



"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

I Corinthians 6:9

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

VOLUME 43

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NUMBER 9

Kingdom of God

*"Thy **kingdom** come. Thy will be done in **earth**, as it is in **heaven**."*

Matthew 6:10

*"For as many as are led by the **Spirit of God**, they are the sons of **God**."*

Romans 8:14

LEAD ME GENTLY HOME, FATHER

Lead me gently home, Father,
Lead me gently home,
When life's toils are ended,
And parting days have come;
Sin no more shall tempt me,
Ne'er from Thee I'll roam,
If Thou'lt only lead me, Father,
Lead me gently home.

Lead me gently home, Father,
Lead me gently home,
In life's darkest hours, Father,
When life's troubles come,
Keep my feet from wand'ring,
Lest from Thee I roam
Lest I fall upon the wayside,
Lead me gently home.

Chorus:

Lead me gently home, Father, Lead me gently,
Lest I fall upon the wayside, Lead me gently home.

Hymns of Zion #133

*"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the **kingdom of our God**, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."*

Revelation 12:10



MISSION — WORLD RELIEF — WORKS PROJECTS

THE DYNAMICS OF FLYING

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I was only about a ten-minute drive from our home, standing in the restaurant of a hotel overlooking the Fuefuki River. I was waiting on my student to come to practice English, and although I usually spend my spare time practicing writing Japanese kanji, on this day I was absorbed in watching a hawk gracefully fly over the river, over to the mountains and back again to the river, all without flapping its wings or making any visible motion.

Later, my student remarked that it is by studying this kind of a bird that man learned to fly. I simply had to admit that God had done a good job of designing the hawk, especially in that it could soar upward while it swings appeared to be motionless.

In the book of Job, God asks Job, "Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?" (Job 29:26) God had Job where He wanted him, in a position of admitting that God knows many things that he didn't know.

As a boy I remember hearing my mother say, "I wish I could fly

like a bird." When she was on her death bed I told her words to the effect, "When you die you will fly up, up, up, to be with God." The Psalmist also had this thought when he wrote, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and be at rest." (Psalms 55:6) The Apostle Paul wrote, "Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ." (Philippians 1:23)

For a spiritual application of how to fly, I am more intrigued by the hawk than by the dove. All the hawk does is adjust the angle of its wings to allow God's air currents to carry it up or down or sideways. We also need to have self-control and allow God's air currents, His grace, to carry us to new heights of peace, love, joy and faith.

One thing is certain about the Lord Jesus Christ after His resurrection is that He could fly. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9) Let's learn to fly by letting God take control of our lives.

HURRICAN ANDREW PROJECT

It has been a year since the devastating hurricane hit South Florida and there is still much work to be done.

Since our first request for volunteers, we have had 275 respond to the need. We want to encourage more people to come and help for a week or longer, during the fall and winter.

We have the facilities to house and feed the work teams. Those that have volunteered expressed that it was a rewarding experience, with good Christian fellowship.

For further information, please contact Bro. Roger Sauder, (305) 584-0947 or Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (305) 472-1738.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

We Have A Need!

Gateway Woods has a need which only two committed couples from our entire national church family will meet. A need to serve troubled young people who haven't had the stability of a good family life or a Christian home. The positions involved are the Alternate Houseparent openings. The duties include substitute houseparenting for the regular houseparents, along with maintenance and other tasks. The most important ability to possess in order to do this work is an availability to go where the Lord would lead in order to further His kingdom. It would also be beneficial to have experience with young people and a sincere desire to help them grow.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below to learn more about the details of this opportunity.

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

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11520 Souder Road
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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).

SATAN'S ATTACKS ON THE CHURCH

From Genesis through Revelation, the Bible warns God's people that Satan's primary goal is to deceive mankind. From the first recorded admonition—"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field" (Gen. 3:1), to the final scriptural warning-

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations" (Rev. 20:7-8), Satan has relied upon deceit, complacency and confusion to accomplish his evil work.

His goal is to cause confusion, mistrust, doubt, fear, frustration, discouragement, pride, disobedience, and any other behavior that can cause mankind to fall into disfavor with God.

The attacks of Satan upon the church are all designed to deceive mankind into losing the opportunity for salvation. Our beloved church, and all other God fearing, Bible believing churches, can expect to be subjected to his wrath. That Satan would continue to attack the church should come as no surprise to the children of God. If he had the boldness to attack Christ, the church can hardly expect to escape his temptations.

Satan tempted Christ in a variety of ways. He raised doubts about Christ's relationship with God and attacked Him at a time of weakness of the body: "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matt. 4:3). Satan tried to entice Him with riches and power by showing "(Christ) all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them" (Matt. 4:8). He even challenged God's promises to His people, "lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matt. 4:6). He desperately tried to destroy the perfect plan of salvation before it was fulfilled in Christ's life.

Much of Satan's deceitful work results in confusion among God's people. We are warned by the prophet Isaiah that there

would be a time of great confusion such that men would hardly know good from evil. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20).

Such a warning is a powerful description, and condemnation, of the time in which we are now living. Entertainment is based upon the most immoral and unethical kinds of behavior, and uncontrolled sin in the life of an individual is defended as merely an alternate life style; thus, the distinction between sin and righteousness is blurred and moral standards are seriously eroded. Such conduct has eased its way into many mainline denominations. The church must guard against these evils that Satan would bring into our faith, thereby destroying our relationship with God.

So common is the acceptance of an individual's "right" to do as he pleases that many are not ashamed of even the most abhorrent behavior, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15, 8:12).

So successful has Satan been in his evil work that those who hold, or aspire to hold, high office advocate the legalization, or at least the social acceptance, of evil. Those who hold to traditional values and biblically-based morality and dare to speak boldly against such evil are subjected to relentless ridicule. But we are forewarned by the Scriptures that, "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). The church needs to stand firm to protect and defend from such influence those who hold the highest of all offices—the children of God.

Satan's attacks come in all manner of

extremes. He may come boldly "...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8), or well disguised, "...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). Whether he comes boldly or deceitfully, the result is the same for those who are overcome. The faith of individuals can be destroyed and the influence of the church weakened.

If Satan is victorious, peace and contentment will be replaced with discord and complacency. One of the things the Lord hates is "he that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:19). The church must continually guard against internal strife, a weapon Satan uses to drive God's people apart. If, by the grace of God we are able to overcome the temptations of the world and our works are honorable, then Satan tries to fill us with pride and make us judges of others, losing our child-like love and forbearance (Eph. 4:1-3).

The Laodicean church (because of their complacency and self-satisfaction) was warned that God would spue them out of his mouth, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). We live in a time when the material blessings have been so great that we could so easily be blinded by them and feel that we are in need of nothing.

Although Satan uses a variety of very effective techniques and almost unrelenting pressure against the church, we must not despair. The very weapons of defense that Christ used when he was attacked by Satan are all still available to us today. When sorely pressed upon by temptations, we know we can be protected "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Satan will not win his battle if the church stands solidly on the truth of the Word of God, is diligent in prayer and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

HAITI & JAMAICA WORK TEAM SCHEDULE

Project	Date	World Relief Area	Locations	Area Coordinators
School	12/10 - 12/18/93	#5 Bluffton & Indianapolis	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Bill Stoller 1050 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714 Ho. (219) 565-3291 Off. (219) 824-4686 Fax (219) 824-4719
Deaf Village	1/6 - 1/14/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica ⁺ C.C.C.D. [□]	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	1/7 - 1/15/94	#1, #2, #3 CT, E. OH, AL, CA, FL	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591
Nursing Home	1/21 - 1/29/94	#7 E. IL	Haiti ⁺ M.E.B.S.H.*	Jim Walter 26 Timber Ridge Fairbury, IL 61739 (815) 692-3158
School	1/27 - 2/4/94	#9 & #10 KS, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	Haiti Palm Grove	Tim Butikofer R.R. #2, Box 69A Elgin, IA 52141
Deaf Village	1/27 - 2/4/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica ⁺ C.C.C.D. [□]	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	2/4 - 2/12/94	#11 & #12 CA, AZ, OR, CO	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Glen Hackenjos 10564 Haverly El Monte, CA 91731 (818) 442-4957
Deaf Village	5/19 - 5/27/94	#4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH	Jamaica ⁺ C.C.C.D. [□]	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541

For more information, contact:

Harold Witzig
308 N. Second Avenue
Morton, IL 61550
HO. (309) 266-6263
OF. (309) 263-2041
FAX (309) 266-7644

*Couples invited on this project

*Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.)

□Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

WORK PROJECTS PROGRAM to Christian schools in Haiti and Jamaica

SEVEN PROJECTS:

Five projects in Haiti —

Plans have been made by the Apostolic Christian World Relief and the leadership M.E.B.S.H. to continue a literacy aid program under which over 40 village Christian schools have been constructed in the eleven years to date.

Three projects in Jamaica —

C.C.C.D. is expanding an outreach to tell deaf children about Jesus Christ through sign language in classrooms (1st thru senior), as well as to build a "deaf village."

Needs are Great:

Your help is needed as greatly as ever and is deeply appreciated by the poor but pleasant and friendly Haitian Christians and Jamaican families with deaf children.

Cross-Cultural Experience:

Testimonies such as "unforgettable," "life-changing" and "I'll be more appreciative of what I have" is heard from each returning volunteer.

Along with your work experience, you will be ambassadors for Christ as you observe day to day life in a third world country.

In Haiti - you will also visit a hospital, domestic center, well drilling sites, vocational school, etc. in which World Relief is involved.

In Jamaica - you will visit the Christian School for the Deaf and observe the teaching of the deaf children who represent an unreached people group who have been unable to hear the "Good News" of Christ.

Travel Conditions:

Haiti - Our World Relief Committee has been in contact with the U.S. State Department and missionary advisors. Haiti appears peaceful and conditions look good for travel and work this season. Any changes will be closely watched.

Jamaica - The usual excellent travel conditions to Jamaica continue this year.

Do I need a passport?

Haiti - A passport is not mandatory but is safest. If not available or attainable in time, use credentials listed below for Jamaica.

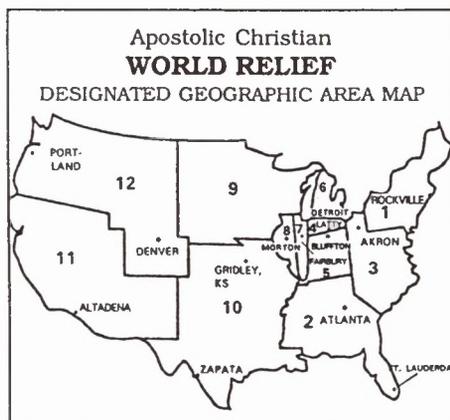
Jamaica - No . . . Your original birth certificate and other proof of U.S. citizenship (such as driver's license, voter's registration, social security card, etc.) is all that is required.

Are couples and single women invited?

Yes, on those projects noted with a ♦.

What is my church area?

Your church is located in one of the designated areas on the map below.



What do I do if I am interested in going on this mission?

Contact the World Relief coordinator from your local church or one of the brothers listed as the project representative for your area.

You will receive a packet of in-depth information on either Haiti or Jamaica including: 1) maps, 2) historical and cultural background, 3) healthcare, 4) what to wear, 5) what to take with you, 6) gift suggestions, 7) liability release, etc.

What are the dates for the project?

See the schedule on page 4. Teams usually leave on a Friday and return nine days later on Saturday.

Who do I contact?

Your local World Relief representative or the project leader(s) for your area are also on the chart on page 4.

May I choose any date?

Yes. Crossover volunteering with another area team is allowed, even encouraged, to meet with your time schedule or to help fill a team.

How many can go?

Haiti - Depending on the location in Haiti, groups of from seven to ten or more can travel best.

Jamaica - Groups of ten to forty are encouraged because of the high level of accommodations as well as greater project size.

What type of skills do I need?

Construction experience is appreciated, but basic handyman talent and a desire to serve the Lord is all that is required. **A project manager will accompany each team to provide supervision.**

What type of projects are done?

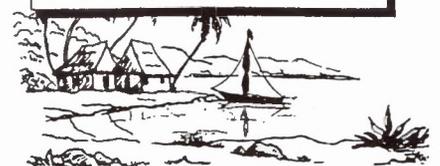
Haiti - Roofs made of sheet metal over wood is our part of this shared building program. We also build plain wooden school benches. The Haitian people build the walls and work with us on the roofs.

Jamaica - Most of the work is with concrete and concrete blocks. Willing workers, skilled or unskilled are appreciated as masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters, etc.

What will it cost?

Travel from the north of Haiti or Jamaica and back, food, lodging, transportation and incidentals is about \$700-\$800/person for the nine days. The trip to Miami and back from your home by car would save money but take additional days away from your work.

...As Ye therefore have opportunity,
let Us do Good unto all Men...
Gal. 6:10



HAITI & JAMAICA



HAITI

Area: 10,714 sq. mi. - about the size of Maryland

Population: over 5 million

Capitol: Port-au-Prince

Other Cities: Cap-Haitien, Les Cayes

Terrain: Mountainous

Climate: Warm, semiarid

Language: French-Creole

Literacy: 20 percent

Occupation: 80% agricultural

Economy: "Poorest nation in Western Hemisphere, plagued with overpopulation, soil erosion, illiteracy and disease."

- *Operation World*

JAMAICA

Area: 4,244 sq. mi. - about the size of Connecticut

Population: over 2 million

Capitol: Kingston

Other Cities: Montego Bay, Mandeville

Terrain: Mountainous

Climate: Tropical

Language: English

Literacy: 80 percent

Occupation: $\frac{2}{3}$ mining, mfg., tourism - $\frac{1}{3}$ agricultural



WORK TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Athens, AL

Needed to help put a new roof on the Athens church the third week in September.

For more information: contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, 1-205-232-2035

EASTERN EUROPE TRIP REPORT

Bro. Gene Lehman, Wolcott, IN

To continue the work in Ukraine, the World Relief Committee authorized another shipment in April of 1993. The shipment, as were the three which preceded it, was coordinated by Elder Bro. Ernst Pfister of the church in Breidenbach, Germany. Ernst led the team which carried out this work. The American brethren who went along were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Bros. Andy Hunyady and Gene Lehman, and Sis. Verna Lehman. George Hunyady and Andy Demrovsky of the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) also went along. Flying from Chicago, they arrived in Frankfurt Wednesday, April 21, and were picked up by Ernst and taken to Breidenbach. We went to church for evening services, which Andy conducted in Hungarian, and they translated into German, with Gene adding some words in the German language. There is no English translator at Breidenbach. After services, we returned to Ernst's for supper, and then welcome rest in bed.

Arising at 4:30 a.m., we traveled to Wustenrot, where we had breakfast at the home of Peter Maurer, who also went along on the trip. Taking the autobahns to Linz, Austria, we had lunch at the home of Helmut and Kati Pollhamer as on the last trip. We arrived at the church in Budapest at the end of an evening of singing.

We were able to sleep in a bit on Friday morning, and upon rising had breakfast in the apartment. Many brethren began to arrive from all across Europe for Saturday's meeting. This meeting, held in Szeged, Hungary, encompassed all the elders who were physically able to come from Sweden, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Ukraine and Slovakia. There will be more on that later.

There was much to do in preparation for the Ukraine trip, which occupied a lot of Ernst's time. Several of us, accompanied by local brethren, took the subway into downtown Budapest where we went to the bank, and did a bit of shop-

ping.

In the afternoon, we all climbed aboard the van once more, and traveled to Szeged, about a two-hour trip. Ernst, Peter, Gene and Verna spent the night in the lovely old home of the Karoly Kovacs family, where a good supper was awaiting us.

On Saturday, we rose at 6:00 a.m. for a typical European breakfast of hard rolls and bread, cold cuts and cheese, radishes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. The men then went to the church, where brethren assembled from all around. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m., chaired by Elder Janos Pap from Budapest. Representatives from each country presented their situation to the entire group. There were at least six different languages, and the translation created a bit of a problem. By and large, we learned that the situation in the worst in Serbia at this time, where, although we have no brethren in the war zone itself, there is much suffering and human need among our people. What manifested itself was that with just a few exceptions, such as food packages to Romania, plus clothing to Ukraine, the best way we can help is with money. Goods are available, if one has either dollars or deutschmarks.

At noon, they served a nice meal in the church facilities, after which we reconvened for more discussions. After the discussions, the entire group went to the construction site where they are building a new church and old peoples' home with large support from our brethren. This is a huge undertaking, which will continue to require much effort and support from all the brethren across the world.

On Sunday, we attended services in the church not far from the home where we slept. Ernst had morning services in German with a translator, and Gene spoke afterwards in English with translator. Incidentally, they do not translate prayers, only sermons, greetings, etc. After the morning service, we ate lunch at the home of Elder Sandor Albert, who is elderly and in ill health, but welcomed us heartily into his home to share their blessings with us.

At 3:00, we returned to the church for afternoon services, conducted in German by Peter Maurer with Ernst finishing up. Afterwards we had a light meal, and then a singing lasting about an hour and a half. After the singing, Gene closed with prayer in the German

language. It was a time of wonderful fellowship, language being the only difficulty. The love truly flowed from heart to heart in an unmistakable manner.

On Monday, we rose at 7:00, and after a good breakfast, toured the old city. We also visited a number

of members in their homes, receiving a hearty welcome at each place. We brought home some gifts and purchases which will long remind us of precious hours together!

About 2:30, we set forth in Ernst's van for our return to Budapest through the lovely Hungarian countryside. Spring had sprung, and it was gorgeous! We saw people working the field with horses and primitive hand tools, which made us aware of how much technology has advanced here at home. We arrived at the Budapest church about 5:30, where they had supper waiting for us.

On Tuesday, April 27, we rose at 5:00 a.m. Another van load from Germany had arrived Monday, and our group for Ukraine took its final shape. All in all, we had 21 people in two vans and a car.

