



"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;"

Matthew 9:37

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

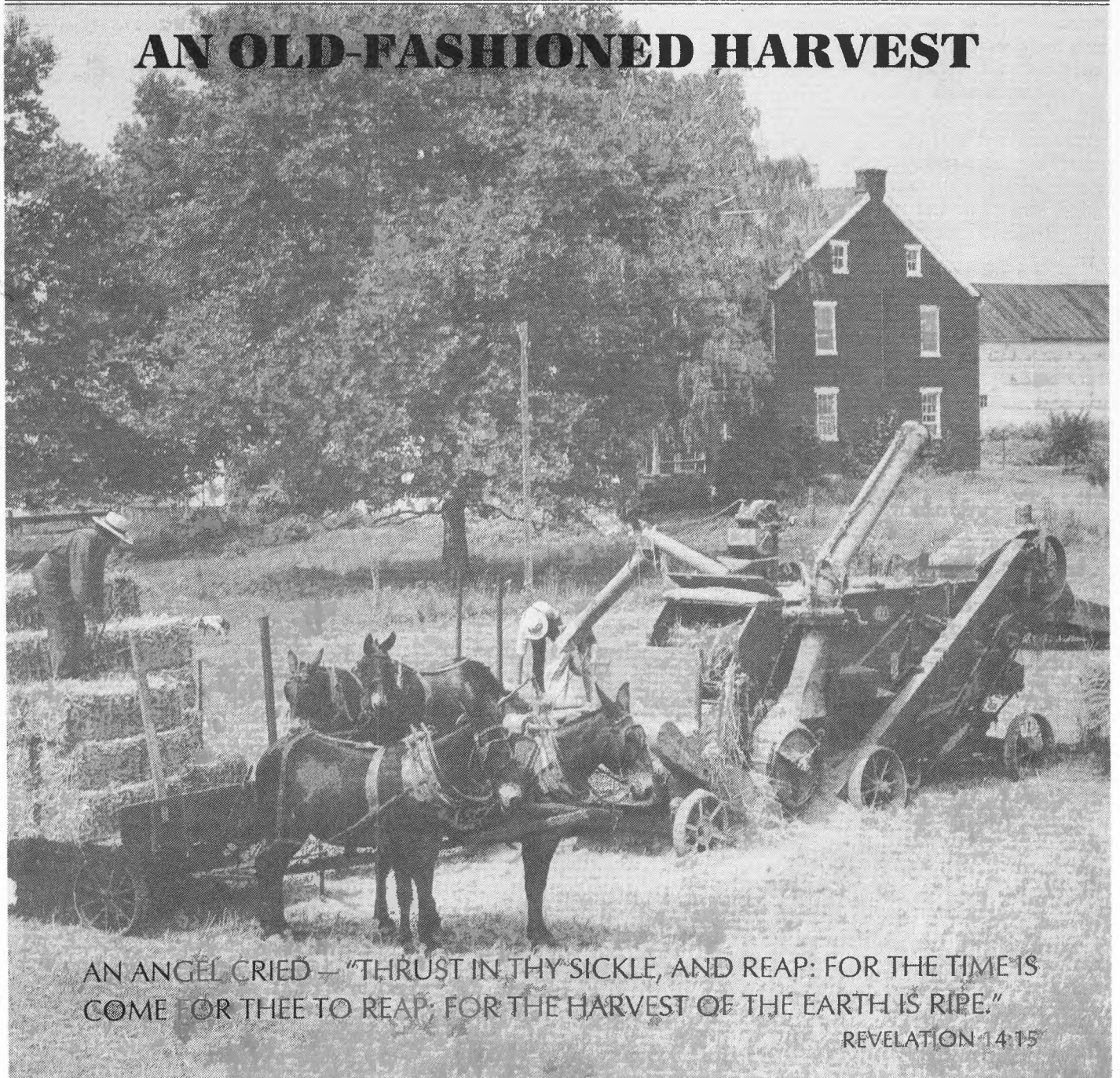
Matthew 9:38

VOLUME 41

SEPTEMBER 1991

NUMBER 9

AN OLD-FASHIONED HARVEST



AN ANGEL CRIED — "THRUST IN THY SICKLE, AND REAP: FOR THE TIME IS COME FOR THEE TO REAP; FOR THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH IS RIPE."

REVELATION 14:15

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

HAITI SCHOOL WORK TEAM PROJECTS

(March - June 1991)



- I. HAITI'S ECONOMY
- II. PROJECT SCHEDULE
- III. PUBLICITY
- IV. PROGRESS REPORT
 - A. Guest House
 - B. Nursing Home
- V. FIELD COORDINATOR(S)
- VI. MINISTER OPPORTUNITIES

I. HAITI'S ECONOMY No political problems are seen for this winter's work season. The newly elected president seems to have the support of the people. The economy has worsened, however, due to a trend toward socialism. The government has lost the confidence of business and industry, so the responsibility of job creation falls on a government structure of questionable ability.

Shortages are creating inflation so that construction such as ours is more costly. World Relief aid such as medical, water wells, material aid and school support is therefore much appreciated.

II. PROJECT SCHEDULE See "Work Projects List, Season '91 - '92" Good interest has been shown thus far so we are again hopeful to fill every team of 4 - 9 volunteers or more, including opportunities for sisters on some projects.

III. PUBLICITY Communicating these work opportunities by the report of approved projects in the Silver Lining and through local World Relief representatives has

been a great help. Area coordinators now find it unnecessary to solicit for volunteers as they once did.

IV. PROGRESS REPORTS

A. The guest house is now finished. It looks very nice; has 6 bedrooms, 2 baths, living - dining room, kitchen.

B. The nursing home kitchen - dining addition is now finished also as of last month. Pictures and reports of both projects will be available after the fall evaluation tour.

V. FIELD COORDINATOR(S) Bob Steward has again stressed the importance of Apostolic Christian field coordinators.

(Continued on Page 4)

HAITI SCHOOL WORK PROJECT LIST

Season -- 1991 - 1992

| Project Number | Date | Mission | Church Area | Area Coordinator |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| #1 | 11/29 - 12/7/91 | Bob Stewart | #8 Western, IL | Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301 |
| #2 | 12/13 - 12/21/91 | Bob Stewart | #1, #2 & #3 CT, E. OH, AL, GA, FL | Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591 |
| #3 | 01/03 - 01/11/91 | Bob Stewart | #4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH | Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541 |
| #4 | 01/17 - 01/25/91 | Eris LaBody | #9 & #10 KS, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA | Richard Schmidgall 955 Lyon Street Hancock, MN 56244 (612) 392-5241 |
| #5 | 01/31 - 02/8/92 | Bob Stewart | #11 & #12 CA, AZ, OR, CO | Glen Hackenjos 10564 Haverly El Monte, CA 91731 (818) 442-4957 |
| #6 | 02/14 - 02/22/92 | Bob Stewart | #7 E. IL | Jim Walter Route 2, Box 3 Chatsworth, IL 60921 (815) 635-3158 |
| #7 | 02/28 - 03/07/92 | Bob Stewart | #5 Bluffton & Indy | Bill Stoller 1050 N. Main Bluffton, IN 46714 Off. (219) 824-4686 Hm. (219) 565-3291 |

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lester Stoller

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

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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).

"How do I know when God is calling me? What should I feel when it is the right time for me to repent? I don't want to do it just because my friends are repenting and everyone thinks I should. It seems like others have miraculous experiences which bring them to repentance—why doesn't this happen to me? I try not to think much about death or the Lord's return, but I do want to live for Him someday. I envy believers and the way they live. How can I be sure I won't miss my chance?"

These are some of the thoughts which torment the hearts and minds of many of our friends who have been taught the truths of God's Word and know that they must repent and be converted if they are to spend eternity in Heaven. There are many misconceptions which Satan uses to confuse people and keep them from turning to the Lord in repentance. Some individuals feel very little conviction regarding sin. They are motivated more strongly by the desire to live a godly life than by the fear of death and destruction. Others are overwhelmed by the magnitude of their sins and fear that they are too great to be forgiven and overcome. They are more likely to be motivated by fear of death or the Lord's return. One of Satan's most effective tools is to just get people to put off repentance until a "convenient time" which likely never comes. This is the greatest risk a sinner can ever take.

What can be done to clear up the misconceptions in many hearts about how and when the step of turning to the Lord in repentance should occur? Perhaps the most important thing to understand is that no individual can expect to have every question answered and every doubt removed before this step is taken, because it must be "a step of faith." "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

The basic doctrine of Christ requires a "foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" (Heb. 6:1). If we insist on

A STEP OF FAITH

waiting until all of our questions are answered or until we see with our eyes some desired sign or "ideal" conditions and circumstances, we remain trapped by Satan and cannot take that essential step of faith.

The point in life must be reached when we are ready to lay aside our life (our own will) and cast our lot with the Lord Jesus Christ, realizing this means becoming his life-long disciple or follower (Luke 9:23-24). This requires taking that first step upon a pathway we have never trod before. It is like when Peter, Andrew, James and John, who were lowly fishermen, answered Jesus' simple request: "Follow me" (Matt. 4:18-22).

The best way to reach that point in life is to make a diligent effort to seek the Lord. "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). This includes going to church and thinking seriously about the truths of the Bible. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Salvation is not a complicated matter. There is no "wrong" time to repent as long as we are among the living and have reached the age of accountability. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near" (Is. 55:6).

The Bible tells the beautiful story of a man named Zacchaeus who wanted to see Jesus. He simply put himself in the favorable position of climbing a tree (because he was short) and Jesus immediately noticed this effort and went to be with Zacchaeus in his house (Luke 19:1-5). Soon Zacchaeus poured out his heart in repentance and Jesus said "this day is salvation come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

Although Satan tries to cloud this whole matter with endless questions, doubts and confusion, the Word gives us clear directions as to how we can take this step of faith. With a broken and contrite spirit (Is. 66:2) we must acknowledge to the Lord Jesus that we are lost and that we truly believe that it is only through

His shed blood and death on Calvary that we can receive the gift of everlasting life (John 3:16, 36). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). This humble step of genuine faith will then allow grace to enter our hearts and give us the courage to make this known to others. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10).

We should not delay in telling someone close to us (a family member or acquaintance who is a believer) who will then encourage us to counsel with one of the Lord's servants. The initial step of faith for most of us is taken with much weakness and requires a lot of support. The Lord has provided His church to be readily available to give that support as empowered by the Holy Spirit. The fruits of repentance such as confession of sin and restitution will follow as faith motivates obedience to God's Word. The new convert will be directed to many pertinent Scriptures which bring enlightenment and direction for his walk of life. The old sinful ways are renounced and abandoned, and good works and fruit come forth. Love for God's people unfolds like a beautiful blossom. Soon those questions and doubts which may have plagued the soul for years begin to vanish away. In due time one receives "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7) and a burden of heart develops for others yet lost in sin.

What is the significance of maintaining faith once an individual has become a child of God? We are exhorted to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)" (Heb. 10:23). Only when we reach heaven's door will faith be laid aside and we shall see our Saviour face to face. Then we will praise Him through all eternity for reaching out to us when we took that first trembling step of faith and for sustaining us to the end with His grace.

VI. MINISTER OPPORTUNITIES The Mission Committee has given opportunity for a minister to accompany each work team as a support to them the field coordinator(s) in holding worship services and as well as acquaint them with the activities of World Relief.

In humble service,
Harold Witzig
Morton, IL, congregation

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

TYPHOONS

Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

It was Tuesday, August 20, 1991, and the rain was coming down in torrents, due to typhoon #12. We discovered that water was leaking into our bathroom and also into our church balcony apartment. I can hardly believe it but I heard that that typhoon dumped 28 inches of rain on some parts of Japan. It's not just rain, it's also wind. One of last year's typhoons knocked over our English walnut tree, so we asked about 20 kindergarten parents to come and pull on a rope fastened to a tree branch to set it up again. This was a good idea but the rope came loose and we all fell flat. We got up and tried again.

In Luke 8:23 we read, "But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy." Fortunately, Jesus awoke and "there was a calm."

Have you had any typhoons in your life recently? How do you handle them? It's good to stay calm

in the midst of it and wait for the sun to break through. In the course of history many storms have come but it has not yet resulted in the end of the world. By God's divine grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, there is almost certain to be a calm after the storm.

After the storm, though, there may be some work to do. In the case of the roof leaking, I repaired it. In the case of the blown over walnut tree, we had to cut off heavy branches to make it lighter and when we fell flat, we had to get up and try again. Furthermore, we had a landscaper come in and brace that tree but good. It is now supported by three poles, driven into the ground and securely tied to the tree. Spiritually, we are instructed, also, in Ephesians 6:13, "Having done all, to stand."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

This summer is flying by, I guess because we all keep so busy. That's the way it is here at ACHH, with all of the usual activities, plus the extra summer vacations and outings.

We have our regular "dining out" evenings, horseback therapy, Saturday swims, shopping trips, bike riding, and bingo mornings at McDonald's.

An important part of our activities is the "Goodwill Club." They make greeting cards for their friends who are ill, or have something special happen in their lives, or birthdays. Then they all sign them and deliver them. It truly does make Good Will!

There is something exciting happening at ACHH in August -- two new residents. On August 7, Kristy Furrer came here to live. She has been here a number of times before to visit us, and now we will be glad to see her nice friendly smile every day. On August 14, Dale Plattner is coming to us. It will be good to get acquainted with you, Dale. We welcome you both!

This thought came to me -- when you return to work after being absent for a few days, and the residents tell you "I missed you!" it just makes your heart overflow with love

A BIG THANK YOU

To all who so generously contributed toward our recent auction and sale. The fund-raiser was a tremendous success and will help us continue providing a Christian family environment for troubled youth. May God bless each of you!

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian Children's Home

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

for them. This is indeed a happy place to be!

The birthdays for October are: Lois Baumgartner (4), Carol Fahrni (5), Kent Knobloch (14). At Oakwood: Anita Schuon (13), Bryan Tiezzi (30). There are no October birthdays at 540 N. Main, 200 E. Hazelwood or 207 Wagler.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL**
Joan Meister

We want to be sure to thank each one of our volunteers this summer. Although we just had a few, they were much needed and we appreciate their willingness to give

of their time and talents. It is so nice for the teachers to be able to take their vacations in the summer and not have to worry about the preschool being short-handed. Anyone who has an interest in this type of work and would like some experience, please keep us in mind for next summer. To our regular volunteers -- May the Lord abundantly bless you!

Each month throughout the school year, we will have a different theme we will center our lessons around. Our theme for September is Community Helpers. We will be taking a field trip to the fire station and the police station. The children always enjoy this field trip and the

firemen and policemen are very good with the students.

We also hope to take a field trip to our local library, and to start a special story hour program. We hope this will encourage our students' interest in books and a familiarity with the library and what they will find there.

Everyday we start the day out by singing Sunday school songs and having a Bible story. The children also learn a Bible verse each week. It is such a privilege to be able to have this time to teach (and to learn) about the Bible and the people in it. It is definitely a highlight of our day.

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

Proverbs 22:6

-- 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 -- Ninth Year

| | MONTH | TO DATE |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| August 1991 -- | 2951 | 2951 |

*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.

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

As usual, August has been a very busy month; with school starting, the auction, and people coming and going.

Auction day was one of excitement. There were people bustling all around campus. The day required days and weeks of intense preparation and teamwork. Thanks to all who did your part to raise \$144,000. We were blessed more than just materially. The day was full of sunshine and warmth not only from the outside but from the hearts of the estimated 3500 people who enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship.

The volunteers who came out this month include: Darren and Dawn Plattner, and Ted Schieler (Goodfield, IL), Stephanie Moser (Champaign, IL), Lance Pfieler, Mick and Rose Bozzay, Dena Lewis, Teresa Meyer, and Dale Lewis, Teresa Meyer, and Dale Lewis, Pam Steiner (Chicago, IL), Chad Plattner (Princeville, IL), Chris and Dana Bucher, and Sue Heinold (Washington, IL), Trent and Lanea Schrock (Congerville, IL), Troy Schrock (Detroit, MI), Mitch Leman (Bradford, IL), Lori Herman and Win Stoller (Peoria, IL), Brenda Isch (Bluffton, IN) and Brian Stoller and Cory Steffen (Fairbury, IL).

Going back to Fort Lauderdale after working here for the summer as Volunteer Coordinators are Bros. Seth and Doug Sauder. We are glad they came and shared of themselves so freely.

With the end of summer comes some farewells to Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, Billy, Ryan, Tyler and John-John Schick. We are glad God allowed them in our lives for a time as they filled in as Houseparents at the New House until permanent ones came. Some new faces on campus are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan, Joel, Chris and Cara Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN). They are welcomed as Houseparents in the New House.

Three of our girls on campus have recently moved on, Misty K., Tracey N. and Valarie K. We pray the seed planted here will be watered and grow. Jenny G. has moved into the East House while David J. has joined the West House family.

We are sorry to see people leave and glad to have people come. All in all, we know that change is often good but sometimes difficult to accept.

Ephesians 5:31 says, "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." It is with joy we celebrate with Sis. Susan Getz and Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Chicago, IL) as they make plans to start life together.

The honors trips were fun. Ida, Shay and Liz took the girls that were able to keep their jobs all summer to Michigan. They spent a lot of time in the sun, swimming, reading and talking. The most unique experience was going to a drive-in root beer stand. The waitresses were dressed in poodle skirts and bobby socks. With the fifties music playing and old cars around, it was like going back in time.

