our educations have been different. The road is not easy. Let us help one another.

Leaves of Gold,
July 13, 1991

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were privileged to witness two marriages this past month. Bro. Kip Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean, Gridley, KS) and Sis. Donita Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita) were united as one in the Lord June 23. We are so happy to have Bro. Kip as a part of our congregation and hope he will soon feel at home among us. On July 7, Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) became the God-given wife of Bro. Mark Graf (Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet, Akron, OH). We are reluctant to lose Sis. Marcy, but we believe God's ways are perfect and know she will bless the Akron congregation. May God richly bless both of these dear couples and always be the center of their homes.

An added blessing of these spe-

cial occasions were our visiting ministers, including Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT), Paul Gasser and David Graf (both of Akron, OH). We appreciate their efforts to preserve the truth by willingly expounding God's Holy Word, and we pray God's grace, wisdom and blessings upon them. May we do our part to uphold the same, each in our own small way.

Our dear Sis. Madelyn Anker has exchanged her cross for a starry crown, and though we rejoice with her, yet we sorrow with her sister, Sis. Irene Anker, whom we know will miss her acutely. They lived together their entire lives and in recent years moved to Parkview Haven in Francesville together. May God comfort Sis. Irene in her lonely hours.

Our hearts also go out to Sis. Marilyn Schieler who has been hospitalized once again. May she feel our prayers and God's nearness always. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

We thank retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) for coming July 10 and speaking to us about our Bible study topic, "The Benefits of a Christian Home." May we, as parents, fully realize the gravity of this area of our lives and diligently pray for grace and wisdom to do His will.

Two families in our congregation have recently been entrusted with the precious souls of new baby girls. Emily Jane came to bless the lives of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler and Abbie July 17. Grandparents include Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bern, KS). On July 19, David and Shellie Kyburz were blessed with sweet little Shelby Lynn. Sisters, Charis and Shelaine, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Meier, are thankful for this precious bundle to love.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

On June 23, we heard the betrothal of Sis. Deyona Massner (Bro.

Lloyd and Sis. Edith) to Bro. Wayne Streitmatter (Bro. Floran and Sis. Twila, Princeville, IL). We wish them God's nearness as they make their wedding plans and look forward to starting a Christian home.

On June 30, we enjoyed a blessed day as Sis. Karla Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) and Bro. Dave Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby, Oakville) were united in holy matrimony. We pray they may always feel God's blessings and guidance in their married life.

The following Sunday we also enjoyed the marriage ceremony of Sis. Timna Taeger (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Ron Lanz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan, Oakville). May they too experience God's leading in their married life.

We thank Bro. Ed for carrying out these special ceremonies and pray he may feel God's blessings and nearness in his responsibilities of eldership. We thank Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and his wife, Sis. Judy, for spending the day with us. May God bless his labors of love.

As our brotherhood conference approaches next month, we pray the brethren may feel the Holy Spirit's guidance in all their endeavors.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

As I'm sitting here to write our August entry for the Silver Lining, my mind is thinking back to the blessed evening shared by young and old at our annual Sunday school picnic. (What precious memories). And then I think of another summer that is swiftly passing by and soon the students will be returning to their schools.

How swiftly time does pass, though this fact cannot be fully appreciated in the younger years when from one birthday to the next seems almost an eternity. But as the years continue to number by, we, hopefully, begin to seek God's will and purpose in our lives.

Advice is given to the youth in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh." Our Savior also teaches us to "Seek first the

kingdom of God and His righteousness." May we take heed so we will not come to the end of our days unprepared to meet our God.

Word was received of the death of little two-year-old Timothy Zupke. Our sympathy and prayers go to Timothy's parents, Mark and Ruth, and his brother, Matthew, and sister, Miriam. These dear people would come to worship and fellowship with us before they moved to Minnesota and we enjoyed and appreciated their attendance.

A special thank you to the Pulaski brethren who came and spent a day helping those in need after the flood and to all who showed loving concern by letters and phone calls.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A grateful "thank you" to all of our visitors this month. There were several Sundays that the visitors far outnumbered the homefolk. We appreciate your willingness to travel to worship with us and to be used in a variety of ways during the day -- whether it be to help teach Sunday school, lead the singing, have a prayer, wash or wipe dishes, or just "swell the ranks." We also greatly appreciate ministering Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and their families coming when both of our ministers were gone. May God bless you all.

We rejoice in hearing of more converts in our area and in other churches across the land. May you feel our love, encouragement and prayers as you begin walking with God.

A BLESSED THOUGHT

There is promise in each sunrise,
There is hope for each new day;
There's a sunbeam for each
raindrop,
There is help along the way.

There is grace for all life's
problems,
There is strength for trials you
face;

There is mercy and compassion
Even in life's darkest place.

There is love that can't be
measured,
That makes all life's sorrows dim,
When you place your hand in God's
hand
And walk life's path with Him.

Jon Gilbert

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Mary Knobloch

"What joy I feel, what peace is mine!" We're sure this was the thought of seven new children of God. And what a joy for us to greet our new sisters and brothers-in-faith. Seven dear souls were taken into the fold after giving their testimonies Saturday afternoon and evening, July 6, and baptisms, July 7. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) were here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner in this blessed activity. Our new sisters-in-faith are Freda Giesel, Sonya Feucht (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge) and Amy Feucht (Bro. Ron and Sis. Sandy). New brothers-in-faith are Thadd Knobloch and Troy Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Brad Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) and Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl).

Other visiting ministers the past month who brought God's Word to us were Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Roger Aberle (both of Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We thank each one for their labors in God's vineyard.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn Metzger welcomed a new baby into their home. Andrew Martin arrived June 30. Grandparents are Ed and Judy Martin and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger. May they follow God's direction in rearing their family.

Once again it is time for the annual conference to be held in Morris, MN, this year. We are thankful for our elder brethren who so willingly give of themselves through God's direction that our church might be kept

pure and holy for future generations as long as the world stands. We pray God's will might be done as they gather to consider the needs of His family and our beloved church, and may we all strive to be obedient to God's Holy will.

We would like to thank each and every one for remembering us on our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you for the beautiful cards, gifts, phone calls, flowers and precious memories. God bless all of you.

Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and gifts and the telephone calls while I was in the hospital at Cody, Wyoming. Also thanks so very much for your prayers, visits and food that was brought in since I've been home. Your kindness and love will always be remembered. May God bless you all.

In humble love,
Zelma Knobloch

A special thank you to Bro. Tom Lehman and Sis. Marlene for stopping in to see me in Cody, WY at the hospital.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade nor wax away,
Bind us till life we finish,
And in the grave we lay.

Zion's Harp #137

This past month we have had three weddings. Rob Tapp (Dave and Phyllis) and Chris Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty) were married June 29. June 30 was the wedding day of Bro. Dave Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby) and Sis. Karla Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith, Burlington). On July 7, Bro. Ron Lanz (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Timna Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy, Burlington) were also united in marriage. We just pray the Lord will ever be near these young couples as they begin to establish their homes.

A little blessing from heaven arrived into the hearts and home of

Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Schrock July 1. They have named their new little daughter, Caitlin Jo. Big brother, Nathan, also is excited to have a new baby sister. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold (Princetonville, IL).

Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was our visiting minister this past month. We thank him for allowing himself to be used by the Spirit to exhort and uplift us in our spiritual life.

We wish to thank everyone who sent cards during John's recent hospitalization. We are especially thankful for the many prayers offered, which we feel resulted in a modern day miracle in that he is recovering after 10 weeks in the hospital. May God bless you all.

Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Schrock

Note: Reminder to the Oakville subscribers that subscriptions are due in September. They are \$9.00 a year. Please pay to your reporters.

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein

We were blessed with the visit of Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) who came to teach, advise and minister to us. His experience and expertise in the area of teaching was shared with many of us here in Pulaski. Always with God's help, and yet with simple practical advice from such a brother, teaching our children can become more blessed and beneficial. May God bless him for his much effort and travel.

