



"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."
Proverbs 17:6

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord."
Colossians 3:20

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School Days Are Here Again

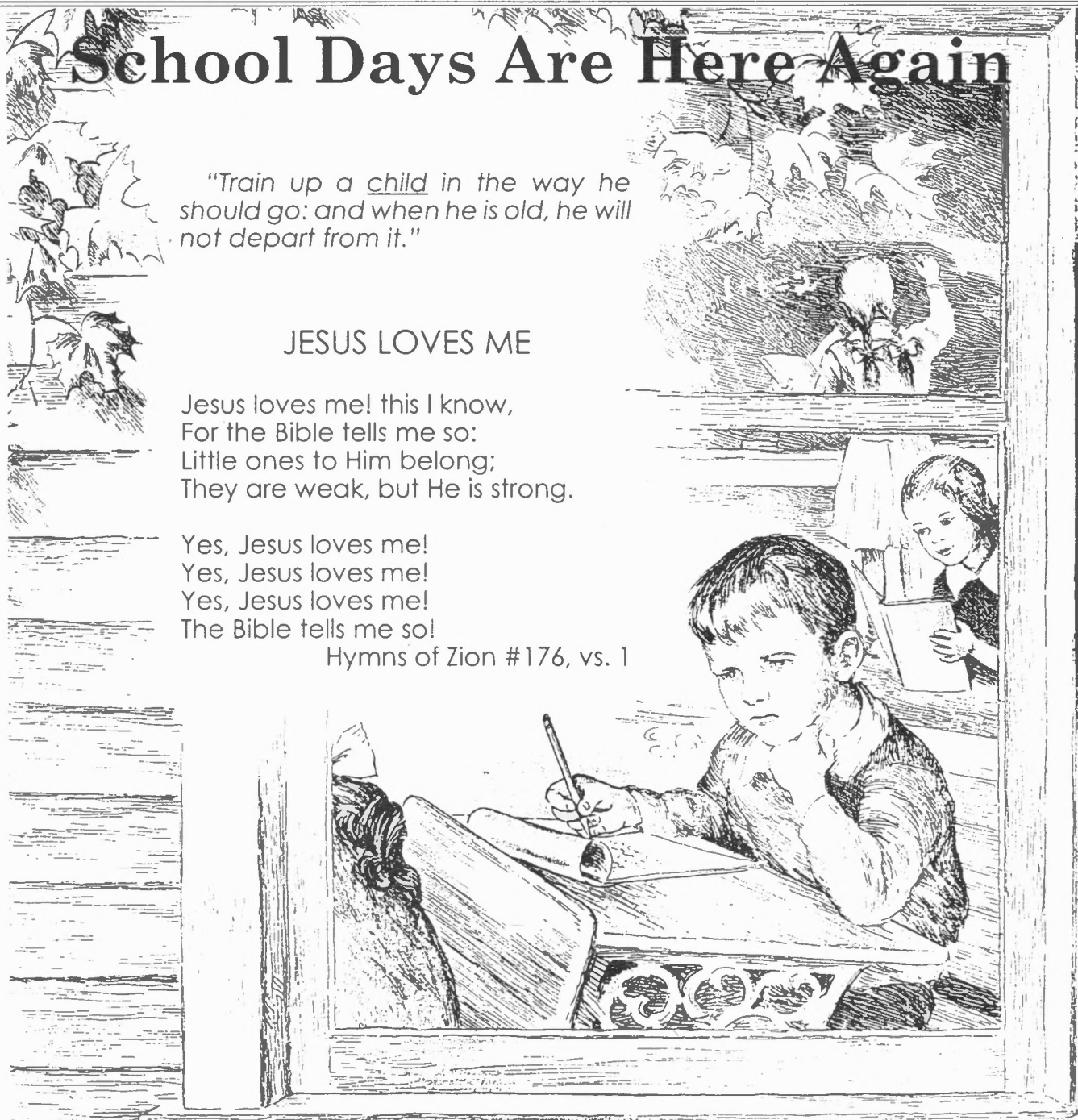
"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!

Hymns of Zion #176, vs. 1



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

I CAN'T SLEEP

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

A deep sleep had come over me but I did hear the telephone ringing. I got out of bed, switched on the light, and wandered over to the telephone, still a bit groggy. A male voice responded to my voice saying, "I can't sleep."

I quizzed this man as to why he bothered my treasured rest at midnight. He informed me that he couldn't sleep because he has many problems, heartaches, etc. I learned that he is 35 years of age and lives in Kofu, a city of about 200,000 people, 30 minutes by car from where we live in a peach and grape-growing area in the countryside. As to why he called me instead of one of the many churches in Kofu, he simply said, "I found you in the telephone directory."

When this man was informed that he should repent, and seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ, he replied, "But I am very proud." I told him he better get over that and give himself to God. He was informed that if he turned everything over to God, in faith believing, he would be able to sleep. We had been speaking in Japanese but then he said in English, "Deep sleep," and our conversation ended.

When I inquired of Japanese friends who are Buddhist as to why this man called a Christian church instead of a Buddhist temple, I was told that Buddhism is a business and the priests will not do any-

thing without pay. I didn't say that, they did, and somehow I felt sorry. Such precious people, including the priests, in a wonderful country, but caught in a system that isn't good.

Everything considered, what is the proper place for a child of God in any country? It is to stand firm for all that is holy and righteous and Biblical. We need to be ready to answer questions and to instruct others as to what the Bible teaches. We should visit with another believer or a seeker, on a one-to-one basis, that we, too, might grow. No one knows when the telephone may ring at midnight with the message, "I can't sleep."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Board of Directors and the Administration at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped (ACHH) have decided to publish a series of articles covering various aspects of the Home's organization, operation, staffing and residents and what's behind the scene in the functioning of the Home.

The purpose of these articles is to inform those associates with the Apostolic Christian Church about ACHH. Each church has a representative. If there are questions or concerns that arise, please contact

your church representative, a board member or ACHH and every effort will be made to answer those concerns.

The articles will be written by the Board of Directors, Administration, staff and others connected with the Home's operation. An outline of the topics which will be covered by the series include:

1. Mission - goals, objectives
 2. Organization
 3. Board of Directors - qualifications, duties, selection process
 4. State License Requirements
 5. Scope of Services and Facilities (Morton area and satellites) - description, history, residents (background and capabilities), services provided, staff requirements
 6. Operational Details - admission procedures, general operation
- (Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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David Bertsch
Lester Stoller

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IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

A new Froehlich book entitled, "OLD TESTAMENT MEDITATIONS" will be available in May from the Apostolic Christian Publications bookstore in Eureka, IL. The text contains writings of S. H. Froehlich, including new sections previously not available in English, along with a number of educational maps. These writings have been carefully translated in order to remain true to the original, then the entire work formatted and printed in a new style which is easier to read than existing Froehlich works.

The casual reader as well as the serious student, will gain a blessing from these Bible studies, which are based on the doctrine of our faith and applicable to our times.

Your needy Brother-in-Christ,
Ron Heiniger
Secretary Apostolic Christian Publications



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).

MAINTAINING PEACE IN A CHAOTIC SOCIETY

Most people in our society today appear to be captives of overloaded schedules, constantly hurrying and striving to catch up. The biblical ideal of living a quiet and peaceable life is often neglected when such a frenzied pace of life is maintained.

The modern conveniences and higher standard of living we enjoy have resulted in more leisure time. Why then are we as believers so often pressed for time and so easily caught up in the same relentless pace as the society around us? Is it because our non-working hours are often filled with activities which offer little respite from the pressures of life?

The Word teaches the believer in Christ to pray for those in authority so he may "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:2). Another reassuring promise is given in the Old Testament: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3).

How can the believer maintain a quiet and peaceable life and keep his heart fixed on spiritual things? The Apostle Paul exhorted: "Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands" (1 Thes. 4:11).

In planning our schedules we should evaluate the importance of each activity we consider undertaking in terms of spiritual enrichment and with regard to the amount of time it will consume. Is it wholesome for our family? Does it foster keeping our minds stayed on God, or does it draw us away toward worldliness? Is it competitive? Will the activity, and its frequency result in a greater feeling of peace, or will it undermine peace by virtue of its nature or simply by robbing too much time from an already crowded and demanding schedule? Will it strengthen or weaken our faith?

If we as God's children are carelessly

wasting our time in unnecessary pursuits, then we will find ourselves often frustrated and weary, drifting far from the state of mind needed to be effective servants for the Lord. Such a life is unrewarding and results in spiritual loss.

Maintaining a sense of peace in a chaotic society requires several disciplines on the part of the believer. The foremost discipline is that of prayer. We should ask the Lord daily to help us in "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16), which means making the best use of our limited time. By appealing to God often, and regularly, by putting Him first in our lives, our fears and anxieties will subside, and peace will envelope our minds. Neglect of prayer brings automatic forfeiture of peace of mind.

The second discipline is reliance on strength from God to see us through. If some obligations become excessive due to factors beyond our control, only a total child-like trust in God will keep us from becoming discouraged, short-tempered or even spiritually exhausted. The Psalmist wrote: "I will go in the strength of the Lord God" (Psa. 71:16).

Third, the believer should always seek to do God's will, not his own, in scheduling his time. If this principle is followed, then very likely many unnecessary and stress-producing activities will be eliminated. Many activities bring "no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14), but only add to the frustrations resulting from being over-committed. Also, in planning our schedules, we should establish reasonable goals for each day. Unrealistic expectations bring disappointment and undermine our peace of mind.

Isaiah had a good understanding of peace when he wrote: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. And my people shall

dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places" (Isa. 32:17-18). Jeremiah wrote "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord" (Lam. 3:26). Another important factor in maintaining peace is to practice patience in all daily activities. We are to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1), which indicates putting forth fervent effort while patiently waiting upon the Lord to bless our efforts.

Very likely many of us need to curtail or reduce the level of demands we have allowed to press upon our lives. Perhaps we are guilty of planning too much for many of our days, and then suffering from the fatigue and frustration that follow. Sometimes we are even too hurried to be kind to our loved ones or to notice the beauty of God's Creation. Perhaps we all need to exercise more wisdom and discernment in deciding what we will do with our time and in learning to say "no" more often. Could it be that we some times may even take pride in our over-committed schedules? Are we boasting or complaining to others about how busy we are? These attitudes will only bring us grief.

As we seek to properly manage our time, let us all remember our high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14), and our sole purpose in being here on earth, which is to serve our God and prepare for eternity. Let us not be swept into the often pointless flow of activity that leaves the inner man empty, and which does nothing to reflect the light of Christ in this dark world. Rather, let us be about our Father's business—and be laborers in prayer, in reading the Word, and in extending the virtues of Christ to all those around us. Let us eliminate unfruitful activity and embrace this everlasting scriptural truth: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psa. 46:10).

tional costs, capital expenditures, funding/budgeting, contribution to satellite projects, purpose of cash reserve, investment policies, importance of contributions, request for funds from ACHH

7. Focus on Departments - func-

tions and purpose, benefit to residents, personnel policies, employee benefits

8. Volunteer Help

We hope these articles are interesting and informative and if

questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact us.

At the Home, a group of residents went on a two-day camping trip. They had a good time.

Birthdays in September for ACHH are: Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin and Janet Schweigert (10), Janet Christensen and Lester Miller (16), Lois Egli (19), Glenn Getz (20), Cindy Sigulas (22), Jim Maupin (24), Nancy Theis (25), Marsha Miller and Doug Steffen (26), Ethel Borinstein (29). At Oakwood Estate: Angie Massner (9), Dave Taylor (13), Dave Maupin (20). At the CRS's, there is only one birthday: Marlene Esslinger (8).

-- 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
Ninth Year — August 1991 thru July 1992 — 39,608

Bibles Distributed — Ninth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1991 —	2951	2951
September 1991 —	3318	6269
October 1991 —	3634	9903
November 1991 —	1856	11,759
December 1991 —	4632	16,391
January 1992 —	4207	20,598
February 1992 —	3716	24,314
March 1992 —	3146	27,460
April 1992 —	4553	32,013
May 1992 —	1891	33,904
June 1992 —	2258	36,162
July 1992 —	3446	39,608

*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.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Reinhard

Summer fun and summer learning, that is what has been happening here at the Preschool. Our theme for the summer has been Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World, and the children have really enjoyed learning about different people and cultures. Through studying the various nationalities, it has been a good reminder that Jesus not only love each person in the world, but He died for them. We have done many projects and activities and hope to finish up this theme by the end of August.

In July we had our semi-annual board meeting here at the Preschool. We wish to thank each of the brothers who serve on our board and the National Education Committee for their continued prayers and support of the Preschool. We have really felt the Lord's blessings over the past year, and we also feel the responsibility that goes along with these blessings. Please continue to pray for us and remember our needs to our heavenly Father.

Each and every one of us here at the Preschool wish to extend a special thank you to Sis. Serena Sauder (Peoria, IL) for her time spent down here working at the Preschool. She came at the end of February when our enrollment had reached a point where we needed more help, and has continued here throughout most of the summer.

We pray the Lord will richly bless "Miss Serena" for her dedication and countless hours spent in her service to Him through her work here, and that He will continue to direct her life as she moves back home to Peoria.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Patsy Stoller

Our summertime here at Gateway Woods proves to be action-packed! The summer started off with each of the individual houses taking a vacation with the children in their houses. They enjoyed a variety of activities such as water skiing on a lake in Missouri, hiking on mountain trails in Colorado or swimming in Alabama. All returned anxious to share of their fun experiences.

Several of our youth also participated in our Vacation Bible School held the middle of June. It was exciting to see their enthusiasm as they learned song and verses.

Many of our young people are employed with a summer work program (called Jobworks) which helps them learn various work skills while they earn money at the same time. Older teens have jobs within the community such as waitressing or working at a fast food restaurant. We have several young children on campus who have been very useful in picking strawberries,

weeding in our garden, or mowing our 6-acre lawn.

Several of our high school age Bible class students enjoyed a week-end of Christian love and friendship at Christian Endeavor at Bluffton.

"You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." We've enjoyed and appreciated the many willing hands and labors of our volunteers this month. They are brothers and sisters: Amanda Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Genanne Witzig and Molly Stickling (Peoria, IL), Kurt Reimschisel, Lori Hackenjosh, Marie Sprunger and Kami Isch (Bluffton, IN), Lori Martin (Princeville, IL), Jill Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Lance Pfeifer (Chicago, IL), Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL), Bob Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL), Lisa Staker and Wendy Witzig (Morton, IL), Stacey Ringger (Gridley, IL), Corrine Hari (Tucson, AZ) and Seth Sauder and Suzanne Green (Fort Lauderdale, FL). May God bless each of you.

We said goodbye to Bruce J. who lived with the Thames' in the West House and to Bob W. who has been a resident here at Gateway Woods for seven years and most recently lived at New House with Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner. Bruce has returned to live with his parents and Bob has moved into the foster home of Bros. Ked Gerber and Trent Schrock. Please join us in prayer for these two young men

that the seeds of truth planted in their hearts, may remain and grow as new chapters in their lives unfold for them.

Sis. Cindy Baurer, who has been employed at Gateway Woods for the past eight years in the capacity of Assistant Houseparent, Transitional Living Program Developer and Coordinator, as well as serving faithfully in the office under numerous titles and responsibilities has felt it is God's will that she complete her education in social work. Having accomplished this, she has taken on new responsibilities as a home based social worker for a local social service agency. We will certainly miss Sis. Cindy and her expertise and love she so freely gave to all. We pray, believing that God will bless her for her love and dedication shared with so many of us over the years.

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

After having served as a houseparent in the East House for three years, Sis. Liz Martin has announced that she plans to return to her family in Tucson, AZ. We will miss Sis. Liz and the love she so freely shared and even though miles separate us, our hearts will be bound together with His love.

Our hearts are touched as we witness the convicting spirit as it touches the lives of youth in our care. We rejoice with Addie P. and Erica S. who have heeded the invitation to repentance and covet your prayers for these two young women as well as for the houseparents who disciple them.

We feel greatly indebted to each of you who generously contributed toward our Annual Sale. We feel honored that so many used their talents for our benefit whether it was through items donated, time spent organizing, volunteering for set up, clean up, or working on sale day. Perhaps you were not able to contribute or join us for the day, yet we coveted and felt your prayers for His blessings. May each of us continue to pray that the work we

FOSTER CARE WORKER

This fall Gateway Woods hopes to add a second Foster Care Case-worker to our growing outreach. Our specialized Foster Program trains and licenses Christian homes and then places and supports foster children in these families. We are praying God will lead a brother or sister with at least a bachelors degree and experience in child care, social work or a related field to this position. Specific experience with foster care work would be especially helpful. Flexible hours and working conditions, including part-time work, are available. Anyone wanting more information concerning responsibilities, salaries and benefits is encouraged to contact one of the brothers below.