Doug Sauder took the boys to Michigan with a brief trip into Canada. It was a trip with lots of fun and adventure. They want to thank the people in Detroit for helping to make the trip enjoyable

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Lisa Huette

Life is so uncertain and full of the unexpected, and for this reason

we are reminded of the importance of trusting God in all things. Our prayers were with the Haggemaker family as they put their trust in God as their Father. Bro. Carl (Sis. Shirley) underwent bypass surgery. We pray he will continue to show a promising recovery.

We appreciate and thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for being a part of the Athens congregation this month. We'd also like to thank our visitors from Morris, MN, Oakville, IA, Goodfield, IL, Mansfield, OH, and Nashville, TN. We appreciate those who take that special effort to visit our congregation.

We dearly miss Izora Cooley as she is once again having to spend time in the hospital. We pray she will soon be able to rejoin us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

Sis. Wendy Klopfenstein and Bro. Scott Baum exchanged their wedding vows before deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich July 28. Relatives came from near and far for this happy occasion. Even with 111 degrees, it was a lovely day. The reception was held at Crown Sterling Suites.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein (Phoenix) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Baum (Morton, IL) are their parents. The three sets of living grandparents came.

The newlyweds will live in Tucson. May God bless them as they blend their lives together.

"Oh! I wish Sunday school would be again," Amber Greenbank (Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty) expressed the feelings of many. Sunday school vacation will be over in mid August.

Bailee Elizabeth Roth was born July 23 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth. Jason, Jordan B.J. and Joshua are happy with their sister. Bro. Earl Roth and Bro. and Sis. Fred Meyer (Eureka, IL) are her grandparents.

We are grateful for the encouraging messages visiting ministers, Bro. Loren Knapp, Bro. Nate

Lehman and Bro. Curt Kaufman (all of Tucson) brought us.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name." (Psalms 105) Once again it is time for the elder church conference. How thankful we are our dear brothers meet to discuss our needs and ask the Lord for direction to guide us. We do appreciate you!

Our sympathy to Bro. Harry Roth on the death of his brother in Illinois, where he went for services.

What a joy for us when Bro. Ted and Sis. Madeline Knochel, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Bertha Miller and Sis. Doris Kokanovich were back to church.

"Care giving" is one huge way to serve the Lord and we are so thankful Sis. Alva and Sis. Ruth Wuthrich bring Sis. Helen to church so faithfully. Another blessing we observe are volunteer drivers bringing our dear sisters from Glencroft Retirement Center to church.

Sis. Gladys Fisher is home recovering from a fall, Bro. Earl Sanders is hospitalized and Shayne Pulfer is at Scripps Institute for treatment.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We would like to welcome Sis. Wendy Baum to Tucson. Sis. Wendy married Bro. Scott Baum in Phoenix in July and they will reside in Tucson. We are thankful to have Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy with us as they start their new life. May God bless you both.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) were with us recently. Bro. Earl's sister, Sis. Marge Fehr, lives in Tucson. We are so glad they visited. It is always nice to have a visiting minister and to meet new brethren. We thank Bro. Earl for his efforts and hope he and Sis. Esther return.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Elmer Isch (Kansas). Elmer and his wife, Eldora, have visited Tucson in the winters and we have enjoyed getting to know them. May God grant Eldora much grace and strength in her sorrow.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

John Klotzle

Our plans to replace our 97-year-old earthquake damaged residence-style church building with a new structure are moving forward for which we thank the Lord. The county Planning Commission has approved the Conditional Use Permit and the construction drawings are being completed. We sincerely appreciate the donations received thus far from a number of our churches which will help to make this possible. We have received permission from the school district to use the elementary school directly across the street from our church for our worship services during demolition and construction of the new church which we hope can get under way in September with a completion date in the spring of 1992. We pray God will continue to bless this undertaking.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic

We thank the Lord and our ministers for faithfully proclaiming God's Word to us from Sunday to Sunday. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena), Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena). May God bless these dear brothers and their families for their efforts of love.

Our annual elections resulted in the following three positions being filled. Bro. Denes Fulop, Sunday school superintendent; Bros. Steve Varga and Rory Strahm, trustee.

Again, we extend our heartfelt invitation to all who will be visiting in the San Diego area to stop and worship with us. Sunday worship services begin at 10:30 a.m.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

What a privilege and blessing to attend the brotherhood conference and hear first hand the exhortations and encouragements to greater faithfulness! Oh, that we, one and all, would heed and walk a closer walk with God.

Bro. Bill Geyer has once more

submitted to surgery, this hopefully being the last time. He, and we all, thank God for His healing powers and abundant grace and strength.

Kayla Marie is the new daughter born to Karl and Mitzi Braun. She arrived July 20 and is welcomed home by two sisters, Julie and Nicole. Sis. Sharon Braun and Herman Braun are Kayla's grandparents.

We appreciate our summer visitors and among them a number of ministers: Bros. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Peter Petrovic (San Diego), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ). We thank them for their service and thank God for the blessings.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Luginbuhl

How soon our comfortable, luxurious lifestyle can change as evidenced when relatively mild Hurricane "Bob" caused havoc in our area, not only with uprooted trees, limbs, leaves and branches, but failure of electrical power upon which our material comforts depend. We take modern conveniences for granted and often, too, even our spiritual life until the storms come, driving us to our knees with a short, but sincere, prayer of "Help me, dear God!" And He always does - according to His timetable.

Heidi Lynne, born August 5 to Bro. Gene and Lynne Beutel, will be a fine playmate to David. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber.

Even though ministering Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) could not be with us for Sunday services, we appreciated greeting him Saturday night, August 3, at our singing. Bro. Stoller was in Union City, NJ, Sunday.

We look forward to hearing the final deliberations, inspired by the Holy Spirit, of the recent brotherhood meeting. The Lord has not forsaken us. He is still providing

faithful shepherds and ministers who are willing, out of love, to be our servants; not only to admonish, discipline and warn of the entrapments of worldly-mindedness, but then also to uplift with encouragement to be upright and steadfast so we can truly sing, "Joyfully, joyfully onward I move, bound for the land of bright spirits above . . . Soon with my pilgrimage ended below, home to the land of delight will I go; Pilgrim and stranger no more shall I roam, Joyfully, joyfully resting at home!" (Hymns of Zion #239, vs. 1)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

What freedom we have in this country. We are able to travel where we wish and the government allows us to assemble for worship. On August 4, we had our largest assembly to this date, 49. We want to thank Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna park, IL) for ministering to us that day. Other visitors were from Latty, Rittman, Smithville and Akron, OH, Morton, Champaign and Princeville, IL, Lester, IA, Sabetha, KS, Bluffton, IN and Philadelphia, PA.

Even though we were unable to have a minister with us August 18, we had a regular Sunday schedule using tapes for both services. Our visitors were from Bradford and Forrest, IL and Smithville, OH.

We rejoice with Ed and Virginia Stoll as they have been announced as having peace with God and are looking forward to their baptism in Lester, IA.

Our prayers and best wishes go to Sharon Ramsier and Russell Floyd as they announce their engagement. An April wedding is planned.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495. 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 will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

How often is good news mingled with bad! Bruce Stoller has made known his desire to give his heart to the Lord. While we praise God for another soul that is repenting, we are sad to hear that Bruce will be moving away from our congregation. We will also miss having his son, Karsten, in Sunday school.

It saddens me to report that Sis. Joan Kuntz has lost a loved one. Her father, Bro. Lyle Huetter, unexpectedly passed away at his home in Phoenix, AZ, even while Bro. Bill, Sis. Joan and daughter, Jamie, were vacationing in North Carolina. We pray for them in their time of shock and grief.

We are wrapping up our version of Vacation Bible School, which consisted of volunteers to replace the regular Sunday school teachers in the month of August, and special memory verses, songs, crafts and games centered around the theme "Our God Is An Awesome God." I enjoyed the opportunity to help and to see firsthand how our Sunday school functions.

Now is the time for kids across the nation to return to school. I pray that the lessons and love of God that they experience in church will go with them and counteract the negative effects of peer pressure and humanism that they might encounter in school.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Gala Gerber

We all are aware of how quickly time does slip by. One looks ahead, anticipating great things . . . and what seems as short moments later, those dreams have become memories.

Summer break has come and gone. Soon the children will be returning back to school. Let us be prayerful for our future generation. May each of us spend a few extra moments on our knees, asking God to shield the precious ones from the crafty adversary.

We want to welcome Bro. Jeffery and Sis. Gloria Fischer to our Sarasota congregation. We are thankful and consider it a real joy to have an addition to our Sarasota

congregation. Our prayer is that God will richly bless them as they make their home here.

We are thankful that Sis. Marge Pittman's knee surgery has been a proven success. It is always a thrill to witness the results of our Master's healing touch. We look forward to her gaining strength enough to assemble with us again soon.

Once again we were blessed to have some visiting ministers. Bro. Eric Givens, Bro. Carroll Gerber and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue. It was a special blessing to have Bro. Akito and his dear family spend time here in Sarasota after the brotherhood conference. May our Father bless each of the ministers for their willingness to serve!

We thought it was just another Sunday; but the events of the day have changed our lives and our hearts' condition. We often would have stumbled beneath the sting that misfortune genders; but you were all there . . . extending hand and heart; spoken and unspoken exercises of God's grace in your heart. We thank you beloved brethren.

The Glenn Price Jr. Family

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We appreciate the visiting ministers who serve us so faithfully. This past month, Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) brought forth God's Word to us.

On July 21, we were privileged to partake of holy communion. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francisville, IN) was here to serve us in this most solemn occasion.

Bro. Trent Schrock has finished his internship here and has moved back to Congerville, IL. We certainly enjoyed his fellowship and pray that the Lord will direct him as he continues on with his education.

Services are held every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. John Brewer (404-378-5918) or Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carol Steffen

We started holding services in Belvidere starting July 7. So far, we have had six Sunday services and two Wednesday night services. The Lord has blessed us with many visitors from Elgin, Morton, Washington, Bradford, Forrest, Eureka, Cissna Park and Peoria, IL; Fort Scott, KS; Taylor, MO; Lester and Elgin, IA; and Bluffton, IN.

Among the visitors, we are thankful for visiting ministers, Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Tom Schambach, Gary Anliker and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL).

Average attendance has been around 50 people. To date, six families regularly attend and support services in Belvidere. We would encourage anyone who is in the Rockford/Belvidere area or en route to or from Wisconsin to worship with us. We certainly appreciate visitors.

Directions to our church are as follows: From bypass 20, take Stone Quarry Road north to Lincoln Avenue, turn right, then turn left immediately onto Carpenter Street. The church address is 525 Carpenter Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Sunday school is for everyone at 9:45 a.m., the first service is at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 12:00, and the afternoon service at 1:00 p.m. Mid-week services are the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please call Bro. Dean Steffen at (815) 568-6086 or Bro. Jim Jepson at (815) 332-9793.

Please continue to pray for this endeavor.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Carolyn Fischer Tudy Schmied

"But godliness with contentment is great gain."

I Timothy 6:6

As the summer is drawing to an end, we need to continue to praise God for His bountiful blessings He richly bestows on us. Where are our

hearts today? -- counting our blessings and praising Him for all He has blessed us with -- or -- are we always asking and wanting more?

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

On August 7 we said farewell to our dear Sis. Denise Duckworth as she left to go to Gateway Woods. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she works with God's precious little jewels.

On August 8, Bro. Alex and Sis. Diane Paton were blessed with their first bundle from above, Sophia Layne. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont, IL), Don Paton (Union Grove, WI) and Donna Martin (Morton, IL).

God shared many good teachings and blessings through His Word from our visiting ministers for this month. They were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), John Zeller (Morton, IL), Gary Brown and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Wayne Miller and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), William Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), William Brake (Sardis, OH), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Kurt Heimer (Alto, MI) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). We also want to thank Bro. Kenneth Knapp for sharing mid-week services with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

Many times over the past month our congregation has truly had occasions to exercise the verse in the Bible that reads: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:15.

On July 21, Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser became the parents of a precious baby girl. Lindsey Mae was welcomed home by her brother, Seth. Happy grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin and Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser, all of Princeville.

Bro. David and Sis. Shirl Kieser

recently watched as their last of six daughters, Sis. Jana, joined her right hand with Bro. Andy Klaus (Washington), and made their wedding vows. Bro. Andy's parents are John and Betty Klaus (Japan). We certainly wish Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana the Lord's blessing, and many years of happy marriage. We certainly will miss them gathering with us as Bro. Andy's job will be taking them across the ocean to Japan. May God certainly be with them, and may we remember each other in prayer.

A blessed weekend was shared with all that was with us August 10 and 11, when we witnessed the love and power of God to convert a soul that repents. Donn and Tracy Ehnle (Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna) shared their testimonies, and were baptized and now are our brother and sister-in-faith. We welcome them into our brotherhood and wish them God's blessings and grace as they walk the narrow road that leads to life eternal. We appreciate Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) assisting our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in this good work.

Visiting ministers this past month was Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bros. Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY), Art Baurer (Princeville), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). We thank them all for being with us.

Our dear Bro. Wm. Elsasser (Sis. Vi) had to return to the hospital recently. We pray for him and his family. Bro. Tim Kieser (Sis. Denise) met with misfortune this past month and ended up with his foot in a cast. May the Lord bless him with patience to wait for God's healing power, when he will again be able to be back to work in a full measure.

Our congregation had another reason to rejoice, when we received word that David Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirl) and Valerie Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) have turned their backs to the world and are following God's ways. It is so uplifting to see these miracles performed in their lives.

Not now, but in the coming years, it may be in the better land, we'll read the meaning of our tears, and

there, sometime, we'll understand. Hymns of Zion #165

On August 16, the Lord called our dear Bro. Don Knobloch, 32, (Sis. Jenny) out of this life and into all eternity. Our hearts ache for his dear wife and three precious children, Nicole 8, Heather 6, and Daniel 4; also Bro. Don's dear parents Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen; one brother, Paul; and one sister, Sis. Debbie (Peoria). Let us not forget to hold this family up with our prayers during this time of parting and in the months ahead.

In closing, I want to thank everyone that helped me in the past with news to report. The new Silver Lining reporter will be Sis. Barb Fehr (Bro. Les). I'm sure she would appreciate any help we can give her to make her new duty easier.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Kim Walder

The annual Sunday school picnic was held July 28. Food, fellowship and a program by the Sunday school children were enjoyed by all. We have Sunday school vacation during August and then resume our new classes in September.

We were blessed with hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of Sis. Tina Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) August 3 and 4. It is so joyous to see God work in the hearts of His lambs. We wish Tina God's continued direction in her life.

A new bundle has joined the family of Brent and Keiko Hanson. Collin Robert arrived July 23 to warm the hearts of all. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson and Takashi and Kazuko Sasamari (all of Urbana).

Sarah Vogel and Dan Henrie have announced their engagement to wed. We wish Sarah and Dan God's blessings as they plan a November wedding. Parents of the couple are Jerry and Lois Vogel (Champaign) and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Henrie (California).

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who come and share the gospel with us. This month we want to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend), Bro. Pat

Zaugg (West Bend), and Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Never mind how the topic happened, but during a discussion several days ago, my husband defined a MOLEHILL as a "do-it-yourself mountain." I realized that God allows us to confront the molehill, but Satan gives us the "do-it-YOUR-SELF" instructions. On the other hand, with Christ, we can remove those things which are molehills or mountains before us, whether we had a hand in making them or not. Mark 11:22-24

Blessings abound in our midst because the Lord sent us visitors in His Spirit. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). May their heavenly treasures abound.

We can never have too many weekends like August 3 and 4. Valerie Schambach, before given grace to repent and turn to the Lord, gave testimony of her call and conversion Saturday evening. Sunday she was baptized before a host of witnesses. We rejoice that she is our sister-in-faith. May we esteem her and fellowship in joy with her, always prayerful that together we may climb each day nearer to His perfect example.

Erika Furj has opened her heart to the work of the Lord. She has found grace to repent and is walking on His enlightened path. We would be supportive and prayerful for her growth in His will.

We look forward to many worship opportunities with our new "Chicagoans." Bro. Bernie Ferneau is working in the computer field. We know Bloomington-Normal will miss him, but we welcome him. Bro. Scott Wegman returns to us from his previous church home in Tremont. He is working in Wauconda for the Lake County Health Department. Sis. Heidi Haerr had been working in New York City but has been led to return to us, working for the same insurance company that she worked for when she was here

before. She will be living in Chicago. To Bro. Bernie and our "returnees", we say, "The Lord knew we had need of you. Thank you for joining us on the urban/suburban wall. There is much work, but we know we will share blessings together in His work."

This paragraph is always much more difficult. There are three couples and their families who will be worshiping elsewhere. Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy Stoller are returning to Morton, IL, their home church. Bro. Todd has finished dental school and will be joining his father's practice. We are grateful for our short time together and wish them the joy of the Lord "at home." Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlene Feldman, Calista and Kemmons, are following his job to Minneapolis, MN. The brethren at Minneapolis will be so appreciative. We will miss them greatly, but remembering their adjustment to the Chicago area, know that the Lord will again give them flexibility and courage in this move. Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy, Alisha, Andrea, Jonathan and Calvin, have been led to worship in the new church at Belvidere, IL. We are torn and would keep the McCoy's with us, but we know they are much needed in this new, small church. Not only that, we hope that those of us from Chicago would travel their way sometimes to keep in touch. To all, may we ask that we pray for each other -- each of your families in new paths, our church without you, change is given in all of our lives. The Lord gives it for the working of patience and wisdom through its challenge. But don't forget we love you and we welcome you back when you can come.