Due to a broken ankle, Sis. Mary Wiegand (Bro. Dave) has spent time in the hospital this month. All thanks to God, as she is now home and doing well.

Truly, when but one of our many members suffers, our whole body is affected. Such an ideal physical to spiritual parallel.

Sis. Mary Wiegand wishes to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and prayers she received while in the hospital and since returning home.

Also, Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Sis. Karoline) spent a few days in the hospital in Iowa City.

Again, we thank God for His healing hand, as Bro. Russell appears to be back to normal and doing just fine.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

On June 23 we were privileged to welcome five lambs into the flock of God: Bro. Darren Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Bros. John and Karl and Sisters Angie and Heidi Fehr, children of Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon. May they feel the Spirit's leading as they continue in the Lord's service. Here to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Leo Moser (Lester). "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!" Hymns of Zion #161. Our congregation was gathered in the fellowship area of the church in the dark as the power of God was revealed in the clouds. The wind howled and lightening flashed. A tornado had been sighted and as we filed out of the sanctuary, we wondered what would transpire. We sang the above song as we prayed for God's protection. Often our young people ask, "How do we know there is a God?" I'm sure there was no doubt in anyone's mind Sunday morning that God is real. We are thankful that a power outage was the only effect of the storm at the church. With much cooperation from everyone, a generator was installed so we could witness the baptism of two dear souls who had given their testimonies the evening before. Byron Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen) and Jay Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy) are now our brothers-in-the-Lord. We are thankful they could be granted their wish to be baptized even though the weather did not cooperate. We are also thankful the sisters were able to provide a meal for the physical body as well.

Other visiting ministering brothers this past month were Bros. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Leroy Messner and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS).

Shon and Julie Bruellman and little Andrew are thankful to God that in their loss no bodily harm resulted. Shon was able to escape from the basement as fire engulfed their home. They are grateful that they will soon be able to move back in after much help from family and friends to repair the damage.

Do we really appreciate the blessing of health? It does make us stop and think when we hear that a cross has been placed upon our loved ones. Bernard Metzger continues to be hospitalized with a serious head injury. Bro. Arnold Metzger has again submitted to surgery. Bro. Virgil Wilson was also in the hospital. Sis. Lily Mogler is battling cancer and suffering much pain. All four are truly in need of our sincere prayers.

New residents in our local rest home are Rueben and Louisa Anliker. It is a joy to visit those who live there. We appreciate the care they are given.

We welcome Bro. Byron Fehr home. He has returned after attending a school of higher learning and had been assembling with the Elgin, IA, congregation.

We want to mention that the home of Ken and Karen Schirm (Stuart, IA) has been blessed with a precious baby daughter, Kelsey Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Clifford and Sis. Rosene Grimm. Another home has experienced the same blessing. Tim and Pam Banwart welcome dear little daughter, Chelsea Ann, who arrived June 17. The Banwarts live at Sioux Falls. Grandparents are Bob and Kay Banwart of our congregation.

We extend a hand of sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt and family who lost Harold Carlson, Judy's step-father.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) These words have been chosen as

the theme verses for our upcoming Summer Fellowship Meeting. This year the topic will be "Prayer." As Jesus Christ and His disciples often retreated from the cities for instruction and prayer, so will we leave the city for two days of quiet fellowship, instruction and prayer. We are looking forward to journeying together to the South Alps of Japan.

On Sunday, July 14, a farewell was held for Sis. Renee Baurer who will soon be returning to America after serving four years in Japan at the kindergarten in Shioda. We thank God for lending her to us these few years and using her in our Young People's meetings and in bringing people to church. We pray that God will bless her and help her with the adjustments back to life in America.

This past month, Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue hosted another Young People's meeting. We appreciate Sisters Terri Gramm and Renee Baurer coming in from Shioda to help with the meeting. The group has grown to about 15 upper elementary and junior high school students.

Last month, several members and friends gathered together to paint the Sunday school room and the entry way of the church. May God bless them for willingly giving of themselves.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Kathy Strahm

Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) assembled with us June 30. We appreciate the efforts of these ministering brethren, that they allowed God to work through them to bring us His holy and blessed Word on that Lord's Day. Also lending themselves on Sunday, July 7, were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). Ecclesiastes 12:9, . . ."And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs."

A reception was held at the fellowship center for Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser, married June

16 at Fairbury. Sis. Janie's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanne Edelman (Bern), while Bro. Mark's parents are Bro. Fritz and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna).

Bro. Mike Strahm (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie) and Sis. Diane Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise) were married July 7 with a reception following at the fellowship center. As these two young couples make their houses homes and begin married life together, Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane in our area, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie in Cissna, may God bless and direct their lives.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb rejoice at the birth of their son, Duane Arthur, born July 2. Little Duane's grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. MaryLou Kaeb (Cissna) and Alfred and Helen Dettwyler (Silverton, OR), each of whom feels Duane an added blessing in their family.

We are sorry Elmer Isch (Eldora) has been a hospital patient. Also Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm have found themselves both suffering the afflictions of the mortal body. Bro. Emil had surgery two weeks ago and has been able to assemble with us, while Sis. Grace has been undergoing tests and only this week had surgery. As they endure, each certainly feeling some of the other's pain and discomfort, may God heal and comfort, giving them strength for each day and the days ahead.

Our sympathy once again is extended to Sis. Pearl Meyer whose brother, Lester Streit (Beatrice, NE), passed away. May God be her comforter.

At this time of year our thoughts often turn to the meeting of our dear elder brethren as they plan for the conference in Morris, MN. Truly we feel God will be in their midst and guide and direct that His will prevail to the preservation of our most precious faith and church.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

June 23 was the wedding day for Bro. Kip Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean) and Sis. Donita Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita) at

Wolcott, IN. May God bless this union of hearts.

June 24 brought tragedy to our community. An auto accident claimed the lives of four Gridley residents (two couples) John/Orva Jean Kraft and Glenn/Shirley Beyer. John Kraft was the son of Bro. Sam and brother of Bro. Lloyd Kraft. Both couples leave large families and many friends to mourn over the death of these loved ones. The portion of hymn comes to mind: His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. - E. Mote. May all find hope and comfort in the solid foundation of Christ, knowing with assurity that He will never fail us in our times of need.

June 29-30 was the weekend for the testimony and baptism of Sis. Jill Isch-Lamont (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane). We had morning services and then assembled with Lamont in the afternoon. Visiting ministers present for this wonderful occasion were Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

July 6 was the wedding of Jay Bowen and Tammy Isch. Tammy is the daughter of Dale and Sis. Janice. Jay is the son of Jerry and Mary Bowen (Colony). We would wish for them God's guidance and direction in their marriage.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

You're never alone, with Jesus,
He's always by your side.

Giving strength, and wisdom,
With you, He does abide,

To keep you safe from danger,
The trials that come your way.

You're never alone, with Jesus,
He's with you every day.

Colette Fedor

It's the only way life is bearable, with all the hustle and bustle of every day living. Just to know Jesus is always there, and we're never alone.

We failed to mention that Brandon Farney, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay, and Jenny Farney, daughter of John and Sheryl, both had tonsillectomies just after school was out. They were both graduates this year, so it wasn't any too pleasant for them, but they got along fine after the first week or so.

Bro. Arnold and Sis. Nelda Ott invited the Sunday school over for a picnic one Sunday afternoon this month. It was a lovely day and everyone had a wonderful time. We truly appreciated their thoughtfulness.

We pray for God's blessings and guidance on the home of Frandon and Amy Domnick, who were married this past month. Brandon is the son of Floyd, Jr. and Vanda Domnick, and Amy is the daughter of John and Tracy Milledge. May the home they share reflect the love of God and love for each other that will last for always!!

We had a wonderful turnout for Lifecare services this month. We appreciate everyone's effort to make the singing so pretty.

Many of our congregation are vacationing now, and our group on Sunday is small, but may we always remember, wherever we are, God is there even if only two or three are gathered together, and with school just around the corner may we keep the prayer lines open and just "Let God In" because we're never alone, and we need His help and guidance in all we do.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

Now it is accomplished!