About 7:00, we left church for the Customs Depot, where the semi shortly appeared. We thought we could move right along, loading at the mill just like last time, and get an early start for Bukovina. We were wrong! The customs officials with their endless regulations simply gave us fits, (American slang). The final outcome was that they had to bring the goods purchased at the mill to the Customs Depot, where we had to load it by hand from one truck to another. Ernst said it is a difficult situation every time, and the only way to deal with it is with much patient endurance. Finally, about 4:30 p.m., we had everything on board, and our heavily loaded semi began the last leg of our trip. We had a gross weight of 47 metric tons, about 103,000 pounds. We filled our tanks in Budapest, and for the first time, Latzi, the truck driver/owner accepted \$500 for fuel.

The roads through Hungary are really quite good, and we had no problems reaching the Ukrainian border.

Crossing the gloomy bridge between the two countries about midnight, we drove up to the border building. Here the soldiers were polite, and did not seem to be in the drunken state the last ones were in last November. There was virtually no problem getting visas, except for the fact that due to our having

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We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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Box 132, 307 West First St.
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Phone (309) 448-2416

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
Tenth Year — August 1992 thru July 1993 — 41,755

Bibles Distributed -- Eleventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1993 --	1509	1509

*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.

NOTICE

Due to the lack of requests for "Zion's Harp," "Hymns of Zion" and other hymn books, we ask that you not send us these until our surplus is used up. We'll submit a NOTICE when we need more. However, continue to send us your used Bibles which are greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you,
Phil and Gloria Grant

so many people, it naturally took a long time. As we got through the border property, we stopped, and Peter Maurer had a prayer for us, committing us into God's hands, and we drove on. The roads were no better, in fact a bit worse than in November. We drove through the Carpathian Mountains once more in the darkest hours of the night.

As daylight dawned, we saw spring in Ukraine. Many flowers were blooming, along with fruit trees. They stood in marked contrast to the dismal appearance of the buildings left by decades of Communist neglect. One of the group pointed out that we are seeing the reasons why there must finally be a new earth, for we have damaged this one beyond repair. It is very sobering to behold with your own eyes!

The people have received private plots of land from the state, and these have been plowed with a moldboard plow. Naturally, this leaves many clods and rough spots which need to be smoothed for a seed bed. All along the way, hundreds of people were toiling in these fields with hoes and primitive hand tools, a back-breaking effort. The more fortunate had a horse to help bear the burden.

It was mid-afternoon Wednesday when we finally arrived in Chernovtsy, our destination. Here again we lost hour after hour due to nothing but bureaucratic inefficiency. We parked the semi and vans on a side street while the Ukrainians tried to expedite the unsealing of the trailer.

It was 4:30 p.m. before we pulled up to the church at Corovia, where we had unloaded the last time. It was a big effort to get the overloaded semi around the sharp corners and down the muddy streets, but God's grace and mercy extended all the way, and we got it done. They had not expected us until Friday, due to difficulties in communication, and the building was not ready. However, everyone pitched in and helped, the Ukrainians began to appear, and within a half hour, the unloading was underway. Once again, a human chain stretched from truck to building,

and in a little over two hours, over 70,000 pounds of goods were stacked inside the half-finished building. Women and men, young and old, stood side by side in a light misty rain, and lent their efforts to the work.

When the unloading was complete, we sang hymns of thanks, had a prayer, expressions of thanks were extended, and we finally dismissed. The truckers got on their way back home.

We all went to the home of Georgy Regner, one of the ministers, for supper. It was ample, and tasted good, but were all so weary, we could hardly eat. By this time, it had been 41 hours since we got out of bed in Budapest. It is said that everyone has a limit, and some of us were getting a little close to ours. After supper we were portioned out to the various homes for our overnight accommodations. A bathroom inside the house is very, very rare, and few of us had one. By our standards, it was somewhat primitive, but these dear souls gave us virtually the best they had. No one on earth can give more. Gene and Verna stayed with a young couple named Georgys and Rokika Kibak. She brought us two dish pans full of warm water for bathing, and we attempted to wash away the sweat and grime of two day's travel and work. The love of God manifested itself in the concern of these people for us their guests, and although we could not speak one word to each other, we felt the kindred spirit in our hearts. Our bed was a sofa which opened up to accommodate the two of us, and we sank into merciful slumber, grateful to God for his protective guidance.

On Thursday, April 29, we slept in, and got ready for the day in a leisurely manner. Rodika brought us breakfast of ground meat, hard boiled eggs, bread and butter, good coffee and canned apricots. We shared pictures of our family, and the love flowed. About 10:00 a.m., someone came in an old car and transported us back to Regner's, where we visited a neighboring old folks' home where six sisters live in one room. We visited here and there, and then traveled to the new

church at Dimka, which is nearly complete. It is quite a nice structure, and they are holding services in it all this time, but it is still not fully finished. The brethren have built it themselves, and have done very well.

We traveled to the congregation at Magallah, where they had another meal waiting for us out in the yard. Our people are the same all over the world. When we don't know what else to do, we eat. The fellowship was wonderful, but very sobering. Here there were brothers who had spent time in Siberia, and even to see their faces and hear their experiences brought tears to eyes and heart. They asked if we had any knowledge of them through all those years of oppression, and when we told them the unfortunate truth that we didn't, they wept openly and unashamedly. We wept, too.

On Thursday evening, we had services in the church at Ostrit's, where we had assembled in November. Elder Ernst Pfaff from Germany had the sermon, translated from German to Romanian, which is the language in many of the churches. By the time it was all over, we had a full day. Each of us went back to the same nest where we had stayed the night before. It was after 12:30 a.m. until we got to bed.

We got up at 7:30, and ate the breakfast of fried potato wedges, and bread. We went into the city to see what the economic conditions were.

Here we found that things have deteriorated even from the bad situation we found last November. Wages have stayed even, but prices are two to three times what they were then. The shops had few goods in them, much like before. Prices are impossible. For example, a refrigerator stood in one of the stores with a price of 580,000 Kopon. A month's wages is between 6,000 and 12,000 Kopon. You can do the arithmetic. For a month's wages, one can buy about six pounds of meat. However, the dollar and deutschmark are hanging in there, and we can buy about 96% of what we could in November, when we pay in hard currency, which is good news for

us. The situation is deteriorating on a daily basis, and no one knows what will come next.

The open markets had more goods than last time. We saw whole hog and cow heads lying on table for sale. Virtually all kinds of produce was there for sale, but prices are very high. After lunch, Ernst and the Americans met with the Ukrainian elders and discussed a 15 point plan to help them to help themselves. We feel it is much better to teach them methods and help them to implement them than to continue to bring in large shipments of goods. It is too long a program to outline in this report, but we were satisfied with the answers we received, and have reasons to hope that with God's blessings, it is possible to initiate a long term program. There was a spirit of sincere love and cooperation.

We should note here that one of our questions concerned how the neighbors view all this help we are bringing them, and do they share with those neighbors. The answer moved us very deeply. When the neighbors saw the big truck come in they asked what this was. When they were told that it was aid brought in from brethren from the West, and that it cost our brethren nothing, they couldn't believe it. They had been told for years that the West intended only to destroy them, and they could not comprehend such an act of love. The brethren shared with the neighbors, and some of these folks began coming to church. They cited individual cases where these souls repented, and found salvation through Christ. In the past year and a half, they have baptized 100 people, and have 110 converts at this time. It was very evident that a miracle has occurred before the eyes of us all, if only we can see it. We feel the program is working by the grace of God, and hope to continue with the support of our brethren.

After the meeting, we left immediately for services once more in the Ostrit'a church, which was much like the evening before. It was after 10:00 p.m. before we had a bite to eat, and then it was necessary for all 21 of us to use the single bathroom and get to bed. They

laid mats on the benches in the assembly room, and some of the brothers slept there. Some of them complained about Ernst performing some "night music", but he said he can't help it, it comes automatically. It is better to maintain a cheerful attitude in times like that. Whoever didn't like the night music didn't have to put up with it very long, for we arose at 3:30 a.m. After breakfast, we loaded up, leaving at about 4:30 a.m. They escorted us to the city limits, where we all unloaded, sang a hymn, and had a prayer before our final parting. It was another emotional experience!

We took a different route out than coming in, because we didn't have to worry about the big truck. This led through scenic areas, right along the river dividing Ukraine from Romania. We saw the awful remnants of the former border, testimony of man's inhumanity to man. Along the way, the primitive living and farming conditions were apparent. We saw women washing clothes in the river.

Along the way, we stopped beside the road for breakfast, and across the way was a hanging foot bridge across the river. This allowed for a little "Dummheit", which we felt we had earned by our past three days. It did no harm, and everyone got some good laughs, releasing some of our tensions. Happy memories!

We had CB radio communication between the vans, and the young people sang to one another over the radios. This, too, helped ease the stress of the long journey. As we traveled, Gene threw candy out the window to children along the way. It surprised them, but when they realized what it was, they really jumped. Farm animals were all over, just like before. Coming back into the US, one must answer the question,

We reached the border about 12:10, passing through without hassle in about 45 minutes.

We stopped along the way in Hungary at an outside restaurant, where 21 of us ate a full meal at a cost of about \$135, compliments of Andy D. It was very tasty and also cheap. Here we called home, and discovered that we had a new

grandson, born while we were traveling the rough roads at about 8:00 local time in Ukraine that morning. We thanked God that all was well. Naturally, it had been in our minds all the time. Verna had the number of the hospital, so we called the new mommy, and wished her well. Telephone communication out of the free countries in Europe is swift and not really that expensive if one watches his time. Others in the groups also touched home base to assure each other all was well. It is always a concern from both sides.

This Saturday evening, there was a singing at Budapest, and most of the group attended. We arrived there while it was in progress. Gene and Verna, however, retreated to their room and tried to erase the grime of Russia. It took two good hot showers, but there was clean skin if one looked deep enough! After the singing, our cousins Verne and Leona Lehman of Denver showed up at our door. They were in Europe on vacation, and came to Budapest for the weekend. We were happy to see each other.

Sunday was Mother's Day, in Europe as well as at home, so our thoughts turned homeward once more. We sent a fax to Kurt Bahler's, which was promptly answered by a birth announcement. That provided entertainment for a number of us. Nate had the morning service with Andy H. translating into Hungarian. For lunch we split up and went to different homes.

George H. conducted the afternoon service in Hungarian, followed by greetings, etc. and then a light supper. Ernst and group went to an Aunt's, and we rested in our apartment. In the evening, there was another singing, and Gene spoke for about 15 minutes in English, translated into Hungarian. After the singing, one of our vans left for Breidenbach, arriving about 9:00 a.m. Monday. Elisabeth Pfister had joined us here, and Monday, the rest of us travelled in Ernst's van to Germany.

When we got back to Germany, Hans Heer met us at a filling station, and took Gene and Verna home with him, while the rest continued on to Breidenbach. By the

time we got to Hans' and had supper, it was bedtime, and we retreated to our familiar room for a night's rest. Tuesday was a welcome day of rest, vitally necessary. Here we totally unpacked, Dina washed our clothes, and we regrouped for the rest of the trip.

The American brothers, except for Andy D., left Budapest to go into Romania. Gene and Verna spent the week in Germany, attending Sunday services at Breidenbach, and returning home on Tuesday, May 11. Once more, we say "God be thanked and honored for all the wonders he performed for us."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

All of us at ACHH are enjoying sunny days and cool nights. It seems we need some rain in our lives to truly appreciate the sunshine!

As usual, our residents are busy with a variety of outings and activities, besides church, school and work. Two of the ladies went to Camp Cilca for a week, and several went to a day camp in Clinton August 7.

An ice cream social at one of the local churches was enjoyed very much by two groups. Don't we all like something good to eat?!

On August 2, Laverna Zobrist moved to Oakwood Estate. It doesn't seem quite the same around here without her cheery laugh, but she was looking forward to the move and comes to visit us occasionally. A farewell reception was held for her here.

Three of our residents are taking part in "mainstreaming" vacations this summer. Glenn Getz rode the train to Colorado Springs, CO, and Billie Tatum and Jane Kohler plan to leave today for Branson, MO. They are all excited about their adventures, but always seem glad to come home again.

One big event is the annual trip to Six Flags. One busload of residents and staff spent a day in Six Flags and stayed all night in a motel, returning the next afternoon.

Another group plans to go this week.

Our September birthdays for ACHH (2125 Veterans Rd.) are: Viola Fisher (1), Marta Graber (9), Mike Culin (10), Janet Christensen and Lester Miller (16), Lois Egli (19), Glenn Getz and David Maupin (20), Cindy Sigulas (22), Brent Rebeck and Jim Maupin (24), Nancy Theis (25), Marsha Miller and Doug Steffen (26), Ethel Borinstein (29). September birthdays at Oakwood Estate (2113 Veterans Rd.) are: Angie Massner (9), Janet Schweigert (10), Dave Taylor (13). At 207 Wagler Street - Marlene Esslinger (8). October birthdays at ACHH are: Lois Baumgartner (4), Carol Fahrni (5), Kent Knobloch (14). October birthdays at Oakwood are: Anita Schuon (13) and Bryan Tiezzi (30).

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Shay Nelson

With summer coming to a close, my second stay here as a Houseparent at Gateway Woods is over. Once again I feel blessed to have been a part of it all. The importance placed here on family and living out God's Word has always lifted my soul and sight heavenward. Most of the articles coming out of here reflect the problems and changes that happen in a child's life but staff leaves changed as well.

I came here as a young adult (21) thinking I was a mature person well grounded with a growing knowledge and love for God. At that time, I even felt quite "spiritual" because I was open to God's calling and stepping out of my comfort zone in faith. My ideas of how the home was going to be and the reality were not so far apart. What I didn't foresee was all the refining I would need to survive and grow here.

Looking back I see God not so much calling me but more pulling me into a life of faith and obedience. I learned that loving Him means loving others - everyone I come into contact with. The ones who make you smile and the ones who get into your face and tear your heart out. In God's eyes, all

are both valuable and precious. I believe the most valuable lesson He has taught me here is His faithfulness. At times when I felt used up, beat up, chewed out and trampled, my basic nature was to pull myself together sometimes in anger (feeling I had a right to be made), sometimes in pride (not wanting anyone to get the better of me). Then going to God I demanded He intervene and change the child. It wasn't until I gave in asking God to change me -- making me into a Godly woman with Him first. I found then more energy, strength and courage to face the tough stuff, allowing myself to become involved, get my feelings hurt, but still, in love to pick up and go on.

It began to dawn on me how far I fall short of the "Prize of the high calling of Christ Jesus" and how much grace and love and forgiveness He has for me. I also learned to be thankful for every moment I have been given with my own family. How nothing can happen that God cannot use for good.

As the world gets more and more evil, I find Satan invading the lives of family and friends. As he tries to make our lives more painful and harder to live; shaking our faith; I rejoice in the lessons and the foundation God has placed under me here to help me "stand against the wiles of the devil."

August has been an extremely busy month here. The first week we had our seventeenth annual auction. We were blessed with a beautiful day, lots of hard workers and many wonderful items. Thank you and may God bless all who helped make our day wonderful, including Bro. Rod Stoller, whose sextet sang a song he wrote inspired by our motto.

A WORK OF FAITH, A LABOR OF LOVE

We walk along this path of life,
Amidst this world, its toil and
strife,
Ambassadors for God above,
With works of faith and labors of
love.

The fatherless, a child in need,
The elderly, a widow indeed,

The poor, the sick, the pris'ner too,
They call for me, they're calling
for you.

We place the seed into the ground,
God makes it grow in harvest
abound,
Just like that seed, our work can
grow,
And multiply wherever we go.

We may not see the end thereof,
Our works of faith, our labors of
love,
We trust the Lord to give increase,
In what we do give blessing and
peace.

May everyone, God's call fulfill,
Each do their part, God's heavenly
will,
By faith and love, God's family,
Will live again, His glory will see.

Chorus:
We're called by God, His work to
do,
With faith and love, we'll labor
anew;
May our life be, for God above,
A work of faith, a labor of love.

R. L. Stoller

During the second week of August, six children and four staff went on the Honors trip. They traveled to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Everyone really had a good time. A huge thank you goes out to Bro. Nate and Sis. LeAnn Gerber, John and Sis. Cathy Clough and Joe and JoAnn Hicky for opening their homes to us.

The third week we said several goodbyes to some of our children. Tracy N. and Jason E. went into foster placement in Fort Wayne. Danny E. went to the foster home of Walt and Sis. Sharolyn Snodgrass. Adam, Shane and Barb H. returned to their parents. Please pray for all of these children that the transition into these families goes smoothly. Also pray God will continue to reach out to each of them.

Robin S. and Mike B. have joined the Baumgartner family and Brian has moved into the Feichter household. We welcome each of these new teenagers with open arms.

God has shown us Himself in many awesome ways. One of those is the love shown in the young brothers and sisters who came to volunteer. This month brought Shelly Leman and Justin Meece (Goodfield, IL), Lisa Staker (Morton, IL), Corrine Hari, Dawn Dick, Robb Honegger (Bluffton), Curt and Dana Anliker (Chicago, IL), Jeremy Freed and Andrea Zeller (Indianapolis), Crystal Klopfenstein and Kathy Huthman (Peoria, IL), Renee Miller and Bridget Zollinger (Sardis, OH), Clint Heinold (Cissna Park, IL), Dave Kieser (Bradford, IL), Jill Gramm (Gridley, IL), Cami Vogt and Amanda Gutwein (Francesville). May God bless each of you.

Our staff is changing as well this fall. Bro. Mitch Leman, the Summer Volunteer Coordinator, will be going to school while Sis. Shay Nelson returns home to Morton, IL, to work there. Sis. Dena Lewis, our Education Coordinator, has also said her goodbyes. Each of you will be missed. We wish you God's blessing in your new paths. May God guide you.

We rejoice at the same time that God has also seen our need and answered our prayers. Sis. Sandy Leman (Roanoke, IL) is joining our East House team as the third houseparent and Sis. Heidi Broquard (Bay City, MI) is our new Education Coordinator. We are thrilled to have each of you with us. You are answers to prayer.

Our rejoicing continues with Bro. Mitch Leman announcing his engagement to Sis. Carolyn Gutwein (Francesville). We all pray God will continue to show you both His wonderful love as you start out on a new life together.