Ross Meyer has returned to teaching in Budapest, Hungary. We also love and pray for him, but we are not saying goodbye! His address is: Gundel Karoly, Vengeglato Iskola, H-1097, Budapest, Ecsere Ut 5-7, Hungary.

Our garden has had its share of problems this summer. We didn't have the needed rain, but even when vegetables and watermelon did grow, they were often eaten before they could be picked. Thus, my husband put out a huge trap. I could almost feel sorry for the ani-

mals he caught, numerous woodchucks, several opossum, and a squirrel; however, the fact of the matter was that they never would have been caught if they had not taken the bait in the trap -- the vegetables and watermelon we were trying to protect. Let us think about our responsibilities in this earthly garden set before us. We will not be caught in Satan's trap if we don't partake of the "bait" he puts out. And let's be very certain of our fate if we are entrapped by the devil. Most of the animals from our trap no longer breathe.

My last "animal" story is about the mouse in our kitchen. I haven't seen him, and the trap is set, but I believe my husband when he says he has seen him. I shudder. Besides setting the trap, we must do something else to eradicate the problem though. We must figure out how he got in. Then we can prevent another mouse from getting in. Isn't this much like sin in our own "house"? We must both recognize and "catch" the problem. But that is not enough. We must also examine the "openings" in our lives where sin could make inroads. They must be closed so that sin can not enter there. It is then "... being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:22, 23

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beverly Knapp - Karol Stock

Though troubles assail
And dangers affright
Though friends should all fail
And foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us:
The Lord will provide!

His call we obey
As Abram of old,
Not knowing our way,
But faith makes us bold;
Where're He shall lead us,
The way He doth guide:

He knows best who rules us,
The Lord will provide!

Zion's Harp #86

Such encouraging words! We are very thankful to our precious Lord for providing for and giving encouragement to our congregation. After much prayer and supplication, we were given the opportunity to cast votes for new ministers. The Lord again revealed His presence among us and two brothers, Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol) were called to this worthy service of preaching the Gospel. Although any labor requires submission and dedication, the blessing and joy of laboring for the Lord far outweigh anything else we are called to do. As a church, we want to encourage not only these new ministering brothers but all our ministers in their calling. As Paul told Timothy, "I charge thee therefore before God . . . Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with longsuffering and doctrine." And then he goes on to tell how many forsook him, but the Lord stood with him and strengthened him that by him, the preaching of the Gospel might be fully known. II Timothy 4:1, 17. May these examples from God's Holy Word ever give them courage.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Wendall Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), along with Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Rich Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We thank each one for coming and worshipping with us.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Bill Rinkenberger, Bro. Joel Hofbauer, Bro. Jake Funk and Merle Eisenmann for surgery and Bro. Herbert Hofer. We pray for their return to the blessing of good health.

On July 14 the entire church joined our Sunday school students for a picnic and a time of fellowship. Our youth are such a precious commodity and we are thankful they feel a love and closeness to the church. We pray these are times they will always remember. We

thank our Sunday school teachers for their many efforts and labors of love. May God bless all.

We rejoice with Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder as they welcome the arrival of their son, Clayton Todd, July 21. He has two brothers, Cameron and Kyle. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (all from Cissna Park).

We extend our congratulations to two couples in our congregation who have recently observed their 50th wedding anniversaries, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufmann and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Knapp.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger wish to thank everyone for the love shown to them and for all the prayers uttered on their behalf at the time of Bro. Bill's surgery.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Myra Steffen - Joanne Roth

Our congregation has experienced great joy and deep sorrow during the last month.

On August 11, we rejoiced with Bro. Jim Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) and Sis. Deb Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) as they were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Janel and Rex welcomed Ross Duane August 8. Parents of the new baby boy are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Wettstein. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen and Sis. Verna Wettstein (Eureka).

"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you . . ." James 4:8. We rejoice that Kurtis Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God grant him much grace in his new walk on earth.

We are thankful to hear that Bro. Gene Hartman (Sis. Carrie) is home recuperating from serious injuries sustained in a fall. Also, Bro. Byron Schrock (Sis. Mary) is recuperating from a foot injury.

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." I Corinthi-

ans 13:12. We were saddened and shocked at the sudden death of Rick Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri). Our hearts ache for the family and pray that God will comfort and sustain them in the days and weeks ahead. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, more crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Alpha Strahm, Jr. (Bern, KS), Nile Bucher and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Dennis Rassi and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Eugene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL).

We wish God's blessings on newly engaged Sis. Peg Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Brian Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

This past month the Fort Sam Reunion brought many visitors from various congregations and together we enjoyed precious fellowship. Ministering brothers who shared the Word with us were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Arthur Baurer (Princeville, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Ed Bahler (Remington, IN). Also, this month we were thankful to welcome in our assembly Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). May the Lord bless all efforts.

The Lord has again taken a loved one from our midst. On July 31 Sis. Frieda Schock, 86, was called in a moment of time to "Come" and enter into that blissful rest. We share sympathy with her family, Bro. Norman (Sis. Virginia) and Howard (Helen) Schock; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Two brothers, Frederick and Erwin (Hilde) Strohmaier of Germany also survive.

Her family wishes to express

appreciation to all for the many deeds of love and kindness shown to them during their bereavement.

Our love and sympathy is also shared to Sis. Jan Mogler whose mother, Sis. Lilly Mogler (West Bend, IA) was recently laid to rest.

We wish God's grace for Sara Dietz (Jeff) as she has felt the tender calling of Jesus and has begun the heavenly way.

Joy is multiplied in the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda Steffen as Angela Kay joins the family circle with Daniel and Maria. Grandparents include Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Our congratulations to Tedd Joseph Lauber and Beth Marie Tobin as they make wedding plans. Also, best wishes to Thomas A. Lauber and Kathleen Peterson who have made their engagement known.

Our recent surgical and hospital patients were Sis. Debbie Kellenberger (Bro. Charles), Bro. Norman Schock (Sis. Virginia), Edward Schifferer (Sis. Dorothy) and Ryan Larsen (Grant and Heidi).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Leman

We were thankful to hear that Duane Rocke has peace and is awaiting baptism. His parents are Bro. Curtis and Sis. Beth Rocke.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jesse Getz, Bro. Joe Klaus and Sis. Evelina Sinn as they are hospital patients at this time. May God grant His grace, strength and healing mercies upon them as is according to His will.

Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) were our visiting ministers this past month. We thank them for bringing the gospel message of salvation.

Soon our children and young adults will be returning to school. We trust that as they study for their livelihood here on earth, they also will make preparation for their soul and where they will spend eternity.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

Correction: Our new converts are Daniel Steidinger (David and Deann) and Darren Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley).

Also, Sis. Jennifer Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Jason Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene) were baptized and welcomed into our brotherhood May 19.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." St. Luke 15:10. Likewise our hearts overflow with joy to learn our friend, Joy Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God's love and grace be her guide as she lives each day for Him.

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's
loving grace.

What all the world could never give,
A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd
will receive."

Zion's Harp #16

We are very grateful and thankful to God for His love and mercy in calling Bro. Bruce Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie), Sis. Martha, Sally and Anna Fehr (William and Helen) and Sis. Beth Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane) (into His fold). On July 27 we were privileged to hear their testimonies and then witness their baptism the following day.

We are thankful for each of our visiting ministers this past month. Those who shared many teachings with us were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Douglas Schock (Pulaski, IA).

We wish God's guidance and blessings on the engagement of Sis. Suzanne Schieler and Bro. Nate Wieland (Bay City, MI) which was made known July 21. Their parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler and Roger Wieland and Sandy Buza.

Also on July 21 we rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Julie Young and Bro. Mark Maibach (Smithville, OH). Their parents are Bro. Nor-

man and Sis. Lollie Young and Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach.

On August 11, the engagement of Sis. Ann Huber and Bro. Kevin Hofstetter (Washington) was made known. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber and Bro. Ted and the late Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter (Furrer, Wolcott, IN) are their parents. We are happy for these three couples and are rejoicing that each first sought the Lord Who now intends to bind them together by His three-fold cord.

Brian Steidinger and Cathy Walker exchanged wedding vows August 3. Parents of the couple are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger and Gerald and Gayla Walker (Mulkeytown). May God bless them as they start their new life together.

God has sent a bundle of joy to the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol Kafer. Britney Sue was born August 8. Christopher, Brad and Bethann are happy to help care for their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Kafer.

Our prayers are extended to Sis. Shirley Fehr (Bro. Warren) as she was put in as a 2nd grade Sunday school teacher. May God bless her and give her courage in this new duty.

Our sympathy is extended to Bros. Vernon and Warren Hartman in the loss of their sister, Marjorie Schaffer. May the Comforter visit those who have been bereft of a loved one and provide the healing balm.

Hospitalized this past month were Ed Hohulin, Dana Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna), Sis. Perseda Moser. May the Lord strengthen them and encourage them as they are recovering.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

Our congregation was reminded of the seriousness of life as two souls were laid to rest in the past month.

After a short illness, Sis. Clara Honegger, 83, passed away July 31. We extend sympathy to her husband, Bro. Harold; daughter, Sis. Marilyn Leman (Bluffton North, IN)

and son, Bro. Roger, as well as her brothers and sisters.

Our hearts also go out to the family of Curtis Ifft, 22, who was killed in a truck accident. We sympathize with his parents, Warren and Sis. Betty Ifft; and brothers and sisters, Tamara Bachman, Kevin, Devra Stork, Kyra, Kendra and Quinn.

May God comfort the hearts of each one of these families.

We are thankful that our hospital patients, Wayne Cox (Sis. Bernice), Tyler Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Edith Zimmerman (Bro. Les), Bro. Elmer Stoller (Sis. Rosetta) and Mary Schmidgall (Dan) are home again.

There is joy in the home of Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary Ifft as little Beth Ann was born August 12. She joins her sisters, Theresa, Sarah and Lindsey. Willis and Joyce Alford and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft are her grandparents. May God bless their home.

We thank Bros. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

August 3 was the wedding of Rebecca Weber and Brian Bounds. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Weber and Tom and Sis. Jane Bounds are their parents. We wish them happiness as they begin their married life.

Angela Kaisner and Chris Rieger have chosen October 26 for their wedding date. Their parents are Larry and Cynthia Kaisner and Donald and Delores Rieger (Chatsworth).

So soon the summer is past and again the children head back to school. We pray they will always keep what they learn in Sunday school as most important in their lives and stay away from the evils of this world.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

Our community has been saddened by tragic and sudden death. But our congregation has been uplifted by the hearts of converts - turning their lives over to God. We cannot always understand God's ways, but we know that all that He

does is good. Our prayers are constant for our grieving brethren and also for the new lambs in the fold.

We are also praying for God's hand in the comfort and healing to Sis. Jacki Knobloch, Sis. Esther Tanner and Bro. Mark Farney who have been hospitalized this month.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

As we gather together each week for worship, we can rejoice for the spiritual gems we receive through the Spirit's inspiration.

Recently, a minister presented a very touching story. Admittedly it was a story, but the parable-like message had a very deep meaning. It seems that an angel was dispatched from heaven to earth in order to find its finest treasure, and one that would be suitable to take back to heaven.

The angel made a diligent and broad search, and was careful to find only the best and most precious treasure to take back with him. As the search intensified and the angel's eyes beheld much that was esteemed by mortal eyes, he determined that nothing on earth could be found to qualify for the magnificence of heaven.

The angel began to ascent back to heaven, disappointed in the apparent failure of his mission. Yet, he made one last glance toward earth. He noticed a commotion in a certain Christian community. He was a soul in true repentance. The angel's heart was touched as he noticed the contrite tears of a sincere soul turning to God with a bowed and sorrowful heart. The angel thence determined he had found the best treasure, and one suitable for heaven -- the tear of a repentant sinner! He took this treasure back to heaven, and thus fulfilled his mission.

On Saturday, August 3, a Fort Sam Soldier Reunion was held in Gridley for men serving in the U.S. Army during the early and mid-1960's. Thirty-four ex-servicemen and their families (totalling 119) were present for fellowship, a dinner and a singing.

Tim and Sonia Vercler of our congregation are the parents of a

daughter, Amanda Lyn, born August 10. She has two sisters, Laura, 11, and Diana, 8, and a brother, Bryan, 6. Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz; and John and Josephine Vercler (Chenoa).

Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein was hospitalized for out-patient surgery August 7 following an accident. Bro. Todd Witzig also was in the hospital briefly for knee surgery.

Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) was our guest minister Wednesday evening, August 7.

Several of our brothers attended the general conference at Morris, MN, August 16.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Bro. Sam Roth was called into all eternity. His funeral was held July 26. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his daughter, Helen Koch; his brothers, Bro. Harry (Phoenix, AZ) and John (Fairbury, IL); his grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

The school bells will soon be ringing, calling our young people and children back to school. May we uphold our students and teachers in prayer. May they also pray for guidance. May they remember to take time for the greatest textbook, the Bible.

Bro. Tim Martin's address is:
AGAA Tim Martin
PSC477 Box 77
FPO AP96306-2977

His birthday is October 10.

We would like to thank all those who remembered us with prayers, flowers and cards during the death of our grandson. May God bless all who were so kind.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Seidel
May we continue to uphold our loved one who are in the hospital, sick and/or shut-in at home and those who have lost loved ones. May our heavenly Father comfort, bless and heal according to His holy will.

We wish to thank Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Jay Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our

heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

The Peoria congregation extends a sincere welcome to Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Schock, who recently moved to Peoria from Morris, MN. Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan have four children: Tania (19), Lisa (17), Brandon (15) and Aaron (10).

Three weddings took place in the Peoria church during the month of August. On August 4 we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Joel Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Tania Schock (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan). August 11 was the wedding day for Bro. John Ginzler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Amy Rieker (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol). On August 18, Bro. Jesse Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Rachel Geyer (Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb) were united in marriage. We wish God's richest blessings upon these three couples.

We thank the following ministers for visiting the Peoria church and proclaiming the Word of God: Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Harold Gramm and Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN).

God blessed Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa Thomas with a baby boy, Adam Dean, July 13. Adam's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer (Naumburg, NY).

Recent hospital patients in need of our prayers are: Sis. Lois Hamann, Sis. Shirley Klaus, Pauline Hermann, Bill See, Bill Hofstetter, Steve Kaisner, Sis. Dorothy Hohulin and Bill Aeschleman.

We share in the sorrow of the loss of Sis. Emma Messer, and we extend our sympathy to Sis. Emma's family.

Sis. Elizabeth Merkle sends this note of thanks: "We want to thank each and every one that remembered me while I am convalescing from my illness; first of all, for all the prayers that were sent up and

still are, the phone calls of encouragement, the gifts, cards, fruit, and also all the people that helped with the picking of berries. God knows each and every one by name. May He bless one and all for every kind deed that was done. Now and in all eternity, in Christian love, Elizabeth Merkle."

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

Matthew 7:12

A supervisor in my office once told me, "I don't attend church very often, but I try to live my life according to the Golden Rule." This statement at first sounded very admirable, but is the Golden Rule sufficient for one's spiritual life? The Holy Scriptures reveal that the Christian message cannot simply be reduced to the Golden Rule, or any other single verse. For example, the Golden Rule alone contains no mention of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Also, a person who is trying to live by the Golden Rule will ultimately fail at some point. What then? Does that person have a relationship with a loving and merciful Savior who can forgive sins? Possibly not, for the Golden Rule by itself does not contain an explanation of God's plan of salvation. We need the full gospel, and the entire Word of God, to be spiritually nourished. What is the gospel? The apostle Paul gives us this summary in I Corinthians 15:1, 3-4: "I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." Jesus gave us the Golden Rule, along with many other teachings, as God's standards for Christian living. However, the way to attain these standards is not by our own strength, but by the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They

were Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them and their families.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch are celebrating the arrival of their first grandson, Adam Dean Thomas (Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa, Peoria).

We want to thank Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) for taking the time for a Bible study entitled, "Works & Alms in Secret" August 2.

Our sincere sympathy to Sis. Marie Eberle and family. Her husband, Bro. William, passed from this life August 12, at the age of 79 years. He had been a resident of the Peoria Apostolic Home for 5½ years. Surviving are his children, Ronald (Sue, Sparland), Larry (Marge), Henry, Marvin (Sharon, Wyoming) and Carol Ganey (Carl, Luverne, AL). May God comfort and grant sweet memories of your loved one.

Those who required surgery and hospitalization this past month are Sis. Helen Baer, Katherine Baer and Jacob Menold. Bro. Dana Regier had the misfortune of breaking a bone in his foot. May God grant healing as He sees best.

Our thoughts and prayers have often turned to the dear family of Bro. Don Knobloch (Bradford). We now extend our heartfelt sympathy to this dear family and may we continue to pray for them.

A precious bundle from heaven has blessed the home of Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Grassi. Little Jason Louis' happy grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Grassi (Jamestown, NY).

Two more precious little girls came to bless the homes of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle and Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser. To welcome home Allison Ann Aupperle are Jonathan, Erin, Clayton and grandparents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch and Eli and Gerta Aupperle (Fairbury). To welcome home Emily Ann Kieser are Janis, Bethany, Megan, Jodi and grandparents, Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser and Beatrice DeSpain (Bradford). May God bless their family circles as they bring these little ones up in the Lord.

A little history on our dear Sis.

Elizabeth Stoller, who observed her 100th birthday July 28.