I'm no longer mine;

Lord, I will forever

and always be Thine,

For Thou hast created

and purchased me too,

Baptized with Thy Spirit,

Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On June 29, we gathered together with thankful hearts to hear the testimony of Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and to witness her baptism the following day. We appreciated Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kan-

sas City, MO) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) for coming and assisting in this important work. Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott) was also here for this special day. May God bless them for their labors.

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

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

We welcomed the visits of ministering Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) who were among us and refreshed us in spirit with God's teachings. May God bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Those who have had medical problems requiring hospitalization in the recent past include Sis. Matilda Steiner, Bro. Noah Steiner (Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Joseph Traub (Sis. Viola). It is always a concern when we know of loved ones who are not well, and we trust that God will bless and provide where there is need.

The summer is quickly passing and soon the school bells will be ringing, beckoning our children to return. When there are choices to be made as to how our children will spend their "extra time in or out of school, may we who are parents keep in mind their well being as we guide them in decision making and planning for another year. Pressures can be great, but we do have the privilege to decide how involved or not our children will be. With wise parental guidance, the stress of school may be lessened and it will be a more enjoyable experience for all.

Something to think about: Our faith should be our steering, not our spare tire. (C. Wheeoor).

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Our last Bible study has been a series of lessons on Bible prophecy. When the topic was announced, I for one, felt it was too complex. I really dreaded the thought of studying in Revelation. You see, I had not comprehended the meaning of Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he who

reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy”.

Now that the lesson's complete, I am in awe of the blessings I have reaped. I know that my understanding is as Paul described it in I Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see through a glass darkly--". However since the words are "faithful and true", Revelation 22:6, I have the faith that through further meditation, more will be revealed to me as I continue to read the Bible.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"May I be willing, Lord, to bear daily my cross for Thee; Even Thy cup of grief to share, Thou hast borne all for me. Lest I forget Gethsemane; lest I forget Thine agony; lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary."

Wm. J. Kirkpatrick

It was a blessed evening July 13 as we shared the cup of holy communion. Our hearts and spirits were renewed as we were again led to the cross of Calvary to be reminded, lest we forget, of the sufferings of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as His blood was shed for you and me.

We thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and his wife for traveling over the miles to be the Lord's servants in this work and pray a special blessing for them.

Our high school graduates this year are: Andy Barry (Tom and Carolyn), Kristi and Kathi Byam (Doug and Marilyn), and Otto Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat). We pray for the Lord's guiding hand and abiding love as they each choose their different paths. May He walk beside them along the way. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct they paths." Proverbs 3:6

We pray for the Lord's comfort for Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch at the death of Sis. Melva's father, Melva's father, Melvin Crosby. May they feel His presence in their sorrow.

Hospitalized this past month was Loren Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) and we are thankful for his recovery.

Our summer Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 15-19. The theme was prayer and it was a special learning experience not only for the children, but for all who took part that week. Wednesday evening Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and his wife were with us and it was a heartwarming evening as Bro. Andy shared with us the changes prayer can make and the importance of having a good prayer life and not being afraid to pray because others may be watching us. We appreciate his willingness to come and share with us and be a servant of the Lord! We also thank Bro. Steven Martin (Eureka, IL) for ministering to us recently while vacationing in Michigan. It is always such a blessing to have visitors come to share the Lord's day with us!

Our dear sister-in-faith, Mary Wingeier, has recently moved from her home to Cumberland Manor, a retirement home near Alto. We pray that she will be happy in her new home and may it be a comfort to her to know that the Lord has followed her there, too!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

While preparing to write this article, I ran into a little quote that really made me stop and think. It said this: "Leaders do not begin to serve until they put serving into their leadership." (Our Daily Bread)

The leaders who served at Bay City this past month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We thank these earthly leaders for serving us with Spiritual food and for obeying the Supreme Leader -- God.

In each new generation, we look for future leaders. Babies are born and grow up. Always in the minds of parents and friends is the question; what will this child become?

Dave and Sharell Foco's home was blessed with a baby girl named Kayla Sharell. We look forward to being able to watch her grow and

mature into the person God wants her to be.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest which the spirit does bestow."

Zion's Harp #37

We were very excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Nate Wieland and Sis. Susan Scheiler (Fairbury, IL) announced. We pray that God will be first and foremost in their engagement and marriage, and that their love for each other will always be strong and sincere. Nate and Susan, may God richly bless you as you continue on life's path together.

With all of the blessings that Bay City has received this month, I think our cups are full and running over. But one other blessing, for which we are very thankful for, came our way this month. God once again extended His grace to a sin-stained soul and called Ed Wieland to repentance. We pray that Ed will continue to walk in God's grace and love.

In closing -- "We need not fear the darkness of this world, for we have Christ, the Light." (Our Daily Bread)

Note: Approximately two months ago Bay City heard the testimonies of Bro. Jim, Sis. Kay and Bro. Tom Knochel. In mentioning this wonderful event, I forgot to mention the elder brother's name that labored with Elder Bro. Andy. Our sincerest thanks go to Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and I extend my apologies for not thanking him sooner.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Marlene Reinhard

Holly Barton

We are very thankful that God has whispered His sweet peace to three more of our precious converts. Warren and Kay Rauhe (Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe, Croghan-Naumberg, NY) and Sis. Velma Fulkerson, Bluffton North, IN) look forward to sharing their testimonies and being baptized the weekend of September 7 and 8. Amy Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) also anticipates this opportunity October 12 and 13. We pray these dear lambs may continue to build their

faith on Jesus Christ, the true foundation.

After a cold and rainy day, the Lord provided a warm day of sunshine for our annual Sunday school picnic. A mother of one of the students told me later, "My daughter enjoyed the opportunity to get to know you young members better. Now she knows your names!" We are indeed thankful for every opportunity that brings our church family closer.

A singing was held to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Bro. John and Sis. Martha Gleichman. May God continue to be with them in the years ahead.

May God richly bless the union of Todd Moilanen and Jenny Andrews, who were married June 29. Their parents are Tom and Kay Moilanen and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Andrews.

A number of those in our congregation have been ill or undergone surgery in the past month. Bro. George Popp (Sis. Helen) is recovering from surgery, though still feeling weak. Bro. Frank Denes (Sis. Sanche) suffered a dislocated shoulder. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene) and Sis. Bev Bahr (Bro. Mark) have both submitted to surgery for removal of skin cancer. We are thankful that Sis. Lorene Maibach, who was taken to the hospital following a sudden illness, is now back at home recovering. We also praise God for His protecting hand that prevented Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi from receiving more serious injuries during a car accident, although Bro. Joe did sustain some separated ribs. May we continue to hold up all our loved ones who are suffering in prayer.

Recently several new officers were voted in to serve in various positions in the church. Bro. Mark Ramseyer is a new Sunday school teacher with Bro. Doug Reinhard as substitute. Bro. Bob Feller is now our Sunday school superintendent. Sis. Donna Hartzler will serve as secretary and Bro. Leonard Hitz will continue on the board of Woodhaven. Our new trustee is Bro. Ernie Weigele with Bro. John Gleichman serving as alternate. We thank those who have fulfilled their terms and encourage these brethren

in their new duties.

We rejoice to know that God has worked in the lives of two young people and given them the faith that they are to be united as one in Him. The engagement of Bro. Nate Wieland (Bro. Roger Wieland and Sandra Buza, Bay City) and Sis. Suzanne Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice, Fairbury, IL) was made known to our congregation July 21. May God, Who has brought them together, continue to be with them as they plan for their marriage.

Our next monthly service at Woodhaven is scheduled for September 10 and will be hosted by Alto, MI, starting at 7:00 p.m. We encourage anyone who is interested to join us.

We apologize for inadvertently listing Jason Allen (Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanette) as a college graduate in the July issue. Jason graduated from high school this past spring.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Marcy Schmidgall

Greetings of love to you all. As the summer vacation starts, our Sunday school children have enjoyed a nice all-church picnic to start it off. We appreciate our teachers who so willingly teach, and set examples for our dear young children. God bless them for their deeds of love and kindness. We also appreciate the children who attend Sunday school and let the work of God be furthered.