Please continue to pray for us that God will send us Alternate Houseparents. See the notice in this issue.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Lisa Huette

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) We need to remember to trust God in every

aspect of our lives. We think often of our children in school who are faced with many challenges. We must remember to pray for them as they start into another school year.

Our prayers are with Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter as Kendra has once again spent time in the hospital.

We'd like to welcome Sis. Linda Morrison and her mother, Sis. Kate Morrison, to our Athens family. Sis. Linda and Sis. Kate have moved from the Mansfield, OH, congregation. We trust they will experience the warm Southern hospitality as have the rest of us from the North who have made Alabama our home.

We'd like to extend a warm invitation to any of you traveling over the next few months to make a stop in Athens to worship with us. It's always a welcome sight to have brethren from the various church families visiting our congregation.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"... we are buried with him by baptism . . . so we should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

The weekend of August 7-8 we heard the testimonies of Raymond and Wendy Blunier, and witnessed their baptisms. As we share this time together, our heavenly Father's love binds us together in a joy only believers are aware of - what a blessed assurance we have. Many relatives and friends came from Roanoke, Princeville and Bradford, IL. Deacon Bro. Bill Hodel came from Roanoke to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Welcome, and God's blessings to Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy.

Retired Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbra Schupbach are happy great-grandparents of twin boys, Austin and Cody Beer (David and Diane).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger welcome great-granddaughter, Kayla Sue Kupferschmid (Brad and Cheryl, Eureka, IL).

Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and deacon Bro. Bill Hodel

(Roanoke, IL) were our visiting ministers, and we thank them.

Bro. Ron Hoerr, Sis. Lyola Ringger and Sis. Toni Bently needed extra prayers recently. Bro. Shawn Maurer will have finger surgery.

Ecclesiastes 9-12 has much to encourage us.

We welcome Shannon Maurer's bride, Lacey, and little, Tess. The weather is definitely warmer than Morton, IL, but God's love is as abundant. We ask God's blessings as they build a life and home centered on Christ. We all need Him!

Along with Bro. Chuck, Sis. Marie and Ann Kieser, welcome Rogerio Camargo. Rogerio is an exchange student from Brazil. This Christian hospitality on the Kieser family's behalf will surely enhance Rogerio's life, as well as ours.

Truly, our God is awesome!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, was joined in holy matrimony to Sis. Joan Reutter (Rockville, CT) July 25. They are still traveling home at this writing. It is our hope and desire to make Sis. Joan feel welcome and loved here in Tucson. There is a reception planned for August 28 in honor of Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan.

We wish to thank Bro. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix) for his recent visit to Tucson and his service on the pulpit.

Our temperatures are still in the 100's as we approach the middle of August.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Escondido, CA). We appreciate their willingness to serve us even though they were on vacations of their own.

On Sunday, July 25, Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Sis. Kay Miller) announced his retirement from the ministry. Bro. Glenn began preaching in Portland, OR, forty years ago and has been serving us for the

past 27 years. We are grateful to him and his wife for their many years of service.

Our Bro. Andy Lehmann passed away in July after a long illness. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Evelyn. There is some consolation knowing that we will see him again in heaven, and that he will have a new body, without pain or weakness.

Even as God took away one of us, He added another. Erica Lynne was born July 13 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig. Tina and Martha enthusiastically greeted Erica. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Sis. Janet Martin (Bro. Elmer, Princeville, IL).

Note: We want to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, babysitting, meals and most importantly, prayers during Nancy and Erica's hospitalization. Please continue to pray for Erica's growth and development. God bless you all.

Fred, Nancy, Tina, Martha
and Erica Witzig

Reminder: August is collection month for the Silver Lining.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest;
Which the Spirit does bestow;
Though I had a voice like angels,
Lacking love, I truly know . . ."

Zion's Harp #37

The Lord has blessed Sis. Joan Reutter and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) in holy matrimony Sunday, July 25. We will surely miss Sis. Joan, but know that the Lord will provide showers of blessings as they begin their new life as one.

"Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,

For Thou hast created and
purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit,
Thou makest me new."

Zion's Harp #209

On Sunday, August 1, the following new converts were baptized in the Lord: Sis. Sara Bahler (Sis. Maxine), Sis. Naomi Luginbul (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay), Bro. Dale Gerber (Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Stephen Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne). It is always so uplifting to hear what the Lord has done for each soul and how He has converted their life to walk with Him daily to do His will.

The following ministers visited with us the weekend of the baptisms: Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Loren Knapp (ordained deacon, Tucson, AZ), Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Floyd Graves, Jr. (Croghan, NY). Other visiting ministers during this month were Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA).

"May now the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
The peace and love of God,
The fellowship of His Holy Spirit
Abide with us all, Yea, with us all!"
Amen.

Zion's Harp #213

Sis. Gerri O'Brien has moved to Rittman, OH, as of August 3, and will be working at the Rittman Nursing Home and will make her home with Sis. Marie Gasser. Her new address is: 288 West Ohio Avenue, Rittman, OH 44270 (telephone 216-927-1698). Our prayers all go with Sis. Gerri as she is welcomed in Rittman.

"Thy care has preserved my spirit."

Job 10:12

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll and Victoria welcomed Edward Clarence Stoll III to their hearts and home August 2. Grandparents are Gilbert and Sis. Vicky Knobloch

(Lester, IA) and Ed and Lynda Stoll (Corpus Christi, TX). The rest of the congregation is almost as excited as the family.

As if a new baby was not enough for the family, Bro. Ed received a promotion and job transfer about the same time. Although this meant moving, we are happy Bro. Ed, Sis. Ginny, Tory and Trey will still be in the area and a part of our congregation.

Ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). Other visitors were from Tremont, Princeville and Morton, IL, Philadelphia, PA, LaCrosse, IN and Akron, OH.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00. 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. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

With only two or three weeks left until school starts, most places across the country, parents and children alike, are preparing for the new year. Our children will soon be bring home their homework, and we parents need to get ready for ours. There are evil forces at work constantly trying to get their agendas into our school systems. There are many dangers ranging from new age religions, humanism, to those promoting a lifestyle that is clearly spelled out as sinful in the Bible. These courses and teachings will come in names that sound harmless, even beneficial, such as Self-Esteem Building, Relaxation For Mind and Body, Improving Imagination Skills, and teaching tolerance for "alternate lifestyles." There is even a strong movement trying to change our history books to leave out the Christian beliefs this country was founded on. We

parents have to be more involved than ever before in what our children are learning in school, and we can't be afraid to ask questions of the teachers and school officials. May your children and you enjoy another school year together in safety.

We have resumed our Wednesday night Bible study after several weeks off in North Fort Myers.

We are looking forward to listening to the tapes of the recent elder conference.

We look forward also to having more visiting brothers and sisters as we have had relatively few this month.

Our hearts and prayers go out to our brethren in the flood-stricken area of the country. May we be able to share their burdens in some small way.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lorane Martin - Gala Gerber

It is "back-to-school" time again for many. Let us, each one, keep on our knees and have a prayer on our lips for the children and those who teach them. Even as adults, we are in school every day. If we are not "learned" in His desires for us or worse yet, unwilling to yield to His promptings . . . we, too, as lambs or children of the flock can be led astray, only to be slaughtered by the evil one.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Matt Koehl as he is schooling in Illinois. Many of us miss him and hope that he may feel our love and prayers.

There were four from our congregation who had the opportunity of working with the World Relief Team in Juarez, Mexico. Pictures do not show it, nor can words begin to express the impact a trip like this can have on one's life. A trip like this will affect your heart life-long!

So thankful to know that there are still those who are listening to Jesus' bidding and following Him. Our congregation is grateful for two souls who have chosen the better way! May we continue to pray for those who are blinded or lack desire to experience His love and all that He can offer.

We, and, no doubt, all of our brothers and sisters-in-Christ are thankful and so deeply moved at the "love" our shepherds and ministers have for our beloved faith. May they, as well as their wives and family, be blessed so abundantly for their sincere devotion to our church.

We extend our congratulations to Sis. Katrine Streitmatter and Bro. Eric Haefley on their engagement. May God's blessings be with them as they plan their wedding.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who are willing to share the Gospel message with us. A blessing to have Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and his wife with us this summer.

We continue to be prayerful for those in our churches who have been affected by the flooding on the Mississippi River. So many things we don't understand but we can be encouraged to know that God will see us through!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

On August 8 we were blessed to take part in communion services. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) conducted the services. As I grow older in the faith, it is amazing that communion is more and more blessed each year. As you grow in the faith each year, there is just more to appreciate and be thankful for, and what God has done and how much He loves us. You begin to see the wisdom of Christ when He tells us to perform communion in remembrance of Him.

We are also thankful for the ministering brothers, Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL), coming and sharing the Word with us. We also appreciate visiting families from Bluffton, IN, Roanoke, IL and Akron, OH.

We meet every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Atlanta Airport Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85, just south of the Atlanta Airport at the Riverdale Road Exit. If you are coming into Atlanta or stopping through to more tropical

climate, feel free to call either Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Don Sellers (404-381-1395) or John Brewer (404-591-5432).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Peg Anliker

We are thankful to have a new baby in our little congregation. Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene Jepson are the happy parents of Jacob Eli, born July 26. Eric, Emily, Ryan and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson (Belvidere) welcome little Jacob.

A special thank you to the ministers and their wives who visited us recently. Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL). We also appreciate the visitors we had and welcome each one to come again. It's encouraging to meet brothers and sisters from our other congregations. May we remember each other in prayer.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

With fall approaching, we realized that our high school graduates are moving into a new and more independent and exciting stage of their lives. They are Becky Lockwood (Robert and Virginia), Nathan Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary), Craig Kachelmuss (Sis. Ann) and Tony Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie). We pray the truths these young people have learned at home and in our church will serve as lifelong guides to them. They have a great advantage over many unchurched young people who have never been taught the precepts of right and wrong upon which to base their decisions. May our graduates yearn for an even more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as a foundation on which to build their future.

Two wedding engagement announcements have caused quite a happy stir in our congregation this

month. Bro. Eric Haefli (Bro. Robert and Sis. Ilene, Peoria, IL) and Sis. Katrine Streitmatter (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth, Sarasota, FL) plant to be married in November. Bro. Rick Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Shawn Hari (Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev) will be wed in December. In addition, Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger have announced the engagement of their son, Mark, to Wendy Bland. Her parents are Willard S. (Steve) and Cathy Bland (Normal, IL). They are looking forward to an August of '94 wedding. We pray for the Lord's blessing on each of these unions and that they will make Him the cornerstone of their marriage. When we look at the statistics, we see that marriages not built under Christ's authority will struggle and often end in divorce. It is the natural tendency of a union between two people, whose thoughts and actions are determined by their fallen human nature, to weaken and fall apart. It is only when the husband, who functions as head of the married couple, recognizes and submits to Christ as his head that a marriage can reach its full potential and two individuals can truly "become one" under Christ.

Our congregation has welcomed Rebekah Inoue into our fold as a sister-in-Christ. What joy we've experienced as we've seen this young lady commit her life to our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! On August 14, Rebekah's uncle, Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), as well as Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were present for her testimony which was a blessing to all in attendance. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) joined Elder Bros. Akito and Wendell Sunday, August 15 for Rebekah's baptism (symbolizing the burial of her old nature) and for the laying on of hands (symbolizing her reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit as internal counselor). Also in attendance as visiting brethren for this baptism were Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Chris Huber (Francesville, IN).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Edwin

Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). We have received great blessings from the presence of each of these dear brothers and their families and pray the blessing will be returned to them tenfold.

We are thankful to have Sis. Ann Kachelmuss return to our midst after a brief hospitalization following an auto accident in Indiana. We just praise the Lord for sparing Ann and her sons, Ryan and Aaron, from fatal injury in this high speed crash. We ask for prayer that she may continue to heal and feel well enough to return to her normal routine. Surely we have a merciful God!

Family campout weekend held August 20 and 21 was a great way to close out summer vacation. Camp was set up Friday evening at Lake Evergreen through Saturday afternoon. The theme of this inspirational weekend was "Standing on the Promises." It provided an opportunity in a unique setting for quality family time, group and individual class devotions and spiritual songs. The Lord provided clear, cool weather to smooth the way for this outstanding weekend of family praise devoted to Him.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Les and Barb Fehr

"For this cause shall man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31) We rejoice with Sis. Valerie Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) and Bro. Todd Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella, Tremont) who were recently united in marriage. May God be their guide and strength throughout their life together.

We wish Bonnie Kieser God's healing strength as she recovers from surgery. She is home from the hospital now and on the road to recovery.

During the last month our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Walt Herrmann (Princeville), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Clarence Dietrich

(Silverton, OR). We want to thank these brothers for their labors of love in bringing us the Word of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

We were blessed to hear the testimony of Lana Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) as she told of how the Lord has worked in her heart and life. We were all exhorted during her testimony to grow and mature spiritually just as a young child does physically. We welcome Lana as a sister into the family of God.

In the joy of the Lord, Sis. Lorelie Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta) and Bro. Alex Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisanne, Francesville, IN) announced their engagement. We rejoice with them and pray for the Lord's blessings upon them. ". . . and yet show I unto you a more excellent way . . . charity never faileth." (I Corinthians 12:31, 13:8)

Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel, along with their daughter, Hannah, have joyfully welcomed Leah Kristen into their family. "I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works." (Psalms 139:14)

As fall approaches, we extend a warm welcome to both the many new students and the returning ones to the University of Illinois and the Champaign church. We desire to be a support and encouragement to each one as they worship with us throughout the school year.

We enjoyed many visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Curtis Rassi (Tremont), Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). As many of them were here for the new student welcome, we look forward to their visits throughout the school year.

Give Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Sometimes it is hard to choose words, hard to choose analogies. Perhaps what the Lord has chosen to teach me will mean nothing to someone else. We are, after all, individuals with individual biases, individual experiences. We went to a gas station Sunday after church (zigzagging to get the gas cap towards the right side of the pump), already late on an excursion north to sing at a nursing home, and we had not the slightest idea we were being followed. Not until we saw a carload of others pull up after the last "zag" were we at all aware that we had been leaders (The gas station had obviously not been a necessary detour for them.) The Lord will always assign us the responsibility for our own actions, words and thoughts. Yet there are difficulties and temptations attacking people from every side. We, His sheep, who know His voice, must be aware that always we are being watched, oftentimes respected, sometimes modeled. When what we know is right is painful to carry out, it may help us to know that we are not only living for ourselves, but also for others.

We had a wonderful month. Our visitors were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN). We are most thankful to the Lord for the directness and power they were given by the Spirit.

Matthew Rassi, son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla, released the burden of his heart, seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice as he does, and, as he goes to the University of Illinois (Champaign), we remember his tender soul and pray for many who go with him.

On August 1 we celebrated the union of Sis. Terisa Meyer (Bro. Lenard and Sis. Charlotte) and Bro. Tyler Reimschisel (Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine, Bluffton, IN). As Christ washed the feet of His disciples in John 13, so do they hope to be of service to Him and to each other together. We needed to be reminded of such submission. We extend our love and welcome as they become another precious Christian household in our area,

Bro. Tyler going to medical school and Sis. Terisa pursuing courses at the University of Illinois here in Chicago.

The name Leman appears several times in our church book, for which we are grateful. A new young Leman now joins these others. On July 28, Jason Eli was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Liz Leman, giving Richard his baby brother. They are so thankful, as are her mother, Mrs. Schleiter (Chicago Ridge) and Bro. Kevin's parents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria (Morton, IL). We appreciate each addition and our prayers include Jason with his family now. We have another friend joining our congregation for a year of school, Duane Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We trust that Chicago will be a good place for the spiritual growth he looks forward to as well. May the Lord bless our gathering together.

Wisdom comes with age, so it has been said. I have been adding some years, some gray hairs, some creaks in the joints. I am not so sure about the wisdom. Sometimes I think I want more shortcuts now. When I am convicted about a part of my life, I must stop the rising hackles and concentrate on submission to the Lord. He alone knows how to tame the increased stubbornness, the too-confident remembrances from past experiences, and the incredible intellectualizations and rationalizations - which age has also brought. I must confess daily and be as pliant as the potter's clay, as ready to follow as the sheep, as willing as the child.

My young niece was appalled when I said the young Indian woman that we had visited was Muslim and did not believe in Jesus Christ. She said, "I believe." May we pray more fervently. We want belief to be acted upon by those who say that they believe - and we plead that those who do not know Christ, whether in the U.S. or in lands around the world, may be convicted by their emptiness and seek Him. This, too, is important to our purposes in being His.

"Lord, Thou who art so rich in
mercy
Take Thy compassion not from me

And when death calls then lead me
surely
Through my dear Saviour's death
to Thee
Eternally I will rejoice
And praise Thy mercy with my
voice."

Zion's Harp #220, vs. 5

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Cyndee Anderson
Anna Marie Reutter

Summer is nearly over. We have experienced the many treasures God has shared with us; the flowers, blue skies, green grass, the sunshine, the rain and fruitful seasons, along with the warmth of our church, family and friends, the promise of a better life and a child's joyful laughter. Now our children are back into their classrooms, learning in various age levels. Some of the pressures of life our children face can be overwhelming. Pray for them as well as their teachers. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

On July 31, our Bible class students and teachers enjoyed a day trip to Turkey Run State Park in Indiana.

We sympathize with Sis. Luella Hari (Bro. Art) over the loss of her brother, Raymond Morton.

Bro. Ezra and Sis. Edna Feller have moved into an apartment at Fairbury. We miss their presence in our assembly. May they feel God's nearness in their declining years.

Sis. Elsie Hoffman was a recent surgical patient. Bro. Les Walder suffered injuries in a truck accident, and Sis. Lydia Moser was hospitalized for tests.

We appreciate our home ministers so much and from time to time we have visiting brethren. This past month they were Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Frederick Knapp (congerville), Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Bro. Andrew Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). We appreciate them and their wives as they bring forth God's Word.