Tim Sauder, Administrator
 Box 151
 Leo, IN 46765
 (219) 627-2159, Office
 (219) 627-2606, Home

David Bertsch, Elder
 11520 Souder Road
 Grabill, IN 46741
 (219) 627-2923

do with young lives will bring honor and glory to God's name.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

One, in our midst, is often at an Adult Care Center. A weekly Sunday school class is held Wednesday mornings for anyone interested. Keeping a group of those in their 70's, 80's and 90's, all denominations, interested might sound a bit difficult. In God, all things are possible!

We've covered many topics in our gatherings. Hearing a dear 98-year-old woman tell of her urgent need for a Saviour all those years was quite touching.

After we had a picnic from the food listed in the Bible, each was given Scripture to look up and read aloud, our 92-year-old Catholic lady looks forward to more "Bible learnin'."

Won't they like a stroll through the trees (of the Bible) looking for birds (of the Bible)?

The heavenly Father has some place for you to "brighten the corner," life can be full of blessings - forget "I" and make it "We" (our Lord and you).

Emily Jae Freed was born June 16 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly Freed. Alyse and Abby enjoy her, along with grandparents, Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft, and Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed.

On June 25, Leigh Anne was born to Dennis and Sis. Jenny Hand. Her brother, Jacob, is glad to share grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger.

Sunday school classes are on vacation. Being with family, friends or sightseeing is not being away from God, while on vacation, it adds another dimension to His love.

Our hospital get well wishes to Sis. Lavina Dotterer, Sis. Carol Doolittle had eye surgery, Sis. Donna Gerber is recovering from a severe neck injury incurred in an auto accident. May the Lord give all of us the strength to endure our infirmities.

Keep looking up! His love is surrounding each of us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois, were with us for a Wednesday evening service recently. We always appreciate visitors, especially for a mid-week service in the summer when our attendance is smallest. We know the Lord will bless Bro. John and Sis. Lois for their efforts.

We are in the 100° range this week. We are having a break from our monsoon rainfall for a few days.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

Thank you to the following ministers who visited us during the past month: Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers with us.

We are also thankful for many volunteers who have come to help us on our church building project. Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder spent some time with us while he installed the central vacuum system in our new church. Last weekend, a work party made up of many brothers and friends came together and put up a block wall around the perimeter of our property. There were five men from Ohio, fifteen from Arizona, as well as fifteen from Altadena and San Diego. All who observed this effort was amazed at how quickly the wall went up. A neighbor to the church expressed his appreciation for the fact that there was no foul language or loud music and that the men seemed to enjoy working together. These men were a good example to all of us; showing that if we work together in physical labor much can be accomplished. One of the ministers pointed out the parallel to our spiritual lives and the church - if we work together, much can be accomplished. We are very grateful to all of those who gave of their time and energy to help us out, as well as to all of those who have contributed to our new building in other ways.

Construction on our new church building is progressing quickly. We can see changes every Sunday and Wednesday night, as we meet in the school across the street from church. While the men were building the block wall, we served lunch and dinner to them in the church dining area, despite the exposed drywall and bare wood floor and last Sunday we held a church dinner there. It gave us a feel for what it might be like in a few months. It has been projected that we will be able to begin having services there sometime in October. If you know of anybody who lives in the Los Angeles area who doesn't currently attend our church but who might

WHAT CAN YOU SHARE WITH A CHILD?

Single Sister Needed At Gateway Woods

Houseparents are the very core of our program for troubled children at Gateway Woods. Without these committed workers, we really have no program and our children have no one to be their parent figures. A single sister will be needed in our All-Girls House in October when veteran houseparent, Sis. Liz Martin, returns to Arizona. We know that the Lord is preparing a mature sister to provide Godly love, guidance and accountability in the lives of our girls. Perhaps you are that person.

If you are interested in learning more about the qualifications and whether you have what it takes to help these hurting children, please contact one of the brothers listed below. Competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and quality training are provided.

Tim Sauder, Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
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(219) 627-2606, Home

David Bertsch, Elder
11520 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-2923

like to come for our dedication service, please send his/her name to: John Klotzle, 1769 Midwick Drive, Altadena, CA 91001.

Something else to be thankful for is that Bro. Andy Lehmann was able to be in church with us this past Sunday. He has been ill for some time.

Reminder: This is the collection month for Silver Lining subscriptions.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Marian Petrovic

Our small church was privileged to have quite a few visitors in June/July. Amongst them were ministering Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) and our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena).

We bid farewell to Bro. Ken Martin as he has relocated to Detroit, MI. He will be missed by us all here!

Sis. Anna Jevremov is home after being hospitalized for over a month. We look forward to having her assemble with us once again.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue with plans to build a new church.

Again, we extend a sincere and hearty welcome to all who would be considering a visit to the San Diego area. We look forward to worshipping our Lord and Saviour together with you!

COLORADO, DENVER
Eric and Marcel Huber

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 We are thankful Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen could be with us to serve communion in June.

Bro. Nathan also shared his slides taken during his journey through Eastern Europe.

Bro. Chris Johnson and Sis. Barb Baer were united in marriage June 21 in Princeville, IL. ". . . Where God in truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a

three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp #79).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ben and Sis. Louise Stavenik and Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope Gasser (Rittman, OH) in the death of their son and brother, Duane Stavenik, who lived here in Denver. May they receive comfort from our heavenly Father.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

We rejoice with Matthew Mangold as he gave his testimony and was baptized in Philadelphia, PA, the weekend of June 27-28. Bro. Matthew's parents are Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold (South Bend, IN).

For the July 4 weekend, we invited the young groups from Bay City and Detroit, MI. We also had many other visitors that weekend and enjoyed a singing at Bro. Matt and Sis. Jill Aeschleman's home on Saturday evening.

July 12 was not a scheduled worship Sunday, but many of us were blessed with an evening of fellowship with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufman and family (Bloomington, IL).

We have had an added blessing of many visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We thank these ministers and their families for their labor in the Lord.

Other visitors this month have been from Tremont, Cissna Park and Fairbury, IL, Lamar, MO, Morris, MN, Junction and Latty, OH, Bluffton, IN, Philadelphia, PA and Rockville, CT.

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 Bro. Ed Stoll (703) 494-3955.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber

What wonderful news I have to report this month! Two souls are repenting: Roy Van Norman (his wife is Delores) and Aaron Webb (parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne). We rejoice with the angels in heaven!

The Sunday school children have been enjoying special crafts along with the theme "Praise God" during vacation Bible school.

Bible study has recessed for two months because so many of our local congregation are taking trips during July and August. We pray for the safety of all who are traveling this summer.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marvin and Rhea Steffen

We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale) minister to us this month. We trust God will bless him for his faithful service.

A granddaughter to Ralph and Jeanette Yergler was in a tragic automobile accident recently that claimed the life of one of her friends. Stephanie Jones (Bill and Marjorie, Knoxville, TN) will need our prayers for the healing of her emotional wounds that only God can provide. The whole family needs to be in our thoughts and prayers, as Marjorie, who is a daughter to Ralph and Jeanette, is still recovering from injuries sustained in a bad fall. We trust that God will heal according to His will.

We honored our fathers on Father's Day, and we have to think just how fortunate we are to have, or have had, God-fearing fathers. What an example of all the fruit of the Spirit we have each one seen in his or her father. What a wonderful privilege and responsibility has been handed down to those of us that are fathers now, to raise up our children in the ways of the Lord.

We welcomed a new couple into our gathering this month. Paul and Marie Blough (Naples, FL) recently

married, and shared with us that they plan to make this their church. We hope they will always feel welcome here.

We had a business meeting after services July 12, with the congregation present. We discussed the adding on of an addition to our building. This addition is needed to deal with increasing demands placed on this building mostly during the winter months. The consensus of the group was to have a plan drawn up that would meet the present and future needs, and have the plan available for our winter visitors' review. We would break ground in early spring. Our elder has given his blessing and we've received much positive feedback from our seasonal members. More on this project next month.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott - Gala Gerber

"And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

Genesis 9:11

So thankful for God's "bow of promise" that He speaks of in Genesis 9:12-16. Just as Noah and his family felt as they stepped out onto dry land, so we too here in Sarasota stepped out of our homes with thankful hearts to know our homes and lives had been spared after receiving 27 inches of water in a span of 48 hours.

As we lifted our eyes to the heavens to thank our God for being so merciful, the "token of His covenant" was signed across the sky - God's rainbow - Yes, the God we serve still keeps His promises!

We were so thrilled and thankful to have Sis. Marie Reardon and Viola Leman back fellowshiping with us! Each have been battling with physical ailments and have been touched by the Great Healer. May their progress continue. We also pray for Bro. Earnie Koehlert that his time in the hospital might be short and that light might be

shed on the many questions he encounters.

Bro. Matthew Koehl has gone up to Illinois to spend the summer with his grandparents. We all miss him and look forward to his return.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carol Steffen

As we have celebrated Father's Day recently, let us always remember to be thankful to our heavenly Father.

Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) came to minister unto us Father's Day. Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) came to support us Wednesday evening, July 1. The first Sunday of July, Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) lent himself to minister the Word in Bro. Dean's absence. Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) came at noon that Sunday to help in the ministry. We thank each minister and each visitor who supports us in so many ways.

The Lord has lead a single brother-in-faith and a family to move to Belvidere. Bro. Mark Wettstein (Gridley, IL) has accepted employment north of Belvidere. Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb Steffen and Cameron (Elgin, IL) have purchased a home in Belvidere; therefore, they will be worshipping with us. We welcome them to our congregation.

The week of June 22-25, our old carpeting was torn up and new carpeting was laid. We appreciate everyone who helped with this endeavor.

We welcome you to come visit and worship with us.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco

Each day the newspaper and radio reminds us of how fragile this earthly body is and how quickly our earthly life can end. So it is with great gladness that we heard the testimonies (July 1) and witnessed the baptisms (July 5) of two souls who have committed their lives to Christ. Our congregation rejoiced with Dennis and Kathy (Rieger) Davis and thanked God that the door of grace is yet open.

On July 2, Evan and Eric, along with their parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean Greiner, welcomed the birth of their new brother, Ryan William. The grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Viola Greiner (Cissna Park) and Bro. Albert and Sis. Virginia Hunziker (Morton).

Our love and wishes for a Christ-filled home is extended to two recently married couples. On July 12, Bro. Aaron Steffen (Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia) and his bride, Sis. Sarah Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean, Forrest) began their life as one-in-Christ. June 20 was the blessed wedding day for Jim Hari (Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly) and Jody Grusy (John and Connie).

Our hearts go out to loved ones who have recently lost family members. Sis. Mary Traub (Fairbury) passed away July 11. She was the mother of John Traub. On July 17, Dale Zimmerman (Forrest) was killed in an auto accident. He was the brother of Dennis Zimmerman.

We are thankful to all of our ministers who continue to serve as God's messengers. This month's visiting ministers include Bro. William Gerst (Alto, MI), Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Elder Bro. Art Baler (Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Les and Barb Fehr

Our congregation has been blessed with two new arrivals. Our friends, David and Joni Rumbold, welcome a new son, Cody Joseph, into their hearts. Cody's "big" brother and sister are Whitney and Ryan. Grandparents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Veronica Heinz. Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee Endress have been blessed with a son, Tyler William. Tyler is also welcomed home by his sister, Andrea. Grandparents are Sis. Lois Endress and Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor, MO).

The important task of teaching our youth about our heavenly Father and His divine plan was given to two new teachers, Sis. Becky Joos and Bro. Barry Dietz. We wish them God's guidance as they prepare for and carry out their duties.

We thank our visiting minister

this month, Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), for bringing us God's Word.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

On July 5, Bro. Thane Hansen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Heidi Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jolleen, Oakville, IA) were united in marriage. We rejoice that God has worked in their lives to bring them together and we pray that they will continue to seek and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their new life. We are thankful that they are making their home in the Champaign area.

We want to welcome Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda (Blunier) Kupferschmid and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sara (Ricketts) Steffen to the Champaign congregation. Both couples have been married recently and will be living in the Champaign area. We pray that they will feel God's blessings as they worship here and that they will feel our love and support.

Along with the feelings of joy as new people move here is the feeling of sadness as others move on to new locations. Several months ago it was announced that one of our ministering brothers, Bro. Dewayne Dill and his wife, LaRae, and their children, Meg and Ben, would be moving to Minneapolis, MN. The decision to accept a job in that area had been made after long and prayerful months of consideration. We are sad to see them leave, but we know that God is leading them. With that assurance we know God will provide for them and for us. A farewell picnic and singing was held for them June 28 and their last Sunday in Champaign was July 12. The void that they leave can only be filled with prayers and blessed memories. Our prayers go with them, that God will watch between us and will bless them as they become a part of the Minneapolis congregation.

We were also saddened to say farewell to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman and their family. Bro. Matt finished his graduate work of U. of I. and took a position in St. Louis. We will miss their love and

support, but we know that the St. Louis congregation will be blessed by their presence. "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid . . . for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

A singing was held recently to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr. We thank them for the love and support which they share with our congregation and pray for God's continued blessings on them and their family.

There have been a number of visiting ministers in the past month, many of whom attended Bro. Thane and Sis. Heidi's wedding. They were Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Sid Kaufman (Cissna Park), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis). We are thankful that each of them was willing to come and serve God's Word to us through the power of His Holy Spirit.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

In a counted cross-stitch catalog, I saw an interesting "yardstick" for measuring one's effort. Inserting "by God's will and power" behind the "I" statements makes it spiritually thought-provoking:

100% I did; 90% I will; 80% I can; 70% I think I can; 60% I might; 50% I think I might; 40% What is it?; 30% I wish I could; 20% I didn't know how; 10% I can't; 0% I won't even try.

As I look at 0-40%, I am disturbed at the stages of denial of God's power that I can remain at. According to this measure, I am halfway there in accomplishment when I start considering the possibility: "I think I might by God's will and power." Gradually weak faith becomes stronger until finally true belief and trust come at 80%: "I can by God's will and power." Then I must commit my time and talents and resources, reaching 90%. And though it seems the big-

gest step to move from "I will by God's will and power" to "I did by God's will and power" (the actual accomplishment of a difficult-looking task), this measurement of effort maintains that it is only another 10%. The bulk of the effort is in lining up my attitude, coming to faith in that which is not seen, overcoming my stumbling at those obstacles which loom so large in my sight. May we pray for each other "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his might power . . ." Ephesians 1:17-19. May we strive for a heart at 90% that we may bring forth much fruit in the Master's vineyard.

We are thankful for Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) who lent themselves in the work of the Spirit. Bro. Rick was willing to come Wednesday evening and speak in the assembly to our Bible class as a part of Vacation Bible School, which we all appreciated. VBS revolved around the theme of "Kids Under Construction" with the verse being, "For we are labourers together with God . . ." I Corinthians 3:9. When the 4th and 5th graders were sanding their wooden projects outside, I thought most of our being "God's kids." And the Lord certainly does sanding - at least on me (almost constantly), to smooth my jagged edges, to plane off imperfections. Though I have trouble accepting the pain, I am grateful for His concern that I be fit for heaven - that we all become fit for His kingdom. May He reward those teachers and ministers who gave of their time in His love to reach our future church during VBS, and may He raise up our children in His knowledge and the conviction of His Word.

We welcome Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen (Goodfield). They are living in the DesPlaines area. Kim

is an engineer and Diane will be working as a dental hygienist. We know that the Lord leads us by various paths to our mission fields. We would petition the Lord that we may be useful in their adjustment to our area and that they may come to appreciate the area and our church family. Sis. Lynnette Moser has finished her degree at University of Illinois - Chicago and moved to Salt Lake City, UT for a time. We wish her the Lord's continued care and joy. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ . . ." II Corinthians 5:20. For us as a congregation, it is easy to say hello, difficult to say farewell, but we would be prayerful, believing always in the Spirit's work.

One morning this week I was upstairs, not fully awake. I heard voices downstairs, the sweeper, requests for work. What was going on? I found out it was my birthday present (a month early). Five members of a family very close to us were washing all my windows. Wow! Needless to say, I was overwhelmed, amazed, joyful. My family had been told and rejoiced with me. The view from inside my house and from outside my house into it had been transformed, and I am truly grateful. Each of us, of course, has a spiritual house and our eyes have been called the windows of the soul, for they reflect its spiritual condition. "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matthew 6:22, 23. Until we call on the friend "who sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24), we are unwashed, unclean, unable to see out clearly (very much the way my windows were), and likely to hide our inner thoughts from others. Contrary to many in the world, the Lord does do windows. As a gift, He is willing to take away the clouded, darkened view from our spiritual house and transform it. But He also says that we are in control of the timing, for we must "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth;

and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:9, 10. Never have I known a soul who came to the Lord who was not grateful for Christ's cleansing power, and whatever our earthly family says about our "coming clean," the church (a new family for many) and the angels in heaven rejoice with abundant joy as they welcome us into the fold of the "washed" with open arms and hearts.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Cyndee Anderson

"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications. The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low and He helped me. Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee."