We have many visitors during the summer months, with people passing through on vacation. Among the visitors this month we have had ministering brothers, Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). God bless these brothers for their efforts and sharing God's Word with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We wish to thank the visiting brethren who ministered the Word to us this past month. They were Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francerville, IN).

Two families were blessed with precious babies. Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder rejoice in the birth of their first son, Jesse Dean, born June 23. Jesse has three sisters, Heidi, Heather and Harmony, who think he's pretty special. Grandparents are Virgil and Mildred Sauder and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber (Fairbury, IL).

Sara Ann was the name chosen by Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl for their little daughter, born July 2. Sara is welcomed home by brothers and sisters, Jon, Cindy, Gary, Susie, Kevin and Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie Nohl and Bro. Phil Mogler (Lester, IA).

July 14 was the wedding day of Bro. Chris Koehl and Sis. Shelly Nohl. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Koehl and Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl. We wish them God's blessings in their married life.

Due to accident or illness, hospital patients this month have been Sis. Anna Nohl (Bro. Henry), Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger (Sis. Emma), Ruby Luthi, Bro. Steve Schaefer (Sis. Pam) and Joe Koehl. May God comfort, encourage and heal each one according to His will.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

We want to thank ministering Bros. John Rowells (Burlington, IA) and Eric Givens (Princeville, IL) and their families and Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) for gathering with us. We want to express a special prayer for these dear brothers that bring forth God's Word.

Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) were hospital patients this month. Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) still remains hospitalized and is expected to be released shortly. May God's healing hand be upon them and also for those with other ailments that they must bear.

As another school year starts, may we take time and say a special prayer for the teachers and for our dear children as they journey onward.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Lanette Meyer

Louise Wreath (Ed) and Greg and Kara Snyder are now our brother and sisters-in-faith. The Kansas City congregation and a host of relatives and friends gathered to listen to their testimonies and witness their vows in the baptismal waters June 22 and 23. Guest ministers were Bros. Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Alphonse Strahm (Bern, KS) Sis. Louise, Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara have been a vital part of our fellowship and have carried many responsibilities in support of the Kansas City congregation and maintaining God's house for a number of years. We're thankful that they now have a closer walk with God and a closer relationship with us as God's children.

Sis. Jane Miller (Bro. Kent) was a car accident victim as she was struck from behind by the driver of a large truck. Fortunately, she did not require hospitalization, although she did have outpatient treatment and has had considerable back pain. Hopefully, such misfortunes, while they cause discomfort and inconvenience, will help all of us appreciate the times when we are blessed with health and well being.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Martin Hohulin Janel Kellenberger

"Let brotherly love continue,"
Hebrews 13:1

This summer we have been blessed with many visitors. We appreciated everyone that came to assemble with us. It has been hot and the few rains we had were greatly appreciated.

". . . the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 2:13

We have been spiritually fed by many visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO); Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman,

OH), Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Mark Leman

We thank ministering Bro. Eric Givens (Princeville, IL) for helping to spread God's Word in St. Louis this past month.

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. Kevin Leman, his wife, Sis. Elisabeth, and son, Richard, as they make their home in Chicago. Bro. Kevin was directly involved in the building of our new church here and had served in many capacities in the church, including song leader and Sunday school teacher. We'll surely miss Kevin's talents, Liz's smile and little Richard's laughter.

Bro. Norm Knapp has been added to our staff of Sunday school teachers. We pray that he will receive an extra measure of grace as he undertakes this serious responsibility, that of teaching our youth of the Lord's promise of eternal life.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Ruthie Hoerr

Our Taylor group has been enjoying four wonderful Wednesday evenings set aside for special topics covered by ministers from other Apostolic Christian churches. Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) spoke on "Our Blessed Heritage," Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) covered how we can be "Salt of the Earth," Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) encouraged us to be better partners in "Marriage," and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) enlightened us on "Family Discipline." All have been interesting, informative and a blessing to all who participated. May God bless these dear brothers for taking time to share their talents with us.

Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter are blessed with a new granddaughter, Elizabeth (Ellie) Renee, born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr are the paternal grandparents. A bundle of joy was added to the home of Bro. Scott and Anna (Jevremov) Hoerr as they welcomed a baby daughter, Alexandra Joy, to

join sisters, Ashley and Anna Kaitland.

Sis. Lois (Bro. James) reports her mother, Sis. Elizabeth Wurhrich (Pulaski) has been moved to a nursing home after recovering from a broken hip and spending four weeks in the hospital.

We will miss Bro. Phil Bauer (Princeville), who spends summers working here, while he completes a tour of duty for his business in England. May his guardian angel watch over him and keep him in their care.

The family of Vernon and Sis. Judy (Birkey) Huber was saddened by the death of his father, Carl Huber (Morton, IL). May God comfort them in their sorrow and give them hope for that eternal kingdom.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda (Knobloch) are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Benji, to Karen Killday, daughter of Ann and Bill Killday (Quincy, IL).

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

On a beautiful Monday evening, our Sunday school children, teachers, parents and grandparents enjoyed the annual wiener roast held at Whitaker Park. This annual occasion comes at the close of our school year and is a nice way for our children to begin their summer vacation.

Our dear Sis. Ella Einbeck was called out of this life July 1. Sis. Ella was granted 98 years on this earth and served her God faithfully for many, many years. It has been many months since she was able to assemble with us and now she is at "home" with her loved ones who have gone before. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her sister, Sis. Augusta, who will experience lonely hours. May God continue to be her comfort in the days ahead. Our thanks is extended to Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and his wife, Sis. Lois, who were able to share in our sorrow and take part in the funeral service.

The annual business meeting was held July 18. Bro. Ron Herzog and Sis. Polly Farney will be our new Sunday school teachers and Bro.

Ted Virkler will serve as a trustee. May God be with each of them as they begin these important duties.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

John means "Jehovah is gracious" and God's gracious grace is manifested in John's life in that he was first known as a "Son of Thunder" until he beheld Jesus so much that he became the disciple "whom Jesus loved." John's father was Zebedee, and His mother was Salome who asked Jesus that her sons would sit, one on His right and one on His left in glory. John writes the gospel presenting the compassion of Jesus, but at first John did not have compassion because of a spirit Jesus said he possessed. Jesus wanted to go to the Samaritans, as they were pagans that settled in the land at the time of the captivities and formed their own religion. The returning exiled Jews rejected their help in rebuilding Jerusalem and the breach between Samaria and the Jews became so acute that Jews would not pass through Samaria. Jesus sent John and James to prepare His way, but when they would not receive Jesus, John said to command fire to come down and consume them. Jesus said: "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men, but to save them." Luke 9:35, 36. The more that John beheld Jesus, the more loving he became until he could be called the disciple Jesus loved. We're thankful for John's example that our lives can be changed by beholding Jesus.

We are happy to welcome to our area Peter and Sis. Nerys Lightner who have moved here from the South Bend, IN, area. We pray for God's blessings upon them in this area and are glad to have them assemble with us.

Bro. Michael Palitto and Sis. Amy Beery were united in marriage, and we welcome Sis. Amy. Parents are Bro. and Sis. Ron Palitto and Bro. and Sis. Everett Beery (Rittman).

Bro. Mark Graf, son of Bro. and Sis. Leon Graf, and Sis. Marcille Jo Bahler were united in marriage and we welcome Sis. Marcy, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Lowell Bahler of

Wolcott, IN. We know the Lord had guided each of the new couples and we pray for the Lord's continuing blessings upon each one.

We rejoice that Don Taylor has repented and received peace with God. He is now a resident of the nursing home and Sis. Ruth moved into their new retirement unit by the Home.

