



"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:57

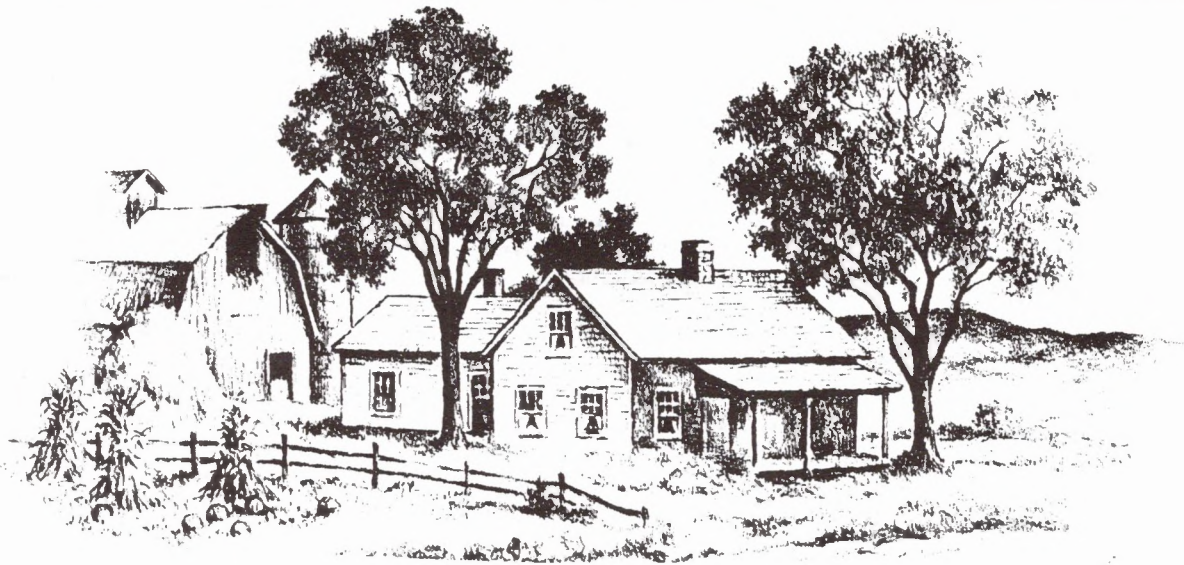
"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wonderful works."

Psalms 26:7

VOLUME 43

NOVEMBER 1993

NUMBER 11



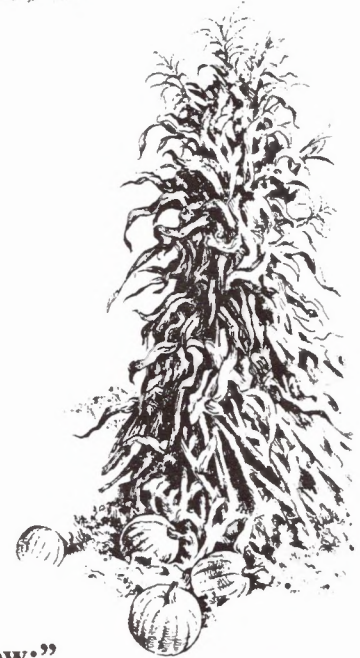
The Harvests of the Heart

The earth had yielded up its precious gifts of fruit and grain.
The world may suffer many changes, but these things remain:
The glory of the harvest and the bounty of the soil.
Rich reward for weary hours of hard and patient toil.

*Life, too, has its harvestings when youth's bright days have flown.
Down the furrows of the years we reap what we have sown.
Bitterness or happiness. Remorse or sweet content.
Too late then to sigh for years gone by and hours misspent.*

Scatter then the seeds of friendship and of charity . . .
And for each good seed you cast you'll reap abundantly . . .
Sow in love and when at last the golden days depart . . .
Gather sheaves of happiness: the harvests of the heart.

Patience Strong



"... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few:"

Matthew 9:37

MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When we partake of holy communion, we drink from the cup which symbolizes the blood of Christ. But what is so important about the blood?

In Exodus 12:13 we read, "When I see the blood I will pass over you." The blood was a token or symbol of saving faith in that house.