Psalms 116: 1, 6 & 7

It is with deep joy that we report that a number of souls have chosen, by God's grace, to turn their backs on the world and come before the Lord in repentance. What can be more encouraging to the church than this? We are very thankful and remember them in prayer daily.

Father's Day weekend brought Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) to visit us and serve us from the pulpit. We appreciate having him whenever he comes.

On June 28, Elder Bro. Art Bahler and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) were with us for the wedding of Sis. Julie Weerts (Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna) and Bro. Tim Walder (Dave and Sue). It was a beautiful day inside and out for this dear couple to begin their life together. We wish them the Lord's nearness.

We have been missing our Bro. Paul Hodel, as sometime back he moved to the Parkview Home in Francesville, IN. Our older brethren are still very special to us even though they may be far away.

We appreciate Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) who came to visit us on a Sunday in July and spoke from our pulpit for the first time. He mentioned that the fear of God is,

in one sense, simply the realization that He sees and hears everything we do and say, and that we will someday be accountable to Him. It is our prayer that God bless our new, young ministers with a double measure of wisdom and submission to His Word, so that we can be always fed the Truth, no matter how it may differ from what we want to hear. We want to thank Bro. Mark and also our own dear ministers who serve us so faithfully. We do appreciate them even though we don't tell them often enough.

On Sunday, July 12, we gathered at the fellowship hall for our annual church picnic. We are in the middle of a rainy season now and it seems good to be inside instead of at the park which was under renovation. Just as the grass was beginning to brown, the Lord sent His good rain. "Thou visiteth the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it . . ." "O Thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." Psalm 65:9 & 2

We are not worthy of the blessing of answered prayer this month in the provision of needed rain, and so much more in the calling of souls unto Him. We also remember in our prayers Bros. Greg Rudin and George Gudeman who have not been well this month; also Bro. Alvin Baumgartner and Sis. Carolyn Hari, who spent some time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Sue Wiegand - Myra Steffen

"The Sunday school is our delight. We love it more and more. 'Tis here we learn to do the right And live forevermore. We hear the truth, so pure and clear Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear . . ."

Hymns of Zion #73

June 28 was our annual Sunday school picnic and singing. As the students complete the year and enter the next class may the teachings they have learned stay with them and bring forth fruit in due season.

We are so thankful to have a soul turning to God in repentance. We pray God will grant His abundant grace and guidance to Brent Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich are first-time parents of little Tyler Joe. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Dietrich, and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp.

Marissa Ann has come to bless the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber. Eager to welcome her are Laura, Jerod, Elizabeth, Hallie and Harold. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Alma Wackerle (Bloomington) and Sis. Velda Overmeyer (Francesville, IN). We wish God's blessing on these families as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Mike Leman (Denver, CO). We are thankful for them taking the time to visit us and preaching God's Word. May God continue to guide them with His Spirit.

Clarence Schlipf was recently hospitalized. He is back at the Home in Eureka now. May God be near him.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

In the spirit of peace and brotherly love, we entreated God's blessings upon Bro. Brad and Sis. Theresa Gudeman and their children, Brandon, Lucas, Tonya and Miranda, as they moved to the Bradford area. We miss them in our assembly and hope they will visit us often.

Bro. Al and Sis. Joan Scheitlin welcome a new granddaughter, Eleisha Jean, born June 9 to their daughter, Lee Ann, and her husband, Steve Veinotte (S. Hamilton, MA). Big sister, Lena, is happy to care for her new playmate. Other grandparents include Ernest and Lina Veinotte (New Hampshire).

Little Aubrey Elizabeth, born June 19, has brought much happiness to the family of Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi, Naomi and Hannah

Schock. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock and Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat Schifferer.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki Kellenberger were happy to receive a new baby boy, Michael Steven, born June 28. His older sisters include Jaclyn, Stephanie and Jillian. Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (the late Bro. Gerald) and Marion Conro and Wilbur Schmidgall.

The Lord has again taken a loved one from our midst. On June 30, Sis. Anna (Lindoefer) Schmidgall, 92, could answer the Lord's summons and be relieved of her earthly cares.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

II Corinthians 4:17

Her family includes Sis. Joanne Sauder (Bro. Dale, Tremont), Sis. Madelyn Tobler, Bro. David Schmidgall (Sis. Alma Jean, Forrest) and Philip Schmidgall (Hilda, Elgin); 19 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

The family expresses deep gratitude for all the prayers, expressions of sympathy and love shown them during the sickness and death of their dear mother.

May God comfort the hearts of Bro. Gerry and Sis. Gail Wonneberg in the recent loss of his father.

Together, with grateful hearts, we feasted on the heavenly manna shared by our home ministers as well as visiting Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and John Stoller (Leo, IN). May God bless each of you and your families.

We are also thankful for God's mercy and healing powers upon many of our loved ones who submitted to surgery or hospital care, including Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Sisters Gladys Weiss and Jeannete Kilgus (Bro. Richard) and Bros. Harvey Schurter (Sis. Ruth), Georg Schumacher (Sis. Hilde), Arthur Schmidt (Sis. Alma) and Walter Schambach.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"All things bright and beautiful
 All creatures great and small.
 All things wise and wonderful,
 The Lord God made them all."

Hymns of Zion #207

During the summer months, many of us are blessed with opportunities to travel through this great land of America. As we observe the flowers, animals, rivers, oceans and the mountains, we are reminded of the Creator, and how really wise and wonderful everything is that He created. As we recently traveled through a mountainous area, we read the verse "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things . . ." Isaiah 40:26. It lifts us up to know that the One who did create all these things did also create us, and does even love and care for each of us.

We recently witnessed the baptismal vows of Michael Huber, Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen and Daniel Bradle, Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila. We rejoice with them and certainly wish God's presence and blessings in their lives always.

We are always glad when ministers come and break the Word with us. This month we had the following minister to us: Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Bob Walder (Congerville).

Sis. Katie Blunier (Bro. Vernon) has recently spent time in the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

According to Thy gracious word
 In meek humility,
 This will we do, our dying Lord,
 We will remember Thee.
 Thy body broken for our sake
 Our bread shall be;
 Thy sacramental cup we take
 And thus remember Thee.
 Can we Gethsemane forget?

And there Thy conflict see
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?
When to the cross we turn our
eyes,
And rest on Calvary
O Lamb of God our sacrifice,
We must remember Thee.

Hymns of Zion #301

In remembrance of our dying Lord, we partook of holy communion June 24. We thank Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) who assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in serving us. May our hearts be stirred to a deeper commitment as we ponder what Jesus did for us.

A little girl was born June 29 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser. Lynette Renae is welcomed home by her brother, Lee, and grandparents, Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park).

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness . . ."

II Timothy 4:7-8

Sis. Mary Traub finished her earthly course July 11. She was 89 and spent 71 years serving the Lord. How thankful we are for such good examples set by our older brothers and sisters, yet we know it is only by the grace of God that any of us are able to keep the faith. We extend sympathy to her family which includes Harvey, John and Kathryn Honegger (Fairbury), Dorothy Martin (Universal City, TX), Ida Lou Gundy (Gridley), Sis. Evelyn Stoller (Peoria), Sis. Ruth Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL), Sis. Marjorie Leman (Roanoke) and Sis. Mary Mae, who lived with her and faithfully cared for her.

We also extend sympathy to the family of Joe Broquard who passed away July 5 and to Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and family and Bro. Troy Rieger in the loss of their brother and uncle, Dennis Rieger, who passed away July 7. "Jesus knows thy sorrow . . ." Hymns of Zion #74.

Our prayers are with Bro. Tom

and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and family as their son, Trent, undergoes more surgery. May the Lord's healing touch continue to be near.

Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Sally Schieler and Bro. Herb Fehr.

Bro. Chris Steffen completed his duties as our Sunday school superintendent and was replaced by Bro. Randy Stoller. Bro. Ivan Fehr was elected as our new Sunday school teacher. We thank Bro. Chris for his years of service and give Bros. Randy and Ivan our prayerful support as they carry out the important task of teaching our youth.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held June 28.

We extend a special thanks to Sis. Jean Bachtold and Sis. Crystal Fehr for their service as Silver Lining reporters. They were relieved of their duties at our semi-annual business meeting July 13. Your new reporters ask for your patience and support as we undertake this new responsibility.

Reminder: August is Silver Lining collection month for Fairbury.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

It is again the time of year when our dear elders and brethren travel many miles to meet and feel God's Spirit give direction to His children. Let us lend our prayerful support even if we cannot be there.

Melanie Schrof and Michael Masching exchanged wedding vows July 11. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Leo Masching (Emmington) and Ed and Sharon Schrof.

July 12 was the wedding day of Sis. Sarah Ricketts and Bro. Aaron Steffen. Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen (Bloomington) and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts are their parents.

We wish these couples God's blessings in their married life.

Those who have required hospital care are Sis. Alice Lehmann, Bro. Ben Traub, Bro. Homer Blunier, Ralph Koehl and Bro. Ivan Steidinger. We hope each of them will again be blessed with good health.

Many good teachings were shared with us by our visiting ministers, Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Everett Hari (Bloomington). We thank them for their visits.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall in the death of his mother, Sis. Anna Schmidgall (Elgin). We trust God's comforting spirit will be near them.

Our congregation was deeply saddened July 17 when Dale Zimmerman was killed in an accident. We sorrow with his wife, Carol, and parents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred. He was a brother to Curt, Bro. Rod, Bro. Dennis, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Trudy Rudin. May God comfort and strengthen this dear family as only He can do.

Bro. Earl Gerber wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts and food during his recent surgery and recovery. It was very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

GOD KNOWS BEST

Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain –
We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain –
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their tenderness
If we never shed a tear
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet tomorrow . . .
God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain . . .
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring
And no time to lament . . .
For our Father loves His children,
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us pleasure

When the soul's deep need is
pain . . .

So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us
To make our spirit strong.

Helen Steiner Rice

Our congregation was deeply saddened by the sudden tragic death of our precious young friend, Jenni Knapp. We pray for God's constant love to comfort and strengthen Jenni's parents, Dave and Sis. Becky, and her brothers, Chris and Matt, as they continue to love and care for her baby girl, Faith.

The testimonies and baptisms of our two new sisters, Sarah Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty) and Teresa (Mrs. Bruce) Ruder were uplifting and encouraging to all of us. We thank Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) for sharing the day with us.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), and Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). We appreciate them spending time with our congregation.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold were happy to welcome into their family another little girl, Melissa Marie. Melissa was born July 18, and her big sister, Michelle, along with her grandparents, Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Morton), are anxious to share their love with her.

It is so uplifting and exciting to see God's work as he draws souls together in His special way. Bro. Rick Bauman (son of Bro. Les and Sis. Helen) and Sis. Stacie Gerber (daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) announced their engagements and plans for their marriage in the Lord. We rejoice with them and wish for them God's richest blessings.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

At our June business meeting, five new Sunday school teachers were installed to begin the fall term. They are Bros. Jerry Christensen, Curt Meiss and Lloyd

Stoller; and Sisters Marcia Campbell and Judy Dohman.

Bro. Adam Schlipf passed away July 14. He was hospitalized for a broken hip and later died of a heart attack. His funeral was held Friday, July 17. He is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Lulu; a son, Bro. Arthur and a daughter, Sis. Carol Miller (both of Gridley); and a sister, Sis. Ida Pfaffman (Washington).

Bro. Adam was baptized only a few years ago, and found much happiness in his newly-found devotion to God. A man of few words, he spent his entire life in work he dearly loved, farming and caring for his livestock.

Sis. Mary Stoller was hospitalized recently after a serious automobile accident.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

The annual Sunday school picnic was held at the fellowship hall July 12. We enjoyed food, fellowship, a short program and an opportunity to spend some informal time with our students.

May we continue to uphold those loved ones in prayer who have lost loved ones, who are shut-in and/or sick in their homes, and those that are having real struggles of one kind or another. There is so much power in prayer.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

School bells will be ringing again for our children and young people. May we uphold them in prayer as they each one continue their education.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Jim David

The Lord blessed Bro. Breck and Sis. Jane Nelson with their second child, Rose Victoria, May 15. Rose was enthusiastically welcomed home by her older brother, Zachary. Rose's grandparents are Darryl and

Sis. Sandy Nelson (Morton, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr (Peoria).

We thank Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for their visits to the Peoria church this month. We always appreciate the efforts of our ministering brethren.

We pray for God's healing of our hospital patients, Bro. Walter Hess, Sis. Lydia Stoller, Sis. Ruth Hartman, Bro. David Hoerr and Sis. Aimee Moser.

The Peoria church was saddened by the death of Sis. Martha Herrmann, a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria. Sis. Martha was the mother of Bro. Harold Herrmann.

Another resident of the Apostolic Christian Home, Marie Hoerr, was baptized July 28. We welcome Sis. Marie into the family of God.

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Birkner (Joyce Birkner, Pekin, IL) and Sis. Angela Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn, Pulaski, IA) was announced June 21. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Angela are planning an August 9 wedding. Bro. Brice Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline, Lester, IA) and Sis. Julie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta, Bradford, IL) were married in Bradford July 19. Sis. Joan Meister (Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda, Peoria) and Bro. Tim Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Detroit, MI) were married in Peoria July 26. We pray God will abundantly bless these couples as they prepare for the responsibilities of marriage.

The Peoria church is having an extended Sunday school term this summer. For four consecutive Sundays in July and August, our Sunday school classes will incorporate the theme from Vacation Bible School, "Pray Without Ceasing" into the lessons whenever possible. This is intended to provide continuity between Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. In addition, the Sunday school classes will participate in several different activities, such as having the lesson at the fellowship hall, combining the eighth grade with the Bible class,

visiting the Children's Home in Peoria, and inviting different Sunday school teachers to present special topics. Since the Sunday school provides the basis for the future church, we pray that God will help our extended classes to be very beneficial for our young people.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We always appreciate those dear brothers who faithfully minister God's Word unto us. This past month we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bros. Nate Stoller (Bradford), Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington). May God richly bless them and their families.

"I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (St. Luke 13:5). Stacy Francis has heeded the call to repentance. May she build on a firm foundation.

Marriage is honourable in all. (Hebrews 3:4) We extend sincere congratulations to the following couples who exchanged wedding vows: on June 21, Sis. Mary Menold and Bro. Alvin Farney (Roanoke); on June 28, Sis. Barbara Baer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Chris Johnson (both of Denver, CO); on June 27, Greg Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay) and Janis Harms; also on June 27, Merle Endress (Sis. Mildred) and Teresa Bolen; on July 11, Dennis Wagenbach (Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty) and Jennifer Wages. We wish them much joy and happiness and God's richest blessings. May they look to Him to guide them through life.

On June 24, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach received a bundle from heaven, Kent Alan. Little Keith and grandparents, Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach, and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtberger (Morris, MN) welcome him. On July 4, Raymond and Sis. Janna Lou Baer were blessed with a girl. Kerry, Wanda, Cyrena, Robert, Kendra and grandparents, Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Ann Baer and Sis. Marilyn Schieler (Remington, IN)

welcome little Renae. On July 13, Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser welcomed another little boy. Jeremy, Jamie, Michael and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser welcome him. May God bless these families as they bring up these little ones.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Caroline Banwart in the sudden passing of her brother from West Bend, IA, and Sis. Esther Herrmann (Bro. Robert) of the passing of her brother from Fairbury. God alone is our true source of comfort.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Marian Hinshaw as she suffered a stroke which has left her without speech. We think of our dear friend, Marvin Eberle (Sharon) as he has undergone lung surgery. On July 15, Sis. Gladys (Bro. Nick) submitted to back surgery. We pray for God's healing powers for them.

We thank Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) for speaking on Stepping Stone and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria) for speaking on Deception during Vacation Bible School the week of June 21. We want to thank these dear brothers for taking time to prepare and share with us. We appreciate the love and concern they show for our young people.

May each one of us remember our dear elder brothers in our prayers as they gather for the annual conference in August. May we give our shepherds our faithful support to preserve our precious faith.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin

Annie Hoffman

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1 As we think of the upcoming brotherhood conference, we pray for God's guidance and wisdom that we may preserve the faith that our forefathers have handed down to us. We pray a special prayer for our dear elder body who have such an awesome responsibility in leading our precious church.