Sis. Martha Palitto is home recuperating after having surgery, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Sis. Kathryn Novotny has been recuperating at home. We pray for her recovery and that she can assemble with us again. She will be having a "four-score and ten" birthday as she will be 90 on September 7.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

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

Romans 10:17

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We were also blessed to have Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) with us for a midweek service. We are thankful God's Word is brought forth in truth and sincerity by willing servants.

We thank our heavenly Father who provides so graciously for our needs. Our congregation has recently approved a plan for remodeling and the addition of an assembly room to our current church structure which we hope to begin in the near future. May all be done to the glory of God and may He bless our efforts.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter

We welcomed several visiting ministers this past month. With us were Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). We certainly thank these brothers for their services.

"Those things, which ye have

both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:9

OHIO, LATTY
Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We rejoice with Sue Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Sara Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) as we welcome them as sisters-in-the-Lord. May they continue to seek God's perfect will for their lives.

God has again answered prayers as Lane Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn) have begun their repentance. We pray for God's constant care as they walk this new way of life.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers brethren, Elder Bro. Edward Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN). May God be their rich rewarder.

We wish to offer our sympathy to Sis. Sharon Parady (Robert) in the recent death of her mother-in-law, Edna Parady.

Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill) and Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Ellen) were hospitalized this past month. We pray for their continued recuperation.

On June 29, David Keysor (Bro. George and Sis. Sharon) and Elaine Greutman (Kenneth and Delores) were united in marriage. "... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6.

On June 30, we gathered for our annual Sunday school picnic. Because of the dryness of our land, no one seemed to object to the rainy conditions.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the

household of faith." (Galatians 6:10) We were delighted to have the tour bus from central Illinois make their first stop in Mansfield. We were all blessed with the love and fellowship shared. Thank you for remembering Mansfield in your travel plans. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Are we as willing to share with "all men?"

Our thoughts and prayers support Bro. Larry and Sis. Darlene Enderle as their son, Jason, is in Cleveland Metro Hospital after suffering injuries in a one-car accident. "Give up help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly:" (Psalms 108:12, 13). Also meeting with accident was Scott Sauder. He broke his leg. He is the son of Scott and Juile Sauder.

Sis. Sarah Rice and Sis. Jeanine (Bro. Mark) Masters had surgery but are both again able to gather with us. Ben Oesch has also been hospitalized.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn Sauder rejoice in the birth of twin grandsons, Adrian and Andrew, born July 3. Vicki and Ron Kirsheman are the busy parents. "Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children." (Psalms 128:6)

"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust; (Psalms 143:8) Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and his family visited in Mansfield recently. Bro. Ron willingly brought the Word and we appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lois Maibach
Charlene Winkler

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bros. Bill Brade (Sardis, OH), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA). We always appreciate our visiting ministers as well as our home ministers. May they be richly blessed for this labor of love.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

Proverbs 22:1

Jay and Rhonda Landis were blessed with Emily Ann June 25. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Elizabeth Landis and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Turner.

Seth Michael made his appearance July 1, to Kevin and Carolyn Keiper. Anxiously awaiting his arrival were Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shook.

Benjamin Keith, born July 3, was the name chosen by Brian and Lori Maibach. Happy grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans.

Bryan and Kim Keiper welcomed Andrew Joseph, who will be called Drew, July 14. Loving grandparents are Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Flack.

June 23 was the day chosen for the wedding of Bro. Mike Palitto (Akron, OH) and Sis. Amy Beery. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto and Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery.

Bob Moore and Kristie Derhammer chosen June 28 as their wedding day. Parents of the couple are Randy and Sis. Beverly Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Derhammer.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, . . ."

Luke 15:7

We rejoice with Jan Blough (Joe and Sis. Lucille) as she has begun her new walk of life in Christ. May she feel God's nearness and guidance each day.

Sis. Judy Musselman (Michael) recently has been ill. We should always remember to pray for those that are in pain and suffering.

We extend deepest sympathy to Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred) in the passing of his mother, Ruth Christian.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

"Also I have set a watchmen over

you saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet," Jeremiah 6:17. We are thankful for our elder brothers who stand as watchmen on the walls of Zion to sound the trumpet to warn us of the dangers of sin. We pray to God that He would give them much grace and understanding to perform the duties of their office. May we also hear the warning and take heed that we not be as those that it talks about in the remainder of this verse, "But they said, we will not hearken."

It is with joy in our hearts that we can write the news of another soul who desires to become one of God's precious children. Shelia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has turned her back to the world in repentance. May she continue to seek God's grace and guidance in each step she takes.

Knowing one's souls is worth more than the whole world is sobering to us. We feel such a joy to know there are still those seeking the Lord yet for those who stand outside the gate we have such a deep concern, especially those of our own families.

This past month we were privileged to have three visiting ministers. They were Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

A son, Matthew Raymond, was born to Linda and Ron Kestner, July 14. Grandparents are Raymond and Sis. Ruth Headley (Parkersburg, WV), Ronald Kestner (Carroll, OH) and Maggie Oakley (Phoenix, AZ). Sis. Hazel Riggenbach is the great-grandparent.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

We are thankful to have had visiting ministers, Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) this month. May God bless them richly for their willingness to serve.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Pam Hartzler on the birth of their first child. Jasalyn Shakeal was born July 15. Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane

Hartzler and Everett and JoAnn McIntire are her grandparents.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehklau

Oh, what is more delightful,
 And in what blessed state,
 When we our souls and bodies
 To God do consecrate?

Zion's Harp #139, vs. 1

Our dear Sis. May Fetter has taken this most important step in life. She has become a child of the King (our Lord), an heir of His eternal kingdom and has her name written in the "Book of Life" which is in heaven. She gave her testimony Saturday, July 20 and baptism took place on Sunday. We rejoice with her as do the angels in heaven over every sinner who repenteth. The services for this special occasion were conducted by our Elder Bro. William Schlatter and Bro. Walter Rager. We pray that many more souls will seek their soul's salvation while it is still the day of grace.

We appreciated having Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) as our visiting minister in June. May God's blessings be with him for his service of love.

We always wish for growth in our little church. So now we are happy to announce the arrival of twin boys, John and Douglas, to Bro. Douglas and Sis. Lanna Harmon. They will also add interest to the rest of their family, Benjamin, Linda and Sharlene. May God bless and guide them in raising their precious little children.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love . . . and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."
 Ephesians 3:17, 19

May we build strong roots and not be easily shaken, as we think of

the stability of the trees supported by the strength of their roots.

The heart is like a garden
 Kind thoughts are the roots
 Kind words are the flowers
 Kind deeds -- are the fruits.

Henry Beer

We were blessed richly with the visiting ministers, Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton) and wish to thank them for coming.

Other visitors this month were Bros. Bert Gasser (Rittman, OH), Elmer Steffen (Bluffton, IN), Leonard Hitz (Detroit, MI), Phil Metzger (Sabetha, KS), Jeff Luthi (Altadena, CA), Sam Blunier and Elton Wiegand (Eureka, IL).

There are friendships that we cherish

In our daily walk of life
 Friends with whom we meet and labor

In our earthly toil and strife,
 Friends among the aged and youthful

Friends that live from us apart
 Friends of higher rank and station
 Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) Isch's grandmother, Sis. Sylvia Isch (Bluffton, IN). We offer our prayers to her husband, Bro. Joe, and his family. May they be comforted in knowing that Sis. Sylvia is now in her heavenly home.

We welcome Bro. Nich and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein and their children, Chet and Whitney, who have relocated to this area from Detroit. We look forward to their fellowship and having them in our church family.

We thank Bro. Howard (Wichita, KS) and his family for visiting with us. We thank Bro. Howard for allowing himself to be used to bring us God's Word. May he and his family be blessed for their efforts by our dear Lord.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

One night after a hectic day I woke up with hymns of Zion #112 on my mind.