PRINCEVILLE'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Sis. Elizabeth (Streitmatter) Stoller, Princeville's oldest resident, was born at the family farm on "Streitmatter Prairie" July 28, 1891. She was quite frail, and doctors questioned whether she would "grow up" with her heart condition. But she answered the call of the Lord at the age of 13, and was later baptized August 12, 1906, outside by the well at the Country Church. In due time, she found the faith to become the wife of Joseph Stoller (Roanoke). They planned to be married January 11, but were asked to delay their wedding until Monday, because there were guest elders visiting from Germany. So they were wed Monday, January 12, 1913. After serving supper to over 100 guests at the bride's home, the newlyweds and elders went on a train together to Cissna Park. Although she was told she would probably not be able to have children, she bore 7 boys and 4 girls, and as of this writing, has never been hospitalized. Their path led them first to Roanoke, then back to Speer, where they lived with her parents for a time. They were then lured to the reasonable, fertile land in the Latty, OH, vicinity. Although times were hard, and crops were poor, their faith increased and they acquired lasting friendships with the brethren at Latty. While there, the death angel visited their home and their infant daughter, Beulah Mae, was chosen for the Master's bouquet.

In 1927, Joe and Elizabeth had the opportunity to return to the farm where Elizabeth was born. Being the rainy season, the mud roads made this move quite a challenge.

It was in November of 1937 when God saw fit to call their oldest son, Earl, from life to eternity at the age of 25 years. Bro. Earl was beloved in the church, and highly respected in the community.

After struggling a number of years with Hodgkin disease, Bro. Joe went to be with the Lord at the

age of 57. He had been a Sunday school teacher for many years and a song leader.

In September of 1965, word came that her son, Lowell, was instantly killed in a traffic accident not far from his home. He was a minister in the church and the father of eight children. Needless to say, this too stunned the community as well as the family.

During her long life, Elizabeth raised her family and at the same time boarded workers, took care of her aged father, acted as midwife in the neighborhood and labored at her husband's side. Since moving to her home in Princeville in 1957, she has led a placid life, quietly watching the world go by her picture window; quietly observing, pondering and praying until recent months when she became bedfast. She has enjoyed the visits from her children, her 33 grandchildren and many others.

She has seen both poverty and affluence and has remained steadfast in faith through life's many changes. Her life spanned most of the 20th century; many of us have benefitted from her lifelong service to God.

We all need to take courage from the experiences of our forbearers. God helped them through thick and thin, through times when there was no light at the end of the tunnel other than faith.

Elizabeth is the last survivor in a family of eight children, her youngest brother, Nathan (Indianapolis) having just passed into eternity at the age of 83, August 4, 1991.

Sis. Elizabeth and her family want to express their sincere appreciation for all the prayers, love and many kind remembrances for the past 100 years!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

We have been so uplifted in hearing of the repentance of more souls. They are Curt Leman (son of Sis. Verla), Dan and Polly Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen), Joni Zimmerman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene), Matt Leman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley), Dawn Harris (Bro.

Mike and Sis. Linda) and Margi Hodel (Kyle). May God grant them grace and wisdom as they make a beginning in their walk with the Lord.

Bro. John and Sis. Jill Bradle were united in marriage July 21 in Goodfield. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinckenberger. We welcome Jill into our congregation and wish them much happiness as they establish their home in Roanoke.

On July 27 and 28, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) and Bro. Todd Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda). Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) assisted in the services, and we were also thankful to have ministering Bros. Everett Hari and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) with us that weekend.

Bro. Lenny Martin and Sis. Lynn Hohulin have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Mary Lou Martin and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Shirley Hohulin (all of Roanoke).

Also announcing their engagement are Jennifer Rechkemmer (daughter of Norm and Jan, Roanoke) and Troy Eckman (son of James and Marva, Pekin).

Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Kempf celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary August 11 with an open house reception. They have six daughters, Elaine Hodel and Sis. Maxine Hodel (Roanoke), Gail Smith (Rock Island), Boots Schrock (Wauseon, OH), Bernadine Miller (Middlebury, IN) and Sis. Cheryl Maher (Eureka). They have 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. We wish them many more happy years together.

Andrew Tyler Chan Hodel was born May 2 to Howard Hodel and Patty Chan Hodel (Los Angeles, CA). His grandparents are Edward Hodel, Jr. (Roanoke) and James and Amy Chan (Chicago).

Jon and Jill Fehr and big brother, Justin, welcome Jordan Lee into their home. He was born July 17. His grandparents are Bro. Ben and

Sis. Helen Fehr and Steve and Sally Onnen, all of Roanoke.

Samantha Jo Sauder, born August 7, is the first child of Greg and Jaime Sauder. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder and Verle and Rachel Studer (all of Roanoke).

We were blessed and grateful to have the following ministers with us recently: Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO).

Our thoughts and prayers are with recent hospital patients, Sis. Carol Schwab and Sis. Sara Diggle.

Our Sis. Lena Martin, who resides at the nursing home in Roanoke, has reached her 100th birthday, and a reception was held to help her celebrate July 28.

Lena was born on a farm near Morton to John and Sophie Funk, and was raised there with her seven brothers and three sisters. She helped milk cows and keep house and learned to cook, clean, wash, can, sew and bake. She attended a little country school through the seventh grade, when she was needed to help at home. As a teenager, Lena was fortunate to have a job as an operator for the telephone company.

In 1917 Lena married Benjamin H. Martin and they moved to a farm near Roanoke, where they raised five children. She remembers shucking corn, raising flowers and baking on an old woodburning stove, especially bread and coffee cakes. Whereas years ago store-bought bread was a treat, Lena considers it a real treat nowadays to have homemade bread.

Lena also enjoyed crocheting and embroidery. She had continued a hobby of doing crafts at the home, until recently when failing eyesight has forced her to give it up.

Lena was 33 years old when Ben came home from town one day and said, "I think there must really be something to this end-of-the-world thing." Thus, they started repenting together. Lena has been a faithful member for 67 years.

Ben passed away in 1972. They

had been married 56 years. Presently Lena's family includes her five children: Sis. Faye Pfister (East Peoria), Florence Noe (Metamora), Sis. Iva Getz (Tremont), Sis. Betty Yergler (Pekin) and Bro. Lyle Martin (Roanoke); 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. One granddaughter is deceased.

Lena can remember riding in a horse-drawn buggy as a child, but she has also experienced an airplane ride at the age of 90. Also at the age of 90 Lena lost one leg. God allowed Lena to live through that experience, and now she "putters around" in her wheelchair. Sometimes time passes slowly for Lena since she is unable to enjoy reading and other hobbies that require good eyesight. But she does enjoy visiting in the evenings with her good friend, Sis. Frieda Schafer, sometimes staying as late as midnight.

Lena still attends church every Sunday in Roanoke. The only goal for the rest of her life is "to remain a faithful believer in God."

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of our dear Sis. Eunice Pflederer. We will miss her quiet, loving ways. We offer sincere sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Lena Sauder and Sis. Amy Koch (Jess) and their families.

Sis. Elizabeth Moser has spent some time in the hospital this month and is now recuperating at Apostolic Christian Restmor. It is our hope she will be able to return to her home again soon.

Jeff Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky) was also a hospital patient. We are thankful he is home and back to normal again.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three new brothers-in-faith this month. We welcome Bros. Jim Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), Bro. John Hangartner (Jerry and Sis. Melba) and Bro. Michael Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella).

Joining us for this blessed week-

end were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Champaign), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA).

We extend a hearty welcome to Sis. Renee Knobloch Kaiser. Sis. Renee and Bro. Mark Kaiser were recently married in Lester, IA, and will be making their home in Tremont.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner are happy first-time grandparents. A sweet baby daughter was born August 8 to their daughter and husband, Sis. Diane and Bro. Alex Paton (Bloomington).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers and their families with us. Special thanks to Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless you all for your willingness to travel to share the Word with us.

Several couples have announced their engagements: Bro. Brent Teubel to Sis. Lynn Pflederer (Princeville, IL). Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline (Lester, IA) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser (Princeville, IL). Sis. Susie Heinold to Bro. Darren Plattner (Goodfield, IL). Their parents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Keven Hofstetter to Sis. Ann Huber. Their parents are Bro. Ted (Wolcott, IN) and the late Sis. Lynetta and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber (Fairbury, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings.

Michelle Kathryn was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Schlipf (Gridley). She was welcomed home by Jenny, Matthew and Jacob.

Adam Frederick was born to Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann. Grandparents are Sis. Ida and the late Ernie Pfaffmann and Sis. Dolly

and the late Bro. John Schick. Adam is welcomed home by Heidi.

Kendra Rose was born to Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Lemman. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Lemman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss.

Obed Nathaniel was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Nate Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and the late Sis. Adaline. He was welcomed home by Cheree, Jordan and Mahlia.

We're delighted to welcome the Tim and Barb Slagel family to Washington. They have three children, Matthew, Jason and Jodi.

Bro. Fred Wyss and Sis. Dianne Lemman exchanged wedding vows in Roanoke June 16. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Lemman (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Greg Schumacher and Sis. Shelle Massner were united in marriage July 14. Their parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty Schumacher and Richard and Laura Durfey (Detroit, MI) and the late Roy Massner.

Bro. Andy Klaus and Sis. Jana Kieser were also married August 4 in Bradford, IL. Parents are John and Betty (Japan) and Bro. David and Sis. Shirl Kieser (Bradford, IL).

Our prayers are with these couples as they begin their lives together in Christ Jesus.

Bro. Ray Martin (Peoria, IL) passed away in June. He was the father of Sis. Jan Heinold (Bro. Marshall). We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Jan and her family. He made his residence at the Eureka A.C. Home.

In July we had our annual Sunday school picnic at Washington Park. As always, a blessed time was had by all.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

John 15:5

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"In the presence of trouble, some people grow wings; others buy crutches."

Anonymous

We're thankful that six souls have chosen to grow wings and seek God as the solution to their problems. We rejoice with Heidi Kaehr, Jamie Moser, Katie Reinhard, Dawn Dick, Barry Martin and Doug Isch as they make their new beginning with Christ. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Sharing their testimonies and baptisms with us were Bro. Charlie Hill and Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Snyder July 28. We are so thankful for their new found love in Christ.

We were blessed to witness the marriage of Bro. Eric Gerber (Bro. Lee and Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Lori Shady (Bud and Gwen) August 18. Also united in the Lord were Bro. Jay Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Christy) and Sis. Rhonda Gerber (Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois) August 4. May God grant them His grace and blessings as they walk together with Him.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Martha (Marty) Moser, who went to be with our Lord August 10. Surviving are two sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Pfister (Bro. William) and Sis. Frances Dubach, along with several nieces and nephews. Also going to his heavenly home was Bro. Mano Moser, who passed away July 31. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Carolyne Isch (Bro. Ken), Sis. Delutha Moser and Pat Ebach in the loss of their father.

A special prayer goes out to those who were hospitalized this month including: Bro. Don Reinhard (Sis. Sarah), Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr, Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Sis. Minnie Isch and Sis. Frances Dubach. May God's healing power be with them.

It was truly a joy for Bro. Lynn and Sis. Rhonda Fiechter as they welcomed Darin Lee into their lives August 11. Darin joins brothers,

Vince and Troy, and a sister, April, at home. Proud grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer. Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber were also blessed with a little girl, Grace Lyn, born July 30. Molly, Joseph, Abby, William and Carson are excited to have a new sister in their home. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Justine Gerber and Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger. Haley Danae was born July 17 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia Steffen. Haley joins a sister, Amber, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen.

A note of thanks goes to Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We pray you will be blessed for your gift of love.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Mary Speheger recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God grant you many more years together.

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help him. I ended up by asking God to do his work through me."

Hudson Taylor

Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner and their family have allowed God to work through them as they will be moving to Leo to be the new houseparents at Gateway Woods. We wish them all God's grace as they plant new seeds of love into many hearts and lives. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Sis. Marie Sprunger as she moves to Valparaiso where she has found employment. She will be dearly missed by those of us in Bluffton, but we look forward to her visits back home.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

With joyful hearts we encourage two of our friends, Darla Hari and Jemma Frauhiger (Chauncy), as they have begun their repentance. May grace abide with them in the days ahead.

We rejoice with Chris Jutte (Tom and Kaye) and Kim Gerber (Bro.

Sam and Sis. Mary Jo) for on August 10 they were united in marriage. May God continue to bless them as they begin their life together.

Bro. Clem Reinhard and Sis. Joni have been blessed with a precious daughter, Katherine LaNae, born July 31. We also rejoice with first-time parents, Steve and Sis. Shauna Betz, at the coming of Alec Christopher born August 2.

We are thankful for the recovery of those who have been hospitalized this month. Bro. John Meyer (Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Charles Shively (Sis. Sally). We continue to pray for God's healing hand to be upon them.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner recently attended the conference at Morris, MN. May God ever bless these brethren and grant them wisdom in the work they do.

EACH DAY BRINGS A CHANCE TO DO BETTER

How often we wish for another
chance
to make a fresh beginning,
A chance to blot out our mistakes
and change failure into
winning --
And it does not take a special time
to make a brand-new start,
It only takes the deep desire
to try with all our heart
To live a little better
and to always be forgiving
And to add a little "sunshine"
to the world in which we're
living --
So never give up in despair
and think that you are through,
For there's always a tomorrow
and a chance to start anew.
Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

God is faithful and has answered our prayers in seeking a brother to help in the ministry of His Word. Bro. Chris Wuethrich and his wife, Sis. Carla, have our prayerful support as he proclaims God's Word. May God's Spirit speak mightily through Bro. Chris is our prayer.

We rejoice with Chad Huber who has found peace with God and is

awaiting baptism. His parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber.

We have appreciated the visits of Elder Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and ministering Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN).

Two baby girls are welcomed into our fellowship. On August 14, Kayla Michelle was born to Nicole Gutwein. Kayla's grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ellen Gutwein. On August 18, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie Wuethrich gave birth to Kaitlin Elizabeth. Kaitlin has two older sisters, Kara and Kristy. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tiede (Francesville) and Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich are her grandparents.

On June 30, after a year's illness, our dear friend, Marilyn Gutwein (Grogg), passed from this life. We extend our sympathy to all her loved ones, especially her husband, our Bro. Harvey Gutwein, and her children, Mrs. Teresa Selisky (Carmel, IN), Mrs. Carolyn Cline (Fort Wayne, IN), Bro. Dave Metzger (Francesville), Mark Metzger (Lexington, MO), Dan Metzger (Fort Wayne, IN), Scott Metzger (Monticello, IN) and Amanda Gutwein, who lives at home with Bro. Harvey.

Thank You: Thanks to our family and our Christian brethren and friends for all your efforts in making our golden anniversary a special event we will never forget. May God bless you all.

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Millie
Huber

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

"Whence then cometh wisdom?
and where is the place of understanding? . . .

"God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof . . .

"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

Job 28:20, 23, 28

We welcome all of our new and

returning college students this fall. May God give you wisdom and understanding in your studies. Let Him be your inspiration!

Congratulations to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cathy Neuenschwander and Brandon as they have a new little blessing in their family. Dustin Wayne was born May 29. We rejoice with them.

We have a new convert in our midst. Andrea Zeller has decided to follow Jesus. She is the daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny. We are so happy to have her join us. We pray that God will grant her peace soon.

Our high school and junior high Sunday school class was invited to spend the weekend of July 20 and 21 in Chicago. They had a wonderful time and would like to say thanks to the Chicago Sunday school class for all their efforts. God bless you and keep you till we meet again.

We wish Ron and Amy Harper Crumbo's family well in their new home in Tremont, IL. May God be with them.

We enjoyed having the Zeltwanger family with us for a church potluck August 11. It is always special when friends and family come to join us to fellowship and worship.

Our hearts go out to the family of Bro. Don Knobloch who passed away August 16. Sis. Jenny and her family have been a special part of our congregation here in Indy these past months. We feel like they are a part of our family. We offer our condolences and prayerful support. May God grant Jenny and her family much grace and courage to continue on in this life. Bro. Don will be greatly missed.

We want to express our thanks to all of our visiting ministers. They were Bros. John Bollier and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend). God bless you for your faithful service to Him.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

Once again we are at the end of another Sunday school year. On July 28, our annual picnic was enjoyed by all. We want to thank Sis. Sandy Heinold who has completed

her term as teacher and encourage Sis. Mary Lynn Massner as she takes on this new responsibility.

As August passes and we see the children and their teachers returning to school, we want to ask the Lord's guidance for each one.

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

Oh, Lord Jesus,
Some days I wonder what you saw
in them.

How could you gather those whiny,
crabby little humans
in your arms
and bless them?
Did they push and shove to get to
you,
or worse yet,
take cuts in line?

Did they tattle on their best friend
or ruthlessly tease the victim of the
week?

That's the reality of children, Lord.

Oh, but help me to remember
that no less real
is their curiosity, their open
heartedness, their zest.
Nowhere but in children
do we see such receptive, eager, and
humble learners.

So, Lord Jesus,
remind me what you saw in them;
the very kingdom of heaven.

Elsbeth Campbell Murphy

"Create in me a clean heart, O
God; and renew a right spirit within
me."

Psalm 51:10

As we heard the testimonies of
Luke Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo)
and Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and
Sis. Mary), we could see the miracle
of a clean heart and right spirit. We
are thankful that we can welcome
them as our brothers-in-faith.

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

Luke 15:7

There must surely be much re-
joicing in heaven because we have
three young souls who have turned

their backs on the world. Ned Stoller
(Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie),
Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis.
Sandy) and Kathy Heinold (Bro.
Gene and Sis. Evie) have found grace
to repent.