Matthew 26:28 tells us, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." This makes the blood very important because we thereby are forgiven and made right with God.

But what is so important about being forgiven? "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) Death refers to spiritual death in hell. Hence, forgiveness of sin is a must in order, to escape that death.

Jesus said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." (John 13:8) It stands to reason that unwashed feet on earth will not keep us out of heaven. Jesus was no doubt talking about being washed spiritually, which requires His blood to be shed.

Peter writes that we were redeemed "With the precious blood of Christ." Again the blood is emphasized.

In a physical sense, blood is not something pleasant to think about. Yet when we think about the blood of Christ, let's think about it as the medicine for our souls. It makes our souls completely healthy.

The fruit of the vine, of which we partake in holy communion, symbolizes the blood of Christ. When Christ shed His blood, He suffered hell (the wages of sin) for us. Blood represents life, for without it no physical being can live. Christ's blood is important.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Cedar Creek Retirement Complex will be hiring a director of nursing for the 42-bed, intermediate care, plus 20-apartment complex. Planned opening date is January 1, 1994. For more information please contact, call or write:

Bro. John Klopfenstein
15028 Reservoir Road
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-3934

or

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

HURRICANE 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.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors: Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

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

IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

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, Admin.
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(219) 627-2159 Office
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David Bertsch, Elder
11520 Souder Road
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(219) 627-2923



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

THE VIRTUE OF FRIENDLINESS

Each believer in Christ is an ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20) whose mission in life includes radiating Christ's love and spreading His good will to others.

The Lord Jesus taught, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Indeed, God's children are the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14) as described in the Sermon on the Mount.

A major aspect of a believer's general manner in everyday living is the virtue of friendliness. A friendly manner is one of the most positive lights one can beam forth for Christ. If a person is genuinely friendly, he draws positive responses from others.

Friendliness probably does not come naturally to many people. It must be cultivated. In the Old Testament, Ezra the priest "prepared his heart" to study the law of God. Likewise, we as individuals must prepare our hearts to be friendly and to reflect a pleasing and positive personality as we seek to be a "light" for Christ.

Many people today are nearly overwhelmed by stress and the frenzy of activity in their lives. Interpersonal relationships are very often strained due to the estrangement and bitterness which have arisen from broken homes and shattered lives. Into such a setting the bright light of friendliness can offer a welcome ray of encouragement. Each and every believer in Christ has an opportunity (in fact an obligation) to be friendly, cheerful and courteous to everyone. To do less is a failure to imitate Christ.

Teachings in the Bible explain the root of true friendliness. From this immortal book people have learned throughout the ages the principles of civility, restraint, discretion, decency and consideration for others. If obedient to its teachings, believers will display the virtues of warmth, love and friendliness.

Solomon said it quite plainly when he wrote, "A man that hath friends must show

himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). Along with this, he also said, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones," (Prov. 16:24) and "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Prov. 17:22).

Ruth, the Moabitess, was gleaning ears of corn in a field when Boaz came and impressed her with his friendliness and compassion. He said, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2:12).

Ruth replied, "Let me find favor in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou has spoken friendly unto thine handmaid" (Ruth 2:13).

When the Apostle Paul was in bondage under the supervision of Julius, the latter allowed him liberty "to go unto his friends to refresh himself" (Acts 27:3). The friendliness of Paul's companions "refreshed" him. It is no different today. Our friendliness to others can be very refreshing to them.

Friendship and friendliness were displayed in the close relationship between David and Jonathan. When Saul was conspiring to kill David, young Jonathan went and told David to hide; he even went to his father, Saul, and "spake good of David" and temporarily calmed Saul's enmity. Later, the friendliness between Jonathan and David resulted in a covenant because "Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam. 18:1).

The Apostle Paul gave very descriptive advice to those who are risen with Christ and who daily seek those things that are above: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness (friendliness), humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Col. 3:12).

Opportunities abound for true Christians to extend the beam of friendliness. Every believer should be aware of the daily opportunities that present themselves to

portray friendliness. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40). The Apostle Paul wrote, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). This could apply to friendliness because that virtue is a part of goodness.