We rejoice in the engagement announcement of our Bro. Todd Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda) to Sis. Andrea Kaufmann (Bro.

Dale and Sis. Jane, Tremont). We pray that God will bless them as they begin walking with Him together.

Bro. Alvin Farney and Sis. Mary Menold (Princeville) were united in marriage June 21. Also our Bro. Dave Leman (the late Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen) and Sis. Stacy Miller (Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev, Valparaiso, IN) were united in marriage June 28. We pray that God will bless these two new Christian homes and we welcome Sisters Mary and Stacy to our congregation.

Brian and Kris Moore are first-time parents. Brienna Kristine was born June 25. Grandparents are Mike and Helen Moore (Morton) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Mary Lou Martin (Roanoke).

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman are thankful to have a new baby son. Daniel Christian was born June 25. Joseph, Mary and Frederick all welcome their new little brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Marge Knapp (Congerville).

Lisa, Kirk and Kirby Leman have a new little sister. Heidi Sue was born June 30 to Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. Grandparents are Don and Sis. Pearl Leman and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless each of these little ones and their families.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Til Legel and her family in the passing of her husband, Bro. Art. We also sympathize with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman in the passing of Marge's mother, Sis. Mary Traub (Fairbury). May God comfort their hearts and fill the void that is felt.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). We pray God will bless them.

We ask God to continue to heal and bless those who have been in the hospital this month. They are Sisters Cindy Leman, Alice Kempf, Fannie Zimmerman and Michaleen Braker.

Notes of Thanks:

Dale Witten, son of Bro. Gene and Carol Whitten would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts of love and visits received the past couple of months. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Dale Witten

I would like to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts, flowers, food and especially your prayers during my surgery and since returning home. May God bless each of you.

Humbly,
Mary Hoffman

Our entire family wants to express our heartfelt appreciation for the overwhelming love and support extended to us at the time of Bill's passing. The prayers, food, flowers, cards and gifts of love will always be remembered with deep gratitude and will be a constant source of comfort in the future. May God bless you all.

The Bill Leman family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch

We are happy to welcome two new babies this month. On June 24, a little son, Adam Douglas, was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri Frank. Baby Adam has two big sisters, Emily and Sarah, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Don and Kay Davis (Green Valley) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank (Pekin).

Royce and Sis. Sharon Risinger are excited first-time parents of a little son, Tyler Royce, born July 16. His grandparents are Harold and Sandy Risinger and Sis. Alma and the late Bro. Jay Bolliger.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach have announced the engagement of their daughter, Diane, to Steven Kauzlarich (Bloomington). A September 26 wedding is being planned. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their new life together.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. JoAnn Sauder (Bro. Dale) in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Anna Schmidgall (Elgin, IL).

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Renee Kaiser (Bro. Mark) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Hattie Schrock (Oakville, IA).

A thank you to our visiting minister, Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We appreciate his unexpected visit.

We recently held our annual election for Sunday school teachers and trustees. The duty of Sunday school teacher fell on Bros. Todd Kilgus and Ron Wagenbach. Our new trustee is Bro. David T. Koch. We pray a special blessing on these brothers as they begin this important work. Brothers rotating out are Paul Michel as trustee and Roger Koch and David Dill as Sunday school teachers. We certainly thank these brothers for their years of dedicated service.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

The recent storms that passed through out area brought to mind many parallels in our spiritual lives. The destructive wind can be very frightening as we realize our helplessness in the face of its power. But when the storm passes, and the calm is heard, we once again realize that God has been with us the entire time. Not only did He protect us, but He also provided the blessing of much needed rain. We remember then, why the storms must come and why we must be thankful for them.

"TIL THE STORM PASSES BY

In the dark of the midnight
Have I oft hid my face,
While the storm howls above me
And there's no hiding place;
'Mid the crash of the thunder
Precious Lord, hear my cry:
Keep me safe
'Til the storm passes by.

Many times Satan whispered,
"There is no use to try,
For there's no end of sorrow
There's no hope by and by!"
But I know Thou art with me,
And tomorrow I'll rise
When the storms
Never darken the sky.

When the long night has ended
And the storms come no more,
Let me stand in Thy presence
On that bright peaceful shore,
In the land where the tempest
Never comes, Lord may I
Dwell with Thee
When the storm passes by.

Chorus:

'Til the storm passes over
'Til the thunder sounds no more,
'Til the clouds roll forever from
the sky,
Hold me fast, let me stand
In the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe
'Til the storm passes by.

by Mosie Lister

The prophet Jeremiah went through stormy times as well. In Lamentations, chapter 3, he describes some of those troubles. But he is able to say:

"It is the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Lamentations 3:22-26

It is with sincere thanks that we acknowledge all gifts, cards and kindness given in observance of our 50th wedding anniversary. May our omniscient heavenly Father bless each one richly.

In Christian love,
Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther
(Metzger) Banwart

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch

In celebrating our country's birthday this month, we praise God for our freedom to worship Him in this land.

We were blessed to witness two weddings. Bro. Stacey Stucky (Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Gwen Kipfer (Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy) were joined together June 28. On

July 19, Bro. Daren Yergler (Cissna Park) and Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and sis. Sheila) were wed in holy matrimony. We extend our joyful wishes of lasting love to both couples as they begin their lives as one.

Thomas and Theresa Mulkey are the joyful parents of a son, Anthony Michael, born July 11. Anthony joins big brother, Sean, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Bonnie Mulkey. May God bless their family.

We rejoiced to have many new converts recently. Austin Smith (Bro. Dave and Sis. Loretta), Heidi Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie), Stephanie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee), Joe Reinhard (Randy and Marilyn), Nathan Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Amy Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Amber Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Bobbie Girod (Bro. Jack and Sis. Carla), Mollie Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene) and Shannon Compton (Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol). Also, JoAnn Harter (Bob) gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized. We wish Sis. JoAnn and all of the other new converts God's grace and direction as they walk with Him.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Wilmer Gerber (Sis. Clara), Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice), Sis. Ginny Gerber (Bro. Darryl), Sis. Martha Kipfer, Sis. Alice Steffen (Bro. Russell), Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen) and Bro. Harold Isch (Sis. Virgil).

Bro. Ked Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) has moved to Leo, IN, to help out at Gateway Woods. We wish Bro. Ked God's richest blessings as he served the Lord in Leo.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who shared God's Word so graciously with us this month. They were Bro. Kenneth Weertz and Bro. Tom Stock (both of Cissna Park, IL).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

We were privileged to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) minister God's Word to us. May

God continue to bless him and his family as he is used in God's service.

We rejoiced to hear that three souls have turned away from the world and have chosen to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. They are Stacey Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) and Margo Stettner (Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen). Sis. Jo Ann Harter submitted her life and was baptized while in the hospital. We pray for Sis. Jo Ann in this time of struggle. May God feel each personal battle and provide the strength and grace to overcome life's obstacles.

Sis. Kristi and Brian Curry rejoiced July 23 as Landon Douglas' arrival made them parents. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Walt and Sis. Joyce Neuenchwander and Jan and Alice Curry.

Kim and Mona Graham welcomed little Daniel William to their home July 24. The happy grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber and Joan Graham.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Fischer have added a special young boy, Kenny, into their loving family.

A resident of Christian Care Retirement Community, Sis. Martha Kipfer, went to be with the Lord July 21. May God comfort those who feel the void at this time.

We wish for God's healing for those who have recently spent time in the hospital, Bro. Sib Ringger (Sis. Vi), Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa) and Sis. Rochelle Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy).

On July 11 and 12, Christian Endeavor was held at Bluffton. May God bless those young people and we trust they will have made some lasting friendships.

We were honored to have 38 soldiers gather here July 25-26 for their Soldier Reunion. Old friendships were renewed as they could recall their past experiences as they each served their time in the army. We would like to thank the visiting ministers, Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse), Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), who were here

with us during this wonderful weekend.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

The week of June 22 through June 26 was our Vacation Bible School. We sincerely appreciated each brother who came to share in, "Strengthening The Things That Remain." May the Lord bless Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis) and Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) for laboring in our behalf.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger were blessed with a son, Eli Joseph, born June 20. Eli joins sisters, Serenity and Jasmine, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt (Francesville) and Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton).

Randy Leman and Mara Shidler were married July 11 at our fellowship center. We wish them God's blessings in their home. The couple's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bailey.

Sis. Lois Leman, 86, was laid to rest June 21. We will miss her smile and example in our congregation. She is survived by three sisters, Sis. Frances Leman (Francesville), Edith Traub (Washington, IL), and Elsie Eilers (Peoria, IL); and three brothers, Bro. Sidney and Melvin (Francesville) and Harold Leman (Peoria, IL).

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Richard and Beverly Overmyer in the passing of her mother.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

"The life of one we love is never lost . . . Its influence goes on through all the lives it ever touched."

Gibson

Our hearts reach out to the families of Sis. Nancy (Aschliman) Herring of Bluffton, and Bro. Pierre Neihouser (Francesville) whom

God has called home. Sis. Nancy was hospitalized here in Indy, and the family had become a part of ours during their stay.

Our dear friends, Marcelle (Neihouser) who is a daughter of Bro. Pierre, and her husband, Ron Gress, have made their home in Indy. We wish them many blessings and a wonderful life together as they were married recently. We warmly welcome them and want to express our love and sympathies to them.

May the families find comfort in each other and in the many happy memories they share of their loved ones.

We want to congratulate our graduates this year. Graduating from high school and entering Purdue this fall will be Sis. Kristine Pearson, (daughter of Sis. Becky and Dave).

Our college graduates are Bro. Craig Schafer (son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta) and Bill Bradford (son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail). Craig, a graduate from Purdue, is now residing in New Jersey and has joined our congregation in Philadelphia, PA. Bill, a graduate from Ball State, is now residing in Indy and is contemplating a career in journalism.

May God be with each of our graduates as they excel in their futures.

Our summer Vacation Bible School was held in June. The theme this year proclaimed "Jesus is our King!" From the smiles and enthusiastic response of the children, it was a blessing to all who participated. So much work and time goes into the preparations, yet it is worth the effort just to see the joy on their faces as the children learn about Jesus and grow to love Him more. The program was held on the last night of Bible school, and we want to thank everyone who came. A special thanks goes to those who helped throughout the week.

Our annual "work day" at church was held Saturday, June 20. After the harsh storms that came through Indy, there was much work to do on that day. We appreciate all those who came and helped put things to right. Thanks!

We enjoyed a weekend of fun

and fellowship with the Chicago Sunday school. We're so glad that they accepted our invitation to come this summer. It is such a blessing to share together the joys of friendship that God has given us. A special thanks is extended to Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann Bucher, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Connie Witzig as they opened their homes to us for that weekend.

Our visiting ministers this summer were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Edwin Bahler (Remington) and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). We can't tell you how much we appreciate the efforts of these brothers as they come to greet and share with us God's teachings. May God grant them grace and strength to continue in His work.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

II Timothy 1:13

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) was with us Wednesday evening, July 15, as we honored Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank's many years of service to the church. We appreciate their examples of holding fast to God's Word.

"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

"Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come."

Psalm 71:17-18

We were privileged to help Bro. Aaron Heinold celebrate his 80th birthday on the weekend of July 18 and 19. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for sharing God's Word with us that weekend.

We are thankful Duane Gude-man (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) can assemble with us again after recuperating from several surgeries. Our prayers are with David Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn) who is hospitalized after an accident. May the Lord grant His healing mercies.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

As daily food is necessary for physical growth and strength, so is daily time in His Word necessary for spiritual growth and strength.

"If you are getting lazy, read James. If your faith is below par, read Paul. If you are impatient, sit down quickly and read Job.

If you are just a little strong headed, observe Moses.

If you are getting weak-kneed, take a look at Elijah.

If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.

If you are getting covetous, self-seeking, spend a while with Isaiah.

If you feel chilly, read again about the beloved disciple.

If you are losing sight of the future, go to Revelation and get a glimpse of the Promised Land."

(adapted - unknown)

The Bible is the revelation of God to man contained in 66 books bound together forming one book, and only one, for it has in reality one Author and one purpose, the redemption of man. Knowing the Bible is vital to knowing its Author. Do you love to read it daily?

We welcome to our Leo church the following who have answered His call to serve at Gateway Woods: Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock (Congerville, IL), Sis. Stephanie Moser (Champaign, IL), Bro. Trent Schrock (Champaign) and Sis. Dena Lewis (Chicago, IL). May they each know His rich blessings upon their work.

Elder Bro. Philip Stettner (Bluffton North) and our Elder Bro. David Bertsch commented and interpreted the conference letter on a recent Wednesday evening.

Cathy Brashears (foster daugh-

ter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tena Schumacher) and Don Schmidt were recently married.

Allen Fischer (son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fischer) and Colette Bohr (daughter of Fred and Sandy Carrier) were also married in July. Both couples are wished the Lord's guidance and blessing in the establishment of their homes.

Bits of This and That:

"There is only one door, one bridge, one ladder between earth and heaven: the crucified Son of God. Whosoever will enter in by that door may be saved; but to him who refuses, the Bible holds no hope at all. Earnestness will never take one to heaven."

J.C. Ryle

You will break the bow if you always keep it tight.

Chinese Proverb

You will come apart if you don't come apart.

Being born once is a tragedy unless you are born twice.

Pass on the word of encouragement in an honest compliment.

Pass on the look of encouragement in a generous smile.

Pass on the touch of encouragement in a hearty handshake.

Pass on the kindness of encouragement in a thoughtful deed.

And let the encouragement of Christ flow through you.

"Lord, save us from the sin of worrying lest stomach ulcers be the badge of our lack of faith."

Peter Marshall

For a smile: Before you give someone a piece of your mind, be sure you can spare it.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is a golden chain,
The links are friends so dear,
And like a rare and precious jewel
It's treasured more each year . . .
It's clasped together firmly
With a love that's deep and true,
And it's rich with happy memories
And fond recollections, too . . .
Time can't destroy its beauty

For, as long as memory lives,
Years can't erase the pleasure
That the joy of friendship gives . . .
For friendship is a priceless gift
That can't be bought or sold,
But to have an understanding friend
Is worth far more than gold . . .
And the golden chain of friendship
Is a strong and blessed tie
Binding kindred hearts together
As the years go passing by.

Helen Steiner Rice

Five years ago the Lord blessed our congregation with the addition of a new family. Today, with sadness in our hearts, we bid farewell to Bro. Mark, Sis. Kristie, Jonathan, Cecily and Stephanie Meyer. (That golden chain of friendship has bound our hearts together.) Bro. Mark will be pursuing further education in the Detroit area. Our prayers travel with them as they established their new home in Detroit, MI.

We are thankful the summer brings a number of visitors to northern Indiana. This month we were blessed by the visits of Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share their time and talent with us.

We rejoice with Bro. Jon Haab (son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula) and Sis. Deb Lehman (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley, South Bend), for on July 12 they were united in marriage. The little church in South Bend was filled and overflowing with family and friends sharing this joy with them. We pray God will continue to bless them as they begin their life together.

There's going to be another wedding taking place soon. The invitation has already been sent out - you are invited:

The Heavenly Father
requests the honor of your presence
at the marriage of His Son
Jesus Christ

to
the bride of true believers
Sometime in the very near future.
Reception to occur in the clouds.

Directions to the reception:

I John 1:9
Romans 10:9
Please reply

Will you be among those sharing in this joyful reception? Please reply!

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

We enjoyed and appreciated Bro. Virgil Metzger's (Chicago, IL) visit on Sunday, June 28. Thank you and your family for visiting us.

Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

What a sweet comfort this must be to Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler and their loving children. Their sweet little daughter, Susanne, was born Sunday, July 5, but had already gone to heaven. May they find comfort and peace and think of her as a little angel "Over There" beckoning them to keep their eyes on Jesus and some day join her in heaven.

I don't have much news this month so I will close with this thought: Never put a question mark where God puts a period.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

We received many good teachings at our Adult Vacation Bible School. One thought left with us was that "It's in our idle time that a soul is made or marred." Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington) was our teacher June 23. His topic was "Spiritual Communication." Speaking to us June 25 was Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford) who spoke to us about "Family Worship." Both evenings left us with much food for thought and we thank these brothers and their families for the time they gave on our behalf.

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus, To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace. In all the world there is no higher standing than this - to follow in the Saviour's ways. What all the world could never give, a lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd will receive."

Zion's Harp #16

A number of us were able to travel to Philadelphia, PA, June 27 and 28 to her the testimony and witness the baptism of our dear friend, Matthew Mangold. Matt's parents are Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold. His mother was the late Sis. Marge Mangold.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
Ephesians 2:8, 9

It was a joy to see our church home filled to overflowing with many loved ones who came to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Deb Lehman and Bro. Jon Haab July 12. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman and Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab (Milford). Bro. Wayne had the special privilege of conducting the marriage service, with our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) taking their vows.