The general summer conference of our church was well attended at Goodfield, IL. Last night we heard the first three speakers by tape at our Wednesday evening service. We heard much about "Obedience to God." It's up to each one of us to carry out the teachings, as they were given in love to each believer.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Beth Steffen - Sue Wiegand

Once again our congregation has been blessed with two new babies. Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette Knepp are thankful for Dawn Lynnette. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma Stahl and Gary Knepp and Sis. Nancy Knepp (Eureka). Bro. Ben, Sis. Juanita and Marlise Walder are glad to have Kyle Benjamin join their family. Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder are grandparents. We wish them God's wisdom and guidance in raising their little ones.

May God grant grace to our converts, Grant Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Lori Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) and Andy Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) as they begin their walk with Him.

We appreciate the efforts of ministering brothers that have been in our midst. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Leroy Messner and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Lloyd Kraft and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless each one.

We have started listening to the conference tapes. We appreciate the time and effort each elder brother gives in our behalf. Our obedience can make their load easier.

Bro. Glenn Knapp was a surgical patient and Marie Eglin a medical patient. We are thankful to have them assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"A Christian's demise leads to Paradise.
After days of tribulation he will find his full salvation.
Death the way supplies unto Paradise."

Hymns of Zion #248

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Jeanne Hintz (Larry) and her family in the recent loss of her father, Bro. Elmer Banwart (Washington, IL). Although he will be greatly missed here in this life, we know he indeed has found full salvation and a home in paradise.

Bro. Ken Lindoerfer (Mary) has recovered from surgery and is again able to assemble with us, for which we are thankful.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Joshua Steven arrived July 30 to bless the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser. Thankful and joyous grandparents include Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser. We know that as the blessings of life increase, so do the responsibilities, but what promise is given to the faithful parents who give proper training. May this be the lot of Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne.

Another recent addition to our church family is Sis. Kathryn Rudin who has moved to our area from Cissna Park. We trust she will soon feel at home and our times together will be of mutual benefit and blessing.

A time our youth look forward to, was again enjoyed during the week of Vacation Bible School. How beneficial it would be if we could always maintain the constant thirst and zeal their childlike faith exemplifies to learn more of God's wondrous ways. We are thankful for all who participated, especially the ministering brothers who taught our high school students, Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Earl Ringer

(Gridley, IL) and Bill Gudeman from our congregation. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen taught the young adults, as well as each of us, that Wednesday evening more on the topic of "Church Discipline." We appreciate the efforts each put forth whether in learning, teaching or supporting with prayer.

Other ministers visiting us this month were Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless these dear brothers for being willing to serve us.

With friends on earth we meet in
gladness,
While swift the moments fly.
Yet ever comes the thought of
sadness,
That we must say "Good-bye."

J. H Tenney

It is with sadness that we bid an earthly farewell to Sis. Esther Troike as she moves closer to family and assembles with the brethren in Congerville. Her quiet example and willing hands will long be remembered by the residents at Resthaven as well as our entire congregation. We trust she will visit us often but while we are apart pray God will bless her, keep her and continue to provide for her every need and care.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

The week of the general conference was an uplifting time as it brought many visitors into our area. We were especially thankful for the many ministering brothers who spent an evening or a Sunday with us. "They were Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Bro. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Wes

Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

First-time parents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid, welcomed Kayla Sue into their hearts and home August 6. She also brings joy to first-time grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger (Bradford).

Believing God has brought them together, we had one engagement announcement this past month. Bro. Rodney Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) to Sis. Cindy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol, Roanoke). We certainly rejoice with them and pray God will bless them as they begin to blend their lives together.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Amy Stoller who passed away August 9. She is survived by one son, Richard (Roanoke) and one daughter, Thema Wind (Metropolis). We also sympathize with Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Bro. Marvin) who lost her sister, Sis. Norma Bauman (Goodfield) July 28.

Our prayers were with Bro. Bob Schumacher (Sis. Charlene) and his family as he underwent emergency surgery. We are thankful he is doing very well. We also remember Sis. Sarah Blunier (Bro. Lee) who spent time in the hospital.

"We want to thank all our family and friends who sent Kelly cards and gifts, and those who visited her while she was in the hospital. A very special thank you to you who helped with our other three kids or sat with Kelly while I came home. We appreciate you all so much! God bless you.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy Blunier

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Oh to be nothing, nothing,
Only to lie at His feet.
A broken and emptied vessel,
For the Master's use made meet.
Emptied that He might fill me
As forth to His service I go,
Broken, that so unhindered,
His life through me might flow.

Hymns of Zion #76, vs. 1

One of our Sunday school teachers recently told me a little illustration that brought this song to mind. He carries a glove in his pocket and occasionally pulls it out as a reminder to himself and others. Just as the glove is worthless without a person's hand inside it, so are we without God's Spirit within us. And we cannot have pride in ourselves or anything we do when we realize that we are only a "glove" and it is God who is accomplishing the task through us. Only when we are reduced to nothing, though "painful the humbling may be," can we be useful to God.

Our ministering brothers experience this and we are thankful they allow this humbling so the Spirit through them can teach us. Visiting ministers who were used in our behalf include Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Art Baurer (Princeville). May our Lord richly bless them.

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

Psalms 127:3

Four families in our congregation were blessed with additions recently.

David Andrew was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr July 31. Angela, Lisa, Daniel, Susan, Ben and Rebecca welcome their new little brother. Grandparents are Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville) and Elmer and Marjorie Herr (Burlington, KS).

Bro. Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen are first-time parents of Tiffany Elizabeth, who was born August 1. Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen are delighted grandparents.

Heidi Sue was born to Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis Fehr August 4. Big sister, Sarah Lynn and grandparents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Lloyd Moser welcome her home.

Also on August 4, Trent Matthew was born to Bro. Paul and

Sis. Carmen Kilgus. He has one brother, Justin. Happy grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus.

Is thy lot to suffer in sickness and pain?

Let nothing deceive you to murmur in pain.

Endure, and be still,

Believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will.

Zion's Harp #241, vs. 2

Our prayers have been with Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat Hartman and their family as Bro. Vernon was involved in a car accident recently. He is recovering in the hospital.

Other hospital patients were Sis. Dawn Huber (Bro. Rich), Bro. Melvin Hartman, Bro. Rich Walter (Sis. Colleen), Margaret Kelson, Ruth Rapp and Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis).

Sis. Lydia Nussbaum, who resides in Fairview Haven, celebrated her 100th birthday July 17. Relatives from Francesville, IN, and this area shared the special event with her. Sis. Lydia would like to thank everyone who remembered her with cards, flowers and gifts.

Retired Elder Bro. Ezra and Sis. Edna Feller recently moved from Cissna Park to the Fairview Haven apartments. We welcome Bro. Ezra and Sis. Edna to our congregation.

We have been listening to the exhortations of our elder brethren in the tapes of the August brotherhood conferences. It is humbling to hear them as I always find I have so much work to do to be what I ought to be. May God give us all grace to strive to do better each day.

One of the elder brethren recited a little verse which impressed me:

Watch your thoughts, they become actions.

Watch your actions, they become habits.

Watch your habits, they become your character.

Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sandra Schneider
Marlene Walter**

Bro. Ralph Koehl was called into eternity July 23. We also rejoice that in the last year of his life, he was able to surrender to the Lord. And yet our sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Velma, and their families as we know he will be greatly missed.

We also want to extend sympathy to Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Steidinger in the passing of his mother, Caroline Steidinger and to the brothers and sisters of Melvin Bachtold who passed away in Florida. May God comfort the heart of each one.

Bro. Robert Leman, Barb Kilgus, Sis. Hazel Karcher, Sis. Edith Zimmerman, Bro. Rod Zimmerman and Sis. Edna Wiegand spent time in the hospital. We're happy for each one that is regaining strength and pray God will be near all that suffer afflictions of the flesh.

Bro. Troy and Kathleen Lanz, along with Ashton Elaine, welcome Trevor Paul into their family circle. Jim and Mary Slagel (Fairbury) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz are his grandparents.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Kupferschmid are happy first-time parents with the arrival of Brooke Nicole. Her grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner (Fairbury) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid.

Sam, Teri and Nicole Wenger are happy to have Kimberly Jo join their family circle. Her grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel (Fairbury) and Sis. Nathalia Wenger.

The weekend of August 7 and 8 we enjoyed testimonies and baptisms. We welcome Bro. Normal and Sis. Wilma Knapp, Sis. Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn Stork as our brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for helping to carry out this most important work. We also appreciate Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley), John Hartman and Dale Stoller (Fairbury) for sharing in this blessed weekend.

May God bless Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Ev Gerber (Rockville, CT), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) for being willing to serve us through the preaching of the Word.

Bro. Ray Steffen has found a need to make Fairview Haven his home. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his wife, Sis. Doris.

We are beginning to listen to the conference tapes. May God richly reward our dear elder brothers who so often give up of their time for us.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Our Goodfield congregation was so wonderfully blessed this past month as we hosted the brotherhood conference. It was so uplifting to experience brothers and sisters working in harmony to plan and organize and then to share with our brethren from across the nation. God has been so good to us. We pray that our precious faith will stand firm.

Many thanks to the brethren who shared in the ministry with us. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City) and Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Debbie Farney as they welcome Morgan Leigh to their family. Morgan was born August 2 and she has a sister, Tara, and brother, Ryan. Her grandparents are Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney (Roanoke).

It is good to know that sis. Lorene Kloter is recovering from her hip surgery. We pray for God's healing hand and a fast recovery.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Louis Bauman in the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Norma. We grieve with Bro. Louis and his children, but we rejoice for a victory won.

Give Your New and Old Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

The Sunday morning of August 8 marked a very important day in our Gridley congregation. Bro. Elmer Witzig, 74, who was instated into the ministry March 13, 1949, preached his last sermon.

This dear brother has served in the ministry for 44 years. During the last few years he had the longest tenure of our ministers on a nationwide basis.

In a short, moving last sermon, Bro. Elmer indicated how, with God's grace, he always tried to preach the truth for the edification of the church, and it was his wish each time he spoke that his words would glorify God.

Bro. Elmer has been a devout and stalwart brother-in-faith. His life has been one of earnest devotion and self-denial. In addition to his pulpit sermons, his lifestyle also was an ongoing sermon.

Thanks be to God that although he is stepping down from a leadership capacity he still remains as one of the ranks. As soldiers of the Cross, may our banner be raised high, and our spiritual weapons raised to defend and extol the truth.

On Sunday, August 15, a church-wide potluck was held in our fellowship hall to commemorate Bro. Elmer's years of service. May God bless him and his dear wife, Sis. Marjorie, in the years ahead. Bro. Elmer did not want the praise of men. Rather, he said, "I only did that which was my duty to do."

Bro. Rudy Miller, 95, passed away August 4. He is survived by a daughter, Sis. Vera and a son, Bro. Orlan (both of Gridley); and three sisters, Sisters Anna and Mary Miller, and Sis. Alene Stortz, all of Gridley.

Bro. Rudy was a gentle man who demonstrated a life of contentment as he farmed and tilled the soil for many years. Both of his parents were deceased by the time he was 17 years old, and he played a large role in helping to raise his younger brothers and sisters.

Sis. Vera Miller spent the last several years caring for her infirm parents, Sis. Esther, who died October 30, 1992, and Bro. Rudy. May

God reward her for her many deeds of love and devotion to her beloved parents.

On Wednesday evening, August 11, we were blessed with the presence of ministering Bros. Tom and Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

On Sunday, August 15, ministers Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Ron Bollier were with us.

Several of our Gridley members attended the general brotherhood conference at Goodfield August 13. It was a wonderful day of spiritual refreshment as approximately one-tenth of the entire national membership was present.

Sis. Matilda Alt, who has moved to the Kansas City area to be near her son, Gene Alt, has been hospitalized. It is reported that she is in frail health. We wish her the Lord's nearness.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

The announcement was made of the engagement of our dear Sis. Donna Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) to Bro. Ted Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy), both of Morton. A September 12 wedding is planned. Sis. Donna and Bro. Ted have been active participants in our group of young members and we look forward to the blessings they will continue to bring to the church.

Sis. Laura Getz passed away August 19 at 92 years of age. We wish God's fullest measure of comfort to her husband of 68 years, Bro. William, and to her two daughters, Sis. Joan Oberlander (Bro. Jon) and Sis. Eleanor Geyer (Bro. Norm), both of Morton.

We wish to thank Bro. Doug Sabo for visiting our congregation and bringing us God's Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Many prayers were answered as four more souls were taken into the fold in August. They are Jill Meister (Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat), Jennessa and Marissa Woodcock (Les and Sis. Connie) and Shannon

Elsasser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Vickie). Several of them, in their testimonies, told of their fear of Satan and an actual feeling of his presence, especially in the dark of the night. We are so thankful they have turned to God and He has heard their prayers. May we all continue to seek Him as we try to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Our congratulations and blessings to the families of two new babies born recently. Bro. Joel and Sis. Tania Hoerr welcomed their first child, Mitchell Philip July 29. Mitchell's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Schock and Bro. Carl and Sis. Evie Hoerr. Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr also welcomed another girl, Danae Leigh, born August 16. Danae joins sisters, Olivia and Sadie, and brother, Caleb, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

Visiting ministers to Peoria this past month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), who spoke on "Motivation" for our August Family Night; Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN). God bless each one who came and gave of themselves.

Those hospitalized recently were Sis. Emma Eshelman and her husband, Otha. We pray God will restore good health to both of them.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were privileged to be host to two soldier reunions, which brought many visitors and visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont), Nelson Beer (Mildred, IN), Glenn Rigggenbach (Smithville, OH), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX),

Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We pray God's richest blessings on the ministers and their families.

We are thankful that Elsie and Roy Mueller have decided to turn their back on this world of sin. May God grant them the grace and help to overcome the evil one.

Otto and Eleanor Baer are happy grandparents of two little boys. Their daughters are Sis. Cindy and Bro. Gary Herr (Fairbury) and Sis. Nita and Bro. Kevin Grimm (Sabetha, KS). Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Ann Baer are thankful grandparents of a little girl born to their daughter, Sis. Barb and Bro. Chris Johnson (Denver, CO). May God grant the parents Godly wisdom to rear these precious little ones.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Elaine and Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Norma Bauman (Goodfield), also the Kate Streitmatter family of her sudden death. May God comfort all at this time of sorrow.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Arlene Scholl and Harvey Stahl. May God grant them a speedy recovery. May we remember our loved ones in our prayers.

Bro. Glenn Riegenbach spoke to us on "Influences" July 23. May God richly bless him for this inspiring Bible study. How true what influences can do to each one if we are not careful and prayerful.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

We are thankful to be able to hear the tapes of the brotherhood conference. May we all be doers of the Word and not only hearers.

Lynn Luginbuhl and Bruce Tjaden were united marriage July 31. Their parents are our Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl and Harold and Janet Tjaden (Minonk).

August 8 was the wedding day for our Bro. Matt Gastman, son of John and Sis. Barb Gastman and our Sis. Jana Harris, daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Harris. We wish both of these couples God's richest blessings.

Lauren Elise Schroeder was welcomed home by her brothers and sisters, Jesse, Allison, Lindsey and Jordan. Lauren was born July 27 to our Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder and John and Alma Schroeder. Great-grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Fannie Zimmerman (all of Roanoke).

Bro. Mark and Sis. Debbie Farney (Goodfield) are happy parents of a daughter, Morgan Leigh, born August 2. Welcoming Morgan home are Taka and Ryan. Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney are the grandparents.

Sis. Amy Stoller passed away August 9 at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. We extend our sympathy to her son, Bro. Rich, his wife, Sis. Barb, and their family.

Our sympathy goes to our Bros. Bill and Jim, Jerry Hodel and Sis. Malinda Gerber (all of Roanoke), Bro. Roy Hodel (Gridley) and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka) in the passing of their sister, Sis. Norma Bauman (Goodfield).

We thank all of our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Japan), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Carl Wyss (Washington). May God bless each of them in His special way.

We rejoice in the marriage engagement of our Sis. Cindy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Rod Kupferschmidt (Bro. Rich and Sis. Mary Beth, Eureka). May God bless them as they walk together with Him.

Note of Thanks: My sincere thanks to all who remembered me with prayers, cards and gifts while I was in the nursing home and since returning home. May God bless you.

Elsie Beer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Marsha Koch

Our visiting ministers this

month were Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal), Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We wish to thank all these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

Marty and Sis. Karla Rollins had a daughter, Danielle Christine, July 23. Grandparents are Kenny and Linda (St. Louis, O) and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck. Lucas William was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser July 19. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Alvord, IA). Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger welcomed James Daniel July 29. At home, Joshua, Sarah, Deborah, Rebecca and Michael helped welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer. Reid Joseph was born August 10 to Bro. Pete and Sis. Deborah Aberle. Randy, Ryan, Rodney, Rollyn, Royce and Rachel welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville). We wish all these couples God's richest blessing.

We welcomed three new brothers and one new sister into our faith July 31 and August 1. Our new brothers are Kevin Schaefer (Maurice and Sis. Marge), Brad Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane) and Derek Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) and our new sister is Christine Holmes (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis). May each one find God's grace and strength to carry out His will.

Bro. Robert Sauder was hospitalized this month. We're thankful he's home and doing well. Also, Bro. George Lang was at Mayo Clinic in Rochester for tests and subsequent surgery. Our prayers are with him and his wife, Sis. Phyllis.

August 8 was the wedding date for Bro. Todd Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Sis. Valerie Dietz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell, Bradford). May God richly bless them as they now share their lives.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger
Sue Rupert**

This month we had several visiting ministers who shared with us the Word. We thank Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke). We always appreciate these brothers for lending themselves to God's service.

We were saddened by the death of our Bro. Elmer Banwart. He went home to the Lord after a valiant fight against a short, hard illness. Our hearts and prayers go out to Sis. Esther (Metzger) and her family. Bro. Elmer's quiet, gentle Spirit will be missed by many, but we look forward to meeting again in eternity. The family sends the following thank you note:

The family of Elmer Banwart wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude for all the expressions of love and concern during the time of Elmer's illness and passing. Each prayer and card and token of love were so helpful and appreciated. May God repay your kindness.

We have also had those among us who have been hospitalized for a time. Sis. Emily Simon and Sis. Martha McGough will continue to receive our prayers that God's hand may be on them to restore them physically and to meet their every need.