Another joyful event that we
want to report is the birth of Bro.
Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest's new
granddaughter. Tasha Maria was
born to Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy
Steffen (Alto, MI).

We are grateful to the ministers
who visited this past month and fed
us from the Word of God. Thanks to
Bros. Kenny Weerts (Cissna Park,
IL), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI),
Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Larry
Wenninger (Latty, OH), Dan Stoller
(Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Ray
Sinn (Latty, OH).

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

Thousands of schools are now
back in session. And the making of
books, there is no end. More people
today have an opportunity for edu-
cation than ever; and yet God says
in Hosea 4:6, my people are de-
stroyed for a lack of knowledge --
the knowledge of really knowing
what God is saying about our life.
Why don't we know? Because we
try to figure it out by our natural
senses -- by our own mind and our
own feelings as real and as genuine
as they are. Jude says in verse 10
that in what the people know natu-
rally, in those things they corrupt
themselves.

On the other hand, God says
that his ways are not accomplished
by human might nor power, but by
His Spirit. Zechariah 4:6. And His
Holy Spirit can't be convinced or
conjured up by our own mind. His
Spirit only comes from God when
God wants to give Him. And God
only gives Him when we surrender
our natural means and rend our
heart by faith to want and wait for
only what's from Him. And if we
want, and wait, and ask for only the
Holy Spirit, we won't be given a
scorpion. Luke 11:11-13. Our heav-
enly Father will faithfully give us
His Spirit.

I speak to myself as well, we and
our children both need to learn these

kind of facts so we aren't destroyed
for a lack of true knowledge.

We appreciated the in-gather-
ing of three new souls, Bros. Mike
Klopfenstein and Jerry Fessenden
and Sis. Candi Stoller. Mike is a
student at Purdue. We've noticed
and appreciated his gratefulness.
His parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis.
Chris Klopfenstein. Jerry was origi-
nally from Gateway Woods, and now
lives with Bro. Brace and Sis.
Brenda Wieland. He is the son of
Billie Jean Donovan (Valparaiso).
She was able to hear his testimony
and replied how secure she felt about
it all. We welcome her to join us
again anytime. Sis. Candi is at-
tending Leo High School. She is the
happy daughter of Bro. John and
Sis. Patsy Stoller.

Our visiting ministers this
month were: Bros. Tom Schambach
(Elgin), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield,
OH) and Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit,
MI).

Elder Bro. David Bertsch and
his wife, Sis. Marie, wish to thank
the many brothers, sisters and
friends who remembered them on
their 50th wedding anniversary
with cards and expressions of Chris-
tian love. May the Lord's blessing
be with you for this labor of Chris-
tian love and prayer support.

A reminder -- This is the collec-
tion month for Silver Lining dues.

INDIANA, MILFORD Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

Our faith was strengthened and
our spirits uplifted this month by
the many visitors from far and near
who assembled with us each Sun-
day. Our inner man was fed by our
home ministers as well as having
the added joy and blessings of hav-
ing Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton),
Stephen Baner (Gridley) and Robert
Meyer (Bluffton North) feed us from
the living Word. Bro. Stephen Baner
also was kind enough Saturday
night to talk to us about "Relation-
ships," especially in our marriages,
but also paralleled it to our rela-
tionship with our church family. It
gave us all something on which to
work.

Our dear Sis. Aldine Reimschisel
was able to go to her eternal home
August 9. She reached the age of

ninety-four years and was our oldest member. Her body was weak for some time, but her mind was very good. She sat many years making things with her hands to give away. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Betty Igney, Mrs. Phyllis Losure and Mrs. Rosemary Miller. She has a sister in Craigville, Sis. Marie Gerber.

Herman Weisser had surgery and is now able to be back in church for which we are so thankful. His wife, Gwen, is still recuperating from major surgery a month ago. We continue to pray for them.

Two baby girls were added to our church family. Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup were given another grandchild to love when Meghan Leigh was born to their daughter, Christy, August 7. Bro. Matt and Sis. Karen Pamer became first-time grandparents August 13 by the birth of Maria Lynn to their daughter, Vanessa.

Once again Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) spent a short time at Riley Children's Hospital. Chad Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) also had some tests done at Riley. We are so thankful that these boys have such sharp minds and that with medication they can lead normal lives.

Just a thought I read, To add years to your life, subtract bad habits and multiply by good deeds.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

We are thankful Art Nussbaum had successful surgery and is now home from the hospital, recuperating. Art will be 90 years old in September, so we feel he has done exceptionally well.

On Sunday, August 11, we sang a welcome hymn for Bro. Jim and Kathy Gramm and their three sons. They have moved from Gridley, IL, to Lafayette, IN, and have chosen to make Remington their church. We are a small congregation and have room and a welcome for more.

Thought for the day: Discontentment makes rich men poor while contentment makes poor men rich.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

Fall is fast approaching and our children will be back in school. We have several who will be in college again and some for the first time, namely: Michael Beebe, Matthew Beebe, Celise Frank, Clay Frank, Sis. Deb Lehman and Bro. Joshua Mangold. We pray that they all will feel God's presence wherever they may be.

Our dear Bro. El and Sis. Mae Schumacher have recently sold their home and are now living in a retirement community. Their new address is: 515 South Whitlock Street, Apartment 9E, Bremen Manor, Bremen, IN 46506.

This summer our congregation has been pretty slim as many of our families vacationed. However, we know that the Lord promises that where two or three are gathered together in His name there He will be also. How we at South Bend heavily rely upon this promise many Sundays and Wednesdays. We truly appreciate the many visitors who happen to stop by and worship with us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

I was once advised to try and remember at least one teaching from each sermon heard. Today it was II Corinthians 5:20, "Now we are ambassadors for Christ as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." Ambassadors are to follow orders or instructions not make them.

Secondly, in Romans 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." At all times be instant in prayer -- Isn't that beautiful?

The sewing circle sisters truly enjoyed an outing of sightseeing and fellowship this month.

How refreshing to have our church filled with young sisters and brothers. We appreciated their coming to worship with us and the efforts of our young members planning meals and the fellowship.

Bro. Willard Schieler was our visiting minister this month. Our thanks to him and his companions.

God has two dwellings -- one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart.

Izaak Walton

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) pleasantly surprised us with a visit Wednesday evening, July 31. May he be blessed for lending himself in the Lord's service.

On August 11, we were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Ann Huber (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna, Fairbury, IL) to Bro. Keven Hofstetter (Bro. Ted). Bro. Keven and Sis. Ann both attend the Washington, IL, church due to their employment.

Many visitors were present August 18 as two young hearts were united in holy matrimony. We pray God will bless Sis. Sandy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Bro. James Hartter (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie, Sabetha, KS) as they begin their lives together. May their love continue to grow for each other and for the Lord. Visiting ministers who shared this special day with us were Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN).

Kristie Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) has moved to the Morton Home for the Handicapped. We will miss her, but we know she will be a joy to the staff and residents there. We pray the Lord will bless her with happiness in her new home.

Sis. Frances Bahler (Elder Bro. Alfred) received outpatient surgery. We are thankful for her quick recovery.

Our thoughts and prayers were with our dear elders and ministering brothers this past week as they met for the brotherhood conference. We know much discussion and many prayers were offered in our behalf. May we strive to be more obedient to their teachings and more faithful to God's Word.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Deyona Massner Carolyn Wulf

We are thankful for the visiting

ministers this past month. Bros. Jim Ramsier (Bay City, MI), Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). The Oakville congregation spent a Wednesday evening service with us and we thank those ministering brothers for being willing to be used in the Lord's service. May God bless each one who willingly submit to His will in service to others.

Bro. Leroy Wulf and Sis. Carolyn were blessed with a boy August 10. Blake William has one brother, Brett. The happy grandparents are Bro. Wilhelm and Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington).

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"The apostles and elders came together to consider the matter."
Acts 15:6

At the time of this writing, many are making plans to attend our annual church conference. How thankful we are that our elders and ministers continue to come together to consider the matters of the church. Surely what the Apostle Paul foretold in Acts 20:29-30 has come to pass. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. And of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." The welfare of our church should be a real care and concern for each of us. May we all humbly and prayerfully do our part to keep it pure for it has been purchased by the blood of Jesus.

"Train up a child in the way he shall go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

Sisters Betty Butikofer and Kathy Butikofer were recently voted in to assist with this training for our two smallest Sunday school classes. I'm sure they take this duty very seriously. May they also feel God's presence and blessings as they teach these precious children of the great love and mercy of God.

Trustee duties were given to Bro. Tim Butikofer and Bro. Al Butikofer will continue as main song leader.

One by one their seats were emptied, one by one they went away . . .

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Elmer Butikofer (Sis. Lydia) in the loss of his sister, Carrie Trafflet and also to Sis. Carolyn Butikofer (Bro. Lawrence) whose brother, Lester Wiegand, was recently called from this life.

We appreciated the surprise visit of Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Plattner (Zapata, TX) at one of our midweek services. Our thanks to Bro. Lee for lending himself in God's service. Sis. Mary's roots are here, so we're always glad when they come "home" for a visit.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A heartfelt "thank you!" to all of our visitors this month. To many it was a unique experience to be in such a small congregation, as several times most of the "home folks" were gone. We trust you could feel the blessings and closeness we feel, and the reality of God's promise, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." St. Matthew 18:20. A special thank you to Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) for sharing the Word with us.

Several of us were privileged to attend the brotherhood conference in Morris, MN. May we take all of the exhortations to heart and apply them to our relationships and activities within our earthly family as well as our church family.

We welcome Sis. Nancy Belsley (Oakville, IA) who will be attending the University of Iowa this fall, and Sis. Melody Knobloch (Lester, IA), who will be beginning a three-month internship in September. Since both sisters have lived here and assembled with us in the past, we welcome them "back home," and hope they can feel our appreciation that the Lord has directed them to return, at least for a time.

May we all, no matter where God's will has lead us, strive to establish Christian homes as outlines in the Scriptures, as expounded upon by our beloved elder brethren, and as expressed by the author of the following song:

A CHRISTIAN HOME

O give us homes built firm upon
the Savior,
Where Christ is Head and
Counselor and Guide;
Where every child is taught His
love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ, the
crucified:
How sweet to know that though
his footsteps waver
His faithful Lord is walking by his
side!

O give us homes with godly fathers,
mothers,
Who always place their hope and
trust in Him;
Whose tender patience turmoil
never bothers,
Whose calm and courage trouble
cannot dim;
A home where each finds joy in
serving others,
And love still shines, tho days be
dark and grim.

O Lord, our God, our homes are
Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems,
toil, and care;
Their bonds of love no enemy can
sever
If Thou are always Lord and Master
there:
Be Thou the center of our least
endeavor --
Be Thou our Guest, our hearts and
homes to share.

Hymns for the
Family of God #538

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold - Mary Knobloch

Oh, the gift of free redemption
Did our loving Savior give
That the world's lost multitudes
Through Jesus sacrifice
Might forever live.
(Taken from Sacred Poems
by Henry Beer)

These words reflected our feelings the weekend of July 27 and 28 when nine precious souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. Those added to the fold were Wendy Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Julie Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Penny Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy), Marci Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), Jerome Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores), Linda and Dean Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla) and Jill and Denis Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla). Our sincere thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) who assisted our Elder Bros. Dennis Warner and Leo Moser.

Other visiting ministers who have been with us recently were Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Among our many visitors who gathered with us August 11 was Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). On that day our Sis. Renee Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) was united in marriage to Bro. Mark Kaiser (Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene). We wish God's blessings to the new couple who will be at home with the Tremont congregation.

A new home has been established following the wedding ceremony of Steve Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy) and Darcy Brekke (Pierre, SD) July 27. We wish God's blessings to the new couple.

Those who spent time in the hospital this past month are Sis. Sonia Feucht (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge), Bro. Andy Mogler (Sis. Frieda) and Cathi Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn). We pray for God's healing power to restore their health now that they have returned home.

Adam John is the name that Bro. Doug and Charlene Leuthold have chosen to give to their new son born August 12. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

The home of Dan and Jeanne Knobloch has been blessed with a new baby, Josie Jean, born July 19. Grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger.

At the time of this writing we are at the eve of the annual brotherhood conference. May our thoughts and prayers be with those who gather together and may we give our support to them at this time and always.

The time is again at hand when our young friends and brothers and sisters return to school and college. Might they ever look to God above for direction and follow in His ways throughout the days and years ahead.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

Greetings to one and all! May we ever have prayerful hearts and minds as our dear elder brothers gather together this week in Morris, MN, to discuss the spiritual directives of our precious faith. Let us hold fast to their conclusions. We must remember that God says that if we love Him we will keep His commandments and His commandments are not grievous. May we ever be encouraged toward a closer walk with Him.

July 21 was our annual Sunday school picnic in Oakville. A blessed evening was certainly enjoyed by all those who attended.

August 10 marked a new beginning in the lives of Brian Tapp (Dave and Phyllis Tapp, Mediapolis) and Stacia Marti (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Teresa); the beginning of their life together as one. We are so thankful to see that they have truly taken this step in life seriously and may God bless them as they walk together hand in hand.

Sean and Valerie and Tyler Gray welcome little Leslie Dawn into their hearts and home. We are thankful Sean and Valerie have renounced the sinful pleasures of this world and are now in a state of repentance. May God ever give them and all parents the guidance and direction needed to raise their dear children in this evil world. Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner and Don and Bonnie Gray are the happy grandparents of Tyler and Leslie.

"Now it is accomplished, my freedom is gone . . ." (Zion's Harp #209) This was a testimony of our

dear Sis. Kris Wagenbach (Donald) August 3. We welcome her into our precious brotherhood and may she always feel the hand of almighty God leading and directing her throughout life.

On August 18 we witnessed the marriage ceremony of Bro. Jason Stoecker (Sis. Jan) and Sis. Gayla Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo). May the love of God ever shine upon them as they walk hand in hand down life's pathway.

The time has come for us to once again bid our fond farewells. Believing it is God's will for her life, our dear Sis. Jan Stoecker has accepted a position at the Children's Home in Leo, IN, as a single houseparent. We will certainly miss our dear sister in Oakville and we wish her Godspeed on her way. Bro. Aaron Schmidgall and Bro. Michael Wagenbach will be off to college soon at Iowa State University in Ames, IA. Our prayers go with them as they settle into the role and struggles of a college student.

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) have recently visited our congregation and gave of themselves to bring forth the Word. May God bless them and their beloved families.

IOWA, PULASKI

Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein

As the summer is swiftly passing by, it will soon be time for our children to start school again. May we, as parents, be an example to our children, and pray for them as they go about their life's journey.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Billie Cruikshank (Lowell) and family in the passing of her mother of Bloomfield, IA.

The Bible class, along with several teachers, traveled to Taylor, MO, Sunday, July 28 for an annual event including Oakville and Burlington Bible classes. Our thanks go to the Taylor Bible class for making the day enjoyable.

Our hospital patient this month was Cory Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) who was severely burned. At this writing he is at home, and we pray his recovery will go well.

IOWA, WEST BEND**Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

Our local ministers felt especially blessed when arriving Thursday evening for services to find Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS) as a visiting minister. We were also blessed with other visiting ministers the following Sunday. Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) so ably told us of God's will and way. We are also thankful for the ministers who visited us on their way to the conference in Morris. These include Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL).

A chapter completed
A page turned,
A life well-lived,
A rest well-earned.

We bid farewell to Sis. Lily Mogler August 2. We are thankful she has gone home. We extend sympathy to her husband, Bro. Nathan; and children, Eric (Diana, Bode), Sis. Janet (Elgin, IL), Sis. Jackie and Melanie Bormann (Ralph) from Algona, and Tim (Gloria, West Bend). Nine precious grandchildren will miss grandma's smiling face and kind words. The family of Sis. Lily appreciates all the prayers and kind deeds during her illness and since her passing. The following poem was written by Sis. Lily. May we be ready to enjoy the glories of eternity as expressed in:

A REVELATION

Listening in church and hearing
it said,
Of the wonders awaiting the
quicken'd dead,
I caught a brief glimpse of heaven
today.
Concerning the songs of praises
sung,
By ransomed souls who Heaven
has won.
Then did I see it, Oh, brief
perfection!
What must the joys of eternity be,
With such rapture unfolded,
To a least one like me.

We also send our prayers and sympathy to Mike and Marilyn Banwart on the death of her grandmother.

We are thankful Bernard Metzger (Alice Marie) is home now and awaiting the time when he can again assemble with us. Others with illness, injury and surgery are Bro. Virgil Wilson (Sis. Kathy), Paul Banwart (Emmy), little Tyle Olson (Troy and Julie) and Bob Thomann. We are thankful all are on the road to good health.

**SHIODA, JAPAN
Terri Gramm**

We experienced many tears as we said goodbye to Sis. Renee Bauer. She has faithfully served for four years in our churches in Japan. Her prayers and labors on our behalf have been an important part of our church. All of us share many special memories with Sis. Renee. On July 28, we gathered together for a farewell supper for her. Many friends and members came to say thank you and goodbye. We will certainly miss her.

May our heavenly Father's peace and guidance be upon you, Sis. Renee, as you make the transition of living in the States and seek His will in your life.

We enjoyed having Joey (7) and Ruthie (5) Kauffman visit our church while their parents, Joel and Sally Kauffman, took care of their new baby, Esther.