This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus; We walk the path of life while cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abide, where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart."

Zion's Harp #79

Other ministers with us on this day were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). We thank these brothers for their faithful service.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

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

Zion's Harp #79

On June 28, friends and family gathered to witness two souls become one. As our dear Sis. Stacy

Miller and Bro. Dave Leman (Roanoke, IL) were joined together in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings and may God continue to be the center of their lives and home.

This month our congregation had a potluck picnic. Despite the cold weather, our hearts were warmed with God's love through good Christian fellowship.

We enjoyed our annual Sunday school picnic. Special recognition was given to each child who participated in Sunday school this year. Praise the Lord for our precious children. Sometimes it is through their "child-like" ways that we, as adults, can understand things better.

Our Vacation Bible School theme for this year was "Peace Be Still." On Tuesday night, Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) talked about "The Calm Before the Storm." On Wednesday night, Bro. Wil Schieler (Milford) told us of the "Turbulent Winds." On Thursday night, Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis) spoke on the "Eye of the Storm." On the final evening of our VBS, the Sunday school children favored us with a couple of songs and a skit -- both pertaining to what they all had learned downstairs at VBS. We would like to thank each who took part in our Vacation Bible School. A big thanks to the special singing groups who came and favored us in song. They include: Gridley Ladies' Trio, Nussbaum Sisters, Milford Group, Francesville Quartet, LaCrosse Group and the Francesville Men's Group.

Valparaiso would like to thank Bluffton for hosting Christian Endeavor. Our students and teachers appreciate all the efforts the church puts forth.

We had a grocery-singing shower for Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bluffton) and her soon-to-be husband, Bro. Darrin Yergler (Bloomington, IL). Marie attended our church Wednesday evenings while she was teaching at a nearby school. We wish them God's richest blessings in the wonderful years to come!

We enjoyed several visiting ministers this past month. Among them are Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), John Stoller (Leo), Elmer

Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We thank each and every one for their labors of love!

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Camille Vogt

We were very thankful that such a large number were present for our summer service. While our Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) presented God's message about studying His Word, we were both encouraged and convicted. We were reminded that we are running a race, and running a race requires one to train and exercise. Memorizing scripture is an essential exercise. We will then be "in shape" for the Holy Spirit to bring those verses to our remembrance. Another purpose for memorization is as David wrote in Psalm 119:11:

"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Reading God's Word sustains one's spiritual life just as milk does for a baby. However, eventually one must grow and put on muscle. Spiritually, taking time to meditate on the Word is really putting on muscle for that spiritual race. We sincerely thank Bro. Marshall Heinold for sharing God's Word with us.

With great joy, we look forward to August 27, our first service for the 1992-93 academic year. Please come and worship with us!

THE FRIEND

As a little child, I wanted to reach
a goal
and become a celebrity.
My first opportunity came
when I was old enough to
climb a big oak tree.

My mom told me to be careful
and to come in before too long,
For that day a friend was coming
by
with whom I could go along.

As a little girl, I rushed out the
door
my sight upon that oak tree.
I didn't think of my friend at all
because my mind was focused
on me.
Up and up and up I climbed
and the more my desire grew,
If only I could reach the top, I
thought,
my soul would be renewed.

Before too long my friend came by
far earlier than I had planned.
And when he saw me in the tree,
he looked up and then he said.

"Dear friend, won't you stop
climbing and
come journey now with me.
The treasures we'll discover
together
are far better than this tree."

"My friend," I replied, "don't you
see
how far I've climbed up in this
tree.
Not to reach the top now would be
too great a sacrifice for me."

"But if you could come again
tomorrow
yes, tomorrow would be a
better day,
I would surely love to be with you
and forever after play."

My friend's disappointment
clearly showed
as he turned, sadly shaking his
head.

"I see this tree will always mean
more to you
than I ever will," he said.

For a moment I thought about how
sad he looked
and wondered at my decision,
But then I continued my ascent,
for my goal was my obsession.

When at last I reached the top
I realized to my despair,
Success didn't bring much joy for
me
For there was no one with
whom to share.

I thought of my friend
who had wanted his very life to
share.

I realized that my selfish
ambitions
had left me alone, up there.

That night nothing could console
me
as I laid in my bed and cried.
For I knew I had lost my last
chance
for my friend would no more
come by.

Jesus is the Friend who passes by
all of us
while we are climbing our trees.
Our trees represent any thing
separating Christ from you
and me.

A tree may be an earthly goal
or one of God's creation,
Or just living selfishly
and planning your own
destination.

It matters not if your climbing
has only just begun
Or if you've almost reached the
top
when Jesus comes along.

It matters most that when Jesus
says,
"Why don't you follow me?"
You decide that to be with Him
is far better than climbing any
tree.

Life with Jesus is true peace
and love and joy will abide.
He promises to never leave you
alone
He will always be at your side.

Dear Friend, don't make that
grave mistake
and in eternity forever cry.
Tonight may be the last time
that Jesus will pass you by.
Camille J. Vogt

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were able to join our Sun-
day school on two outings this
month. On June 28, we enjoyed
beautiful weather at our annual
Sunday school picnic. Then, on July
14, many traveled to Turkey Run
State Park for the day. May the

children remember happy times to-
gether.

We had a very blessed evening
July 8 when we heard the testi-
mony of our dear Irene Radcliffe
and joyfully welcomed her as our
new sister-in-faith. She is an inspi-
ration to all of us to be more thank-
ful for our salvation.

Our sis. Nancy Kyburz (Bro.
Jerry) recently submitted to sur-
gery. We miss her and hope she
will soon be able to reassemble with
us.

We are thankful God protected
Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab
and family in an accident they en-
countered involving a semi and
trailer. God is so merciful.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We appreciated the visits of
Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Ron
Poletto (Akron, OH), Vernon Wett-
stein (Congerville, IL) and Elder
Bro. Ed Lanz. May God richly re-
ward these brothers for being will-
ing to travel to our congregation
and bring forth His Living Word of
truth and grace.

We extend our sympathy to the
family of Sis. Hattie Schrock
(Oakville). Her husband, the late
Elder Bro. Noah, served our church
at Burlington as well as many
churches west of the Mississippi.
We are thankful for our forefathers'
faith and labors on behalf of our
precious faith. As we see these pil-
lars in our church pass on, we real-
ize someone else must take over so
that future generations may still
find salvation, peace and grace and
a refuge for the sin-sick soul.

We want to congratulate Cari
Salek on her graduation from high
school. She is the daughter of Bro.
LaVerne and Sis. Kim Salek. May
God lead her in all her future plans.

We rejoice with Sis. Dixie
Messner as she has adopted a baby
girl named Mayone Lee. She was
born June 25. Grandparents are
Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner
(Winthrop, MN). Our prayers are
that Sis. Dixie may feel God's guid-
ance and grace in raising her
daughter to the honor and glory of
God.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

It's hard to believe that preparations are already being made for students to return to school. May our prayers go with them.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Sis. Adeline Lehman in the death of her brother, Bro. Dan Lehman.

Also being remembered in prayer is Heidi Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) who is now spending time in the hospital following major surgery.

We do not know all

We may be asked to bear,
But this we know for certain
God is always near.

As usual, the entire church was invited to our annual Sunday school picnic and, as usual, we had an almost perfect attendance. A blessed evening was shared by all.

Our thanks to Bro. Fred Eberhart (Burlington) for sharing God's Word here. May God bless you richly.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

"Adventures with Jesus and David" was our theme this year for Vacation Bible School. We took the children to different settings each day such as the mountain, cave, pasture, stream and the heavenlies. In these settings we compared Jesus and David in victory, friendship, being chosen, as shepherd and as a king. We each had fun and learned a lot about David and our heavenly King, Jesus.

On Sunday, June 26, again we were privileged to have some brethren from the Princeville, IL, and Winthrop, MN churches with us. We enjoy seeing them and fellowshiping and worshipping with them. It was a blessed weekend for all of us.

We would also like to thank the many visitors who included us in their vacation travels. Again we are not far off the main roads travelling east and west and north and south. We welcome each of you to join us for Sunday and Wednesday evening worship.

A very special and grateful

thank you to the ministers and their wives and families for being so faithful again to us these past two months. Our ministers were: Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS).

On Sunday, July 12, we all assembled with Pulaski to witness the marriage of our Bro. Brad Funk to Sis. Laura Wuthrich. Our prayers are with them and pray that they will be "a three-fold chord, not lightly rent apart." We welcome Laura to our congregation and hope that she will feel at home here.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Tony Funk as he is traveling to Russia the first three weeks of August. He will be visiting the Russian farmer that stayed with him and Sis. Eileen last fall. May God watch over and protect him and also be with his family.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! During this busy summer, we've appreciated all of our visitors, including ministering Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). May God bless each of you who make the effort to assemble with us, and the many others who cannot come but do faithfully remember us in your prayers.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

It has been an eventful month here in Lester. We're so thankful for our abundant rain as well as our many other showers of blessings.

We rejoice with Sis. Penny Knobloch on her engagement to Bro. Jim Domnick. Their parents are Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch and Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick (Morris, MN). They plan to be married August 9.

Kent Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Deloris) and Jami Masselink (Sioux Falls, SD) were united in marriage June 20.

June 21 was the wedding day for Bro. Lynn Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger) and Sis. Joni Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma).

On July 12, Anita Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) became the wife of Bro. Byron Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy, West Bend). We will miss Sis. Anita as she moves to West Bend. May God bless all of these dear couples.

We enjoyed hearing the testimonies of Orvie and Lauretta Knobloch, and then witnessing their baptisms July 5. We rejoice with them and pray they will always feel God's nearness.

We're thankful for all of the many visitors we've had, and especially appreciate the labors of our ministering brethren. Visitors include Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend); Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bert Butikofer and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Duane Metzger and Kevin Banwart (West Bend), Trent Meiss (Iowa City) and Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN).

Doug and Sis. Lisa Van't Hof and big brother, Wil, welcomed little Lauren Renee into their family June 23. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch. May God bless their family.

We also share sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie and their family on the death of her mother and their grandmother, Sis. Hattie Schrock (Oakville).

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Sis. Frieda Knobloch, Bro. Harvey Metzger and Jeff Leuthold. May our heavenly Father continue to be with them and all who suffer afflictions.

On June 30, twenty-five brothers and friends from our area travelled to Chandler, MN, a nearby town that was devastated by a tornado. The workers helped with clean-up, shingling roofs and rebuilding. Those involved received many blessings for their efforts. Our prayers are with those who have suffered misfortune.

"A sincere thank-you to each and

every one for your prayers, visits and concern before and after my surgery. May the good Lord bless each one."

Sis. Eleanor Popkes

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

God's miracle of birth has once again been showered upon our congregation in Oakville. Donnie and Sis. Kris Wagenbach have been blessed with their first little baby. Joel Daniel arrived July 1 and has been such a blessing to all his extended family, including Grandma and Grandpa Licko (Tim and Candace, Mediapolis) and Grandma and Grandpa Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald Sr. and Sis. Bonnie). As we see our family circles growing, our responsibilities to be a light to the children surely multiply. May God give us all the grace to stand steadfast in these evil and trying times.

Another pillar in our congregation has laid down her earthly cross and went to be with Jesus. Sis. Hattie Schrock passed away July 11 at the ripe old age of 96. Even though we can rejoice with our dear sister that her faith is now sight, we shall certainly miss her presence in church on Sunday and most of all the example that she was throughout her lifetime. She is survived by four sons, Bro. John, Bro. Robert, Ed and Jim; and six daughters, Sis. Lois Wiegand, Sis. Ada Banwart, Dorothy, Alma Langland, Sis. Ellie Knobloch and Janet Beik. May God comfort these loved ones as they turn back the pages of time and reflect upon precious memories and times spent with their mother.

Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) has brought forth God's precious Word to our congregation recently. May God bless him for his willing service.

The following poem has been submitted by the family of our dear departed Sis. Louise Rowell. Her husband, Bro. Floyd, spent a few days in the hospital recently and we are thankful that he has been feeling better.

Another loved one from this life
 has gone.
 A few short years, and a victory's
 won.
 A loved one indeed, but that's not
 all.
 A child of God did heed her call.

God looked down at mom on her
 hospital bed.
 With tubes running into her arm
 and head.
 He saw our heart, in great forlorn,
 And felt our pain in His heart so
 torn.

He watched mom there, lo, those
 many a week.
 The prayers from us all, God will
 keep.
 We know, O Lord, You are hearing
 our prayers,
 For Thy Word tells us "He cares."

"Jesus wept," it's in His Word.
 When His friend departed a sigh
 was heard.
 Now He's weeping with us, it's not
 for mom.
 He knows she's safe in His
 heavenly home.

We know oft times our prayers are
 weak,
 We didn't even know what we
 should speak.
 "I know," God said, "the prayers
 from you have fled."
 "For the Spirit is uttering in your
 stead."

Some times in our earthly, humanly
 way,
 We question why death came that
 day.
 When God had said, "Oh, Child of
 Mine
 I'll give you rest - this is your time."

But, we question not what God has
 done
 We just put our faith in His
 Beloved Son.
 What God has finished is well and
 good,
 For we'll get our comfort from His
 Word.

The tears in our eyes do come and
 go,
 And friends may to our door grow
 slow.

But as the years flee by so fast
 Mom's loving memories will always
 last.

Perhaps from us God's taken our
 Mother
 In order for us to help some other
 Who's starting on this path that we
 once trod
 For us to comfort and point them to
 God.

Oh! What a caring God have we
 To know our cares, and to see
 Us through the times that's good
 or sad
 No matter what our life has had.

A vacant chair, an empty plate we
 see
 As we gather together with our
 family.
 A prayer will be said, and a tear
 will be shed
 As we ponder on Mom's memory.

We're going down that path that
 Mom's already taken.
 Our family circle as a chain is
 broken.
 She got there first - Oh! See her
 outstretched arm!
 Waiting for us, a new circle to form!

"Do not sorrow for me," we know
 Mom would say.
 "I've borne my cross, pick your up
 today."
 "For Jesus will bear yours as He
 has mine."
 "Until you, my family, reaches that
 heavenly clime."

"Weep not as those who have no
 hope."

Reminder: September is collection month for the Silver Lining in Oakville. Please make out a check for \$9.00 to the Silver Lining and give it to one of your correspondents.

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich
Carol Wettstein

We again experienced dry weather earlier this year, but now have been blessed with an abundance of rain. May we strive for

grace to be content with whatever God gives us.

Congratulations to Tammy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris) as she graduated from high school.

We extend warm wishes to Sis. Angie Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Jeff Birkner (Peoria, IL) as their engagement was announced.

Our little church was filled Sunday, July 12, when Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove) and Sis. Laura Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) exchanged wedding vows. We will miss Laura, but trust she will be a blessing to the Garden Grove congregation. Visiting ministers with us that day were Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

Darren Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) was hospitalized several days in Iowa City, but is home now, and hopefully feeling better.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

God has blessed the home of Jamie and Linda Schmidt with a precious little girl, Tanya Ann, who comes to join big sisters, Brandi and Krisa. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt are the happy grandparents. Mike and Patty Fehr welcomed Allison Ann into their hearts and home June 29. May God bless them as well as grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Champaign, IL) and Tim and Judy Kloster (Nebraska).

Hospital patients have been Josephine Thomann, Sis. Kathrine Fisher, Bro. Kenneth Banwart (Sis. Marlene), Bro. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille), and little Trey Olson (Julie and Troy), who have all been released from the hospital. We are thankful to report that Sis. Katherine, Bros. Kenneth and Edwin, and Trey are able to be home again. May the Lord continue to bless them with better health. Josephine is now residing at the West Bend Care Center.

There is beauty all around, When there's love at home. (Hymns of Zion #64) We rejoice with Jill Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) who became the bride of Pete Stigman (Rich and Patti) July

11. A reception was held at our fellowship center. They will be making their home in the Minneapolis area. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin life as one.

We welcome Sis. Anita (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester, Lester) who became the God-given help mate of Bro. Byron Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) to our congregation. May God be near their side as they walk hand in hand in Him.

We bid farewell to three dear ones in our congregation. It is a reminder for us to be ready at all times. These souls were taken from this life to their reward, unexpectedly.

James Banwart, 56, was laid to rest June 22. We extend sympathy to his wife, Rebecca; and children, Brad (Julie), Blake (Vera) and Julie Jordon (Kevin), of this vicinity. He also has seven grandchildren who will miss dear grandpa. Sis. Berneice Banwart, Sis. Betty Wirtz (Verner), Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Elmer, Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Caroline Banwart (Peoria, IL) will feel the loss of their brother, Jim, as well as brothers, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Phyllis), Archie, Bro. Vic (Sis. Marilyn), Franklin (Darlene, Lake Mills) and Leslie (Kathy, Dayton, OH). May God comfort each heart.