On Sunday, August 15, Becky Heinold (daughter of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold) and Rich Metcalf were married. Rich is originally from England and many of his family traveled from there to witness the wedding. Many of us had the opportunity to meet them and share cultural experiences. There was also a guest from Jamaica present. We pray that God will be with Rich and Becky in their life together.

Each month we pause to think about events and happenings. We remember sad times and happy times. But through all, we should know that this world is not our home and that heaven is our goal. The words of the following song sum up these thoughts.

I've been on my way to heaven
For a long, long time,
And many things have happened
That've clouded up my mind.
But I am more determined
To walk the narrow way.
I've got more to go to heaven for
Than I had yesterday.

Well, I've walked the lonesome
valley,
I've climbed the highest hill.
I've known the joy of being
In the center of God's will.
I've seen the angels come to
Take my loved ones home to stay.
I've got more to go to heaven for
Than I had yesterday.

Chorus:
There's a golden street to walk
upon,
A bell I'm going to ring,
A brand new angel in the choir,
I want to hear her sing.
There'll be a lot of friends awaiting
When I walk through the gate,
I've got more to go to heaven for
Than I had yesterday.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

August 1 was the wedding day of Sis. Terisa Meyer and Bro. Tyler Reimschisel (both of Chicago, IL). Parents are Bro. Lenard and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longenberger are the happy grandparents of Karlie Ann, born July 17. Her parents are Scott and Julie Longenberger.

We also rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Trisha Steffen over the birth of their son, Tre Matthew August 7. His grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen and Don and Carol Lough.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

Our hearts were saddened when we learned of the death of Chauncy Frauhiger (Bluffton North) August 16. Then on August 20, a tragic

accident claimed the lives of Sis. Bertaline Reinhard, her daughter, Sis. Rowena Franklin and three-year-old Joshua Franklin. Sis. Bert was the wife of Bro. Richard Reinhard. Their other children are Sis. Gale Reinhard (Bro. Jerome) and Rodney Reinhard. Bro. Tim Franklin is the husband and father of Sis. Rowena and Joshua Franklin. We pray the families of these four loved ones may feel the comfort of the Lord in their time of sorrow.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona) who is suffering with a severe back injury. May God's will be accomplished in this situation. Also hospitalized this month was Sis. Mabel Kipfer.

We greatly appreciate the visiting ministers for their willingness to come and help spread the Good News to our congregation. They were Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). May God bless these brothers for their endless labors of love for us all.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Sue Harris - Kay Steffen

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who were willing to share the message with us this month. They were Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

We are always thankful for our converts. We rejoice with Brittany Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's blessings.

Bro. Greg Baumgartner (Indianapolis) and Sis. Missy Huber (Francesville) were united in marriage August 22. Their parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baumgartner (Bluffton North) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber (Francesville). We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new walk together.

Congratulations and best wishes to Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel on the birth of their new baby girl, Madeline Rose, born August 19. she joins sisters, Sheena and Adriene.

Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalms 46:1

We are all saddened at the untimely passing of Chauncey Frauhiger. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to his parents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Ann Frauhiger; brothers, Dale Frauhiger, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, Bro. Chuck Frauhiger; a sister, Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and his children, Sis. Jemma and Jed Frauhiger.

Sis. Shirley Carrico and Sis. Hulda Fiechter have spent time in the hospital this month. We always want to remember those who are hospitalized in our prayers.

"I've have many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow, There've been times I didn't know right from wrong; But in every situation God gave blessed consolation, that my trials come to only make me strong. Through it all, Through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, Through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word."

Andrea Crouch

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:4-5) What great and enduring promises these are from God. Delighting and committing our attitudes, our lives and our wills to Him is what He desires. As we do this, His will will become evident to us.

This month we have two brothers who have prayerfully committed their future to the Lord in the finding of life-long mates. Our Bro. Chad Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb) was engaged to Sis. Pam Gudas (Algrid and Erica) and our Bro. Alex Gutwein was engaged to Sis. Lorelei Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta, Champaign, IL).

We pray that the joy these dear couples have now will grow fuller and stronger as they delight and commit to the Lord together.

Our prayers are with Bro. Duane Steidinger at the passing of his mother, Caroline Steidinger. May God, who understands all our pain, give strength to Bro. Duane and his family during this time.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber with a boy, Kirk Allen. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer (Milford) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

As a family, we continue to lift up to God those who have suffered accidents and have had to slow down and wait upon the Lord. Our dear Sis. Millie Clauss (Bro. Bob) has recently been in the hospital and our Bro. Bob Huber (Sis. Joy) also has met with accident. May God send speedy recovery to both of them.

Our thanks goes to Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) for their labors of love in the ministering of the Word. To God be the glory.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

August brings the return of school to students, teachers and parents. Along with our many elementary, junior and senior high students, we also have Matthew Gudeman, Sis. Natalie Stoller, Sis. Kathy Heinold, Sis. Andrea Stoller, Duane Gudeman, Christine Heinold, Jenny McClanahan, Rachel Heinold and Michael Gudeman going to college. May they each remember the words of the Apostle Paul to his "son" Timothy (II Timothy 2:15), "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Bro. Lynn Feller has recently returned home from a hospitalization. We look forward to his return to church as well.

Thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Floyd Graves (Croghan/Naumburg, NY). We also enjoyed Single-Group company from Tremont, IL and Latty and Junction, OH. We had greetings from 15 different congregations this past Sunday! What a blessed fellowship is ours.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families in the flood-stricken areas. It is not so difficult to remember our nothingness in the face of nature's destructive forces.

A reminder to LaCrosse Silver Lining subscribers: Subscriptions are due for collection during the month of September.

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

Bro. Levi Pfister, 85, handed me a note. It said the following: "What a privilege, going to church, looking over the crowd and seeing two couples' children that are the fifth generation from my mother and her brother, John Rentsch (Cissna Park, IL). The fifth generation children referred to are the Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Bro. Tim Sauder families. This example takes in a span of 80 to 90 years. May God bless them in this life and in all eternity!"

Bro. Levi often speaks about how he feels it is an honor for a father to have his children sit with him in church. II John 4 says: "I rejoice greatly that I found your children walking in truth."

We are glad our Sis. Helen Zimmer has returned home from her hospital visit.

Recently we appreciated visiting ministers: Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis) and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI). Bro. Bill spoke about how important it is to have correct theology. "It doesn't depend so much upon what we do, but what we believe," he said.

That sounds like Jesus' Word, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

We have been blessed in sharing the brotherhood conference together by hearing the tapes and the message "Obedience To God." We are thankful to our elder brothers for sharing this truth with us.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Judy Longcor

Visiting ministers which labored on our behalf recently were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). May God bless each of them for letting His Spirit work through them in teaching us.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18) On July 8, the engagement of Bro. Jason Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis, Wolcott, IN) and Sis. Jenny Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) was made known. November 14 is their wedding date. May the seek God's direction as they make their future plans.

We all rejoice with Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer who recently were able to hold an open house for all the helping hands and those who supported them with prayers during the time their milking barn burned and was rebuilt. It was heart-warming to see how God works in pulling the community together at a time of great need.

Sis. Marguerite Hoerr is at home recovering from pneumonia. We pray she will feel God's healing power each day.

"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths."

Psalm 25:4

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"Ring the bells of heaven!
There is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild."
Gospel Hymns #622

I am going to start my report on a personal note and trust you will all forgive me for doing so.

Those of you who know us know we raised our grandson since he was 16 months old. You were all so kind to him and to us; often with words of encouragement, saying we would be rewarded in eternity. My usual reply was that I wasn't doing it for that. The only reward I wanted was that he should become a Christian citizen. I meant that sincerely. Sunday, August 8, I received my reward when Bobby answered Jesus' kind invitation. It is wonderful how God works in the heart of a lost soul.

On July 17, Dean Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) and Tammy Thompson became one in marriage. We wish them God's blessings for a happy marriage.

On July 19, Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie) underwent surgery, having a cancerous thyroid removed. We are thankful she is doing well. She is one of our young converts and was announced Sunday, August 8 as having peace with God and man and desiring baptism. She gave me the following note:

Thanks so much for all of the cards, gifts, visits and especially prayers. They made a difficult time so much easier to bear. May the Lord bless you all.

Heather Steffen

Visiting minister Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) was here July 28 for topical Bible study. His topic was Colossians 3:2, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." He had done his homework well.

On Wednesday evening, August 11, Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) were with us. On Sunday, August 15, Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) was with us. These visits gave us many blessings. We invite you brothers all, and your wives to visit us again.

Thought for the day: Enrich someone's life today with a warm word of praise. Both of you will be better for it.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Renee Mangold

We were thankful that we had two visiting ministers for our adult

vacation Bible school; Bro. Carol Gerber (Bluffton North) speaking on "Abiding in Christ" and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) on "End Time Prophecy." Once again, we were blessed by the opportunity to delve further into God's precious Word.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was a success with everyone enjoying good food, fellowship and outdoor games.

Our thanks goes to Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and their families for coming to visit our little church and ministering to the South Bend congregation. We pray for God's blessings for them.

Sis. Mae Schumacher was in the hospital once again and is now back at the Bremen Nursing Home. Our prayers continue to be with this dear sister.

Sis. Helen Martin has just moved herself into Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Wakarusa, IN. Sis. Helen is already reaching out to others around her in Christian love at her new home.

Tragedy struck a family in our congregation, the Langhofers. Their home and veterinary clinic caught on fire and were burned beyond use. Though the Langhofers have suffered an earthly loss, their faith never wavered as they began to rebuild almost immediately with the help of many friends and brethren. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla and their children.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to all our brothers, sisters and friends.

We rejoice with Randy and Luann Lamb as the Lord has blessed them with a little girl.

Derek Sallee (Greg and Diane) and Debra Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois) are engaged to be married March 12. We wish them God's blessings throughout their life together.

We want to thank Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) for sharing God's Word with us. May the

Lord continue to bless you and your dear families.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) conducted our Bible study July 28, entitled "Setting Our Affection On Things Above." We were reminded that we should examine the attitudes and motives of our hearts and minds. We know that to be carnally minded brings death, but to be spiritually minded brings eternal life.

We wish God's blessings and guidance to Bro. Jason Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis, Francesville, IN) and Sis. Jenny Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) as their engagement was announced August 8. May the Lord be their guide as they plan their wedding and their future life together.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) We rejoice that Andy Hofstetter (Marge) has surrendered his heart to the Lord in repentance.

On Wednesday evening, August 11, we were blessed by the visits of Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate their labor of love on our behalf.

We are thankful the Lord's protecting hand was on Bro. Lowell Bahler (Sis. Karla) in a recent automobile accident. He suffered only minor injuries.

Our thoughts were with our elder brethren as they met at the annual brotherhood conference. Our prayer is that they could feel the Lord's presence in discussing the important matters that pertain to our precious faith.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We enjoyed a blessed day with Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) and his wife, Sis. Becky; he brought us the Living Word of Life. May God abundantly bless him for lending himself in God's service.

Our prayers and thoughts were with our dear elder brethren as they gathered this past week to once

again warn and exhort us to the dangers of this world and time in which we are living. May we have a humble and submissive heart to accept these kind admonitions and warnings that we may be ready to meet God and the reward that awaits the true and faithful.

Sis. Tillie Frank would like to express her thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, flowers, cards and gifts while in the hospital. They were greatly appreciated.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Once again our elders, ministers and many brethren have gathered for the annual brotherhood conference. We are thankful for God's protection over those who were traveling on the roads and highways. May we appreciate the love and concern our dear shepherds have for the flocks and may we willingly and humbly follow in the ways the Holy Spirit directs.

Our best wishes to Peggy Moore (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl) who has completed her schooling for medical office specialist at the University of Northern Iowa. May God grant His blessings and direction as she seeks employment.

New Sunday school teachers elected at our recent annual election were Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) for the intermediate class and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Lon) for the beginners class. Also assigned duties were Bro. Tim Butikofer in charge of the recorder and Bro. John Schupbach, trustee.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). We thank them for their visits and for sharing God's Word with us.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Mower - Laura Funk

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) We again are thankful for the ministering brothers and their wives who have again served us this past month. May God richly bless them for their time and

efforts on our behalf. Without their willingness we would not be able to have services here in Garden Grove. Thank you Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Mike Lemman (Denver, CO), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and our Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS).

For three services in a row, the brothers opened to Job. God allowed Satan to test and try Job's faith. In one of the chapters we read how God reminded Job that He made creation down to the finest details of a bird's wing color. We were reminded of how intelligent man is, but yet we cannot even come close to duplicating even the simple things of creation, like a bird's wing colors. This is very comforting to me in knowing that if God cares about the smallest things in this world and even knows the number of hairs on my head, how much more He must care about what really happens to me and protects my soul from Satan. We read that we may be tempted, but no temptation is too great for us to resist with God's grace. My prayer is that each one of us will recognize the power of God and reverence Him and not do what Job's wife encouraged him to do - curse God and die.

On Sunday, July 4, many from our congregation traveled to Point Lookout, MO, to witness the wedding vows of Jeremy Smith (Bro. Gene and Sis. Rachel) and Rebecca Davis. Our prayers are with them as they begin this new chapter in their lives. They will be living in Point Lookout as they both finish their schooling there.

David and Ly-Lee Funk were in a serious auto accident. We are thankful their injuries were not more severe. Ly-Lee had to spend a week in the hospital with a skull fracture and is now home and hopefully, feeling better. We are thankful that God's angels were protecting them.

Our apologies for omitting in our last month's reports that Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) was here to hold services Monday evening, June 28. We greatly appreciate having midweek services with a minister present. What a wonderful hour of worship and fellowship we had.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We are thankful for our visitors this month. May God bless all who make the effort to assemble with us.

We welcome two new students this year, Sis. Heidi Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Lisa Staker (Morton, IL). We look forward to their worshiping with us. May they be bright lights on campus.

Some of us were privileged to attend the brotherhood conference in Goodfield, IL. May we all take the exhortations to heart and go forward on our spiritual journey with renewed zeal.

Heavenward, e'er heavenward
Let us wend our way!
What the righteous seek is there
Found without delay,
But not on earth,
Joy here alternates with woe,
Lift on high from earth below
thy heart and mind!

Heavenward direct thy soul
Ev'ry morn anew!
Swift our pilgrimage doth roll;
This, O man, is true!
O plead and pray: God,
who called me by His grace,
Deep into my heart impress
Thy truth each day.

Heavenward the Lord would have
Thee to set thy aims;
Be not anxious; do not crave
Earthly wealth or fame.
From such abstain!
Only what with hand and heart
For the Lord is set apart
Will bring you gain.
Zion's Harp #91

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

We are thankful to so freely be fed from the Word of Life. May God bless His servants who allow themselves to be used as vessels. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR).

On July 27, Bro. Doug and Charlene Leuthold welcomed little Brent Allen into their family circle. Happy siblings are Christopher,

Sara and Adam. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

On August 6, Todd Martin (Edward and Judy Martin) and Sandy Kooima were united in marriage. We pray God will bless their union.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Twyla Meyer (Bro. Raymond) and Sis. Charlyn Meyer (Bro. George) and their families on the death of their dear mother, Sis. Norma Baumen. We pray God will comfort them.

Hospital patients were Sis. Pauline Knobloch and Sis. Janet Wysong. We're glad to have them assembling with us again.

Once again our brethren have returned home from the brotherhood conference. We prayerfully support our elder brethren. We are reminded of God's command in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Our thoughts and prayers are with our brethren across the land who are flood victims.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna Lanz are thankful for the safe arrival of little Joshua Ronald. Alexandria, along with her grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) are happy to have a new addition to their family.

We welcome Sis. Jennifer Anliker (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dolores) to our precious brotherhood. Jennifer gave her testimony August 7 and was baptized the following day. May God be with her as she finishes high school and endeavors to search out His will for her life.

Our Bro. Leo Rothlisberger laid down his earthly cross and affliction and went to join his dear wife, Sis. Nettie, in the heavenly mansions above. He is survived by his son, Roy, and a grandson, Brad. May God comfort their hearts as

they will surely miss their visits with Bro. Leo. Bro. Leo repented just a few years ago. He was quite elderly, yet God showed him mercy and forgiveness and prepared him a place in heaven.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Virginia Kupferschmid in the loss of her father, Joe Hellenthal. May God be with her during this time of sorrow.

Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) have recently preached the Word across our Oakville pulpit. May God bless them and their families for their willing service.

Note to Oakville Subscribers: Please give your check for Silver Lining dues to either one of your correspondents. The cost is \$9.00. Thank you.

Note of Thanks: ". . . but the greatest of these is charity." (I Corinthians 13:13) Our congregation at Oakville would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the support so willingly lent to the flood victims in our area. Brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors across the land, we humbly thank you for the prayers, monetary support, loaned machinery, in addition to the seemingly unending physical work of filling, tying and loading sandbags, evacuating residents, etc. May God bless and reward each one who contributed to this effort. Most of all, we give thanks to our God who certainly held His mighty arm of protection over all those who worked and labored that the levees in the area could be stabilized.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

Visiting ministers are always welcome and appreciated. May God richly bless Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for serving us through the power of His Spirit. May the Lord grant all of our ministers the grace and courage to continue in His service.

We are thankful to all our dear elder brothers who spent time in conference this past week. May God bless them for their efforts and

prayers on behalf of the church. May we all strive for a closer walk with our Lord.

As always, we are mindful of the sick and suffering, and our prayers go forth on their behalf. Sis. Lydia Wilson was a hospital patient recently. She has been released and is now residing at the West Bend Care Center. We hope and pray she will be comfortable there and feel God's presence and blessings in her new surroundings. We are thankful that Mildred Scuffham can be home again after an extended hospital confinement following surgery. May God bless her with a good recovery.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Elmer Banwart's family. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther (Washington, IL) spent many years in our midst before moving to Illinois. It was a blessing to have them as part of our lives. Those of Bro. Elmer's immediate family who are a part of our congregation are: Bro. Art Banwart (Madeline), Miriam Frieden, Sis. Lela, Paul Jr. (Emmy), Benjy (Betty) and Bob (Kay) Banwart. We wish each one the Lord's nearness at this time of loss.