Our summer fellowship meeting was held in the South Alps (a mountain range in Japan). The theme of our services was prayer, our communication with God, our Father. We studied the Lord Jesus' model for private prayer from Matthew 6:9-13. It's comforting and reassuring that we can address the living God as our Father. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in Heaven." The challenge is "Do we have a relationship with God such that we can address Him as our Father?" Another question posed came from Matthew 7:7: "Ask, Seek, Knock . . ." What are you asking God for spiritually? What are you seeking for spiritually from God? Are you knocking?

As we fellowshiped together,

we were encouraged to rely on God for material needs. We were encouraged to persevere in the prayers for our children because God is a God of miracles. We were encouraged to continually pray for other people, knowing and believing that prayer is heard and answered by our Father in heaven. We pray that God will impress in each of our lives the importance of our relationship with Him.

I was privileged to be able to return to the States for the month of August. Thanks to all of you who received me warmly!

Our body of believers is small, and we ask for your continual prayer support.

**JAPAN, TOKYO
Frank and Kathy Sauder**

At the end of July, our congregations journeyed to the South Alps of Japan for our annual Summer Fellowship Meeting. In Japan, our churches are quite small and the believers live far apart from each other. Because of the distance it is difficult to get together for fellowship, so our two-day meeting was a real blessing to once again share in the bond of fellowship that we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord. This year, Shioda church hosted the meeting and the theme was "Prayer." It was indeed a blessed time.

Our Elder Bro. Akito and his family went to America during the month of August where they attended the brotherhood conference. Our prayers are with them as they travel and spend time with family and friends.

**KANSAS, BERN
Kathy Strahm - Diane Kaeb**

On July 1, a daughter, Amanda Lee, was born to Judd and Carol Meyer. Her sister, Darla, is glad to have a sister to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Visser.

Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler rejoice over the birth of a new granddaughter, little

Emily Jane, born to July 17, to their daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Heidi and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

On July 20, Roger Edelman and Michelle Rokey were united as one. Parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman and Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey.

We also rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter on the wedding of their daughter, Shari, to Roy Frey (Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frey) August 3. May the Lord richly bless these two couples in their new lives together.

"Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. We are so thankful that Chris Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) could heed to God's call of repentance.

As we rejoice with those who have had happy times, we also weep with those who have had misfortune in the loss of loved ones. We extend sympathy to the family and relatives of Walter Stauffer who passed away July 21. Also to Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter and Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharon Grimm on the death of their brother-in-law Warren Petersen July 21. On August 9 Elmer Isch was also called out of this life following an illness. May our heavenly Father bless and comfort his wife, Eldora, children and grandchildren.

We extend prayers of healing to Sis. Kay Meyer who has been hospitalized this past month.

It is always a pleasure to have visiting ministers with us. Bro. Walter Herrman (Princeville, IL), Bro. Carrol Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. William Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) recently proclaimed God's inspiring message to us. We thank them for their labors and welcome them back any time.

It's not fortune
or fame
or worldwide acclaim
That makes for
true greatness,
you'll find --
It's the wonderful art
of teaching the heart
to always

be thoughtful
and kind!

Helen Steiner Rice

August is the month of our children's vacation from Sunday school. As we resume in September may the teachers continue to plant the seed in each young and tender heart. August 6 was our Sunday school picnic. How special it is to see our young children spending time together.

Thank You Note: We want to express our deep thanks and appreciation to everyone for their visits, and prayers during our recent hospitalization.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

We're so thankful that the Lord is still merciful, granting salvation to a sin-sick world. Cory and Barry Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) have made known their desire to be yielded and surrendered to the will of God.

Hospital patients were Bro. Ephraim Young (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy). They both have returned home. We're thankful that the Lord, once again, has extended a measure of health and healing to these loved ones.

We wish to thank all who remembered us, after the deaths of John and Jean. The loving expressions of sympathy, through kind deeds, cards and remembrance in prayer, helped to ease our suffering and uphold us during time of need.

Bro. Sam Kraft
Bro. Lloyd Kraft
and families

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not by filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

"Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

I Peter 5:1-4

What a great responsibility our elders have! And what a promise for their faithfulness! Our Elder Bro. Ron Nelson and ministering Bro. Jeff Bahr attended the elders conference in August. May God grant our elders the grace and wisdom necessary to fulfill such a great responsibility.

As the seasons change, every one of us will strive to seek the Lord's will for our lives that we may bring glory and honor to His name.

Precious Teacher, leave us never!
We would follow Thee forever
Praying, seeking, trusting Thee,
Till Thy glory we shall see.

Joy On The Sabbath Day
Zion's Harp #126, vs. 9

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

We remember in prayer our elder brethren as they meet this week for the annual brotherhood conference. May God direct and guide them in all their deliberations.

We have enjoyed visiting brethren who ministered God's Word to us. They were Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). May God bless them in their labors.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the dear ones who must suffer afflictions. May they feel our prayers and God's nearness. Sis. Alma Aberle has been hospitalized several weeks. Bro. John Plattner (Sis. Marie) and Bro. Joe Traub (Sis. Viola) have spent time in the hospital. We are thankful for His healing mercies.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Darrel Stoller ministered

to us July 21. We appreciate the fact that he and his family were willing to make the drive from Bern, KS, in the summer heat in order that we might be enriched.

Many of you are aware that our Wichita congregation is a small congregation. Recently I have been shown that such a status has its advantages. My husband, Bro. Godfrey Miller, and I recently celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary with a family dinner on a Saturday night. The following day when I entered the dining room after Sunday school, I noticed an air of expectation as I was ushered to a special table prepared for us, the anniversary couple. Besides the special prayer and kind words by Bro. Glen Funk, we were presented a book of good wishes prepared by each church family. Our smallness knits us together in special fellowship and we are so grateful for each other.

Another example of blessing as a small group is our recent Vacation Bible School (August 16). It was held at a state park with five-lesson sessions interspersed with activities and recreation all in the framework of one day. There were teachers enough for the four classes and support personnel as needed. A story-telling session with Farmer Bahr (Gridley, KS) climaxed the day's activities. My young great-niece expressed it best when she said, "Aunt Em, this is just like Bahr Campout." She was comparing her church association to her family unit. How special!

Come, join us in worship at Wichita.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barbara Huber

**HOW CAN I KEEP
 FROM SINGING?**

What though my joys and
 comforts die?

The Lord my Saviour liveth!
 What though the darkness gather
 round?

Songs in the night He giveth;
 No storm can shake my inmost
 calm,

While to that refuge clinging;

Since Christ is Lord of heaven
 and earth,
 How can I keep from singing?
 Robert Lowry

How true it is, when we know
 Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we can
 trust Him as Lord overall knowing
 that He doeth all things well.
 Whatever our lot or need may be,
 He comforts and provides an inner
 peace that leads us to praise His
 Name, giving us -- "... the garment
 of praise for the spirit of heaviness
 . . ." Isaiah 61:3; "whoso offereth
 praise glorifieth me . . ." Psalms
 50:3.

We were blessed with the fellow-
 ship of scheduled visiting ministers
 as well as other visitors travelling
 during the summer vacation
 months. May the Lord bless and
 reward the ministers, their wives,
 and others who accompanied them,
 for coming many miles to share
 God's Word with us: Bro. Gary
 Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Glen
 Riggerbach (Smithville, OH), Bro.
 Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and
 Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL).
 Other churches represented were:
 Fairbury, Eureka, Princeville and
 Bradford, IL; Rockville, CT; Latty,
 Rittman and Mansfield, OH; and
 Wolcott, IN.

We are thankful to have Sachiko
 Yukita and her daughter, Shiori,
 from the Tokyo, Japan, church
 worshipping with us since her hus-
 band was transferred to Lexington
 about a year ago. On August 9,
 several of us journeyed with Sa-
 chiko and Shiori to meet Elder Bro.
 Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue and
 their family at Brown County Na-
 tional Park in Indiana. We picnicked
 together and enjoyed a blessed time
 of fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

**I KNOW WHO HOLDS
 TOMORROW**

I don't know about tomorrow,
 I just live from day to day;
 I don't borrow from its sunshine,
 For its skies may turn to gray;
 I don't worry o'er the future,
 For I know what Jesus said;

And today I'll walk beside Him,
 For He knows what is ahead.
 Many things about tomorrow,
 I don't seem to understand;
 But I know who holds tomorrow,
 And I know who holds my hand.
 Song from Becky & Ronda

Our hearts rejoice as another
 soul enters into the fold of grace!
 Sis. Karla Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis.
 Judy) gave her testimony August 3
 and was baptized August 4. We
 pray for Sis. Karla as she goes out
 into the world as a new sister-in-
 faith, that she may, with God's grace,
 stand fast on that straight and
 narrow path. And my it be that
 others will answer the Lord while
 He is still so tenderly calling.

We are thankful to Elder Bro.
 Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for
 lending himself in this most pre-
 cious work.

Babies are bits of stardust blown
 from the hand of God. Lucky is the
 woman who knows the pangs of
 birth for she has held a star.

Larry Barretto

Little Derek Anthony arrived to
 bless the home of Bro. Terry and
 Sis. Laurie Steffen. Big sister Car-
 rie welcomes her new brother home.
 Proud grandparents are Bro. Carl
 and Sis. Myrna Steffen and Bro.
 Bob and Sis. Doris Huber (Fort
 Lauderdale, FL).

Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen
 received their first bundle of joy as
 little Tasha Marie came to bless
 their lives. Proud grandparents are
 Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta
 Steffen and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet
 Nuest (LaCrosse, IN).

We are so thankful to these new
 little gifts and we pray for them as
 they love and nurture their chil-
 dren in the Lord.

Our congratulations go to Brian
 Grawburg (Bro. Ferd and Sis. Jane)
 and Carrie Brown at their engage-
 ment announcement. Our prayers
 are with them as they plan their
 wedding.

We ask for the Lord's richest
 blessings for these ministers who
 brought the word to us this past
 month: Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City,
 MI), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA),
 Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington,

IA) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Saris, OH).

As our children head back to school this fall and our homes become quieter, may we take time to reflect on the summer past and the special times we shared and count our blessings.

Reminder: October is the month for Silver lining dues in Alto, the price is now \$9.00.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Peggy Waibel

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

Chad Wieland (Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland) was announced for peace and is now awaiting baptism. May God continue to guide and direct Chad's life as he continues to walk in the path of righteousness.

Our special thanks and appreciation are extended to Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) for spending a Wednesday evening with us and teaching us from God's Word.

Bro. Scott Kent and Sisters Marilyn Ruegsegger and Della Erisman were hospitalized this month, but we are happy to report that God extended his healing touch to each one.

This month we also had our annual Sunday school picnic. It was a great success because God was there with us, and when the children sang "Jesus Loves Me," we were all reminded that they are our future church.

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

Proverbs 22:6

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton
Marlene Reinhard

We want to sincerely thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) for taking the time to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the residents at

Woodhaven. The Bay City congregation hosted the monthly service in August. On October 1st, it will be our church here in Livonia's turn to host services at Woodhaven. We encourage anyone and everyone to share this precious Tuesday evening of worship and singing with the residents. Services start at 7:00 p.m.

On October 20, Mansfield has the privilege of hosting services in Kitchener, Ontario. If you are in the Kitchener area please give Bro. Walter Fortenbacher a call at (519) 699-4133 and join our loved ones for the weekend. Visitors are always welcome.

It seems like this summer has flown by and here we are once again facing the start of another school year. May God guide the minds of the teachers and grant them Godly wisdom and understanding as they may be the only teachers many of the children have to learn from. May we always remember each other in prayer. We do not know what trials, decisions or temptations our neighbor may be facing in life. We must always remember our walk of life may be the turning point for someone along the way and we don't want to be the cause of our brother stumbling and losing his spiritual balance, but rather be the light in darkness leading footprints toward heaven. God bless you each one.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Marcy Schmidgall

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

Hymns of Zion #46, vs. 1

The memories of a very blessed weekend still linger in our hearts. We feel most privileged to have been able to host the National World Relief Committee meeting this August. We enjoyed a blessed fellowship Saturday with the many brothers that attended this meeting. May God bless these brothers for the time and effort extended to the needy people throughout the world.

On Sunday following the meeting, we had many visitors among us as well as Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Jeese Beer (Milford, IN). Also with us, ministering Bros. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT).

May God bless these brothers for their willingness to share God's Word and to further the work that is set before them.

Visitors that were with us for Wednesday evening service before the general conference in Morris were ministering Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and Bob Miller (Portland, OR). Again, we thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

Many of our loved ones were hospitalized this month, either for surgery or medical reasons. We are thankful they are all able to assemble with us once again. They are Bro. Alphai Moser, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Bro. Paul Fehr, Bro. Leonard Wulf, Mike Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Joshua Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) and Levi Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell).

We were thankful to have Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) minister to us August 11.

First-time parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Knobloch as they welcomed a precious little son into their home. Jeffrey Alan was born August 3. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL).

The Morris congregation was privileged to host the annual brotherhood conference August 13 - 16. We were thankful to have the opportunity to meet so many dear brothers and sisters-in-faith from across the land. The ties of faith

and love in our dear Saviour were indeed strengthened as we greeted one another. It was also a blessing to work together as a congregation as we indeed needed the help of each and every one. We are so thankful to have concerned elder brothers who freely give of themselves for the benefit of us all. May we obediently obey the teachings and doctrines set forth that have proven beneficial for so many years and let us encourage our brothers to continue to keep this precious faith as we have found it.

We sincerely appreciated all the visitors who stayed over and spent the weekend with us. We had many visiting ministers with us Friday evening, Sunday and Sunday evening and we thank them for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

School bells will soon be ringing as summer has quite suddenly drawn to a close. May our students never forget to pick up the greatest textbook of all, the Bible.

Found: After the conference, a ladies light blue London Fog jacket, size 16, was placed in the wrong car by mistake. Please call 612-392-5690 or 392-5382 if it belongs to you.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner
Kim Messner

We were very fortunate Wednesday, August 14, to have several visiting ministers in our presence as they stopped in on their way to the conference. A potluck supper and evening church service was a blessing for all. Visiting ministers were Bros. Ben Manz, Samuel Schlatter, Don Manz (Junction, OH), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH). Then the following Sunday Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) was with us to bring forth God's Word. May God richly bless them for the duties that have been laid upon them.

We would like to take this time to thank all the other visitors that were in our presence on their way to and from the conference.

Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) is home and doing nicely

but will still be spending several months in a wheelchair.

Other hospital patients were Lindsay Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie), Clint Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Marylou) and Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy). May God's healing hand be upon them and others that have ailments and burdens to bear.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin
Janelle Kellenberger

The July - August vacation season has brought the Lamar congregation many visitors including ministers.

The ministering brothers who brought to us the glad tidings of salvation were: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bros. Gary Endress and Roy Enhle (Bradford, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS).

We go to the house of worship each Sunday morning, anticipating a blessing; however, when we are in the company of our beloved visiting brethren, the blessings seem so extra and so special.

We extend our best wishes and our hope for God's blessings upon Bro. Wayne Streitmatter and Sis. Deonna Massner as they join hands and hearts as man and wife. Bro. Wayne spent many summers working in Lamar and is loved by all who knew him.

The weekend of August 4 the brethren who spent the winter season in Florida, and are commonly referred to as the "snow birds," came on a chartered bus to visit several of the Kansas churches. Fifteen churches were represented in this group. Several of us from Lamar joined them at the Fort Scott church for singing, supper and fellowship.

Many of these brethren we have known for many years and it was a blessing to meet them once again to rejoice in the Lord and in our common salvation.

According to a recent weather map, a large portion of the mid-western states are in the grip of a severe drought. The Lamar area is included.

In the first books of the Kings we read where God withheld rain upon the earth for a period of three years. "Other brethren have bore more privation."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Ruthie Hoerr

Jesus said to have faith in God (Mark 11:22). Faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Webster's New World Dictionary gives these definitions: Unquestioning belief, specifically in God; A particular religion; complete trust or confidence; loyalty. I recently saw a little poster that said "Faith isn't faith until it's all you're holding on to." This phrase is easy to relate to. When all else fails, our faith in God (who sees everything from the beginning and knows the ending) will give us comfort and peace, if we completely trust in Him. Faith is knowing God is in control, even when it seems everything is out of control.

Many around here, who raise seed corn, are already finished with that part of the harvest. Some are good yields and some are not so good; all part of God's plan, He is in control. The harvest that is important, is the heavenly one.

Our Sunday school hosted the Bible classes from Pulaski, Burlington and Oakville, IA, July 28. Approximately forty attended. Bro. Kent Heimer had the lesson on the benefits of love and fellowship in the Apostolic Christian Church. A wonderful day of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart was our visiting minister this month. We always appreciate those who take time to visit us and share with us God's Word.

August is Sunday school vacation month at Taylor; but since many of the children would rather have Sunday school, we have substitute teachers during this month. Many in our congregation, who usually don't have the opportunity, get the enjoyment of working with children during this month.

Our community and church is

saddened by the death of Bro. David (Sis. Lori Hoerr) Marquart's mother, Marion. Marion's family owned and operated a favorite eating establishment in Palmyra, MO.

Bro. William Cottrell was recently hospitalized for reevaluation of medications after being stabilized for several weeks.

Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr announce the marriage of their daughter, Louanne Gramm (Bloomington, IL) to Greg Umland (Hudson, IL) August 11. May their united lives draw they closer to God.

**NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**
Alice Virkler

We gathered together Sunday, July 21, to hear the Word of God and to share holy communion together. As we share this holy feast together from time to time, may we be reminded of the suffering and death of our dear Savior for each one of us. These thoughts should remain in our hearts and minds every day so we can serve God and each other faithfully. We thank our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and deacon Bro. Duane Farney for serving us communion.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held Saturday, August 10, at Happy Hollow. It was enjoyed by young and old alike. May we remember each one of our Sunday school children in prayer as they begin another school year. Some will go to kindergarten for the first time and some will be going on to college. May they always remember the teachings given by our faithful Sunday school teachers as they go out into the world of education with their friends. May they be a light and example to those they come in contact with.