On July 4 we witnessed the death of Bro. Oscar Zaugg, 79, a soldier of the Cross for many years. Those who will feel this loss of family are his wife, Sis. Frances; sons, Bro. Martin (Sis. Doris), Bro. Norm (Sis. Polly), and Bro. Pat (Sis. Julie) all of our congregation and Jim (Barb, Des Moines); and daughter, Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (Bro. Marty, South Bend, IN) and twenty-two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Walter Zaugg, 82, passed from this life into eternity July 12 following surgery. His dear wife, Sis. Mabel, has been gone for a number of years. Those who will miss father and grandfather are: son, Darrell and his wife, Julie; and two dear grandchildren.

Brothers and sisters of Bro. Oscar and Walter are: Sis. Louisa Zaugg, Bro. Edward (Sis. Helen), Sis. Elma Mogler (Bro. Ervin), Eva Banwart, Richard (Dorothy), Sis.

Betty Banwart (Bro. Albert), Donald, and Ruby Besch (Bob), all of West Bend and Leah Franck (Ken, Battle Creek, MI). May God be near them as they now have two vacant places in the family circle.

All of these families appreciate the prayers, love, and support of others during the time of their loss. Especially the prayers of ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski) and Wes Moser (Lester). We thank God for bringing these brothers to our congregation and speaking the Word of God to us.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Frank and Kathy Sauder

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15). The Shioda congregation's thoughts and prayers are with Elder Bro. Akito Inoue's family who is presently in America to attend the funeral of Sis. Marie's father, Bro. Pierre Neihouser (Francesville, IN). We are thankful God opened the way for the whole family to go to the States for the funeral service of their father and grandfather. We are also thankful that Sis. Marie was able to spend a week with her father just before he passed away.

On Father's Day, a group from the Shioda church went to the local hospital to present a small gift and card to each of the male patients.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held at a local park. Despite the fact that rainy season had started, we were blessed with good weather. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Bro. Shannon Stahl (Chicago/Champaign, IL) had been working in Osaka during the summer. We enjoyed the Christian fellowship we were able to have and appreciated his gift of making a special effort to get to know each person at church. We wish him God's blessings as he leaves Japan and moves to Altadena, CA, to begin his graduate study.

JAPAN, TOKYO**Andrew and Jana Klaus**

Our prayers are with the Inoue family at the passing away of Sis. Marie's father, Bro. Pierre Neihauer (Francesville, IN). The whole family travelled to the States for a short while.

"What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." My sister, Hope (John and Betty Klaus), was joined as one with Takehide Itoh July 17. May God be with them as they set up their home in Chiba, east of Tokyo.

We were blessed again this month with many visitors. Sis. Vicki Ramseyer and Sis. Maybelle Wackerle visited from Bay City, MI. The following Sunday Bro. Merle Rocke (Eureka, IL) was able to worship with us. Bro. Shannon Stahl spent his last few weeks here in the Tokyo area and we bid him farewell and God's blessings as he returns to college in the Los Angeles area. My sisters, Sis. Faith, Sis. Melody and Sis. Grace Klaus (Washington, IL) were also able to be here with us as they returned to Japan for a few weeks.

KANSAS, BERN**Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb**

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following visiting ministers for bringing us the Word of God this past month: Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont).

Due to accident or illness, hospital patients this month have been Arlene Bauman, Bro. Victor Menold, and Bro. Ed Lehman. May God comfort, encourage and heal each one according to His will.

"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalm 127:3

Bro. James and Sis. Kristin Meyer are the happy parents of their first child, Travis James. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer and Dave and Virginia Mars.

Sis. Lena (Furrer) Strahm was born in Cissna Park, IL, June 30, 1892 - 100 years ago. She was the oldest of 10 children (six brothers and three sisters). She is the only one still living.

The family moved to Indiana in 1900 where they lived on a farm east of Wolcott. She was converted before going to Sabetha, Kansas, with relatives as a young girl of 18.

Lena was married to Matthias Strahm IV on December 25, 1918, and they lived on the family farm near Bern, Kansas, until 1929. They had two children, Ungela who passed away in 1982 and Matthias John V who lives in Crystal Lake, IL. She has three step-children and seven great-grandchildren.

She was a widow at 80 and lived alone in her home of 35 years at Yates Center, Kansas, until 1987. She has been in the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, Kansas, since then. She also lived 9 years in Garden City, KS, and 8 years in Neosho Falls, KS.

She experienced many changes in this world, from horse and buggy to men in space, two world wars, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and other regional wars plus the emergence of Israel as a nation and their wars. The ending dust storms in western Kansas, floods in Neosho Falls, KS, and joyful and sorrowful times only she could express.

She loved to work and was good using her hands, did a lot of sewing, caring for her flower garden, worked at Boeing Aircraft as a riveter during World War II and finished rocking the exterior of the house and garage after her husband passed away. She was still driving her car at 94.

She has been confined to a wheelchair since she broke her second hip in December of 1991. On July 4 her birthday was celebrated at the Apostolic Christian Center in Sabetha, KS. She still loves to sing the hymn "The Holy Land" in German. Many relatives and friends were there from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.

She wishes to express thanks to all who sent cards, photos, special remembrances and to those who were able to come and celebrate her 100th birthday with her.

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

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn**

Our thoughts and prayers were with Sis. Aleta Banwart (Bro. Don) when she had to spend a night in the hospital due to back problems. We are thankful the Lord has been with her and granted her a safe recovery.

We were fortunate to have several visitors with us this month. We especially appreciate the brothers who served us through the ministry. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). We trust God will bless them for their efforts.

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

Oh, let me bless in some kind way
Each person I will meet today,
For any life that enters mine
May love and grace be there to find.

For just a quick and twinkling smile
Will lift the heart a little while,
A thoughtful act, a warm embrace
Can brighten up the saddest place.

Sweet words of love can bring
relief
To any heart consumed in grief,
An outstretched hand's a blessed
sight
A star of hope in darkest night.

Sometimes a word, sometimes a
deed
Is asked to help a man in need,
For if the cost be great or small,
That other life is worth it all!

Kate Watkins Furman

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own cares and worries, that we forget just what we were placed here for. As witnesses for God, should we complain about our

lot, or accept our situation and use each day to praise the Lord and let His Light shine through us. None of us are perfect, and it's not always easy to smile, but if we would each try a little harder and pray a little more, who knows what wonderful things God would do in our lives.

It hardly seems possible, but school will be starting again soon, and as our precious children walk out that door of home into all kinds of pressures and new ideas, may we parents fall to our knees in prayer for their welfare and their protection from the things that would lead them astray. Satan can try, but prayer can keep them in the hollow of God's hand.

How grateful we are for the privilege we have to worship freely. To join the services at church or the rest home, as we did this past Sunday, or to gather openly for Bible study, singing, or anything we choose to do in the Lord. Praise be to God for our wonderful country and the freedoms we so enjoy!

Psalm 27:3 – Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

We are thankful for visiting ministers who have come and shared the Word with us. Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and his family spent a weekend with us and Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) were with us the last weekend in June. Their messages furnished much food for thought and we pray that we will not only be hearers, but also doers of the Word.

Wayne and Dawn Anliker and their children, Tyler and Danielle, have recently moved to the Kansas City area. We really miss them in our small congregation and look forward to their visits. Wayne is pursuing his career in Medical School.

August is collection month for the Lamont Silver Lining dues.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Sharon Strahm

"Greetings be to you; our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord,
Here from far and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord . . ."

Hymns of Zion #7

It was our pleasure to host a number of "snowbirds" June 20-21. We were also thankful for the presence of visiting ministers, Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS).

Another Sunday we were privileged to hear Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Alpha Strahm, Jr. (Bern, KS). May God bless all of the ministers for being lent in His service.

Our sympathy to Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Bro. Elmer) in the loss of her brother, James Banwart (West Bend, IA). We know the loss of a loved one always means a separation and may God help fill the void.

At this time of the year the wheat has not all been combined due to the abundant rains. May we be as the wheat ready for harvest.

"As the sultry days of summer
Swiftly ripen earthly grain,
So in days of dire affliction
Shall our faith its growth attain.
And beneath this hear and burden
Shall the Christian be prepared
For his happy home in heaven,
Where God's bliss and joy is shared.

Zion's Harp #36

A baby is a gift from God. We rejoice with Bro. Bradley and Sis. Teresa Edelman in the birth of their son, Will Bradley, July 3. His sisters, Emily, Elizabeth and Christina, welcome him home. Grandparents are Clifford and Sis. Barbara Edelman.

Bro. Nathan Grimm (Sis. Lois) has been a hospital patient. Bro. Joseph Menold (Sis. Tillie) has been confined to his home. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

At this time of year our thoughts go to the upcoming elder conference in Tremont, IL. It is a blessing

to know brethren meet from across the country in one accord and make decisions for our benefit. We truly are a most fortunate people. May we remember to pray for them and show our support.

Special thanks to each and everyone of you that offered prayers on our behalf, wrote letters of encouragement and gave assistance during Adrian's illness and death. A special thanks to the Phoenix, AZ, church for their support and able assistance in returning Adrian from Phoenix to Sabetha. May God bless you all as only He can.

Dorothy Kellenberger

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Bro. Charlie and Sis. Gail Grimm became grandparents again July 6 when Ashton Allen Grimm was born. His parents, Greg and Jackie, and two brothers, Creed and Tanner, live near Oakville, IA. Ashton's entry into the world was premature. We praise the Lord for the medical technology to nurture his development.

Grant Tyler was born July 15 to Ruth and Jonathan Long. He joins Matthew, Candace, and Stephani in the family circle. Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers are the maternal grandparents.

Ann Bruss, who has been worshipping with us, submitted to surgery and is faced with a rather lengthy convalescence. May God strengthen her faith, her health, and her circumstances.

Bro. Howard Plattner ministered to us July 19. He had returned to Wichita to accompany his family back to the Alto, MI, area. Bro. Glen Funk expressed the following lines to summarize our confidence in the Lord's will for the Plattners:

Peace, perfect peace
With loved ones so far away?
Yes, perfect peace
In Jesus helping both us and they.

I wish I could thank each of you personally. I have been overwhelmed by the number of you that have remembered me with cards

and letters, phone calls, flowers, visits, plants, and above all, for your prayers to the Great Physician for my healing. Thank you and God bless each of you and keep you in His care.

Andy Lehmann

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

We here at Alto are truly blessed by the many brothers, sisters and friends who give of their time one busy week out of the summer to do Vacation Bible School. It takes so much time and planning to do this. The kids just love the puppet shows, crafts and learning stories of God. They set a goal each time to raise money for some special project such as the Ronald McDonald House or this time it was for kidney dialysis time on the machine.

We also got to spend time with visiting ministers who came that week, Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and father and son, Elder Bro. Ed and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) came to share special words with us. Seems we all get rewards and joys to share.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Emily Rechsteiner

Many are looking forward to traveling far for July vacations. May God watch over them. Michigan has many beautiful places and scenery. We invite you to come to see and also visit us here in Bay City.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette Munsel and big sister, Caressa, welcome baby, Erin Janee, with open arms. Such a happy moment for Caressa to have a baby sister. The happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Shirley Wright and Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores Munsel.

We had Vacation Bible School from June 22 to June 26. The theme was "For Me? For Me!" Monday evening Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) spoke on the topic "Power of Purpose." Tuesday evening Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) spoke on the topic "Why Me Lord?" On Wednesday evening Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) spoke on the topic "Hell." Thursday evening

Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) spoke on the topic "Heaven" and on Friday evening Bro. Doyle Frauhiger spoke on the topic "Decision Time." It was a week of many serious topics and thoughts. May our decision be to life for the Lord. We also thank all the ministers who took their time to come and speak. May God bless all. Also may God bless all who put much effort into Vacation Bible School week, especially Bro. Jim Ramseyer who puts it all together.

Rhonda Knochel (Bob) and Edwin Wieland rejoice as they have peace and are looking forward to giving their testimony and be baptized. We also rejoice with them.

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."

I John 5:5

Sis. Minnie Freidinger had surgery and is doing very well and is able to attend church again. Bro. Sam Wackerle (Sis. Lorraine) had knee surgery and with good care he should be able to walk much better.

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

Jeremiah 30:17

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) spent a Sunday afternoon with us. We are hoping he will have more conventions to attend in Michigan and will stop in to visit us. May God bless him.

Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) finally fulfilled his promise to come and visit us. We had a blessed Sunday. May God richly bless him.

July 11 and 12 we had Michigan Youth Day. It was well represented with youth from Alto, Detroit, Toledo and Latty churches. We really enjoyed seeing so many attend. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was here for the occasion. In the afternoon he spoke to the young people in Sunday school. Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) also was with us while vacationing in Michigan. We had a very blessed and joyful weekend. We also appreciate everyone who comes to visit us. We

also thank our Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Rod Wieland, for all his time and effort in getting it all organized.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

In June we had our annual voting for Sunday school teachers, trustee and Woodhaven. Those faithful brothers and sisters who were voted in for office are: Bro. Bob Feller (Sis. Marcia) and Sis. Manuela Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sancha) for Sunday school, Bro. John Gleichman (Sis. Marty) was re-elected for trustee and Bro. Dan Knochel (Sis. Ruth) will continue to serve on the Woodhaven governing board. May God bless these willing stewards for their labors of love for Him.

There were two new additions to our congregation this past month. Angela Kay was born June 29 to Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser. Alexis, Brady and Brice are also very proud of their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Sis. Doris Gasser (Rittman, OH). Little Jonathon Doyle was born June 26. Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnn Gudeman, along with big brother, Jacob, are happy to welcome Jonathon into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Ruth Gudeman (Detroit). May God grant these two dear families Godly wisdom in raising their children in the Lord and may they build many fond memories.

Visiting ministers, who so willingly came to Detroit to share God's Word, were Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), who came for the monthly Tuesday evening worship at Woodhaven. On September 1, Alto is scheduled to host the Tuesday evening service at 7:00. Anyone is welcome to attend.

God's presence and nearness was with Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) and the family during the recent hospitalization of Bro. Hartzell. We are glad he is home and recuperating steadily every

day. Also hospitalization is our dear Sis. Maria Sabados. We just pray that God will be with her and her family as she is currently in the hospital very ill.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Von and Sis. Janel Ringger in the passing away of Janel's great-grandmother, Sis. Hattie Schrock (Oakville, IA). She will be greatly missed by her loving family, but we know at God's bidding we each one will be called home to meet Him. It is important we are ready, for we know not when God's timing will be.

On July 19, several from our congregation traveled to Kitchener to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Barbara Fortenbacher (Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. Arlyn Zollinger (Sis. Elverna, Rittman, OH). It is such a blessing to know that God was present and lives in the hearts of these two dear souls. May God richly bless this union of hearts and may they have peace and contentment in their lives together.

Monthly services in our Kitchener, Ontario, area will resume in September. If you will be in the area and wish to gather with the congregation, please contact Bro. Wladimir Fortenbacher, (519) 699-4133, for more information.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

The Sunday school children ended the term with a picnic at the park. They will begin again in September after Labor Day.

Those assuming new positions in September are Bro. Doug Messner, trustee; Bro. Ken Schmidt, usher; Bro. Harold Fritz, substitute usher; Bro. Perry Virkler, Handicapped Home correspondent; Bro. Ted Schmidt, Sunday school teacher. We thank those brethren whose term expired for all their labors of love.

We have enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors who took time to worship with us, we truly feel that common bond of faith. The brothers that shared God's Word with us were Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Art Nohl (Morris) and

Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris), Dewayne Dill (Champaign, IL) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We thank each one and wish them God's blessing.

God has blessed the home of Myron and Marlene Moser with a precious little girl. Hayley was born May 30. Her grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Pearl Moser (Morris).

August is Silver Lining collection month for our Minneapolis congregation.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Maxine Sauder

We were reminded today by Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), that we each have our own set of adversities and struggles in life. And, yes, God will deliver us, but God's timetable may be different from ours. We may be required to "pitch our tent" and prepare for the long haul. We are thankful for the other visiting ministers this past month who include Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN).

For some, adversity in life may take on a physical form of ailment. Bro. Orville Nohl and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger recently were hospitalized. I Peter 3:8 instructs us to "have compassion one of another." The word compassion comes from a root word meaning "to suffer together with another." We are aware that there are others in our fellowship who deal with pain on a daily basis. Our prayers are with them.