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

Take time to be holy,
 Speak oft with thy Lord
 Abide in Him always,
 And feed on His Word.
 Make friends of God's children,
 Help those who are weak
 Forgetting in nothing,
 His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,
 The world rushes on
 Spend much time in secret
 With Jesus alone.
 By looking to Jesus,
 Like Him thou shall be
 Thy friends in thy conduct,
 His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,
 Let Him be thy Guide
 And run not before Him,
 Whatever betide.
 In joy or in sorrow,
 Still follow the Lord
 And looking to Jesus,
 Still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy,
 Be calm in thy soul
 Each tho't and each motive,
 Beneath His control
 Thus led by His Spirit,
 To fountains of love
 Thou soon shalt be fitted,
 For service above.

As many times as I have sung this hymn, never has the words meant so much. How wonderful it is that our heavenly Father can comfort, encourage and chastise us in so many ways through His Holy Spirit, that yes, some day, through the shed blood of Jesus and His grace, we may be fitted for service above.

What a glorious day that will be!

Our many thanks to our visitors this month, Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN) fed us from God's Holy Word. We ask our holy God to bless Bro. Gary as much as He blessed us. Other visitors were from Bluffton North, IN. May God bless each of you. Please come again.

Our scheduled services for the balance of the year is the first Sunday of the month through and including November, then reverting back to the second Sunday of the month. We also would be interested in services any other time a minister would be in the area.

As a reminder, Faye and my phone number is 615-373-8928 and Don and Enid Miller phone number is 615-384-1081.

God willing, hope to see many of you at the Children's Home Auction.

TEXAS, DALLAS/HOUSTON Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

Our June 30 Houston services were conducted by Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) who was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Marian. We enjoyed the extra visitors that worshipped with us that weekend. On July 7, Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) ministered to our gathering. How we appreciate the sincerity and willingness with which our ministering brothers serve us.

Services are held in Houston the last Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest. Please contact Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger at (409) 542-0763 for information regarding Houston services. As we often gather together on Sundays when there are no scheduled services, we encourage anyone passing through the Houston-Austin-San Antonio area to contact us.

On July 21 in Dallas, we were served by the ministry of Bro. Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) and his wife, Sis. Mary. We were glad to welcome Phillip Stoller, who recently moved to the area from Bloomington, IL. Phil is living with his brother, Tim, and plans to work and attend school in the Dallas area.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores

Rapp, at (214) 867-4074, are the local area contact for Dallas services which are 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

It is interesting to watch the many birds and see how God how instilled into them the many different characteristics.

We have a large cactus in our yard and the cactus wren and the mockingbirds built their nests in the thorny branches.

We walked along the lake shore the other day and found where the snipes built their nests right on the sandy grounds. The colors blend right in and they are hard to find. The older birds act as though they are hurt to draw your attention from the nests.

The third verse in the 84th Psalm says, "Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, . . ."

SILVER THREADS

END TIMES

When God has brought judgment against the wicked, He has always told His prophets (or His people) what He was going to do and He removed the righteous before His judgment fell.

Some examples:

Genesis 6 – And God saw that the wickedness of man was great, and it repented the Lord that He made man on earth, and He said I will destroy man whom I have created "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God said unto Noah "Make thee an ark and I will establish my covenant with thee: and thou shall come into the ark."

Genesis 18 – And the Lord said "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" I know him, that

he will command his children and his household after him.

Genesis 19:16 – And while he (Lot) lingered, the men (angels) laid hold upon his head and upon the hand of his wife and upon the hands of his daughters, and the Lord being merciful unto them brought him (them) forth and set them without the city.

Isaiah 26:20 – Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers and shut thy doors about thee and hide thyself as it were for a little moment for the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity.

Daniel 12:1 – And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Amos 3:7 – Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he (first) revealeth his secret unto his servants (the prophets).

Matthew 25 – Parable of ten virgins, verse 4 "But the wise took oil in their vessels" the wise were watching, praying and had made provisions for the coming of the bridegroom!

Luke 17:26 – As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man. Verse 28, As it was in the days of Lot, so even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man shall be revealed.

I Thessalonians 5:9 – God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:27 – And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; and unto them that look for him, he shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation:

Hebrews 2:3 – How shall we escape,

if we neglect so great (of a) salvation.

Revelation 3:10 – Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee (or deliver thee) from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. The hour of temptation refers to the seven years of tribulation which will soon befall all man left upon the earth following the rapture.

MY BIBLE AND I

We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh!
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm!
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
When life has grown weary, and death e'en was nigh!
But all through the darkness of mist or of wrong,
I found there a solace, a prayer and a song.

So now who shall part us, my Bible and I?
Shall "isms" or schisms, or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,
Supplant thy sound wisdom, give folly instead?

Ah, no, my dear Bible, exponent of light!
Thou sword of the spirit, put error to flight!
And still though life's journey, until my last sigh,
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.

Charles Sandford
submitted by Peoria, IL

MARKS OF A SPIRITUAL MAN

- 1) Desires to carry his cross willingly.
- 2) Desires and tries to see everything from God's point of view.

- 3) Desires to advance cause of Christ even at personal loss to self.
- 4) Is willing to decrease so others can increase.
- 5) Would rather be useful than famous.
- 6) Desire to be holy rather than happy.
- 7) Makes eternal judgments rather than time judgments.
- 8) Desires to die right rather than to live wrong.

Bro. Ed Bahler
Remington, IN

RIVERS IN THE DESERT

Lord, I would be like Jesus
Just reach down and take my hand
and as you walk beside me
I'll be glad to share your plan.

We will journey ever onward
and I'll open wide my door
You'll come into every quarter
to reside there evermore;

Then t'will be that no more I
but Christ that dwells within
as the streams of living water
break the damn of flesh and sin;

Pouring forth like many rivers
to a dry and thirsty land
Giving life to lifeless creatures
that are buried in the sand;

Resurrection power flows now
bringing life to ever tree
and the desert of a bygone day
Now blossoms full and free;

All because one life was faithful
and gave that life to him
There's no rejoicing in the valleys
with the heavens loud "Amen."
Rurs Timco
submitted by Elgin, IA

WORD DEFINITIONS WITH SCRIPTURAL DIRECTIVES

Affliction: to trouble or distress with continual suffering.

II Corinthians 4:16, 17

Conceit: having an exaggerated opinion of one's self.

Romans 12:16

Covetous: excessive desire, especially of that belonging to another.

Colossians 3:5

Discreet: showing good judgment, careful about what one says or does, wisely prudent.

Proverbs 19:11

Distress: extreme suffering, pain or trouble.

Romans 8:25

Evil Concupiscence: any immoderate or immoral desire.

Colossians 3:5

Faith: a total belief in and a complete dependence on God.

Jude 1:20

Godliness: having a knowledge of God and a love for God that brings a constant, cheerful and complete obedience to His words and commands.

I Timothy 6:11

Goodness: moral excellence, pure, honest, generous.

Galatians 5:22

Grudge: a harbored ill feeling for a remembered wrong, resentment of possessions, etc. of another.

James 5:9

Grave: solemn, characterized by habitual composure.

I Timothy 3:8, 11

Holiness: moral purity, freedom from sin, total and complete dedication unto God.

Ephesians 4:24

Inordinate Affection: a deifying of self and other created things more than God.

Colossians 3:5

Longsuffering: patiently enduring over a long period of time, sickness, injury, misfortune, abuse; bearing with those things in others which we consider wrong but know we cannot change.

Colossians 3:12

Lust: unrestrained sexual desire, an intense longing.

I Peter 2:11

Leanness: meager, not productive, barren of thought.

Psalms 106:15

Modest: not showy or gaudy, free from anything suggestive of sexual impurity – ant. ostentatious: the act of displaying to incite admiration.

I Timothy 2:9

Proud: arrogant, desiring personal honor, puffed up.

James 4:6

Sober: calm, possessing properly controlled faculties, modest in color.

I Peter 5:8

Temperate: under subjection, self controlled, not given to excess.

I Corinthians 9:25

Tempt: to persuade (allure or seduce) someone to do something evil or unwise.

II Peter 2:9

Provoke: to arouse to action, either good or bad.

Hebrews 10:24

Grace: undeserved help from God to do what we cannot ourselves.

Psalms 84:11

Joyful: gladness from the realization of something good.