The believer should show friendliness to all men, but especially to his brethren in faith, because together they are the bride of Christ, the church. A true and abiding relationship should exist among the brethren which can be compared to none other on the earth.

In the home, and among family members and siblings, friendliness is a must! Parents, are you friendly to your children? Are you too busy, too stressed and too preoccupied to show friendliness to your children? It is possible that many parents do not seize opportunities to be especially friendly to their children. Studies have shown that on an average day, a father spends only 19 seconds, one on one, with his individual children. How friendly can a father be in only 19 seconds?

In our churches during Sunday and Wednesday evening times of fellowship, are we doing our best to be friendly and cheerful to everyone, without preference? The spirit of Christ will shun no one. An important goal in coming together for worship is to encourage and edify one another. Kindness and friendliness are traits that help to build up inner strength. It is required that we be consciously friendly among God's people.

The believer's efforts to achieve friendliness will not be forgotten. Even those who give a cup of water in the name of the Lord will be rewarded (Matt. 10:42). Likewise, as true believers extend cupful after cupful of friendliness in the name of Christ, the blessings of fellowship will abound here on this earth and there will be great rewards in heaven.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20) As the Thanksgiving season approaches, there are thanks to be given for, many things here at A.C.H.H.

The magnificent autumn colors are being enjoyed by all. Visitors often mention the beauty of the grounds, especially in the fall when God's handiwork is awesome! On one October morning, a bus loaded with residents took a drive around the area to observe the changing leaves.

Many blessings were received by the group of our people who visited the Remington-Wolcott, IN, area for a recent weekend. The warm hospitality extended to us was deeply appreciated.

At the annual Morton Pumpkin Festival, Kent Knobloch won the prize for the largest pumpkin, a whopping 266 1/2 pounds.

Gloria Heiniger has moved from our Main Street home to Apostolic Christian Restmor, 935 E. Jefferson, Morton, IL 61550.

Construction work continues at Linden Estate, a new 16 bed facility. At the time of this writing the bricks are nearly laid, and the street and parking lots are ready to be blacktopped.

December birthdays at A.C.H.H. are Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Lisa Menold (15), Delores Wieland (15), and Anne Carrescia (30). The Oakwood birthday celebrant is Phil Fehr (18). At Hazelwood Doug Clauss will have a birthday December 23.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Tim Sauder

"And the Lord said to the teacher, 'Come, I will show you misery.' They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished and desperate. Each held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so long that it could not be used to reach each person's mouth. The suffering was terrible.

'Come, now I will show you contentment,' the Lord said after a while. They entered another room, identical to the first - the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long spoons. But there everyone was happy and nourished.

'I don't understand,' said the teacher. 'Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room and everything was the same?' The Lord smiled, 'Ah, but don't you see?' He said, 'Here they have learned to feed each other.'

We all need to be fed, nourished, nurtured, disciplined, uplifted and reinforced. Within our staff team here at Gateway Woods, we find it a necessary joy and privilege to support each other, to lift one another's burdens. The Leo church and our extended "families," out across the U.S. do an impressive job too.

I did, however, mention reinforcement. I mean reinforcements as in "sending in the cavalry". At times we are weary soldiers and we have casualties, wounds, and weariness on the front lines. We need replacements! It's not so difficult if one knows that reinforcements are on their way and scheduled to arrive at any time. The toughest season to endure comes when we don't know when the help will come or even if it is coming at all.

I know we are to wait on the Lord and trust His grace to get us through. But sometimes it's just so hard. It's especially tough when we know that this is the Lord's work, the fields are "white with harvest," and that the Spirit is already convicting, nudging and working in the hearts of singles and couples, but there remains a measure of fear or a reluctance to step outside one's "comfort zone" to stretch and accommodate the lines and troubles of others. Becoming an Alternate Houseparent, whether for the winter or indefinitely, is a great opportunity with deep and eternal rewards. Seriously consider your talents and our needs. (Please see notice in this issue.)

We must accept that not only is change a part of our lives at Gateway Woods but also part of our purpose. We were excited to see that Jenny G., who has been in the East House for two years, has found a family in the home of our foster parents, Ed and Shellie Love. Lia B. has moved into the East House. We welcome her to our campus "family."