Within our state, there were those who suffered adversity from the power of a tornado - several groups, which included some from the Jr. and Sr. Bible classes, travelled to help with the clean up. Taking our eyes off of ourselves and really seeing the adversity others are confronted with, often helps us to have a thankful heart.

We congratulate Bro. Edwin and Sis. Doris Koehl in reaching the 60 year milestone in their life together. Surely God has been with them through the valleys, as well as on the mountain tops.

Believing God has directed their paths to be joined, Bro. Jim Domnick and Sis. Penny Knoblock's engagement has been announced. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick, and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knoblock.

August 9 is the date chosen in which they will commit their lives to each other, in the service of the Lord.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Nancy Messner - Kim Messner

Two dear friends were united in marriage June 20, Kendal Messner (Bro. Marilyn Messner and Sis. Lois Messner) to Lori Nelson (Myron and Mary Nelson). May they look to God as they establish an earthly house. But much more "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put us under." Mark 10:9. We wish them God's blessings.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. David Schmidgall in the loss of his grandmother, Sis. Anna Schmidgall (Elgin, IL).

To hold your baby soft in sleep, and know serenity -
This is as close to heaven as mortals can ever be.

Mary Hughs

We rejoice with Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner as they became grandparents of a special newborn baby girl, Mayone Lee, adopted by Sis. Dixie Messner (Burlington, IA). We wish her God's blessings as she takes on the duties of motherhood. May ever parent seek to raise their children "... in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". (Ephesians 6:4)

Ministering Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and his wife shared a Sunday with us. May our heavenly Father be their rewarder for sharing words of wisdom with us. This is the season of so many earthly family reunions - but how much more precious when the Lord holds His great reunion. What a rejoicing time it will be to meet our Father and loved ones who have been called home.

With the start of another school year, we want to remember our dear children in prayer.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martin Hohulin
Janel Kellenberger

GOD KNOWS BEST

Our Father knows what's best for us,
 So why should we complain –
 We always want the sunshine
 But He knows there must be rain –
 We love the sound of laughter
 And the merriment of cheer,
 But our hearts would lose their
 tenderness
 If we would shed a tear . . .
 Our Father tests us often
 With suffering and with sorrow,
 He tests us, not to punish us,
 But to help us meet tomorrow . . .
 For growing trees are strengthened
 When they withstand the storm,
 And the sharp cut of the chisel
 Gives the marble grace and
 form . . .
 God never hurts us needlessly,
 And He never wastes our pain,
 For every loss He sends to us
 Is followed by rich gain . . .
 And when we count the blessings
 That God has so freely sent,
 We will find no cause for
 murmuring,
 And no time to lament . . .
 For our Father loves His children,
 And to Him all things are plain,
 So He never sends us pleasure
 When the soul's deep need is
 pain . . .
 So whenever we are troubled,
 And when everything goes wrong,
 It is just God working in us
 To make our spirit strong.

Helen Steiner Rice

We are saddened by the moving away of Sis. Jill Luthi. She has returned to her home in Lamont, KS. We are a small church and miss all that move away. May God be with her as she returns to her home community.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We thank them and their families.

Summertime once again brings many visitors. When our sanctu-

ary is full and the singing fills the room, we thank God for each one who has come to worship with us.

The message one Sunday contained the following thoughts:

When we are converted, we have hope of salvation.

When we know we are sinners and know about repentance, there is hope for us to be converted.

But when we don't know our failings, where is the hope?

In our daily Christian walk, that hope should shine brightly as a witness of God's love and work. Our witness will show evidence of God's law and give courage to others to seek salvation.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

We have been blessed with visiting ministers this month to encourage, chastise and instruct us; bringing us new light into our lives. On July 5, the Rassi family was at Taylor for their reunion bringing Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). Others that day were Bro. Bruce Lehman (Roanoke, IL), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Curt Heimer (Alto, MI). Bro. Marvin Stieglitz ministered to us July 12, when a group that built a school in Ecuador reminisced together in a reunion. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) served us July 19, when the Dave Massner family gathered for their reunion.

Taylor also enjoys a series of Wednesday night Bible studies on different topics during the month of July. Those participating this year were Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) on the Power of Prayer; Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) on Appreciation of Church; Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) on Hope; and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) on Patience. We all look forward to these inspirational and rejuvenating messages. May God bless each one who has taken the time to be used in His ministry.

Many here were saddened by the loss to the Schrock family of

their mother, Sis. Hattie Schrock (Oakville, IA); but also rejoiced that she has finally reached her reward and rest from this life. Elder Bro. Noah Schrock served our congregation for many years and is kindly remembered.

Sis. Emma Hoerr (Bro. Robert) had knee surgery this month and is recuperating nicely.

I saw a card with this little inspirational guideline and though it was worth passing on.

MARKS OF A SPIRITUAL MAN

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

Desires to advance cause of Christ even at personal loss.

Is willing to decrease so others can increase.

Would rather be useful than famous.

Desires to be holy rather than happy.

Makes eternal judgments rather than time judgments.

Desires to die right rather than live wrong.

Author Unknown

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

Union City church records indicate that brethren bought cemetery lots in Brooklyn, NY in 1854, only seven years after the first Apostolic Christian Church was established in upper New York State and there has been continuous activity in the New York City area ever since. At one time, there were as many as fifteen families living in the Brooklyn area. During the late 1800's the church became centered in West Hoboken, NJ, just across the Hudson River from New York City. The first building that was erected in the area is the one we are in today. This church was built in 1892 in what was then

called West Hoboken and later became known as Union City. During the early 1900's, this church thrived and had in excess of two hundred members. In 1917 alone, twenty-one souls were baptized here. During the past 30 years there was a steady decline in numbers as older brethren passed on to their reward. However, during this time eight souls sought their salvation in this church and two were baptized here. The Union City Church was a haven of rest and refreshment for many service men during both World Wars and the Vietnam conflict. In 1985, it became necessary to provide ministers from other churches on a roster program. In 1989 the number of services were reduced to two per month and in 1991 to one each month. It soon became evident that it was no longer practical to try to support the building and during the elder conference held in Leo, IN, in February, 1992, it was recommended that the building be put up for sale. This was done in May of this year and the building was sold to the First Hispanic Baptist Church.

Sunday, July 12, was the last service at the Union City Church. Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman told us much about the history of the Union City Church. Bro. Ed told us how the building does not make a church but it is the body of believers in Christ. How lucky we are to still have believers in this area. It was a sad day to know this building will no longer be used by our people. It was a joy to have many who previously worshipped here to be with us. We thank them for their support. We also thank Bro. John Diggelman who worshipped and ministered here many years and Sis. Anna Tschudin who worshipped here for over 70 years for being here.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Lord willing, we will continue services in a rented location for the members and friends that remain in this area. Please contact Elder

Bro. Edward Aeschleman for further information at (301) 478-7846.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBERG

Alice Virkler

Our Sunday school children, parents, teachers and others gathered at the park at Whittaker Falls Monday evening, June 29, for our annual wiener roast. This event is enjoyed by our children after their last week of school for the past year. The evening was warm and beautiful as we could be together and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We were happy to have Sis. Celia Virkler (Bro. Lowell) back with us in church and Sunday school following several weeks of absence as she suffered much pain. Sis. Lucille Beyer (Bro. Robert) has not been able to assemble with us on Sundays. Also, Bro. Bernard Martin has been hospitalized for over two weeks and we are glad to report that he returned home today. May God continue to strengthen each of them so they can be out again soon. Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Sis. Linda) expects to return to work soon, following several months suffering with a back problem. Our prayers remain that he will continue to show improvement. We miss Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta Graves, Sr., in our midst and are happy when they can also be with us from time to time. We also think often of the many loved ones who are confined to their homes or adult homes and nursing homes and can no longer go in and out. May God be their strength and comfort in their weakness and infirmities.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Paul is known as the Great Missionary that traveled extensively and wrote many of the epistles. He was born in the Greek area, but his parents were Hebrews, and not wanting the Greek influence on him, they had him brought up at the feet of Gamelliel. After Paul's conversion, he traveled to many of the churches, and he traveled back to the Greek cities as he knew the Greek culture and could deal with

the Jews in that culture. Galatia was one of the churches in the Greek culture. History in the Holy Land is that Galatia means that it would not have a slave; but slavery or bondage was creeping into the Galatians following the legalizing, Judaizing teachers from Judea, so Paul wrote an epistle to the Galatians, saying "ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand." (Galatians 6:11). The Greek word *gramma* translated 'letter' in this passage is translated 'Scriptures' in II Timothy 3:15. In the Greek dictionary it means "letter, note, epistle, book, etc." Holy Land history states that all writing was in uncial or like capital letters about an inch high. Paul had written larger epistles, but had dictated them to others, like Romans to the Scribe Tertius. (Romans 16:22), so this was a large epistle to do with his own hand. We're thankful for Paul's epistles, as they tell us that we, like the Galatians, can be set free from slavery or bondage.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto will be having a silver anniversary August 27. Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell (daughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler) were married in 1967. They were blest with three children: Bro. Bryon, Bro. Michael and Sis. Victoria. May the Lord continue to bless them and their family.

Sis. Bonnie Bako was bruised and hospitalized in an accident when another car turned in front of them. Her mother, Kathryn Nagy, who was with her, was also hospitalized.

Sis. Louise Spangler was an outpatient to care for her knee, having been previously injured in an accident. We pray for their speedy recovery.

We appreciated visiting ministers Bro. Earl Gerber, Bro. Gary Maibach, Bro. Merle Hartzler and Bro. Ken Indermuhle.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which

is given for you; this do in remembrance of me."

"Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

We were reminded of the great redemptive act Christ performed at Calvary as Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Henry Dotterer (Smithville, OH) served us holy communion.

We wish to thank our other visiting ministers and their families for being with us this past month also. Bros. Dewayne Dill (Champaign, IL), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) brought forth inspiring sermons. May we each be encouraged to have a closer walk with our Lord.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord . . ." Hymns of Zion #135. Our youth anticipate travelling to Mansfield for Youth Day this weekend. Along with good food and good fellowship, we trust that they will also receive good teachings about the seriousness of life and the love of God for the youth. Many thanks to the Mansfield congregation, Sunday school teachers, and all others involved in the planning of this weekend for our future church.

We appreciate the meditations brought forth this month by visiting ministers, Bros. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

Our thoughts and prayers are with the brethren who were hospitalized during the past month. They include Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Ruth), Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy), Pauline Riegenbach, and Aldean Price (Bob).

We want to extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Sis. Emma Klopfenstein as she passes on to her eternal rest. May God comfort her sons, Bros. Alvin,

Raymond, and Marvin; and her daughter, Aldean, and their families.

May God also comfort Sis. Melvene Stoller (Bro. Russell), Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Arvilla Kipfer (Bro. Henry) in the loss of their mother and sister, Sis. Ida Gerber.

We pray that the Lord's comforting hand will be felt by Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and family in the passing away of Sis. Renee's father, Bro. Pierre Neihouser.

May the Lord grant a healing peace to each of these family circles in the loss of their loved ones.

On June 14, Wendy Baumle (Pat), Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn) and Shelli Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) were baptized into the fold. May our new sisters and brother-in-faith remember and cherish the life-long covenant which has been made between them and their God.

The Lord will surely bless the following brothers and their families for ministering the Word during the past month. They are Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Earl Beery (Rittman), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard were blessed with a new little girl, Leah Ann. She was welcomed home by brother, Jonathan. Her grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjos and Phil and Jerry Nygaard.

The week of June 15 through 19 we held our Vacation Bible School. Many children learned about Bible stories, sang songs, and recited memory verses. May they never forget the precious teachings of their youth, but keep them close to their hearts. Many thanks to all who helped in any way during the week.

Abbey Marie was born to Jim and Sis. Jane Linder July 17. She was welcomed home by brother, Riley. Her grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Jim and Pat Linder.

Our friend, Tim Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee), has re-

ceived peace with God and all men. We pray that this peace will always be evident in his life. May God ever bless him further on.

God has revealed unto us that Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia) should help in ministering the Word on our pulpit. We pray God's presence will be ever near Bro. John and his family. May he ever strive to preach the Word in truth and clearness, so that the brethren will be edified and the friends will be called.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (I Peter 5:10) Hospitalized and in need of our prayerful support as they recover are: Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue), surgery; Bro. Ora Sauder, surgery; Sis. Ruth Weiss; Sis. Joyce Boliantz (Bro. Don), surgery; Sis. Elda Riegenbach (Bro. Alvin) and Bud Sauder.

The Sunday school picnic was held July 12, at the home of Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty Dotterer and family. The day started out overcast and rainy but the Lord provided sunny weather in time for the picnic. The blessings of fellowship and hospitality were enjoyed by all that attended.

Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, on his first visit to Mansfield a number of years ago, told about coming into the church and feeling a little nervous because he knew very few in Mansfield and how he was welcomed with a warm handshake and a pat on the back. How much the friendly greeting meant to him! The greeting was given by Mansfield's oldest child, Bob Oesch, age 61. Bob, who is retarded, can teach us all a great deal about being (child-like). Since the death of his parents, Bob makes his home with his sister, Martha Oesch. Bob is faithful in his church attendance both on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday. Once when he was left at home on Wednesday, he started walking and the neighbor picked him up and brought him to church follow-

ing Bob's directions on how to get to church, Martha was surprised Bob could give directions to church. Do we have the same desire to attend church that we would start out walking if there was no other way to get there? Bob has been in more Christmas and Easter programs than anyone else in Mansfield; a special thank you to his Sunday school teacher, Sis. Sarah Rice, who always helps Bob to have a part. For many years Bob made woven hot pads; there probably isn't a family in the Mansfield congregation that doesn't have one or two. We use them in our kitchen at the church too. Bob's mother taught him to make them but with age Bob has lost interest. Thank you Bob for be such a good example for all of us. We love you!

OHIO, RITTMAN
Lois Maibach
Charlene Winkler

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

I John 4:15

Four souls have turned their backs on the world and have decided to serve the Lord. Natalie Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Tricia Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl), Chris Nussbaum (Brian) and Jim Carmany felt they needed Christ in their life.

We are always saddened when ones have to endure pain and affliction of the body. Sis. Martha Dotterer (Elder Bro. Henry) and John Marty have recently been in the hospital. Sis. Sandy Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda) seems to be doing well after her kidney transplant. We are thankful when each one can feel God's healing hand upon them.

On June 30, Sis. Lydia Hassig was called to her heavenly home. It was a blessing for her as she had lived to be 103 years old. She had been a resident at our nursing home for many years. Her husband, John, died in 1973. She leaves eight children and several grandchildren.

We offer our condolences to Bro. Ben and Sis. Dorothy Stavenik and

Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope Gasser in the passing of their son and brother, Duane Stavenik. May they be comforted by our prayers.

Chris Gasser and Angela Koontz have made known their engagement and upcoming wedding on October 17. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bert and Sis. Lucy Gasser and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Koontz.

July 18 was the wedding day of Dan Fugate and Amy Young. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fugate and Rex and Carol Young.

Bro. Arlyn Zollinger (Sis. Elverna) and Sis. Barbara Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret) exchanged their wedding vows July 19 in Kitchener, Ontario. We want to welcome Sis. Barbara to our Rittman congregation.

May each couple feel the Lord's nearness and blessing as they begin their lives together.

We welcomed Sis. Gail Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Cherie Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) into God's family July 5. Elder Bros. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted carrying out this work with our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer.

Also, ministering brethren here for the weekend were Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

It was a blessing to have so many visitors at the annual New Martinsville, WV, memorial service. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). We appreciate their efforts and praise God for allowing them to come and bring forth His Word. A special thank you also to "Farmer Ben" for spending Sunday evening with us. Minnie Weltz, who died May 31 at the age of 93, was especially in our thoughts at this year's annual service. Her parents, John Edward and Emma Riegenbach Barth, were members of the New Martinsville Church. Minnie wrote the Silver Lining letter for the New Martinsville church

for many years after the church stopped having regular services. She, along with her sisters, Lillie Wade and Elda Ritz, who still live in New Martinsville, always so willingly helped in the preparations for the weekend. We at Sardis have fond memories of visiting Minnie and watching her care for her lifelong invalid daughter who died a few years ago at the age of 59.

We gathered together July 11 for the partaking of holy communion. It was good to read St. Luke, chapter 22 and then take part in God's commandments found therein. Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were with us to assist Bro. Ken Indermuhle. We thank them and their wives for being with us for this special service and on Sunday.