Galatians 5:22; Psalms 66:1, 2

been listening today?

Is there work for you or for me to do? We sing a song, too, "Brighten the corner where you are!" Is there a corner God has given you or me to brighten? Did we brighten it today? We say we have good days and we have bad days and sometimes we say it would have been just as well today if I would not have gotten out of bed. Are we listening? Are we listening to what God has to say?

We heard the account the other night of a dear souls that felt that call. It came so early in the morning and he couldn't wait. He called his mother and father and said, "We have to go. We have to take care of this."

We are talking about something very serious tonight . . . our soul's salvation. We dare not wait. We don't have time. There isn't time because not all are going to sleep.

We can't take comfort in that necessarily, beloved, because perhaps those who miss the calling, those who are left in bed, those who are left in the field, or those who are left in the mill, maybe they won't sleep either, but they won't be there in heaven. "But we shall all be changed." I Corinthians 15:51.

I have never completely understood it, but in the Book of John, I believe it tells us that we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Have you ever thought how beautiful our Saviour is? The Book of Isaiah tells us, "He hath no form nor comeliness." Isaiah 53:2. Yet, how beautiful our Lord and Saviour must be.

One day, the Word of God tells us, if we are faithful, we will see Him as He is. In the thirteenth chapter of this Book of Corinthians, it tells us that we see through a glass darkly. There are a lot of mysteries. We don't understand it all, but the Word tell us that someday we are going to see face to face, but now we know in part, and someday we are going to know even as also we are known. (See I Corinthians 13:12).

Do you feel known tonight? Do you think God knows your thoughts afar off? Can He look into your heart? Do you believe that tonight?

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump . . ." I

Corinthians 15:52. Certainly the Word tells us, "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the (coming) days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26. I wonder how many people in the days of Noah perhaps ridiculed him that didn't believe there was going to be a flood. I wonder if there were those whose hearts were somewhat stirred.

We thought maybe just in case, perhaps there might be something to this, even as there are those in this day, those that gather with us, they will be with us again Sunday, Lord willing, who say in their hearts, "I want to repent someday." They like to draw close to the church and they like to be here because they have a feeling of safety here. We are thankful for that, and how we want to encourage them to continue to come, but the Word says only eight souls got into the boat besides the animals . . . only eight. We don't know how persuaded some of them might have been.

When the Apostle Paul stood before Agrippa, at least the way the King James translates the Word, Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadedest me . . . almost thou persuadedest me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28. The Apostle Paul wasn't impressed at all. He said, "I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am . . ." Acts 26:29.

There isn't going to be time. There wasn't time in Noah's day when they entered in the ark. It tells us that God shut the door.

We know that the door of grace is open today and He is calling. It is evident. It is happening. How thankful we should be that God is still calling! It makes the struggles worthwhile. It makes the battle a worthy one. It is worth it!

How we want to be examples for these new converts. We have work to do, each one of us. We don't want to lead one astray. Jesus said, "Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck . . ." Mark 9:42. It would have been better if you never would have been born.

It puts a tremendous responsibility upon each one of us. The Word

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

sisters, when the conviction of the Holy Spirit was heavy upon your heart? When you felt that calling and you knew that now was the time you had to repent? It is a little different for each one of us, I suppose, but God lets us know, doesn't He?

In the Word of God, Jesus told a parable once of a shepherd that had one hundred sheep. He said, "What shepherd among you would not leave those ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after that one sheep that was lost?" (See Luke 15:4). He will seek us out, won't He? He will call us! He will look for us!

How beautiful it is but how urgent it seems when that call comes that we have to answer! We used to sing a song in the young group, "I'll be somewhere listening, I'll be somewhere listening, listening for my name." Are we listening tonight? Are we listening to the Spirit of God? Have we been today? Have I

tells us, "He who enters through the door is the same as the shepherd of the sheep." (See John 10:2). Each one of us entered through that door. We can't step back and say, "Let the elder take care of it. Let the ministers take care of it. Let the older ones take care of it."

It starts with each one of us. The Word says, "He that enters into the door of the sheepfold, the same is the shepherd." (See John 10:2). Each one of us is responsible for each other and to each other. We have work to do.

We need to be sure that the message we are sending, that the lifestyle we are living and the example that we are setting, is acceptable to God. He is the One we have to answer to.

It doesn't matter so much what man may say. But the Word tells us that which is spoken in secret is going to be shouted from the rooftop. Beloved, if that is true with our words, how about the life that we live? God is not mocked. We are not going to fool anyone, and I am speaking to myself first. We have an example to set. People are watching us every day.

The Word says, "Repent and be converted." Certainly it is the Spirit of the Lord that converts them. I can't explain to you tonight how we become new creatures in Christ, but I know it happens. It happened to me and it happened to you, and it keeps happening as souls turn. We are thankful for that.

But we certainly have to keep the faith. We certainly have to look to God for guidance. We want to be an example to those young people, for they are going to look to us to set an example. If it is okay with us, maybe it is going to be okay to them. What if it is not? "But we shall all be changed." I Corinthians 15:51.

It is going to be wonderful to shed this mortal shell, won't it be? Do you ever look forward to that? I don't often enough, but as I think of it a minute here, there are so many things in this world that would be awfully nice to put to rest. We have that hope.

It says, ". . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mor-

tal must put on immortality." I Corinthians 15:52, 53. Maybe that's not just for the believer. Maybe that is for all of us. I believe the Word tells us that we have an undying soul, and that soul is going to spend eternity in one of two places. Because we read here that this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, let us not gather too much comfort from that if there are things in our life we need to change.

For there will be those who live forever. That rich man who lifted up his eyes in torment, he is still there. How he pleaded with father Abraham that if it could be possible, he could go back and tell his brothers. We often hear the saying, "Misery loves company," but it wasn't true in that case, was it? It must have been awfully bad. What did he want him to do? He said if one returns from the dead, they will repent. (See Luke 16:30).

Aren't we thankful, beloved, for the heritage we have? So many faiths in this world that the word "repent" doesn't really mean a whole lot. It is used in the world and perhaps in other churches. We hear the phrase and often use it interchangeable as being sorry . . . he was repentant for it. Perhaps a convict could be repentant. Certainly could be and it means so much more with our heritage to us, doesn't it?

No wonder when John the Baptist came preaching, he preached, "Repent ye." Matthew 3:2.

No wonder when Jesus came preaching, He preached, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17.

No wonder the Apostle Paul was told to preach repentance. (See Acts 9:15).

No wonder Peter said that the Lord wasn't willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (See II Peter 3:9).

We don't want to let that word or that concept ever evaporate from our faith. Because if it does, beloved, we have lost a lot. There are those who say, "I accept the Lord." We often hear the phrase, "Born again," and certainly Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." John 3:7. It all fits together, doesn't it?

Beloved, as we take the word "repent" away, certainly conversion is a work of the Lord, but in repentance, we have to humble ourself. As the Word says, "He that humbleth (abaseth) himself shall be exalted." Luke 18:14. We want to remember how critical it is that we always remind ourself, and particularly to our young people, as much as they may hate to hear it, that they need to repent.

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." I Corinthians 15:54. Isn't it interesting, beloved, that death isn't swallowed up in victory until we put on that immortality and until we put on that incorruption?

We battle, don't we, every day? Satan isn't sleeping, is he? He knows us so well and he knows what tempts us. He likes to put it before us like he did to Eve. That fruit on that tree, it was good to look at. It looked good. It was tempting. Satan knows how to package it just right, doesn't he? We can fool ourselves. We can indulge our fleshly lusts and say, "I am being careful. I am only going to this point."

We can't trust that old devil. We don't dare take a chance. If the point is here, then we had better be over here, hadn't we? Does that make sense? Can we accept that? If the point is here, maybe we had better be here to be safe, because it is slow.

We heard that here the other night as we were gathered here for Bible study. Satan works slow. Pretty soon we find ourselves doing things we never thought we would, saying things we never thought we would, engaging in things we never thought we would. It can happen to us.