When comes to the weary a blessed release,

When upward we pass to His kingdom of peace,

When free from the woes that on earth we must bear,

We'll say "good-night," here, but "good-morning" up there.

Two dear little ones joined our congregation this past month. Colleen Kathrine joins Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr. To help care for her are grandparents, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester). Caleb Michael was welcomed by Mike, Patty and Allison Fehr. Grandparents of Caleb are Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Champaign, IL) and Tim and Judy Kloster (Nebraska). May God guide them as they raise these little ones.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis and Lois Ehnle

At our fellowship meeting, which was held July 27 and 28,

Bro. Toru Saegusa spoke on the spiritual growth of the early disciples. As he poured over many scriptures from the New Testament, we could see that the early disciples did flounder badly but that, in the end, God did use them. We concluded that there may still be hope for our own small churches in Japan.

Our children visited us here in Japan this summer and we had the opportunity to talk about the importance of a stable family, the importance of being ready to meet God, etc. It was a valuable time for us and we thank God for it.

About a week ago at our Wednesday night Bible class I asked a lady who attends regularly if she had thought about what happens after death. (We were discussing eternal life.) She replied she had never thought about it.

I have since been told that there are many people in America, also, who say they have never thought about what happens after death. Why don't they think about it? What can we do to cause them to think about it?

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew & Jana Klaus

For the past two months this area has been engulfed in one of the worst rainy seasons. Day by day I'd wake up and think, "What? Another rainy day?" However, as we kept hearing from family and radio news about all the flooding in America, I thought perhaps God was just allowing us to relate a little to the suffering of our fellow brethren. How our hearts go out to you!

On July 27 and 28 we had our summer church meeting in the mountains. We felt an extra special blessing from the Lord as He gave us gorgeous sunny weather for those two days. The topic for the first day was about the lives of the disciples, given by Bro. Toru Saegusa (Shioda). We were encouraged that today we can continue that discipline with our Lord Jesus' blessing. The second day, Bro. Uchida (Shioda) gave his testimony, which is really quite interest-

ing. He is such a dear, committed, older brother, often smiling, even though his health isn't the best. We all enjoyed walking, singing, and fellowshiping together, and were especially glad to have the Ehnle's two sons, Tony and Tom, with us from America.

On Sunday, August 15, Bro. Willis and his wife, Sis. Lois, gave of themselves by coming into Tokyo to help out as Bro. Akito is in America. They brought their two daughters, Joy and Jewel, visiting from America, as an additional blessing. A big thanks to the Ehnles for their service and love once again. The church is also anticipating a visit from Bro. Andy Klaus' sisters, Sis. Faith and Sis. Melody (Washington, IL) as they are visiting their family and first nephew for a few weeks.

Sis Onoda's oldest son recently had knee surgery from a soccer injury. We do pray for God's healing hand on that.

I recently read this quote from Corrie Ten Boom, a faithful soldier of Christ who experienced much in her days, but has gone to her rest. "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God."

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Leola Lehman (Bro. Edward) and family in the passing of her brother, Bro. Ted Locher (Sabetha) July 20. May God send His comfort.

A new baby is a special blessing of God. Ed and Sara Popkess are first-time parents of a son, Hogan Tyler, born August 3. Grandparents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Roger and Lanna Popkess.

The annual Sunday school picnic was August 3 at Sycamore Springs. We think of our Sunday school children, especially as they return to grade school, high school and college. May the Lord bless and be with them this new school year.

Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bro. Roy) was recently hospitalized and we wish her God's nearness as she recovers.

Bern and Sabetha churches hosted the Fort Sam Soldier Reunion July 31 and August 1. Visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Charles Sinn and Bros. William Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). Also ministering to us this month was Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We thank each one for bringing us the Word of God.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

We sadly bid farewell to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller. We are grateful for the thirty-five years of faithful service they have given in the ministry. On their last Sunday, our congregation gathered for a potluck supper in their honor. Many of their children and grandchildren were here for the occasion including Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and ministering Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). We were blessed to have them lend themselves in preaching from the Word. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl in their retirement as they will now worship with the Bern congregation.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Doug and Judy Kraft

We are thankful our Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy) has returned home after spending several weeks in the hospital. May God continue to be near and bless her.

I'm sorry to be so late in reporting the marriage of Bro. Barry Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) and Sis. Regina Edelman (Sis. Marge) May 23 was their special day. May God bless them and keep them in His tender care.

We welcome home Bro. Cory Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen), who has spent the past year working in the Philadelphia, PA area. We wish Kayla Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie) the best as she moves to the Philadelphia area for employment.

KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

THE UNION OF HEARTS

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 three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.
Zion's Harp #79, vs. 3

With great love and joy, the friends and family of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Laverne Roth helped them celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. May their steadfast love and devotion to the Lord and to each other be an encouragement to us all.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Millie Frieden and Sis. Kathryn Miller. May each of them feel the Lord's healing power as they recover at home.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Psalms 116:15) On July 24, Bro. Bernie Emch was called to meet his Lord. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Dena, who resides at the Home in Sabetha, and one son, Bro. Bill and his wife, Sis. Susan, and two grandsons, Brent and Brandon Emch. We will miss Bro. Bernie but trust the Lord will comfort and provide for Sis. Dena and fill the lonely days ahead with His love.

The family of Bernie Emch would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy shown to them during the loss of their loved one. Your prayers, cards and many loving deeds are deeply appreciated. May God bless each one.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger Sharon Strahm

Our congregation has been saddened by several deaths. Bro. Ted Locher, 86, passed away July 20

after an apparent heart attack. We extend sympathy to his daughter, Sis. Betty and Bro. Doug Metzger and their family and to his sons, Wayne, Robert, Roger and their families. We miss his quiet ways and presence.

On August 11, death came to Bro. Joseph Traub, age 89, after a period of declining health. We trust God will comfort Sis. Viola, his faithful wife of many years. Bro. Joe and Sis. Vi brought much joy with their organ and violin music.

We also sympathize with Sis. Dena Emch on the death of her husband, Bro. Bernie. His services were at our Lamont church. And our sympathy to Sis. Mary Aberle on the death of her sister, Ruth Yackley. What a wonderful, eternal reward is promised the true and faithful. May we be diligent in our calling. And what does "diligent" mean? It is constant, careful effort; painstaking.

We also have several new babies. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm welcomed Levi Dale into their family circle August 3. He will also be loved by Ryan, Renee, Jodi, Julie and Loren and his grandparents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong are happy first-time grandparents. Little Madalynn Alise was born July 19 to Becky and Jim Haney. Great-grandmother is Sis. Evelyn Wysong. We wish these families many joys and blessings.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Irene Lehman who had knee surgery and Sis. Lena Steiner. We pray God will be near them and heal and encourage them.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held with a good attendance and an enjoyable evening of fellowship for all.

The Fort Sam Reunion was hosted by the Bern and Sabetha churches. We enjoyed all who came; and want to especially thank the ministering brothers who served us spiritual food. They were Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and for our Sunday evening services were Bros. Gary Brown and

Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). We sincerely thank them.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Bro. Godfrey and I would like to thank the Wichita congregation and the many others across the land who have prayerfully supported us for the past six months during the time our son and his wife were in Houston for her treatment at M. D. Anderson Hospital. At this time, they are in their home caring for their family, which means I, too, can devote my energy to duties here, including reporting for the Silver Lining. I especially thank the sister who reported for me during our stressful time - the Lord does provide!

And the Lord spares, as Nathan Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline) can attest. He and his two companions were involved in an accident in which their vehicle was totaled but the three young men were spared.

Bro. Ron Allenbach of Kiowa ministered to us August 1. We appreciated having him and Sis. Lois spend the day in our fellowship.

Sharon and Leon Norris and daughter, Johanna, have moved from Oregon to Wichita where Sharon is interning in family practice at St. Francis Medical Center. We are delighted to have them worship with us.

Our college students include Patrick Funk attending Kansas State at Manhattan and Sis. Jennifer Reimschisel attending Bethel College in Newton. They are in our prayers for a victorious Christian walk as they continue their education.

Two babies whose roots can be traced to our Wichita congregation have been born recently. On July 9, Blake Alan was born to Sheryl and Dale Toews. Earl and Sis. Carol Carter (Dale, IN) are his grandparents. On June 25, Austin Arthur was born to Victor and Sherri Wullschleger (Somers Point, NJ). His grandparents are Sis. Gussie and the late Bro. Arthur Wullschleger.

As the Lord gives life, He also

takes it away. Dewey J. Brunt, Jr., brother of Sis. Lillian Bowers was buried August 12 after enduring critical illness. Dewey endeared himself to our hearts as he worshipped with us and shared responsibility for the care of his aged father.

Also, on August 14, Sis. Ruth Yackley was laid to rest. Bro. Richard Aberle, her nephew, conducted the services. Sis. Ruth had been residing with her daughter, RuthAnn Barker in Las Vegas, NV). She is also survived by another daughter, Becky Cooper, a son, Andy Yackley, grandchildren great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. Sis. Ruth and Bro. Roy Yackley were charter members of the Wichita church and both are remembered for their gracious hospitality and loving ways.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings in Jesus' precious name! This has really been a short summer. The children are back to school and fall is just around the corner. The yearly brotherhood conference is once again past and those of us who were not fortunate enough to be there, are looking forward to hearing the words of encouragement and exhortations on tape.

We are living in a very dangerous time for the Spiritual man and we just pray we stay very alert and watchful against the powers of darkness, and "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupts good manners." (I Corinthians 15:33) Think about it! Many of us rub shoulders every day with evil communications. Are the influences showing in our Christian lives? Are we still portraying the true example of Jesus Christ for all men to see? May we all examine our lives every day and be sure as soldiers of the cross we haven't gotten "out of shape." What a Christian army we would be if we drilled each day in our spiritual lives as hard as the soldiers in our earthly armies do. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;

that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (II Timothy 2:3-4) Let us take pride in our calling and not be ashamed of our Lord and Saviour.

We want to thank the many dear brothers who have stood as soldiers of Christ and brought us the Word of truth in this last month. They were Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Pflederer (Morton, IL) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and their families, along with many other brethren and friends who have visited us. May God be their rich Rewarder. We want to continue to encourage anyone who might feel God's directing to support our small congregation, to come join us in our efforts to be a beacon in this beautiful city.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita Walder and Marlese (Congerville, IL) as they welcome little Kyle Benjamin into their home. Kyle's happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto).

Several of us traveled to Leo, IN, to attend the annual auction and sale at Gateway Woods. A good time was had by all. We sincerely appreciate your "work of faith" and "labor of love".

Alto has enjoyed the numerous vacationers who have joined us for services throughout the summer. We especially want to thank Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) for sharing the Word with us.

Sis. Hulda Feichter (Bluffton North, IN) is presently hospitalized after experiencing a stroke. Our prayers for God's blessings are with her and her sisters, Sis. Margaret and Sis. Christine Wingeier and Sis. Delila Schrenk (Bro. Elmer, Alto) as they travel to be with her. As Sis. Hulda so very humbly said as I was leaving her home the other day: "Take your Love with you . . . You'll be just fine".

Our cups were filled as we listened to those ministering at our general conference this year. We learned that obedience to God

brings contentment within every facet of our holy and simplistic life. We are a very fortunate people and so richly blessed.

It is time once again to collect for the Silver Lining at Alto. Please see your correspondent. Thank you.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher

Those of our loved ones on our sick list this month have been Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl) as she was in a car accident and had broken ribs.

Sis. Doris Knochel had surgery and is still in the hospital.

Also having eye surgery was Sis. Alice Wieland. We wish these our loves ones the Lord's grace and blessings in their times of woe.

We were blessed this month to have with us ministering Bro. John Lauklauf and family (Latty, OH); also Bro. Greg Rassi and family (Chicago, IL). We thank these brothers for lending themselves in the service of our Lord by bringing forth the wonderful Word of our blessed Lord.

We rejoice that three of our loved ones this month have professed peace with God and man. Allan and Pam Wackerle (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle) and Maryann Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer).

We are please to have a couple moving to our congregation, Mark and Natalie Berg from Alto, MI (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer).

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and loved ones of Sis. Anna Meylan (late Bro. Art Meylan) as she went to be with her Lord Sunday, August 1. Sis. Anna is remembered for her appreciation of nature, watching her birds, her garden, travel, music and her love of her family.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

A very enjoyable Vacation Bible School was held this year on the topic of "Lessons from Noah." We extend a big "thank you" to all who helped in this endeavor, and espe-

cially to Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) who concluded the week with a discussion on the Ten Commandments.

Like the prodigal son in Luke 15, Sis. Ethel (Krizan) Rambeau has testified that she has come home to the Father. Sis. Ethel was baptized August 1 and we warmly welcome her into the fellowship. You have only to look at her smiling face to know that she has found what she has been searching for!

Congratulations to Karl Moilanen and Kerry Kirkland on their engagement! Their parents are Tom and Kay Moilanen (Detroit) and Andrew and Lynn Kirkland (Bath, OH). We wish them God's presence in the days ahead.

Bro. Leonard Hitz (Sis. Audrey) was ill this month, and Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rosie) underwent surgery. We pray for God's restoration for both of them.

Although we have welcomed a few new faces to Detroit in the last month, we have also said sad farewells to others. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller, along with Natasha, Austin, Celise, have moved to New Jersey and will be attending the Philadelphia, PA, church. Also, Sis. Alisa Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) will now be attending Kansas State University to further her schooling. We will miss all of these loved ones very much, but we know that God has plans for them in their new situations!

Once again, we enjoyed having Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) here to minister to us recently.

Services for October at Woodhaven will be held Tuesday, October 5, at 7 p.m. Our neighboring church in Beverly Hills is scheduled to host this service.

God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.

St. Augustine

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

Children are a blessing from God and we see the joy they bring to loved ones. Claire Elise brought

much joy to the hearts of Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill August 1. Meg and Ben are excited about their little sister. Grandparents are Sis. Barb Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores Zehr (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler are rejoicing with the arrival of Micah Kent August 12. Big brothers are Braden and Seth to help with his care. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl (Morris) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler (Lester, IA).

Bro. Doug Messner's term in Sunday school has expired and he will be replaced by Bro. Dick Metzger.

God has answered our prayers as Sis. Diane Stewart (Dave) is at home recovering following surgery.

The children enjoyed getting together the week of July 19 for vacation Bible school. May they keep these teachings in their hearts.

We remember in prayer those who will be attending college this fall. They are Calista Feldman (Bro. Phil and Sis. Char), Craig and Stacy Fritz (Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry), Bro. Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheryl, Lester), and Sis. Sheryl Luthi (Sis. Della, Morris).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Maxine Sauder

This past month has held special occasions to rejoice in. It is encouraging to reflect on the faithfulness of our great God.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall had reason to rejoice as they witnessed the testimonies and baptism of their children, Loren and Karla. We share in their joy and welcome Bro. Loren and Sis. Karla into God's family.

It is wonderful to see that God still moves the hearts of men as Lowell and Karen Moser came to Him in repentance. Lowell's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser.

God also prepared the hearts of Bro. Dwayne Feuchtenberger and Sis. Kay Koehl for committing themselves to each other in marriage. Our prayers are that God would give unto them wisdom,

faith, and love to establish a strong foundation for their life together. Their parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger, and Bro. Edward and Sis. Lois Koehl.

Along with many summer visitors, we were thankful that ministering Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) were willing to preach God's Word.

Several precious babies have given a special joy to their families. Erica Lynn was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Penny Domnick. Grandparents sharing the joy are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA). Jerry Ray was born to Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder. Heidi, Heather, Harmony, and Jesse are thrilled to have a little baby brother. Also welcoming the new baby are grandparents, Virgil and Mildred Sauder and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber (Fairbury, IL).

Those in need of hospitalization and healing were Eli Nohl, Marie Feuchtenberger, and Sis. Helen Schaefer. May God continue to strengthen them.

In September there is a day set aside to honor grandparents. The following poem was written by a 14-year-old in dedication to a grandmother, whom she obviously loves very much.

WHY, SHE'S MY GRANDMOTHER!

God seems to know the things we need by all that He has given,
But, there is one special gift we know that God sent straight from heav'n.
He must have saw a need for this and that is why she's here,
This special one for us to love and to our own hearts be dear.
He must have known that we would need a little extra care,
And saw that we would need this one with whom our hearts to share.
God must have thought it over and with the angels discussed,
And then He did decide we need one more to place within our trust.

This person He did give us to cherish, care, and love,
She's one of His great gifts that He has sent from up above.
There's never been one quite like her. There will never be another.
She's someone whom I love and trust . . . Why she's my grandmother!

B.F.

Grandparents, your "little extra care" has such a great influence on those little lives!

We also realize that many young adults will leave home to pursue an education. We pray that they will always use the Bible as their guide to successful living and look to God to provide the grace and strength to live it.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Kim Messner - Joleen Messner
"Greetings!" Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis). May God bless him for sharing the Word with us.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Pearl Lienemann and Mitchell Lauwagie (Howard and Charlene) and our surgical patient was Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce). We pray it may be the Lord's will to restore health and strength to our dear loved ones.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti
"Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today, For a soul returning from the wild . . ." (Gospel Hymns #622) We are rejoicing as three dear souls have made known their desire to serve the Lord. They are Brent and Galen Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) and Holly Wales (Don Wales and Sis. Carol Wales). May God continue to lead and direct them in this most important step of life.

On July 19, Madalynn Alise arrived to brighten the home of Jim and Becky Haney. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong (Sabetha, KS).

On Sunday, July 25, we were richly blessed to have two visiting

ministers in our midst. May God richly reward Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) for ministering unto us.

The first week in August our Sunday school children enjoyed vacation Bible school. Many thanks to the teachers for the time they gave and a special thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for being with us for Bible study on Friday evening.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Martin Hohulin Carolyn Banwart

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers with us this past month. We heard many wonderful exhortations and warnings to help us walk this narrow path that leads to life eternal. May God bless the following ministers and their families for spending time with us: Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN).

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (St. Luke 15:10) We are so thankful that two dear young souls, Ulista and Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) have turned their hearts to the Lord. May God grant them the grace and faith to work out their souls salvation so they may be worthy of entering those eternal realms above.