Another change includes Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner settling in the Leo area after their years of parenting in the New House. We are glad to have them nearby, but the children still miss them as dad and mom. Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Todd and Sis.

Winter Works Project

Gateway Woods has an excellent works project for the winter months. We need a mature couple to come and serve as **part-time alternates** for the regular Houseparents. This would include substituting in our homes for the full-time Houseparents' scheduled days off as well as routine maintenance and household chores. This project would be an eternally rewarding way to spend the time between harvest and spring planting; sowing seed for our Lord Jesus Christ in the hearts of needy youth. Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm have done this for over five years and they would be glad to talk to anyone about their work here at Gateway Woods. (As a note of explanation, Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth are planning to spend the winter in Florida after Bro. Art's knee surgeries.)

Please contact the Gramms or one of the brothers listed below to learn more about the details of this Winter Works Project.

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(219) 627-2923

Art & Ruth Gramm
Box 43
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2798

Carol Schrock, have now taken over.

Our former Summer Volunteer Coordinator, Bro. Trent Schrock, and our Education Coordinator, Sis. Heidi Broquard, were recently united in marriage in Bay City, MI. We are excited that Gateway Woods played a part in bringing them together.

From our windows we have been watching giant earth movers transform what used to be our west pasture and waterway into a pond for us and the neighboring Cedar Creek Retirement Center. The excess dirt is being piled into a mound that provide variety in the terrain and a sledding hill in the winter. Needless to say, we are excited!

At the end of October, we held a Harvest Party on our campus as our alternative to the godless holiday of Halloween. The evening was filled with games, relays, a community-wide scavenger hunt, wiener roast, and singing.

Our Bro. Art Gramm, who serves as an Alternate Houseparent, maintenance man, and "grandpa" to all, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. It is good to see him around again.

We appreciate the volunteers from Francesville, IN, who substituted while the staff enjoyed a camping get-a-way in late September. God bless you all.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

As I look at the fields of cotton in Alabama at this time of year, I'm always reminded of the verse in the Bible, "behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35) We must pray for the field of souls, that they are ready for the "great harvest."

We began our official fall activities with a wiener roast the first weekend of September, at the fellowship hall. Sunday, the 5th of September, we had a singing at the fellowship hall.

The twentieth day of September was chosen to begin replacing the roof on the Athens Church. We very much appreciated all of the

volunteers who came to put a new roof on. As part of the shingles were being removed on Monday, the first day, we were blessed with a down-pour. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And

patience, experience; and experience, hope; And hope maketh not ashamed. (Romans 5:3-5) I believe everyone's faith and patience was tried that day, however, by Wednesday, the old roof was removed, and the new roof was completed! We

— NOTICE —

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

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

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 132, 307 West First St. or
Congerville, IL 61729
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
September 1993 —	1661	3170
October 1993 —	3572	6742

*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

wish to thank all of our volunteers, it would not have been possible without you.

October ninth was a fish fry at the fellowship hall. J.R. and Louise Hall hosted the fish fry, and we all enjoyed the fresh catfish.

The Sunday school went on an

outing to the "Pumpkin Patch" on the third Sunday of October. It was a beautiful fall day, to enjoy good old-fashioned fun on the farm. There were hay mounds to climb up and slide down, ponies to ride, ducks to feed, animals to pet, and a hay-wagon ride through the farm.

We hope that if you are heading South for the winter, that Athens can be a stop on your way. We appreciate our visitors!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"That ye walk worthy of God, who has called you unto His kingdom and glory."

I Thessalonians 2:12

October 9 was an evening of our Lord's love shared when we gathered to hear the testimonies of Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill.

Each having been baptized in their teens, felt the need for a closer walk with God and, praise the Lord, prayers have been answered.

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) came to assist our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich with this event.

We are rejoicing in our new family addition.

The pessimist sees a difficulty in every opportunity; The optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty.

Our October 10 fellowship dinner and singing was a delight as usual. One ingredient that makes these times such a pleasure is the planning and work. 'Tis truly a labor of love and much more appreciated. Our loving thanks to all.

Visiting ministers we thank are: Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), deacon Bro. Loren Knapp and Bro. Nathan Leman (both from Tucson).