But death will be swallowed up in victory. Jesus told Martha that. In the Book of John, she said, "Lord, if thou would hadst been here, my brother had not died." He told her, "Thy brother shall rise again." John 11:21, 23. "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

There is a life after death . . . we know that. Each one of us believes that. It makes the battle worth-

while to know that there can be victory at the end!

God is for us. The Word says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31. He wants us to win that battle. He wants us to be victorious.

It says, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law." I Corinthians 15:55, 56. But thanks be to God that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, bore our sins for us! And for so many more that haven't yet come.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57. That is how we are going to win that victory. Not through our own strength. Not through our own abilities, but through the Lord Jesus Christ! No other way! How are we going to do that? How are we going to keep the faith?

How are we going to do what Paul said here in the last verse, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast . . ." I Corinthians 15:58. How can we be steadfast if we don't stand for anything? We have to stand for something. We have to stand for the Word of God and we have to stand upon the Word of God. We have to be steadfast. We can't give up any ground. We don't have any ground to give up.

The Word says, "The righteous shall scarcely be saved." (See I Peter 4:18). What if we don't make it? What if our brother doesn't make it because of something we did? Can you live with that? Will we live with that? Be steadfast, unmovable and not because I say it, but because God's Word says it. (See I Corinthians 15:58).

Sometimes we don't look at immobility as a virtue, do we? We know our heritage, don't we? It is that German background, what they call "bullheadedness" or "stubbornness." We know that well, don't we? We've seen that straight in the eyes more than once. But that is okay if we are standing on the Word. They can call us "bullheaded" anytime they want when it is because we are not going to give up ground for the Lord because if we cause one of the little ones to offend, we might just

as well as never been born. It is that serious. We have got to be unmovable.

" . . . always abounding in the work of the Lord . . ." I Corinthians 15:58. What work is that? It is wherever He has put us, isn't it? If we are a mom at home with little children, that is the work of the Lord. Wherever we go, if we are at work, that is our work. That is our vineyard and we need to be busy for the Lord. We need to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not dilute ourself into thinking we are going out and save the world. If that is God's will, it will come to pass. We need to be available. We need to be willing. We need to be listening.

" . . . abounding in the work of the Lord . . ." I Corinthians 15:58. There isn't room in God's work for any glory but His own. Too many times, beloved, I think when we hear of those who want to do more, they want to do more for the Lord, they want to be in the vineyard of the Lord, and that is commendable. But it seems too many times God has to share the spotlight. It seems too many times we want to exalt ourself. But the Word says if we exalt ourself, we are going to be abased. (See Luke 18:14). There isn't any room for glory except for God and for His name. No credit on our part.

The Word tells us what man is among you that has a servant that is out working in the field all day and he worked hard and then he comes in, do you tell him to go ahead and get his meal first? No, that servant has to prepare your meal and then when you have eaten, then he will eat. That servant is to say, "I am an unprofitable servant. I've only done my duty, just that what was expected." (See Luke 17:7-10).

We may never get that pat on the back, but the Spirit of God will give it to us. He will give us that boost. It seems like when we are at our lowest ebb, He knows what we need, doesn't He? I don't suppose there is anyone here tonight whose faith hasn't been stretched a time or two. Sometimes it is almost gone. But in that case, "almost" is a beautiful word, isn't it? Because it means that it is not gone. It means that you still have a little strength. You still have that little mustard seed and

when we commit that to God, look what can happen. But the glory goes to God.

" . . . forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58. It isn't in vain in the Lord, but it depends on what your goal is. If we want the praise of the world, then maybe we would say our work in the Lord is in vain. I don't think that is our thrust tonight.

Just a thought on this first chapter that we read, isn't it something how it came into the heart of David to build that temple for God? He wanted to build a place of worship . . . a place where God's name would dwell. But he wasn't able. Beloved, sometimes God tells us "No," doesn't He? Sometimes there are things that we want and He says we can't have it. He might just say, "Wait," and He might say, "No." It is hard to take.

Maybe David cried often to build that house. Maybe God said "No" every time. But look what he did. He didn't put "his tail between his legs." He didn't complain or fuss or he didn't quit. Look at the preparation he made for Solomon.

We won't read it again, but look at the thousands and thousands of talents of silver and of gold, and the cedars of Lebanon and the cunning workmen and all the different things that he helped. Yes, God could have sent someone else to get it. If David would have dragged his feet, God would have made another way . . . He sure could have. But he didn't. David was willing.

The Word tells us that the parents ought to lay up for the children, and not the children for the parents. (See II Corinthians 12:14). Are we doing that? Are we doing our part? Are we laying the ground work? Are we willing to plant a vineyard that we'll never eat the fruit of because someday somebody might come along? Are we willing to build a bridge that we will never cross over but maybe some poor brother or sister someday might need help to cross? Would we be willing to do that? There is not a lot of earthly glory in doing that. It might be what the world would call foolishness, but then our labor in the Lord isn't in vain.

MAR 02709 RP
GORDON GREENBANK
11000 N CAVE CREEK RD
PHOENIX AZ 85020

SERMON BY BRO. RICHARD L. PLATTNER OF PEORIA, IL

"Victory Is Through Jesus Christ"
I Chronicles 22 and I Corinthians 15:51-58

Jesus once told His disciples, "There be some standing here among you who shall not taste of death before the Son of Man come." Something to that effect. (See Luke 9:27).

The Apostle Paul writes in verse fifty-one in this chapter, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." We have heard it said, "The old must die and the young can die." It seems so sad in this life, that is just exactly what seems to come to pass. When we see young children taken before they ever reach the age of accountability, we have a hard time with that and we struggle a little . . . always wondering why. Why did God take that one? Why did He let that one go? So we have many mysteries in this life, don't we?

In I Corinthians, chapter thirteen, Paul talks about mysteries. He said, "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." I Corinthians 13:2. There are a lot of mysteries in this life.

The brother that was here the other Wednesday night talked about questions. He said he had so many questions about God's Word. He mentioned how the Saviour sometimes, when people would ask Him questions, He would answer those questions with a question. Life isn't always laid out in perfect order, is

it? There are mysteries. There are things that we don't understand.

Here is another one. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." I Corinthians 15:51. We don't know when Jesus is coming back again.

When Jesus came preaching, almost the first thing ever recorded that He said, at least in the Gospel of Matthew, was, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17.

That was almost two thousand years ago when He said that -- "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

No wonder there are scoffers in the world. Peter talked about that there would be scoffers in the last days, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." II Peter 3:4. Man tries to comfort himself in believing a lie.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Here we are, almost two thousand years later and He still hasn't come back. But many, many people sleep. Isn't it a beautiful thought, dear ones, tonight as we think of sleep in the spiritual sense?

When we read of that man, Stephen, who was full of faith, I believe the Word of God says, they stoned him and gnashed on him with their teeth and they stopped up their ears because they didn't

want to hear the truth. He said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," I believe the Word says, and then he fell asleep. Acts 7:59. Doesn't that seem like a beautiful way to pass from this life? He fell asleep.

We can read the parable that Jesus spoke of the rich man and Lazarus. Where was Lazarus? We don't know what his consciousness was because it tells us there that he was in Abraham's bosom. (See Luke 16:22) . Could he have been sleeping? Was he at rest?

The Book of Revelation talks about those who are under the altar of the Lord. Are they at rest -- those that have gone on before that have kept the faith?

We sing a song, "Asleep in Jesus." It is a beautiful place to be. It is a hope we have, isn't it? Wouldn't that be a wonderful testimony that could be written of us -- and then he fell asleep? Beautiful, beautiful words.

But some are not going to sleep, the Word says. (See I Corinthians 15:51). We read in the Word that there is going to be a division. There is going to be two in the field and two at the mill and there is going to be two in a bed and one is going to be taken and one is going to be left. (See Luke 17:34-36). We will not all sleep. What about those who are left? Maybe that is why Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Do you remember, brothers and
(Continued on Page 33)