We welcome Doug Feller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) to our congregation. He has recently turned his heart to the Lord in repentance and now resides in Springfield, MO.

Our hospital patient this month was Matthew Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa). Also, Bro. Art Banwart had surgery on his elbow. We are thankful both are doing well again.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tami Grimm

Although there will still be a

long wait before all the flood-water has receded, some cleanup has begun. Many of our beloved brethren and friends have already been here to lend a hand in the cleanup. The efforts of each one who helped fight the flood, helped financially, and now are helping with the cleanup, are very greatly appreciated!! We pray that the Lord will richly bless each deed of kindness!

Since our congregation is separated by all this water, we have grown to appreciate our brotherhood even more. One Sunday, recently, most of us living in Quincy made the two hour drive to our special "Church on the Levee" for services. As our congregation was reunited in worship for the first time in four weeks, we had a foretaste of the great reunion we'll experience in heaven someday. Although we have been physically separated for over a month, our hearts and minds are strongly united together! We plan to continue having services in both Quincy and Taylor until the bridge and highway are able to be opened.

We've been so grateful for the ministers who have shared with us this past month. Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) ministered to those gathered in Quincy, and Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) were with the Taylor congregation. How we appreciate our visiting ministers and our "home" ministers who so willingly bring us the wonderful living Word! May God bless their efforts.

Aubrey Rose was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr July 21, after her parents were flown over the flood waters by helicopter, from our Taylor church to the Quincy hospital. Welcoming her home were here three older sisters, Ashley, Kaitylyn and Alexandra. Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevromov (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr.

Sis. Marie Butikofer is recuperating, following surgery, in the home of her daughter, Sis. Ruth Cottrell. Sis. Ruth's husband, Bro. William, also is bedfast in their home and requires much care. We admire Sis. Ruth's loving care to both of them, and our prayers are

with all of them. Sis. Marie is convinced that the prayers of the brethren helped so much when she was too weak to pray. How comforting it is to know that the Lord hears our groanings! She wants to thank all who remembered her in prayer and those who sent cards, letters and gifts.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our elders and ministering brothers as they gathered for the annual conference. May we always remember to lift them up in prayer, that they might be given Godly wisdom in the many decisions they must make.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm's new address is 203 Morton Drive, Quincy, Illinois 62301.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Franz Soni

"If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."

Job 36:11

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. Though we were few in numbers we truly appreciate his effort. May our loving Father in heaven richly reward him.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (301) 478-7847 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN/NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

Larry and Dawn Weller are the parents of Ean Alson born July 8. He was also welcomed by his brother, Bret. Maternal grandparents are Bruce and Betty Richie and the late Emerson Schneider. May he bring an added blessing to this family.

July 24 was the wedding date for Terry Farney and Kari

Laubscher. Terry's parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen and Kari is the daughter of Mark Laubscher (Croghan), and Diane LaVada (Gloversville). May God be their guide as they begin a new home together.

Our annual business meeting was held July 26. May God lead each one who has assumed a position in the household of faith. Bro. Lowell Virkler and Sis. Mattie Farney will be Sunday school teachers and Bro. Ron Herzig will be a trustee.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held at Happy Hollow August 14. The beautiful day was enjoyed by our Sunday school children, teachers, parents, and many others.

We were glad to have Sis. Regina Herzig assemble with us again after several weeks of absence while recovering from shingles. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gertie Herzig (Bro. Ted) as she is hospitalized for treatment on her back. May God be a comfort to each of them as they continue their recovery.

Sis. Lena Virkler celebrated her 100th birthday August 23. An open house was held at her former home in Croghan Sunday and on the day of her birthday several of us gathered at the East Road Adult Home, where she has resided for three years, to sing hymns together with the residents to help celebrate her birthday. She has been a widow for many years and our prayer is that God will continue to bless her with good health in her remaining days. She was preceded in death by her husband, ministering Bro. Jonas Virkler, and her daughter, Sis. Blanche. We miss her in our assembly as she is not able to be out as in former years.

At this time, we have three dear sisters who have reached the age of 100 years, Sis. Augusta Einbeck, Sis. Lovina Farney, and Sis. Lena. May God be a strength to each of them and to those who help care for them.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Jesus said, "Go ye up unto this

feast . . ." (John 7:8) There were several feasts God gave Israel to observe and each depicted an accomplishment to be after the coming of Jesus. Leviticus 23 gives the Feasts of the:

Passover, when the lamb was slain - Jesus died for us.

First fruits, when they brought a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest - Jesus arose from the dead;

Unleavened bread, when they were to eat unleavened bread - Sin is crucified;

Pentecost, when they were to bring two loaves baked with leaven - Before this it was unleavened bread, and one sheaf of grain, but this is for two loaves with the rising power of leaven. It is two: both Jews and Gentiles received the Holy Spirit; and Christians received rising power.

Trumpets, which announced special events - We look for the trumpet announcing Jesus gathering His own to Him;

Atonement, the cleansing of the people - The Great White Throne;

Tabernacles, when Israel entered her glory - We look forward to the glory of heaven.

Between Pentecost and Trumpets seems to be the era in which we live. For Israel it was the time they were busy at harvest. A Christian's life can be feasting in the power of Jesus and we pray our accomplishments are a harvest of souls for Him.

Joseph Miller, son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice and pray that he will grow in grace and faith.

Sis. Kathy Bako returned from Hungary where she visited her mother and others in her family.

We appreciated messages from Bro. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

"This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) We were privileged to be reminded of the shed blood and broken body of our precious Savior as we partook of holy communion

July 24. We are thankful for Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) who willingly served us.

May the Lord richly bless Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for their labors in the ministry of God's Holy Word. We appreciated the many visitors who have shown support to our small congregation by worshipping with us over the summer months.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Maburn and Sis. Julia Hale (Florida) have reached the stage of life where they can no longer live independently, so their family has moved them up to our area where they can assist their parents. We warmly welcome this dear couple back to our community and are thankful for the progress that Sis. Julia has made since her brain surgery.

We offer sympathy to Bro. Paul Gherian and his family (Sis. Sharon, Ted, Micah, Justin) in the loss of his mother, Sis. Elizabeth IzGherian (Windsor, Ontario). Parting with a loved one is difficult, but our hearts are comforted when we can hear that she was ready and waiting to "go home."

Bro. Paul Manz and Sis. Karen Schlatter have been elected as new Sunday school teachers. We offer our prayers and support to all our teachers not only at church but also in our conversations at home. Thank you to Bro. Gus Dietrich and Sis. Kathy Manz who have faithfully completed their terms.

We lift up our youth in prayer as many will soon be returning to public schools. We are grateful for those brethren who are willing to serve on the committee that is investigating various avenues of educating our young people. They need our prayerful support.

Before attending the brotherhood conference, Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz traveled extra miles east to be with us. We thank Bro. Art for his message of love Wednesday evening.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

One day two travelers decided to take a hike to the top of a mountain. The view from there was said to be quite spectacular, and worth the long journey to the top.

The travelers had only gone a short distance when they realized that the path was not going to be easy. The road was all uphill, the bags that they carried were heavy, and they carried many unnecessary items. Often the travelers thought about turning around, the end really could not be that wonderful.

After many hours of uphill climbing they reached the top. They were able to rest and as they looked around they saw beautiful crystal clear lakes, the breeze was cool, soft and gentle. The journey had been worth every long, hard step.

Let us as God's children be encouraged. May we rid ourselves of the unnecessary baggage of the world. May we take one careful step at a time knowing that when we can go no further God will provide a rest for us. And may we know that when we reach our journey's end it will have been worth it all.

Our congregation was blessed with two baby boys this month. Rueben Alan was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Happy to welcome their new brother home are Neil, Trent, Ross, Blane, Rustin, Joy, Esther, Arthur, and Martin. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller.

Bro. Rich and Denise Plummer are proud parents of Derek, Rex, Kurt, Ashley, and Nathan are glad to have a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann Plummer.

We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for bringing forth God's precious Word to us.

God has heard and answered our prayers for loved ones having surgery this month. Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) is back worshipping with us, and Bro. Dick Whitman (Sis. Eileen) is home following his surgery.

We are thankful Bro. Vince Schlatter was spared serious inju-

ry after a car accident.

May God comfort the hearts of all who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain) on the death of her brother, Chauncey Frauhiger. Also to Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy) on the death of her grandfather, Paul Mackaman.

Brian Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen) and Becca Forrer (Garnet Beagle and Robert Forrer) will be married October 9. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan for their life together.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

Larisa Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) have decided to lay aside the weight of sin and follow Jesus.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) was the theme for the twenty-first annual Ohio Michigan Youth Day which we had the privilege of hosting Sunday, August 1. The weekend actually began at the fellowship hall in Rittman with a delicious BBQ chicken dinner on Saturday evening. Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) then compared the young people's lives to that of Daniel's. On Sunday, Bros. Bill Brake and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) likewise exhorted us all to follow the One and Only who never changes. We appreciate the effort on everyone's part who contributed in any way, whether it was bringing the young people to Mansfield, teaching a class, leading the singing, preparing food, helping to serve a meal and especially those who prayed for a blessing upon the day. May God bless each one for their part.

God bless you! God bless you!
Bless and keep us all in Jesus' love,
And, when our partings here are
over,

Take us to the joys above.

Gospel Hymns #514, chorus

The end of July also brought a sorrowful parting for the Mansfield church. Our dear Sis. Linda Morrison has been led to take a position at the Preschool in Athens. Her mother, Sis. Catherine Morrison has also been led to move with Sis. Linda. We will surely miss their sweet, smiling faces. However, we are sure they will be a blessing to the Athens church. Their new address and telephone number is: Catherine and Linda Morrison, 13020 Dickens Lane, Madison, AL 35758 (205) 230-3463. May God keep them in His tender care until we meet again.

The past month brought two partings to families of our loved ones. We pray that Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheli Fairchild and their family have felt our prayerful support in the loss of his father. Our prayers are also with Bro. Richard and Sis. Helen Bricker in the loss of her mother. May each of these loved ones and their families feel God's comforting arms around them during this time of sorrow.

"... they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Acts 5:42) We are thankful to Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) for lending himself not only to share the Word with us over the pulpit, but also for being willing to come and join our early morning Bible class. May the Lord bless Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam as they continue His work here on earth.

As school starts once again, it is with prayerful hearts that parents send their children to school. May the seeds that have been planted in their hearts through the teachings at home and at Sunday school override any of the other theories that they will be taught. May God bring forth fruits worthy of heaven from each young heart according to His perfect timing.

Our friend, Craig Vent (Dick and Sis. Becky) has felt the wonderful healing hand of God this past month. He underwent an emergency appendectomy and is recovering very well. May each of us remember to thank the only One with the power to heal when one of our loved

ones is on the road to recovery.

OHIO, RITTMAN Linda Ramsier Marsha Hartzler

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) There have been several new arrivals in our congregation. Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne Kipfer welcome another son, Joshua Matthew. Brothers, Brandon, David and Daniel now have another playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Latty) and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener.

Lynn, Lisa and Troy Rufener also have a new brother in the family, Treg Austin. Treg's parents are Bro. Steven and Sis. Jenee. Grandparents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Bro. Rowen and Judy Schar.

Lois Grace joined the family of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner. Nathan, Joel, Luke, Aaron, Mary, Andrew, Ethan and Matthew Jr. welcome a new sister. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner and Sis. Doris Gasser are the happy grandparents.

We appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers. We were privileged to hear the Word brought forth from Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA).

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) We also want to thank Bro. Gene Lehman for sharing of his travels and experiences from across the ocean. We were reminded how financially fortunate we are and that we should be willing to give of our abundance.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been hospitalized lately: Bradley Young (Rex and Carol), Bro. Bill Breece (Sis. Pearl), and Randy Moore (Sis. Beverly).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Hartzler at the passing away of her brother, Homer Dockus.

I apologize for the error in the July report. Grandparents of James Michael Lanz (Bro. Vern and Sis. Deanna) are Bro. Dick and Sis.

Freda Lanz (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

Visiting ministers in July were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH). Thank you to both of them for making the effort to be with us and to God for making their visits possible.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Kim Stoller - Edith Miller

Visiting ministers that have labored in our congregation recently were Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May God bless them for their efforts.

Those hospitalized this month were Chester Greenbank (Josephine), Jessica Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna) and Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine). We are thankful the Lord has granted a good recovery to Chester and Jessica. However, we are sorry Bro. Charles had to go through a second surgery and is still quite ill at this time. May he feel our prayers, and also experience a complete recovery in due time.

On July 31, Scott Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet) and Patricia Crist (James Crist and the late Judy Crist) were united in marriage. We wish God's blessings to this young couple.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's
ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

We rejoice in the knowledge that God is still calling souls unto repentance, and are thankful to report that Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith) has answered this call. We wish God's blessings upon him as he begins his walk with the Lord.

We have enjoyed having Bro. Matt Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT) in our midst for the past couple of months. He has spent his summer

working in our nursing home to gain experience which will be helpful in his future career. He will be leaving us again now, and we surely wish him the blessings of God as he goes back to school to further his education.

As this is the time of year for many of our children to return to school again, may God's protecting hand be over each one, from the youngest child entering school for the first time to the high school graduate leaving the protective environment of home to enter a college of university. May we as parents always remember to hold our children up in prayer before God each day. We trust the words of Solomon in Proverbs 1:8 (My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother) will be applied by each one of these souls.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"... I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Sis. Betty Fetter (Bro. Richard) was a recent hospital patient. We are thankful that she is able to be with us in church again.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month, Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction). May the Lord richly bless these brothers and their families for their efforts.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Peggy Schulz

Christian greetings to all. We have continued to enjoy our flow of summer visitors. We thank you for bearing with us in our limited space. How fortunate we are that, though we may be limited in physical space, God is not limited in showering us with spiritual blessings through our fellowship.

We have truly felt a loss with the departure of three dear souls this past month. Sis. Becky Gudeman has moved back to the

LaCrosse, IN, area until her marriage to Bro. Lonny Moser (Mansfield, OH). Sis. Ann Fehr (West Bend, IA) has completed her summer employment and has resumed her studies at SDSU in Brookings, SD. Bro. James Keiser (Bloomington, IL) has returned to Illinois after spending the summer here working for his grandfather, Bro. Lee Kuenzi. May the Lord be their guide and stay throughout the future days.

We welcome Bro. John Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (West Bend, IA) to our congregation. Bro. John has found employment in our area and Bro. Kevin is here for a two month internship in horticulture.

Sheree Hari (Howard) has been hospitalized this past month with pneumonia. We are thankful she is home and doing much better.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"Oh that man would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Psalms 107:8

Our Sunday school picnic was held July 25. We were able to enjoy good food, fellowship and nice weather. We thank our Sunday school teachers for willingly allowing themselves to be used to teach our children of our loving God's Son.

We said farewell to Bro. Cory Metzger who will be returning to school in Emporia, KS, and also to Sis. Janese Kellenberger who returns to Lamar, MO. We wish them God's blessings. We also welcome Sis. Kayla Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie, Gridley, KS) who has found employment in this area. We look forward to having her worship with us.

We encourage those who will be in the area to come worship with us. Services are held Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information please call Elder Bro.

Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

On August 1, we were once again privileged to sit under the sound of the gospel as Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) ministered to us. We also welcomed his wife (Sis. Marlene) and their family as well as other visitors from Latty, OH, Peoria, Washington and Gridley, IL. Thank you for your efforts in coming and may God truly bless all of you.

"Our lives are a rich tapestry of things we've done and said With memories of those we love outlined in golden thread."

Alarie Tennille

As the Labor Day holiday has just past, let us take a few moments to examine the tapestry we are laboring to weave with the help of the Lord. Is he pleased with the things we've done and said? Are we loving him first with our whole heart, mind, and soul and he has commanded us? How many golden threads are in our tapestry from loving one another? Hopefully there are many for love is truly the greatest gift we can give and receive in return.

We extend the invitation to all to come worship with us and also see the Nashville area. Summer-time is in the full swing not but fall is just around the corner, when the tree leaves will be changing color. This is an absolutely gorgeous time to come. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Enid Miller (615) 384-1081; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser Kimberly Kaiser

Our summer in the Dallas area was very hot and dry. As summer ends, our school age students begin a new year of study. May God be with them in their new classes.

Some of the Dallas families were able to travel to Morton, IL, to hear the testimony of our past Dallas

resident, Sheri Perry. We miss Sis. Sheri. May God's grace and blessings be with her as she begins her new life in Christ and as she settles into her new home in Morton.

Our hearts have been filled by the messages of our visiting ministers. Our summer ministers were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Thomas Schrenk (Athens, AL), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), and Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). We really appreciate our visiting ministers and their families.

We love having visitors in Dallas. Our services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp (214) 867-4074 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

This past month we had a chance to see our World Relief activities at work in Zapata. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dee Steffen (Bluffton, IN, brought a large number of boxes of clothes to Zapata. Mrs. Rosa Nelia Teveno, teacher of the migrant children, brought about thirty needy families to pick out school clothes for the children. We learned that these children were very concerned because they did not have school clothes. They all seemed very appreciative after they had the opportunity to choose clothes and take them home. The infant clothes were taken to the clinic in Laredo. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dee took 3 Maytag wringer washing machines for the Haiti project back to Indiana.

Lila Plattner, daughter of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary, joined the World Relief Medical-Dentist teams in Juarez, Mexico, the week of July 14 to 21. Lila translated the language for them.



SILVER THREADS

A PRAYER

When my hair is thin and silvered
And my time of toil is through,
When I've many years behind me,
And ahead of me a few.
I shall want to sit, I reckon,
Sort of dreaming in the sun,
And recall the roads I've traveled,
And the many things I've done.
I hope there'll be no picture
That I'll hate to look upon
When the time to paint it better
Or to wipe it out is gone.

I hope there'll be no vision
Of a hasty word I've said
That has left a trail of sorrow
Like a whip-welt, sore and red . . .
And I hope my old age dreaming
Will bring back no bitter scene
Of a time when I was selfish,
Or a time when I was mean.
When I'm getting old and feeble,
And I'm far along life's way,
I don't want to sit regretting
Any bygone yesterday.