Bro. Roland Geiser was called from this earthly life August 14, after having been a hospital patient for many weeks and suffering much in his final days. We are thankful he could be relieved of his earthly suffering and we can be assured that he is now in a better home free from pain. Our sympathy is extended to his daughter, Audrey Palmer (Mount Olive, NC), and stepson, Daniel Herzig (Watertown)

and their families.

We are happy Bro. Floyd Graves was able to go on the pulpit and again preach the Word of God to us when our ministering brothers traveled to the conference. We thank God Bro. Floyd was given strength to minister again.

Noel Virkler (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae) received an injury to his eye while working and submitted to surgery in Syracuse. It is our prayer that he will again receive sight in his eye and be able to return to college soon.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Goliath, a Philistine enemy was 13'4" tall with armor weighing 196 pounds. He dwelt in the land promised to the Israelites, and since they were afraid of him, he kept them from their promise. But David had the Word from God which is more powerful than any giant. They gathered at Shochoh, meaning "shut in," which belongeth to Judah, meaning "praise," in Ephesdammin, which means "border of blood." David hastened toward him, and with one stone smote Goliath in his forehead that he fell upon his face. The giant had on a helmet of brass and a helmet covers the forehead, so the stone first went through the brass. David had four extra stones, but Goliath had four brothers. When a giant problem appears keeping us from our promises in Jesus, we can hasten to get ourselves shut within the border of Jesus' blood and praise Him and He will give us a "rock," a Word from God, the most powerful weapon to prevail over our giants. When Goliath fell upon his face, David ran again and took Goliath's sword and cut off his head so he would not bother them again. We are thankful we can run to the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to knock down our giants, and hasten to use this powerful Sword to cut off our giant problem's head, so it won't bother us again.

Sis. Esther Graf has returned safely from a vacation trip to Alaska, having seen many more beautiful scenes in God's creation.

Sis. Helen Burr is blessed to be four score years old, as she will

reach her 80th birthday October 11.

We appreciated the visits and messages of Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer and Bro. Merrill Laukhuf.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Alma Graf wish to express their gratitude for all who have shown love and prayerful support in Bro. Bob's painful illness.

Sis. Kathryn Novotny wishes to thank those for their prayers, beautiful cards, visits and phone calls during her illness, and that God bless each one.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

We have been blessed by the visits of several ministers this past month. We sincerely thank Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) for their time spent with us. May God bless each one as they labor in His service.

As the children return to school, we pray the Lord will protect them for the evils of the world and the temptations Satan sets before them. May they hold dear in their hearts the teachings of their God-fearing parents and the church.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter

We are thankful that our hospital patients this month are home and doing well. Luke Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline) and Mark Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) are both recovering fully.

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Jo Petty

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn - Rhonda Stoller

What a joyful time it has been for two of our young couples! August 3 was the wedding of Wendy Williamson (Bob and Sis. Janet) and Patrick Baumle. August 24 was the wedding of Carma Stoller (Bro.

Gale and Sis. Janet) and Eugene Maples. We would like to express our love and God's richest blessing to both of these couples. May your union glorify God! We love each of you and open our arms and doors to you at all times!

Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody Dunham are very thankful for their first daughter. Brenna is welcomed home by older brothers, Joel and Tyler. May God continue to bless your family with love and supply you every need.

We rejoice that Wendy Baumle (Patrick) has given her life to the Lord! We welcome you, Wendy, into God's family. May you draw from the love and strength God wants to give you and from the help of your brethren-in-faith.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura Dunham over the loss of their son-in-law. May our Lord lift you up on wings of faith and help you to feel the prayers of those who love you.

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD

Every day they pass me by,
I can see it in their eyes;
Empty people filled with care,
Headed who knows where.
On they go thru private pain,
Living fear to fear;
Laughter hides the silent cries
Only Jesus hears.

People need the Lord,
People need the Lord;
At the end of broken dreams,
He's the open door.
People need the Lord,
People need the Lord;
When will we realize
That people need the Lord?

We are called to be His light
To a world where wrong seems
right.
What could be too great a cost
For sharing life with one who's
lost?
Thru His love our hearts can feel
All the grief they bear;
They must hear the words of life
Only we can share.

People need the Lord,
People need the Lord;
At the end of broken dreams,

He's the open door.
People need the Lord,
People need the Lord;
When will we realize
That we must give our lives
For people need the Lord?

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

"Flourishing Youth, thou are hope and our fond expectation . . ."

The Sunday school picnic was held at the home of Elder Bro. Ken and Sue Sauder. The Lord blessed the day with beautiful sunshine and hearts with beautiful fellowship.

Youth Day for Ohio and Michigan was held July 28. The Lord blessed many with traveling mercies. We wish to thank all who took a part and especially Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis).

We rejoice with Stephanie Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) and Kristi Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) as they come to the Lord in repentance. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1). May we support them in prayer as they return to school this fall with new convictions.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalms 27:14) What encouragement for those of us who sometimes become discouraged.

OHIO, RITTMAN Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

Parents treasure moments with their children as they create a family circle of love, paint pictures of "happy gatherings round the fireside," instill "the songs of heaven," and teach their children to sing "with childish voice." (Hymns of Zion #222).

Andy and Marne Woyat welcome their first child, a girl, Drew Elizabeth, born July 20. Drew's grandparents are Ronald and Jeanette Woyat and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Ritchey.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Darlene

Acker welcome a son, David Brian, who they have adopted to bring the warmth of love to their home. David's new grandpas and grandmas are Boyd and Barbara Acker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner.

Also new parents are Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty. A daughter, Jolene Elaine, joined their family August 17. Grandparents are Sis. Ruth Hilty and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario). May each couple enjoy their child training endeavor.

Douglas Knieriem and Dawn Young celebrated their marriage August 10. Parents of the wedded couple are Russ and Betty Knieriem (Hudson, FL) and Rex and Carol Young.

United in marriage were Greg Trent (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn) and Brenda Gilreath as their wedding was August 10. We wish both couples many years of joy.

Several sisters of our congregation have been sick and in the hospital. Those with illnesses have been Sis. Lucille Beery (Howard), Sis. Esther Dockus, Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber, Sis. Vicki Pelfrey, Sis. Martha Jane Riggerbach (Vernon), Sis. Eva Van Nostran and Sis. Donna Young (Bill).

OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all thy days of thy life: but teach them thy sons and thy sons' sons;

". . . gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."

Deuteronomy 4:9, 10

September has come and so begins the time of schooling. As good a thing an education may be, may God remind us all to be about our Father's business, learning and teaching His ways.

Val Miller (daughter of Bro.

Denny and Sis. Doris) will be moving away to further her education. We pray the Lord will direct her and keep her in His ways.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Maude Riggenbach. Maude passed into eternity the 12th of August.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

Flourished youth,
 Thou our hope and our fond
 expectation,
 Hark to the voice that is calling in
 kind invitation!
 That hand obey Which oft has
 pointed the way
 To the dear Saviour's salvation!
 Zion's Harp #168

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and
 Sis. Mary Ann Maibach. Their son,
 James, has turned to the Lord in
 repentance.

On July 21 we heard the engage-
 ment of Bro. Mark Maibach (Bro.
 Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) to Sis.
 Julie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis.
 Lola, Fairbury, IL). We wish them
 the Lord's blessings.

This past month Tug Maibach
 (Sis. Alma) and Sis. Bonnie Maibach
 (Bro. Dean) spent time in the hospi-
 tal. The Lord has answered our
 prayers of healing and both are
 recovering.

We are always thankful for the
 dear brothers who bring forth God's
 Word unto us. Our visiting minis-
 ters were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo,
 IN), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury,
 IL), Bro. Bill Emch (Lamar, MO)
 and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix,
 AZ).

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Kindly heaven smiles above,
 When there's love at home;
 All the earth if filled with love,
 When there's love at home.
 Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
 Brighter beams the azure sky;

O there's One who smiles on high,
 When there's love at home.
 Hymns of Zion #64, vs. 3

A blessing was added to the home
 of Nathan and Gayle Hebert. They
 have a boy named Brandon Samuel.
 The grandparents are Bro. Howard
 and Sis. Collette Harmon and Peter
 and Davey Hebert. May God smile
 upon this home.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"Study to shew thyself approved
 unto God, a workman that needeth
 not to be ashamed, rightly dividing
 the word of truth."
 II Timothy 2:15

AS YOU LEAVE FOR SCHOOL

As you leave the sheltering place
 called "home,"
 Apart from family, friends and
 kin;
 May you ever hear that small still
 Voice
 Above life's noisiest din.

When temptations, decisions
 confront you
 And your youthful teachings
 recall;
 May they speak loud and clear
 and sustain you,
 And keep you from sin and from
 fall.

Life's pathway is not always easy
 Our steps would oft falter and
 stray.
 But our best Friend is near and
 e'er ready --
 He is only one prayer away.

When clouds and shadows, doubts
 and fears
 Seek to fill the heart with alarm;
 What a comfort to know that
 underneath
 Are His "everlasting arms!"

As you pursue studies and
 training
 May wisdom -- not merely of
 man --
 Be yours to aid in achieving life's
 place
 In accord with His Infinite plan.

When studies are o'er -- by duties
 replaced,
 And your dedicated services give;
 May the great, the small despite
 race or creed
 Find the world a better place to
 live.

We look to our youth as our
 future
 To carry on the work we've begun
 Having done so may all meet in
 heaven
 And honor God and His Son!
 Elizabeth N. Ohl

We thank our visitors, Elder Bro.
 Art and Sis. Sandy Nohl (Morris,
 MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis.
 Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA) for
 sharing holy communion with Sil-
 verton and Portland and also the
 shut-ins, Bro. Ray and Sis. Marg-
 aret Banwart and Bro. Ray Cooper,
 Sr. in Bro. Ray Banwart's home
 where quite a number of brethren
 gathered also. What a blessed event,
 as we could spiritually go to Cal-
 vary and partake of the body and
 blood, symbolically of our dear Lord
 and Saviour! What a renewal in our
 precious faith!

The latter part of July and first
 part of August, Bro. Bill and Sis.
 Betty Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Bro.
 Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall
 (Eureka, IL), Bro. Al Schneider and
 Sis. Gladys (Rockville, CT) minis-
 tering the precious Word to us. How
 much we appreciate each one for
 being with us!

Quite a number of us gathered
 at Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht's
 home for a potluck with visiting
 ministers, Bro. Bill Hodel and Bro.
 Marvin Schmidgall's and other visi-
 tors. Singing hymns outside, under
 the many trees and the beauty of
 the mountain range in a distance,
 our hearts were filled with praise
 and thanks to our Almighty God. In
 the closing prayer these words were
 mentioned, "songs unlock the pas-
 sions of our hearts," it was so fit-
 ting.

We miss Mark and Louisa Gal-
 lup and daughter, Dana. Louisa has
 gone back to Holland to be with her
 parents for a month and in the
 meantime, Mark is doing some work
 in California. They will be return-
 ing the end of August.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

The Oregon single members (Young Group) hosted single brothers and sisters from Altadena, CA; Elgin, Eureka, Congerville and Goodfield, IL; Iowa City, IA; and Lamar, MO over the Fourth of July weekend. This was a change from the usual Thanksgiving season chosen in the past and as hoped afforded sunny skies and "showers of blessings." As the activities progressed amid hours of fellowship and singing, new friendships were made and old ones renewed. The abundant blessings of times like these shower down on the whole congregation.

It was our joy and privilege to hear the testimonies of eight dear souls who were added to the fold the third weekend of July. We welcome Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn, Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn, Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn, Sis. Shirley Sinn and Sis. Diane Sinn. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here to oversee this blessed work.

On Sunday evening of the same weekend, these two elder brothers and our deacon, Bro. Clarence Dietrich, served us holy communion. "... the emblem of (His) suffering and shame." Though we do this from time to time (do this as oft as ye will) it truly seems to reveal something fresh and precious to us each time. And at the close of the communion service, as is our custom, we greet each other anew, it is with hearts overflowing with love and determination to strive harder for that perfect example of our Lord Jesus.

"Let's now depart in tranquil joy, and to God's Word hold fast." We sang these words together the last Sunday before our dear Bro. Kevin Banwart left to move back to West Bend, IA. We pray God's blessings on his way and ask that he keep us a little in his heart and prayers as he has taken a little of our hearts with him.

Thankfully, once again we have a welcome to extend. Sis. Becky Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) has moved to our area from LaCrosse, IN. Sis. Becky has taken a

teaching position in one of our little country schools. Pratum Grade School is one of the few remaining two-room schools and we are sure that Sis. Becky will be a welcome addition to the staff. May God bless her and guide her in this new step of life.

Visiting ministers for the past several weeks include Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). In addition, ministering Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) were here and each brother is thanked for lending himself to the labor of the Lord. We want to thank all the dear travelers who have included Oregon in their travel plans.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA****Franz Soni**

God is Love! -- His word Pro
claims it,
Day by day the truth we prove;
Heav'n and earth with joy are
telling,
Ev'ertelling, God is Love!
Hallelujah! tell the story,
Sung by angel choirs a-bove;
Sounding forth the mighty
chorus --
God is light, and God is Love!
Gospel Hymns #279

This past month our church has abundantly received our God's love. How blessed we are. May we always remember it was God's love for us that allowed His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to die on the cross.

This month we have had two additions to our church family. André Lewis Gutwein was born to Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne July 13. André will join Chet and Whitney at home. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz welcomed Abigail Kay to their family

August 4. Abigail will be welcomed at home by brothers, Travis, Tyler and Christopher, and sisters, Emily and Breanna. Grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marjorie Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Sunday, July 14 was a day we were able to worship, fellowship and share dinner with brethren from our midwest churches who were touring this area. It's so special at these times to renew old friendships and make new ones. We are truly blessed in being able to gather with those who love Jesus Christ.

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Philippians 2:2

Nathan Gasser (Bro. David and Sis. Gail) has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony and baptism the weekend of August 24 and 25. We also rejoice with our friends in Edward and Ginny Stoll. Ed and Ginny attend our Washington, D.C. church and have found peace. They will give their testimony and be baptized in Lester, IA. May all our converts feel God's nearness.

We thank our Sunday school teachers for the picnic they held for our children August 4. It was a delightful day and we thank our teachers for all their efforts.

We thank Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Thomas Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. We thank them for bringing their families and may God richly reward them for their efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

Again this month we are happy to report we were blessed with two services.

A Sunday of unscheduled services was held July 28 as ministering Bro. Marvin Leman, his wife, Sis. Jane, their daughter and friend from Bradford spent a day with us. Other visitors this Sunday were from Bluffton, IN, and Cissna Park, IL.

Sunday, August 4, we enjoyed

our largest gathering (a total of 30) since we started having services here in Nashville.

A group of several came with Bro. Victor Bauman, his wife, Sis. Brenda, and family from Smithville, OH, as Bro. Victor shared with us from God's Word. Other visitors were from Goodfield, IL, Mansfield and Toledo, OH. May God richly bless the ministers and each of our visitors for worshiping with us.

We surely wish Don Miller God's richest blessing as he is in the process of joining our blessed faith. Our prayers are that God will lead, guide and direct Don and each of us that some day, through the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, His grace, love and mercy, we may reach our heavenly home. What a glorious day that will be.

Consider spending a Sunday with us to worship our great God. Scheduled services for the balance of 1991 are the first Sunday through November; the second Sunday in December. Services are held in our home. Faye and my phone number is 615-373-8928, 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Don and Enid Miller's phone number is 615-384-1081.

**TEXAS,
DALLAS/HOUSTON**

Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

We were blessed in Houston July 28 by the ministry of Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). How inspiring it is to gather around God's Word with the common purpose of worship.

Sis. Sandy Darlington has agreed to serve as the Silver Lining correspondent for the Houston and Dallas services upon our return to Illinois.

Our time in Texas was marked by many expressions of love and hospitality from the loved ones here. May we all continue to lend our prayerful support to our brethren in small congregations.

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.

There were no services held in Dallas in August due to the various summer travel plans of the local residents. The normal Dallas rotation will resume in September. 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**

There's a tie of noble kinship
In a soul who loves the Lord,
There's a friendship warm and lasting
If he heeds the Master's word,
There is mutual understanding
And a sympathy so kind
In a Christian friendship,
As on earth we oft times find.

Hymns of Zion #91

We feel this Christian love with the members that come to Zapata for the winter months.

On August 17 and 18, Lester, IA, hosted the Zapata reunion. There was a supper and singing Saturday evening and a Sunday supper in the new Apostolic Christian fellowship hall at Lester, IA.

We wish to thank everyone who helped with this reunion.

SILVER THREADS

"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"

Booklet available at your church or the Apostolic Christian Publications, 524 Valley Court, Eureka, IL 61530.

The Awakening — When the divine light begins to dawn in a human soul, and the soul becomes aware of its uncleanness and unworthiness, what is more natural than that one should resolve to mend his ways, to discontinue doing the things which the quickened conscience shows him to be wrong, and to do better!

Thus begins the first skirmish of a battle which is to go through many stages before victory is won and the soul attains to its liberation from the power of darkness and evil.