We were overjoyed to hear that Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) is seeking the Lord in repentance. As our young people turn to the Lord, we praise God for answering our prayers and the prayers of those who have gone before.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

We rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Duane Beery and Bro. Carlton Schlatter, the weekend of July 11 and 12. We pray that they will stay true and faithful to God for the remainder of their lives. With us for the occasion were visiting Elders Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and ministering Bros. John Grimm (Columbus) and Sam Schlatter (Junction).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Don Manz (Junction) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:55, 57

Sis. Rhoda Riegenbach was at

last able to claim the blessed rest after serving the Lord for 74 years. Her funeral was July 16. Surviving are her stepchildren, Dana and Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Bro. Don); six grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one brother, Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Sis. Pauline, Rittman). She was born to Bro. Noah and Sis. Lydia (Steiner) Hartzler August 7, 1898 and married Bro. Herman Rigenbach in 1935. Bro. Herman preceded her in death.

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Andrew and Cyndie Figel as they have moved to Sardis.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehlau
Edie Fetter

My word once created the earth
and the heavens
Ye know me by my works and fame.
'Tis I, the Creator, thy God and thy
Father
Today as yesterday the same.
Hymns of Zion #49, vs. 5

We appreciated having Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda, (Sardis) with us on a Thursday evening in June. May God's blessing be with them.

Sis. Frances Laidig would like to thank everyone for the kindness and love shown to her mother, Sis. Emma Klopfenstein, while she lived in Toledo with her. All of the thoughtful deeds were a blessing and brought a lot of happiness. May God richly bless all of you for remembering her.

The Lord has blessed the home of Dr. John and Barb (Stevens) Kihm of Durham, NC. They have a darling baby girl, Julia Beatrice. The grandparents are Bob and Dorothy Stevens (Toledo).

The Toledo Sunday school had the pleasure of being guests of the Bay City, MI, Sunday school. They enjoyed the fellowship with all who partook of this occasion. Thank you, Bay City, for having us!

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"And he prayed again and the

heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

James 5:5

We are experiencing very dry weather here in the Northwest with a ban on watering. It makes us think of our spiritual life that we would not experience the dry parched ground by letting our wells run dry, but let the Living water flow in our lives ever upholding the true Word of God:

Rivers will flow in unending
stream,
Fed from a source by men all
unseen,
Blessing, refreshing dry parched
ground,
Making the wilderness blossom
around.

Rivers of living water shall flow,
Rivers of living water shall flow
From the one who believes and the
Spirit receives,
Rivers of water shall flow . . .
Melodies of Praise.

Showers of blessings we are experiencing, as our loved ones from a distance have and are visiting in our area. (Sis. Marie Butikofer (Taylor, MO), Sis. Ruth Rieman (Burlington, IA), Sis. Ann and Sis. Dorothy Pfister, Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Fred and Sis. Margie Knapp, (Congerville, IL).

Our prayers go out to the shut-ins, as our dear Bro. Ray Banwart is in the nursing home. May he feel God's nearness.

We thank Bro. Ed Knecht and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton) for ministering the precious Word to us.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Peggy Schulz

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ,"

II Corinthians 1:2

We have certainly been enjoying our company this summer! Included in our visitors were ministering Bro. Fred Knapp (Sis.

Marjorie, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie, Portland). We appreciate hearing the Truth from these willing servants of the Lord. Thanks to all who make an effort to visit us!

We have recently done some touch-up painting on and in the church. It is a blessing to work together while improving our building. May God bless each one who helped.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Leman as their dear son, Vonn, has shown such improvement in his health. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose," Romans 8:28. We pray that God will continue to strengthen Vonn.

A note of appreciation:

"Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help."

Psalm 22:11

We would like to remember the blessings that were offered during our little son's illness. God has again restored abundant life.

Thanks to each and every one, here and across the miles, who quietly prayed or showed us support. The efforts and prayers we've felt have lifted us through this time.

God's blessings to all.

Our love,
Mike and Lisa Leman

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

Psalm 55:14

We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman the weekend of June 27 and 28, when we heard the testimony of Matthew Mangold (Michael and Sis. Renee, South Bend, IN) and witnessed his baptism. What a joy it is to welcome Matthew as a brother-in-faith.

We appreciate Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Eu-

gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. C. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) for sharing God's Word with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

Again we felt the presence of God's Holy Spirit as loved ones visited us during our monthly services giving us a special Fourth of July weekend. Those of us from Nashville and visitors from Fort Lauderdale, FL, Rockville, CT, Smithville, OH and Princeville, IL, were fed from God's Holy Word by Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, three children, Mansfield, OH). As we mentioned many times, we can never thank our visitors enough for taking time to visit us. So we ask and pray God to bless you as He, through you, has blessed us. This is a nice area to visit. Please consider Nashville in your vacation plans.

As a reminder, services are normally the first Sunday of the month with the first services starting at 10:00 a.m.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

GOD IS NEAR

It matters not how far I go,
 Or where my feet may stray
 I comfort in the knowing fact
 That God's not far away.

When I awake each morning,
 At home or foreign lands
 My Lord is always present
 With love, I grasp His hand.

He leads me through green
 pastures,
 Along deep waters that are still.
 Through joy and sorrow, He is
 there,
 My life is His to will.

We need not seek a good luck
 charm,
 At home or far off lands,
 If God abides within our hearts,
 We can touch Him where we
 stand.

Albert N. Theel

This poem is a comfort for all of God's children. So many times when we are traveling on the busy highways, we know He is watching over us.

SILVER THREADS

RULES FOR DAILY LIFE

BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD;
 Kneel down to Him in prayer;
 Lift up thy heart to His abode.
 And seek His love to share.

OPEN THE BOOK OF GOD,
 And read a portion there;
 That it may hallow all thy thoughts,
 And sweeten all thy care.

**GO THROUGH THE DAY WITH
 GOD,**
 Whate'er thy work may be;
 Where'er thou art - at home,
 abroad,
 He still is near to thee.

CONVERSE IN MIND WITH GOD,
 Thy spirit heavenward raise:
 Acknowledge every good bestowed,
 And offer grateful praise.

**CONCLUDE THE DAY WITH
 GOD,**
 Thy sins to Him confess;
 Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,
 And plead His righteousness.

**LIE DOWN AT NIGHT WITH
 GOD,**
 Who gives His servants sleep;
 And when thou tread'st the vale of
 death,
 He will thee guard and keep.

**SOME THINGS GOD DOES
 FOR HIS CHILDREN**

Makes Them Rejoice
 "Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off."

Nehemiah 12:43

**Makes Them Full Of Joy
 With His Countenance**

"Thou has made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance."
 Acts 2:28

Makes Them Laugh
 "And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me."
 Genesis 21:6

**Makes Them Joyful
 Even In A Prayer Meeting**
 "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."
 Isaiah 56:7

**Makes Them Lie Down
 In Green Pastures**
 "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters."
 Psalm 23:2

**Makes Them Drink Of The
 River Of His Pleasures**
 "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures."
 Psalm 36:8

**Makes Them Walk
 Upon High Places**
 "The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments."
 Habakkuk 3:19

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."
 Ephesians 1:3

**Makes Even Their Enemies
 To Be At Peace With Them**
 "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."
 Proverbs 16:7

WHAT E'ER THY WILL

Whate'er Thy will,
Lord, keep me still.

Thy way is best;
So let me rest.

Let come what may
To me today,

Sunshine or rain,
Pleasure or pain,

Gladness or grief
Distress; relief,

May I believe
All I receive

Is sent in love
Down from above.

So let me rest;
Thou knowest best.

Whate'er Thy will,
Lord, keep me still.

Author Unknown

JESUS IS ALL
THE WORLD TO ME

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad,
He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
My Friend in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings,
And He gives them o'er and o'er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden
grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
I want no better friend;
I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when
Life's fleeting days shall end.
Beautiful life with such a Friend;
Beautiful life that has no end;
Eternal life, eternal joy,
He's my Friend.

Gospel Hymns #804

THE FIRE SONG

Oh, the judgment day is coming;
What an awful day 'twill be!
Christ forever is my refuge,
"Rock of Ages, cleft for me."

At the sounding of the trumpet,
At the dawning of the day,
Worldly pleasures with their
treasures
Shall forever pass away.

Poor lost sinners will be crying
For that home they'll never see,
But the ransomed will be singing,
"Rock of Ages, cleft for me."

Chorus:

Oh, my loving brother,
When the world's on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom
For to be your pillow:
Hide me over in the Rock of Ages:
"Rock of Ages, cleft for me."

Gospel Hymns #814

TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE

When I was but a little child,
how well I recollect
How I would grieve my mother
with my folly and neglect,
And now that she has gone to
heav'n,
I miss her tender care.
O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be
there.

Chorus:

Tell mother I'll be there,
in answer to her pray'r.
This message, blessed Saviour, to
her bear!
Tell mother I'll be there,
heav'n's joys with her to share;
Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be
there.

Gospel Hymns #801

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)
Revelation 6:7-8. Think about that.
This will be unleashed on the earth.
I am going to back up just a
minute here into the fifth and sixth
verses, where we read about the
horse with a man who had a pair of
balances in his hand. It says, "A

measure of what for a penny." You
couldn't survive on a measure of
what for a penny. It is a whole
day's wages for about a quart of
grain. It is mass, mass inflation
that is going to take place.

There is not a country that I
know of in the world that doesn't
know what inflation is today. Most
are in double digits. This tremen-
dous inflation is going to take place
. . . it must take place to actually
crush the monetary system so that
a new one can be established, one
that we can all relate to. Perhaps
the common market.

Then we can all buy and trade
anywhere in the world. All the dol-
lars will be the same. We will not
have to go through the exchanger
and it won't be the yen against the
dollar and the mark and all these
things, but it will be equal.

Doesn't that sound like a very
peaceful thought? Total quality
throughout the earth. It will hap-
pen. It is going to happen! But it is
going to be very short lived. It is
going to be very short lived! If you
have doubts if it will happen, we
can read in the thirteenth chapter
of Revelation, from the seventh
verse, "And it was given unto him"
talking of satan or the beast, "to
make war with the saints, and to
overcome them."

The outlook is that we had bet-
ter be ready to meet God at any
time, because he is going to be able
to make war with us and overcome
us.

". . . and power was given him
over all kindreds, and tongues, and
nations." Revelation 13:7. He is go-
ing to rule the world. I think we
have heard it for so many years
that it is almost like a story book to
us. He will rule the world! The only
way that can take place is by a
total monetary collapse, which is
already taking place in most of the
European nations. So there is great
inflation.

Now we have Death and Hell
unleashed on the earth. "And power
was given unto them over the
fourth part of the earth, to kill with
sword, and with hunger, and with
death, and with the beasts of the
earth." Revelation 6:8.

Now listen to this one, "And
when he had opened the fifth seal,

I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God . . ." Revelation 6:9. The souls. John saw these souls that were slain for the word of God. They had this concern. "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10. These are martyrs! These are souls that were willing to stand up for Christ in the last days.

When it came right down to "brass tacks", just like it did with Jeremiah when he said, "I am yours! I am in your hands. But that is not going to change what I am saying. This is still the Word of God. This is still the prophecy he wanted me to bring, whatever you want to do with the flesh, I am yours." (See Jeremiah 26:12-14). These souls that John saw went to that point.

Here they are, the souls are under the altar of God . . . this tremendous altar and they were appeased with white robes. It says, "White robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season," just a short while, "until their fellow servants also and their brethren," listen to this part carefully, "that should be killed as they were," and at that time, "should be fulfilled." Revelation 6:11.

Their brethren should be killed as they were! Five of the seven seals are opened and there is still brethren on the earth! It is a very pleasant thought to think that as soon as this destruction and as soon as this seven-year tribulation starts, that God is going to just sweep us all away. I hope He does!

But here it says that five of the seven seals are going to be opened and there are still souls that are going to give their lives for Christ. There are still brethren on the earth! Should that scare us? No reason to be afraid!

He said, "Listen! They are going to deliver you up to the magistrates, the authorities and you are going to have to give an account of yourselves. Don't worry about it." He said, "In the same hour that they take you up, I will give you words just like He gave Jeremiah and they won't be your words, they will be

the words of the Holy Spirit, and they won't even be able to argue with you."

He didn't say that they would spare his life. He just said, "They won't be able to argue with you." Just as Jeremiah sat there and said, "This is what God told me." He was talking to prophets that were supposedly getting messages from God also. They said, "This man is worthy of death for blasphemy." (See Jeremiah 26:11).

It is hard to take a stand against authority. If the authorities would come in and try to take over our church, but what about if the authorities had other congregations with them? These were the religious leaders that are so renown today. They have been on the air waves for years and years and most people look up to them very highly. They said, "These people are blasphemous people." Could you stand in the face of that . . . Satan coming as an angel of light?

It is just all falling into place. It is a time that we need to be preparing. There is a saying for the preparing of the physical body, "No pain. No gain." That is kind of the way it is here. If we are not exercising our spiritual body to its absolute max right now, if it comes down to this point, we won't be able to stand.

I heard some statistics and I hope they are wrong. Several years ago when the Jews were slain in Germany, ten percent were willing to stand up and give their life for their faith . . . ten percent! I don't know if that is true or not. I hope it is not.

I wonder what our percentage would be. Christ spoke about percentages through Matthew . . . a man that dealt with numbers so much. Fifty percent is about the best we can get out of Matthew. Read about the ten virgins, ten converted souls and five made it in. Read about the two in the field, one will be taken and the other left. They were always on the same plane if you read those parables. All those people were on the same plane . . . they were not Christian and agnostic.

So it behooves us to make sure that we are ready to meet God to-

day! Today! We may stand in the face of our Lord . . . today!

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake;" we can read of this earthquake many, many places in the Scripture, "and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men," all men, it says, hid themselves for fear because they saw Christ. Revelation 6:12-15.

The key to those that are living – really the key to all men – because the graves will be opened and when Christ comes, even those who have been dead for hundreds of years will see Him. The key is when we see Christ coming in the clouds are rolled back like a scroll and we see that bright, shining, awesome Lord that we serve, are we going to be so thankful that we can hardly contain ourselves? Or are we going to try to hide ourselves under the mountains, under the rocks, anywhere, just to get away from Christ?

The key is when you see Christ coming, what is going to be your response? If the roof would leave right now and the sky was opened and Christ was right there, would you be ready to go? He said, "Today is the acceptable day of the Lord." "Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation . . ." Psalm 95:8 and Hebrews 3:8. Like the day when the Israelites provoked God to anger, we read part of that.

Set your eyes on the mark of the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Philippians 3:14). Brethren, we must be ready today! Dear friends, we cannot depend on tomorrow. We have never been promised tomorrow. Certainly we are not promised tomorrow at this time.

As we look at the things that are building, and we apply them to the Scriptures, we see that the day must be close at hand. Are you ready to meet your Lord?

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SERMON BY BRO. DOUGLAS SABO OF SARASOTA, FL

Prepare For The Coming Of Christ
Jeremiah 26:1-15 and Revelation 6

Jeremiah was told to go against difficult people, a stiff-necked people. "They are not going to want to listen to you," but he was told to go and to speak to them, "and don't be afraid of what they are going to say about you or do to you. They can't do any more than destroy the flesh. I have sanctified you, I have ordained you to this work."

Each one of us have been ordained to a work. We have a place in God's master plan.

It would be a tragic thing if we would stand before Him someday and that part of His plan is left void. If you would look at a great map of the whole world stretched across and one country was just void, or one city was just void, it wasn't there because there had been no works. When that day comes, the judgment will be so final.

The last verse "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:17. We know that the preceding chapters tell us of the letters to the churches and then who is going to open the seals. Only the Christ was found worthy to open the seals.

As He opened the seals, we read of what He saw. We relate these things to what is happening today . . . what has happened in the past several thousand years. We see that most all of these things are in place. We see that, as we mentioned in the prayer, Jerusalem is compassed with armies.

It says, "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Revelation 6:1-2. This tremendous conquering that is going to take place on this earth, if we had any idea of the technology, and of the physical ability to make craters out of entire nations, we would actually live in fear today, I believe.

This is held from us and I believe for a good purpose. I don't pretend to know what is out there, but I know it is devastating and I know that it is far more than the face of this earth has ever known. As the Scripture says in reading about the time of Jacob's trouble . . . the time of this great destruction, going forth conquering and to conquer.

"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." Revelation 6:3-4. Today, even in the midst of this war, this great war that I believe is going to mushroom, it is in the name of peace that the whole

world has come together against one small well-armed country. In the name of peace, we have come together.

It says that there is going to be a time come, ". . . when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." I Thessalonians 5:3. The reason we are in the Persian Gulf, obviously there are monetary reasons for the oil and so forth, but the reason it comes across the press is for peace to prove to the world that no one can go into someone else's country and just move them out and take over. World peace.

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Revelation 6:5-6. What is the issue today if we go into the Persian Gulf again? It is the oil fields . . . these tremendous oil fields! Why did God place so much oil in such a little bit of land?

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him."

(Continued on Page 34)