I am painting now the picture
That I want some day to see.
I am filling in a canvas
That will soon come back to me.
Though nothing great is on it,
And though nothing there is fine,
I shall want to look it over
When I'm old, and call it mine . . .
So I do not dare to leave it,
When the paint is warm and wet,
With a single thing upon it
That I later will regret.

Author Unknown

SOUL SEARCHING

Does anyone remember that you
spoke to him today?
Is anybody happier because you
pass his way?
Can you say tonight, in parting
with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of
the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over
what you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were
fading
now with courage look ahead?

Did you leave a trail of kindness,
or a scar of discontent?
To the man who might be failing
offer him encouragement.
As you close your eyes in slumber,
do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more
tomorrow
by the work you did today."?
Author Unknown

LIFE'S SHIFTING SANDS

Sands of time so
swift and silently
sift through life's hourglass;
Time waits for none -
the morrow isn't ours, and
today is gone - alas!
Each day, anew
each step leads nearer to
end of life's "little day."
Value time giv'n! Invest
in lasting things, above;
vain are earth's pleasures - they
Expire; are fleeting!
empty! (only for now), then
ending; all will pass away.
Rise to the call;
rich is His love, His grace
restores to highest place:
Of His dear child.
Only one life, one chance.
Overcome, win final race.
"Come unto Me"
come drink living water, free
commune as friend with friend;
Keep my precepts.
Kinship with King of Kings;
know blessings without end.
Eternity!
e'er praise to Thee, My
Everlasting King and Friend!
Author Unknown

KINDNESS

Kind hearts are gardens
Kind thoughts are roots
Kind words are flowers
Kind deeds are fruits.

"BE YE ALSO READY"

In the morning, that glad morning
when He comes to claim those,
dear;
Nearer, ever coming nearer
then the trumpet sound we'll
hear.

Glorious will be that glad hour;
glad we'll be to see the throng

Angels with our great Redeemer
singing that triumphant song!

Zealous, then, oh let us labor
'twill be worth to fight each
"whim;"

In the loving arms of Jesus
to be gathered unto Him.

Many were our sins that sent Him
to the cross - our Sacrifice;

Many were His tears to save us;
do we value the great price?

Each He offers invitation
"come to Me, I am the Way,"

Ready self for that reunion
on that Resurrection Day.

Mansions there prepared in glory
beyond mind of man to know.

All the saints will join in singing.
Will we sing new song, also?

Now's the time of preparation
(nought of earth will help us
win)

Come and join that countless
number,
then with saints go marching
in!
Author Unknown

LEAD THOU ME ON

Lord, take my hand and walk with
me today;
In righteous paths direct me all
the way.
Let not my footsteps falter, Lord,
no stray
From foll'wing Thee upon the
narrow way.

When dark clouds hover o'er me,
faith to try
Let me look in Thy Word, on Thee
rely.
Hold fast Thy truths, (Thee, Jesus,
ne'er deny)
Knowing full well my needs Thou'll
e'er supply.

Should faith grow weak -
remember, He is strong;
He'll help me fight all doubt, all
fear, and wrong.
Sufficient grace (though battle
seemeth long)
To overcome: for to Him I belong.

So come what may: life's struggles,
toils and test
Let me keep faith in Thee, calm
trembling breast.
And ever onward, upward pursue
quest
'Til I fulfill life's mission - then
sweet rest.
Author Unknown

THERE IS A CALM

Beyond the restless, stormy sea of
life
there is a calm
Which spurs us on to cling to faith
thro' strife
we'll have no qualm.
Our ship of faith will "weather"
stormy gale
with Jesus. He
Will map the course of this our
bark so frail
speak "peace" to sea.

The winds and waves will yield to
His command
we need not fear
Just follow faithfully His guiding
Hand
then we shall hear:

"Come enter in the home prepared
for you"
who did adhere
To walk by faith, not sight, in
trials, too
to teachings clear.

Now robe of white and glittering
crown so bright
exchange for cross

To those who kept the faith and
fought the fight
shall know no loss.

Endless the blessings through
Eternity
for you and me.
New song we'll sing - praise, honor
unto Thee forever free!
Author Unknown

THE THREE IN ONE

Oh Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Be ever with us at our post
Of duty. May we e'er list to Thee
And walk by faith, not sight, that
we

May know Thee as our gracious
Host -
Blest Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost -
Foll - o - ing close the narrow way;
Each step - one nearer to that day.

We reach the City paved with gold
Assured that all's well with our
soul.
Race will be o'er; life's battle won.
There see complete - the Three in
One.

'Tis pow'r of Trinity, we know
That helps us overcome life's
throes.
Then face to face; mission complete
We'll kneel in awe at His pierced
feet.

There ever Thine! this is our goal!
Our names "writ" on the heav'nly
scroll
There, we, also in Thee be one
With Father, Holy Ghost, and Son!
Author Unknown

FELLOWSHIP IS A TRUE SECRET OF JOY

First With the Father and Jesus

"God is faithful by whom ye
were called unto the fellowship of
his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."
I Corinthians 1:9

"That which we have seen and
heard declare we unto you, that ye
also may have fellowship with us:
and truly our fellowship is with the

Father, and with his Son Jesus
Christ."

I John 1:3

Then With Others

"Not forsaking the assembling
of ourselves together . . ."

Hebrews 10:25

"But if we walk in the light, as he
is in the light, we have fellowship
one with another . . ."

I John 1:7

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

can read here, when it was written
many, many years beforehand, then
we go to the New Testament and
can read it, and it is just like we
are reading the same thing again.
Such a beautiful thing!

That is where we need to start,
at the foot of the cross, and there
begin our journey. As we start,
Jesus said in the fifteenth chapter,
"I am the true vine, and my Father
is the husbandman. Every branch
in me that beareth not fruit he
taketh away; and every branch that
beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it
may bring forth more fruit." (John
15:1-2)

So we start there at the foot of
the cross and we become a child of
God, because we are washed by the
blood and are made right with God.
Then we can have that peace in our
heart . . . that peace that we can't
really explain. If you have not ex-
perienced that peace, we can't real-
ly explain it, but we can tell you
that it is a wonderful thing!

So, we can have that peace, but
then we are given instruction that
we are to bear fruit. It says that,
"Every branch in me that beareth
not fruit he taketh away." (John
15:2) There is a danger there, isn't
there? We need to continue to draw
close to God. We need to continue
to follow His ways and to bring
forth fruit.

What kind of fruit can we bring
forth? We read in Galatians about
the fruit of the Spirit. It talks about
love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gen-
tleness, goodness, meekness and
temperance. All those type of things
are things that we want to bring
forth in our life.

Jesus here talks about love very
much, and that we have the love of
God in our hearts. If we can have

that love of God in our hearts, then
even as we read here, the world
will hate us, but we will still love
the world, won't we? Even though
we go forth and the world would do
terrible things to us, if we have the
love of God, we will still love them.

We won't love what they do. We
do not love what the world does
when they go forth and sin. Jesus
never loved the sin, but He loved
the sinner, didn't He?

He is such an example for us, as
we think about Him on that cross,
and how the people had taken Him
and put Him up there and nailed
the nails into His hands, yet He
still had that love, didn't He?

He still had that love for those
people. He said, "Father, forgive
them, for they know not what they
do." That is the kind of love that we
need to be working toward to bring
forth in our life.

So many times when something
happens to us in this life, we are so
quick to want to get back at some-
body and get some revenge. Maybe
someone cheats us out of some-
thing. We think, "Oh, we can't let
them cheat us out of this. We are
going to show them."

Jesus doesn't preach that, does
He? He says, "Love them!" He says
that if a man would come, and (I do
not remember the exact words, but
something like) take away your
coat, give him your cloak also. (See
Luke 6:29) We are not to be striv-
ing about those things. We are to
be loving people and showing kind-
ness to people. If someone cheats
us out of something, well, they
cheat us out of something. We still
love them. We are still kind to them.

If Jesus can love those that
nailed Him to the cross, and if Jesus
could love us when we were sin-
ners and when we rejected Him, it
is such a small matter, isn't it, to
show that love to others?

I do not think that there is any-
thing that anybody can do to us in
this life that even compares to what
we did to our Saviour. He still loves
us, doesn't He? He wanted to go to
the cross for us.

"Now ye are clean through the
word which I have spoken unto you.
Abide in me, and I in you. As the
branch cannot bear fruit of itself.

except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

John 15:3-4

No matter how hard we try, if we are not part of that Vine, we cannot bring forth fruit. So that again shows to us that we have to start at the beginning. We have to start where the map starts. We have got to start at the foot of the cross.

Then we have got to stay a part of that Vine. We have to stay a part of that Vine because as anyone knows that when something is cut off from the vine, it cannot bear fruit anymore. In fact, it dies.

As it says here, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:6) So we have to remain a part of that Vine. We have to be a part of that family of God. That is the only way that we can bring forth the fruit that God wants us to bring forth.

We can try. We can try on our own. We can try to follow this Word. We can try to do everything it says, and that is good. Yet we have to be a part of the Vine and a part of that family of God.

We need to look to God. The other thing about that is, being a part of that Vine, we don't look for the strength from outside of the Vine, do we? We don't look for things outside of the Vine to try to find strength, but we go back to the source of strength.

That is what we always have got to remember. We don't generate the strength by ourselves, but we get strength from the root of the Vine . . . that is from Jesus Christ.

Sometimes it is so easy to get out there and try to solve something. Maybe something comes up in our life and pretty soon we are back to relying on self rather than going back to that root of the Vine . . . going back to Jesus and to God. We try to rely on ourselves to try to figure things out for ourselves or do things for ourselves. We always must go back to the Strength.

"If ye abide in me, and my words

abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

John 15:7-9

We have that love from God, and it is in overabundance. We can take that love from God and give it to someone, can't we? How can we give that love to somebody? Maybe it is just a kind word sometime. Maybe it is a smile. Maybe it is a word that we speak to someone, telling them about Jesus and about His love.

There are so many ways and so many opportunities that we have to share God's love, isn't there? We should be looking for opportunities. As we kneel by our bedside in the morning, we should ask God, "Give me an opportunity that I might be able to share Your love with someone today."

Do we do that? Do we ask Him in the morning to give us opportunities? As we go forth, are we looking for opportunities? Or are we caught up on our own little world and our own little cares and concerns so that all we can think about is how we are going to take care of ourselves or get through the day?

Sometimes we have those days where we just try to get through the day. Yet we always need to be looking for opportunities to share God's love because God wants everyone - God wants everyone! - to be with Him up in heaven someday. Every person, anybody you come in contact with, God want them to be with Him up in heaven someday.

God wants us to go forth and share that love so that they might know the way. We can direct them to the beginning of the journey who might be able to show them and give them this map that leads toward heaven.

We can show them that they have to start over here, at the foot of the cross. That is what God wants. That is God's will.

Sometimes in this life, we do not always know what God's will is. Sometimes we have a burden or

a heartache and we just pray that it could pass. We need to always say, "Not my will, Lord, but Thine!"

One thing that we always know is God's will, and that everybody would be with Him up in heaven. So as we go forth and we share the love of God, we can't go wrong, can we? We really can't go wrong if we go forth with a heart just wanting to share the love of God. We cannot go wrong, because it is the will of God that we would all be with Him up in heaven.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." (John 15:8) That is something that is so important, that we who call ourselves Christians and we who call ourselves children of God, we have a very big responsibility. We have a tremendous responsibility because if we say we are children of God, we need to act like children of God. We need to bring glory to the Father.

If we go forth and we are not acting like a child of God and others look and say, "There's a man and he calls himself a Christian, but, I have seen non-Christians act better than that."

I have had someone tell me that before. They had had some experiences with people who called themselves Christians, and those experiences were not good. They generalized the whole thing. It was maybe three or four people and they generalized the whole thing and they said, "I know a lot of non-Christians that are so much better than the Christians."

People will do that, won't they? They will generalize the whole thing. We say we are children of God and when we do something wrong or wrong somebody, they will generalize the whole thing. They will say, "They are all that way." Then they don't want to have a part of something that is so beautiful.

So we really have a responsibility, don't we? We need to bear much fruit and go forth and show people the love of God. Not so that they can say, "They are nice people." That is not what we are going for. We are going so that others can have understanding of what the power of God is really like, of what

the love of God is really like, and of how people who are serving Jesus Christ and how they do that because of the wonderful Saviour they have.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." (John 15:9-10) We can read somewhere else, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

I think that doesn't need any explanation. We all know that as followers of Jesus Christ, we need to keep His commandments and follow these.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11) That is one of the fruits of the Spirit, joy, isn't it? What a joy it is to serve God!

Some days we can have just horrible days. We can have pressure at work or pressure at school. Things can be going just horrible for us the whole day. But we really still can have a joy in our heart, can't we?

Sometimes, when things are going so horrible and things are rough in life and we feel bad, then it's a wonderful thing to stop and say, "Really, what is all this going to matter? Life may be going rough for me now, but I have a home waiting for me up in heaven. I have something more to look forward to."

We then can have a joy in our heart because we know that we have something more to look forward to. We have a home waiting for us up in heaven . . . up in heaven, with God, forever! When things are not going right and the day seems to be going so bad, we can still have a joy in our heart. That joy can be full because we have something better waiting for us.

Jesus went on and said, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Today, the world defines love a little different than the way God defines love.

The world defines love for the

moment, and for the time being. The world seems to think that love can die, and that love can go away. So many people get married and say that there is love there. Then, sometime later they say, "I just don't love that person anymore." That is not love.

We know what love is. Love is undying. Love does not fade away. Because the love that we want to have in our hearts and our lives is the love of God. We know that love has no end to it . . . it continues on forever and ever. That love is there through thick and thin.

Jesus died on the cross and even though those people had done horrible things to Him, had spit upon Him and whipped Him, and He hung there on the cross, He still had a love, didn't He?

That love did not go away. Jesus tells us to love one another, and that love should never go away, no matter what happens to us in this life, no matter what somebody does to us, that love is forever, because the love that we need to have in our hearts is the love of God.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." (John 15:13-17)

If we always keep that in our mind, that we love one another, then it really will be well with us. If we all love one another, then the strife and the separations and whatever else would be, it won't happen. They will not happen.

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world,

therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:18-19)

He goes on and speaks more of being hated by the world. We are to expect that. We think of Jesus, Who was perfect, and yet even though He went about and healed people and He preached the love of God, and even though He did no man any wrong, the world still hated Him, and they crucified Him on the cross.

So we can expect that the world might hate us. But, we don't return that hate, do we? We don't return hate, but love. We return a love, just as Jesus returned a love.

Perhaps there will be those who at one time hated us, and now perhaps they will be able to, by the grace of God, become one of us, a child of God. We think of Paul and certainly, he hated the Christians. He went forth and was putting them in prison and killing them. But what happened to him? Even though he hated them, Paul saw the Light and became one of them.

We need to continue to share that love with the world even though it may seem at times that the world doesn't want it. The world may just as soon we didn't share that love. Yet we need to continue to share that love and let people know that there is a God up in heaven Who created the universe and that He sent His Son, and His Son died on the cross, as it was foretold many, many years beforehand.

His Son went to the cross as a Pure Lamb. As He went and died on the cross, His blood was shed. His blood was shed that we might have remission of sins, that we might have our sins forgiven and be washed clean so we can be part of that family of God.

The world needs to hear it. May it be that God can use each and every one of us in His service that we might be able to bring forth that Word unto the world, whether it be through actions or whether it be through words, whatever it be.

May it be that the love of God can shine forth in our lives that many more might yet be partakers of the gift that God offered when He sent His Son to die upon the cross.

SERMON BY BRO. TRENT MEISS OF IOWA CITY, IA

"God's Love Is Special" Isaiah 53 and John 15

It is wonderful how these two scriptures tie in so nicely together. In the first scripture which we read, we learned and read of the prophecy of Jesus dying on the cross. If we read through that, we can see how many things were prophesied beforehand of Jesus dying upon the cross.

Then as we read in the New Testament reading, we read what God and Jesus wants us as believers to do when He talks about the love we are to have for one another and for all mankind.

So I will start with the Old Testament reading, since that is where we need to start in order to be a follower of God. We need to go to that foot of the cross, which it talks about here. That is where we need to start if we want to reach that heavenly goal.

We talk about the Bible being a map that leads us toward heaven. The starting point has to be here at the foot of the cross, as the prophet here foretold of that time when things would happen, many, many years later. That is where we have to go. That is where we have to begin. It is right at the foot of the cross.

We read here about Jesus and how He was perfect and how He had no sin. It says, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our

sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

That is the beginning of it all. Right there at the cross, where Jesus went and died there for our sins. He was bruised for our iniquities. Not for someone else's, but for ours . . . for each one of ours. That is why He went to the cross!

It says here, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Jesus went to the cross and laid down His life for us . . . for us! . . . who, at the time, were His enemies because we were partakers of that sin.

If we have not yet turned to God, we need to do that today, because that is the beginning. That is what we need to start on our journey that goes toward heaven.

We can follow everything the Bible says, and it is good if we do, but if we do not go to the foot of the cross, if we are not washed by the blood of Jesus Christ, it will not do us any good. We may be a good person here on earth and perhaps it will help us here on earth, because God's Word does help us. But

if we do not go to the foot of the cross, if we are not washed by the blood, it will not do us any good.

If we take a map and start somewhere in this United States and are trying to get to Bradford, IL, if that map has one road on it and one direction on it and we start somewhere else in the United States, we are not going to get there. We have to start at the place that the map starts.

That is the way it is as we go toward heaven. We have to start at the place where the map starts. The map starts at the foot of the cross, for Jesus died there for our sins.

So many things were prophesied here that it really is amazing when we read through this. We can read through it, and it is exactly as it happened.

It says here, "He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death . . ." (Isaiah 53:9) We can recall how he died there on the cross with two thieves on either side. Then He was laid in the grave of Joseph of Arimathea, who was a very rich man.

So many things were prophesied, and they all came true. Isn't that a wonderful thing? Should that not increase our faith and belief in this Great and Almighty God? We

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