Often, as long as one is a willing servant of sin, he is apt to harbor the illusion that, should he choose to do so, he could, any time, at will, throw off his vices and live a virtuous life. It is only after the soul has challenged the power of sin, by making a resolve to cease from sinning, that the soul discovers how great is the power of sin over it.

Wise are they who at this state learn quickly to seek Jesus Christ, the Saviour, who has broken the yoke of Satan and who is able to make those who believe and obey Him truly free. But often this wisdom is not so quickly learned. The human heart is proud and is loath to confess itself, thus unable to free itself. So the struggle goes on. Sometimes the soul has victory and rejoices therein, then again it suffers defeat, finding itself overcome by the power of sin to do what it would not (Rom. 7:19) and goes down into the depths of despair, being condemned of its own conscience. "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24)

Under the Law — Thus the soul is brought under the law. Ever trying to keep the law of righteousness to be justified thereby, but often failing, it finds no satisfaction and no peace.

No, this is not the way to attain the newness of life: this patchwork, mending a rent here while a greater one appears elsewhere, overcoming one weakness by a concentration of the will, only to find oneself fallen into another and perhaps greater one. This is the error to which Jesus refers when he says, "No man also seweth a piece of new cloth upon an old garment" (Mark 2:21) Christ means by these words to warn us against patchwork; against efforts to mend and improve the old natural life in order to attain virtue and be justified before God.

The remedy is not to improve our natural life, but to give it up, to lose it, as Jesus said: "Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall find it." (Luke 9:24) Paul said strikingly to the Romans: "Our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (Rom. 6:6) Now, we are not physically crucified with Christ, when through repentance our sinful nature, the sinful life, is nailed to the cross and perishes.

Thus the way is paved for the new life, for the new birth, as Christ said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John

3:3)

But what is more natural than Nicodemus's question: "How can a man be born when he is old?" Or the question of the prison keeper to Paul and Silas: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

The Way — In the following paragraphs we shall endeavor to show, in words as direct and simple as possible, the way by which men can attain to the new birth, realizing, however, that our best efforts in this direction are vain if God does not open the hearts to receive, understand and believe His Word.

The first essential, therefore, is a humble attitude, a receptive mind, a willingness to be instructed and corrected; in short, a willingness to cooperate with the grace of God and not to resist Him.

We must have confidence toward God, that He desires our salvation, as Paul writes to Timothy, "It is the will of God that all men should be saved." (I Tim. 2:4) There is nothing lacking on His part. He has prepared the way and calls men through the gospel to come to Him on this way. He is faithful and true and keeps His words of promise: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7) For He promises two things, two specific works in the New covenant, namely to enable us to choose and to do His good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13-16)

But our seeking of God must be a sincere and wholehearted affair. God is not impressed by words and phrases. He sees the heart, and the sincere yearnings of our hearts reach Him if they are expressed only in deep sighs or in such simple words as, "God be merciful to me, a sinner. On the other hand, He is unmoved by the most eloquent and finely phrased prayers which scholars can form, if they are not the true expressions of the heart's yearnings.

If a person would attain to the new life, he should be honest and sincere with himself and with God, for He knows all things and cannot be deceived. If we lack sincerity, we deceive only ourselves. If we approach and seek God in sincerity and true earnestness and in the way prescribed in the Gospel, we cannot fail, for God's way is a way upon which the simple cannot err, if they are sincere and obedient.

Not only is simplicity of mind no obstacle to our finding God's ways. Christ says: "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the King-

dom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10:15)

Among all the obstacles we meet in turning from the natural to the godly life, one of the most difficult is false human wisdom and philosophy. Just as the human heart desires to be justified in its own virtue, so does it also desire to be guided by its own wisdom and both of these desires are serious obstacles to God's work.

God's wisdom is infinitely higher than human wisdom, and one of the highest lessons that we must learn in coming to God is to completely subject our own wisdom and thought to His wisdom and doctrine. The child is receptive and teachable, whereas the adult mind is full of preconceived notions and conceit which hinder the wisdom from above from finding lodgment in our hearts. That is why, as Christ said, if we are to receive the Kingdom of God, we must do it in childlikeness (Matt. 18:3), that is, by being teachable, receptive, and in simplicity.

When the soul has reached a state of humility, of teachableness and a realization of its dependence upon Christ for grace and guidance, a large forward step has been taken toward the new birth. Often this is the most difficult part of conversion, for the natural man loves his "own life" and is slow to give it up so that Christ might be born in him.

(To be continued in future issues of
The Silver Lining)

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

then next year then came back and sold a few more of their cattle. It says they came and sold all of their cattle. The next year they sold all of their land.

So it is with us. We have to be willing to sell everything . . . to give everything we might be able then to receive from God.

Then we find that after they came to that point when land was gone, when cattle was gone, when everything was gone and they themselves were servants, Pharaoh did not claim to say, "I'm going to give you just enough that you might be able to survive."

"No," he said, "I am going to give you seed that you can plant," and

then on top of that, we read here that from the increase, ". . . ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh," or twenty percent, "and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones." Genesis 47:24.

Do you think maybe Pharaoh could have gotten greedy and said, "I think that from the increase you only need twenty percent to live on, and so I am going to take eighty percent?" I think he could have said that if he wanted to.

Later on, we find that the children of Israel were instructed to give ten percent to the Lord and keep ninety percent. Do you think that God could have asked for maybe fifty percent or twenty percent or seventy-five percent? Would it be asking too much? After all, He is the one who was given everything at that point and they were essentially totally dependent upon Him.

Do you think it is unreasonable then for God to ask that we give Him our time? Or we give Him our hearts? Do we concentrate our lives unto Him whether He asks for twenty percent, or ten percent or for everything? I don't believe He is asking for too much.

He gives us everything that we are in need of and then day by day, just for that period of time, He provides us our substances.

We find that everyone of us are just as the Egyptians were, and just as the children of Israel were. We are all totally dependent upon somebody else. That is where we find ourselves today and that is also where this man Onesimus found himself.

Switching here to the New Testament, we find that Onesimus was a servant of Philemon at one time. We don't know exactly what transpired here, but we find in verse eleven, "Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me." Philemon 1:11. We find that this servant named Onesimus was at one point in time unprofitable. He did something to Philemon and I suspect that Philemon was disappointed in him. I don't know if he terminated his relationship with him or exactly

what transpired.

Nonetheless, we can believe that Onesimus was an unfaithful servant and he was in need of that which Paul was able to provide. Now Paul was writing back to Philemon saying that this man was now converted. "This man is now converted and I am sending him back to you. Please deal with him as a brother."

Let us consider now this chapter together. I think we have laid the ground work so we might be able to understand exactly what Paul was writing to Philemon. First of all, he writes, "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ..." Philemon 1:1. This letter was written from Rome and Paul was in bonds at that particular time.

Actually at the end of the chapter, we read Epaphras was a fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus. So we can assume that this Epaphras, as well as Paul, were both in prison in Rome at the time this letter was written.

So he introduces himself by saying he is, "... a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother," both of them writing together "unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow labourer, And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house." Philemon 1:1, 2. So here we find he is writing to Philemon and to these other two individuals who we don't know anything about other than that they were holding services in this one man's home.

He said, "Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Philemon 1:3. I am not sure why, when Paul wrote the letters, that he always began with that salutation. He always began with something like that... "Grace and peace." To Timothy, he had a special one -- he said, "Grace, mercy and peace..." I Timothy 1:2 and II Timothy 1:2. Nonetheless he always introduces himself, and in the beginning of his letters, he almost always says, "Grace and peace." I love that whenever I read that because I think there is no kinder thing you can say to someone that you are writing to than to say, "Grace and peace."

Grace is simply the riches of God given through Jesus Christ. He is bestowing those onto him, saying,

"Grace to you. I extend to you God's riches."

Peace is simply the absence of any conflict... the absence of any inner struggle.

We were reminded this morning that there is now a cease-fire... a peace among nations, we hope. We pray for that. Paul is writing to Philemon saying the same thing... "Peace to you. Be free from struggle. Be free from conflict. Live peaceable among men." I think it is even fitting for this particular chapter that he is writing, "Peace to you" because he is now going to introduce this man Onesimus who perhaps there was some conflict with. Perhaps Onesimus and Philemon were at odds. So he says, "Peace to you."

"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and towards all saints; That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." Philemon 1:4-6. This is something else that is characteristic of Paul's letters, that always, when he writes to someone, he will first build them up and really make them feel good.

I think that is a lesson for everyone of us, but even though we might have an instruction or we might have something we would like to tell someone, we can learn from the technique Paul used...

... that he first of all greets them in the name of the Lord and bestows upon them the riches of God. Then he really lifts them up and finds something wherewith he might be able to compliment them.

He says here, "I have heard of your love and your faith which you have toward Jesus Christ and to all the saints." (See Philemon 1:5) He says, "I'm really pleased to hear that... I'm really pleased!" He says that in a way to uplift and to really build Philemon up.

He says, "For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, Yet for love's sake I

rather beseech thee, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ." Philemon 1:7-9. He is now beginning to get into the message he wants to bring to this man called Philemon. But he first encourages him and finds a compliment. He builds him up and he is now in a state of mind where hopefully his heart will be receptive to that which he wants to bring to him.

He said, "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus..." Philemon 1:10. Now we find here that Paul is referring to his man as his son. I don't believe Onesimus was actually the blood descendant of Paul, but Paul refers to him as a son because at some point in their relationship, Onesimus came to Paul and was converted by him. So Paul claims him as his own son and is writing to Philemon.

He says, as we read earlier, "Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly." Philemon 1:11-14.

He says here, "Receive this man, he wronged thee but forgive him. I am sending him back to you and asking you to consider the fact that he is now my son." But that in itself isn't a real reason, I don't believe, for Philemon to accept him but rather because he is now a profitable servant unto him. He was profitable, as Paul says here, unto his ministry because he ministered unto Paul while Paul was in his bonds.

He says, "I am sending him back so you might be able to benefit from this man, but," he says, don't do it out of necessity, but do it willingly." I might be able to go back to some of the thoughts that were expressed in the Wednesday evening service. Our actions need to come from deep within our heart.

Paul said here, "Don't do this simply out of necessity. Don't do as something that is our of obligation

to me. You kind of only want to do this for me. He said, "Don't do that. Instead do it willingly. Forgive him if there is anything on your heart. Get rid of those things. Forgive him. Pray to God that you might be able to forgive him."

If anyone has wronged you, pray to God that you can be forgiven of those things, or that you can forgive them of those things that you might then be able to receive them as your brother. You might be able to receive them in love willingly, that it comes from deep within your heart, that you are doing this thing.

"For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shoulddest receive him for ever." Philemon 1:15. Now Paul is kind of speculating a little bit and says this Onesimus left for whatever reason, but perhaps he left just for a season that he might be able to become converted so that you might be able to now not only have him for the remainder of this life, but that you might be able to have him forever throughout all eternity, and that you might be able to be his brother throughout all eternity together.

Do you have any children that are somewhat rebellious? I hope not, but it might be. The thought comes to me that it might be your children perhaps have disappointed you so, and when they finally come back, there is just a part of you that just has trouble really forgiving them for everything they have done to you.

Perhaps we need to look on the bright side, even as Paul wrote to the Romans, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. It might very well be that these things happen and because of the way God works. He can take these events and He can cause them to really bosom and flourish.

Perhaps the reason why he departed for a season is that he might be able to come to the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Now you have the opportunity to take them back in love and have them forever.

I think we need to be able to look beyond the short term, look beyond the small things that cause us to be

separated, that would cause things to kind of grate at us and eat at us and cause separation among us. Instead we need to be able to put those things aside and to see that we are going to be able to have these people forever.

He said, "Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?" Philemon 1:16. He says here, "Look at the bright side. Look at the fact that you now have the opportunity not to call him again as your servant to have him back, but you now have the opportunity to have him as your brother."

Perhaps getting back to the example of children, you now not only have the opportunity of a child that has gone his own way for awhile, you not only have a chance to claim them as your real son or daughter, but now you have the opportunity to call him your brother or sister-in-Christ. Whether it be a relationship, it might be that they are no longer just roommates, but now they are brothers and sisters. Now we have them forever.

Let us make sure that those small things that would separate us, we can put those things aside, seeing that we can claim these relationships throughout all eternity.

"If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides. Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord." Philemon 1:17-20. He simply now is encouraging him to do this.

"Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say. But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you." Now in closing, he changes the subject and he says, "I hope that through your prayers I am going to be released from these bonds and I am going to be able to come back and to be with you again. Prepare a place for me."

Don't you see the real love and compassion Paul had for this son of his, Onesimus? He really desired that Philemon, whatever was separating them, he really encouraged him to put that aside and to now claim this person as his brother.

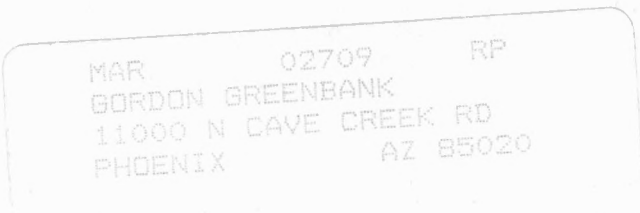
Let us switch gears now just a little bit. Instead of Philemon and Paul and Onesimus, let us think about God, about Dewayne, and about Christ. How I might feel when I go before God because I found myself at one time an unprofitable servant. I found myself in sin and I know that everyone of you did too. You found yourself separated and you were unprofitable and God perhaps had right to lay upon your account those things that you had done unto Him. He had the right to do that.

We were the ones who left Him. He is unchanging from everlasting to everlasting. We were the ones who left Him. We are the ones who had sin in our lives. We are the ones who disappointed Him. So He had a right, as Philemon perhaps had a right to say, "I am going to hold you accountable for those things that you did."

Instead He said, "No, Jesus Christ came and Jesus Christ goes to the Father and says I have been there and know what it is like. Have compassion upon him. Have mercy upon this person. Forgive him. They might have wronged Him. Lay those things to My account instead." In compassion and love, Jesus forgives.

Just as the children of Israel came to that point where money failed and things failed, we find we are unprofitable servants and we are unable to pay for those things which are on our account. Thanks be to God we have Jesus Christ Who was willing to die for our sins so we might be able to have life eternal.

May each one of us consider the fact that just as Jesus Christ has forgiven us, we too can forgive those who have wronged us . . . that we might be able to together claim each other as brothers and sisters especially, need to love each other, need to be together and encourage each other, live together in harmony and peace because that is the way it is going to be throughout all eternity.



SERMON BY BRO. DEWAYNE DILL OF CHAMPAIGN, IL

**"Jesus Paid For Your Sins"
Genesis 47:15-31 and Philemon**

This is perhaps a book that we don't read very often. Nonetheless, it is really a favorite of mine. I like to think, if we could this afternoon, about two different things.

The first is simply what we read about here -- the account of Paul and this man call Onesimus, who was a servant at one time of Philemon. However, he was an unfaithful servant who at some point through Paul had become converted and now Paul was writing back to him and saying, "Receive this man even though he was wrong. If there is anything yet that he owes, put it on my account and receive this man in love as your brother."

There are a number of very good lessons that we can learn of how we can deal with those perhaps who have wronged us or those who owe us something.

But the way that Christ has forgiven us, we also should forgive those who have wronged us. In so doing, we should accept them as brothers.

That is really what this particular book is about. I think also perhaps there is a parallel that goes along with that what Christ has done for us. I think there is a lesson in that for us as well.

But before we do that, let us turn back to the first reading because I think that everyone of us will have to acknowledge that just as Onesimus found himself to be wanting and just as the Egyptians found themselves to be wanting, we also find ourselves in that same spot.

Did you notice the very first thing we read? It said, "When money failed . . ." Genesis 47:15. When I opened up to this particular chapter, that jumped out at me . . . the failure of money! Perhaps it is because in this particular stage of life that we are in right now, just starting a job, beginning to buy a house and get established, that perhaps is in the forefront of our mind.

I suspect that many of you students are perhaps a year or two away from that, but nonetheless, you are in college because you would like to get a good job and you think you would like to make some money. So that is something that you should probably think about. If I were to guess, I suspect that perhaps the older ones as well could tell us that money is something that is on their mind as well.

So as we read here that money failed, I think that it speaks to everyone of us. It is a reminder that money is going to fail and that the things of this earth are going to fail. We were reminded of that this morning weren't we? But there is going to come a time when everything that is around us is going to be consumed with a fire. We need to make preparation today.

We find here that money failed, but provision was made though, that the people might be able to live. Did you notice that that provision was not for an indefinite period of time? But they came and sold their cattle because their money had failed and provision was made then for a specified period of time.

In this case, it was for one year.

For one year they then were able to find substance, and provision was provided for them. After that, they came back and they still had no money and now they had no cattle. They then sold their land. Then they came back and sold themselves as servants.

That is the exact same progression that everyone of us come to in our life . . . everyone of us come to a point where we find that we of ourselves are unable to meet our needs that we might be able to live eternally. It is simply that simple that there comes a point in our life where the things around us are going to fail, whether it be money, our land, our possessions or anything we claim to hold onto. Those things are going to fail just as they did here in the time of Joseph and when Jacob (or Israel) came and moved his family to Egypt.

Did you notice, though, provision was made that they need not die? The same thing is true yet today, only on a Spiritual sense. When we come to that point, when we see that everything about us is crumbling, the things we hold dear to our hearts, whether it be our money, our relationships or whatever it is, when those things all fail, there is an answer.

There is an answer! That answer as we all know is Jesus Christ!

But did you notice that before they came to that point, they had to be willing to sell all? It doesn't say they sold half of their cattle and

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