Patience is a necessary virtue in a Christian life. Much patience is needed by those who have a need.

Volunteer help doing World Relief projects and/or hospital activities can be very helpful. World Relief will meet in mornings and evenings, once a month, in the congregational room. Bro. John Kaufman has the Hospice information.

HAITI & JAMAICA WORK TEAM SCHEDULE

Project	Date	World Relief Area	Locations	Area Coordinators
School	12/10 - 12/18/93	#5 Bluffton & Indiana	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,	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.* AL, CA, FL	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 K, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	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

HAITI-JAMAICA WORK TEAM NEWS (See Page 33)

*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.)

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

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

Our Sunday school picnic was held recently. It was still warm although it was the second Sunday of October (in the 90's) but we had a wonderful picnic in spite of the heat. We raised funds for a homeless mission through our annual bake sale and had fun at the same time. Many thanks to those responsible for all the games, food and enjoyment; our Sunday school teachers and especially our superintendent and his wife, Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer.

Church cleaning was also held recently and the job completed in good time and with good results. Thanks to those who willingly gave up a Saturday to care for the house of the Lord.

We have started a choir here in Tucson. We have decided to meet one evening a month to practice songs and just enjoy singing together. Our number is small but we have made a beginning and will see where it takes us in the future.

Our Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Bro. Curt) has injured her leg and required surgery. She is home and recuperating nicely but will need a cast for quite some time. Our prayers are with Sis. Caroline as she recovers and regains use of her leg. Hopefully she will be able to congregate with us again soon.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**Carol Graf**

Since we are well into October, the summer vacation is long over and school is in full swing. However, here in California it seems that summer is not over quite yet. For the past week, temperatures have been in the 80's and 90's in the afternoons. I, for one, am looking forward to cooler weather!

Justin Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol) has moved here from Rockville, CT and is going to college in Claremont, CA. We are very happy to have him here.

Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was our visiting minister this past month. We appreciate his willingness to serve the Lord with our congregation.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**Rose Huetta**

We are rejoicing and looking forward to hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our friend Mike Howell. This is to be held November 20 and 21. May God shower many blessings on this happy occasion.

Bro. Rory Strahm has been in the hospital for tests and surgery and now is back home feeling better. We pray he will continue to improve. It was so good to see him at church this past Sunday.

We extend a big welcome to Joscef and Posalia Kaplaw to our congregation. We wish you many blessings. We are so glad to have you.

We want to thank visiting minister Bro. Ken Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) for coming to our little church in San Diego. May God richly bless you. Also, a big thank you to all our visitors. We love having you come and come back soon.

COLORADO, DENVER**Jamie Grant**

Christian greetings to all, from beautiful Colorado! It is fall once again; the forests appear to be dripping with honey, as the Aspen leaves have matured to various shades of yellow and are slowly descending on their habitual journey back to the ground. From time to time, we behold a fresh blanket of snow recapping the top of Mt. Evans, and during the next few weeks one can give audience to the wild elk: An exciting annual event for we Coloradoans known as "elk bugling." I must admit, this was the first time I have been acquainted with the word "bugling" aside from the description of a "brass instrumentation." Traditionally, once a year the elk move down from the higher elevations to graze, as well as to mate. Each herd is led by a bull. The bull is mostly responsible for nurturing the group with food, and warding off predators. As I surveyed one particular bull and his herd, I watched how occasionally he needed to call one of the cows back to herd because she was drifting away and opening herself up

for danger. At other times, the bull bugled to a stalking bull in the distance; encouraging him to take on his challenge.

You see "bugling" is simply "Elk lingo," but to me it was a unique scenario of the responsibilities our ministers and elders have for our precious church. They are responsible for nurturing their flock, teaching us scriptural survival skills to ward off the most vicious predator, Satan, and lastly helping the church grow with a "call to the nominal Christian."

The past month we have enjoyed listening to the conference tapes. We heard many great teachings and were also lovingly admonished not to drift in a way that would separate us from loved ones, or cause potential danger. Many thanks to our ministers, elders and the Goodfield congregation for their labors of love with the 1993 conference.

Our little church is continually growing. We are all happy for Sis. Barb and Bro. Chris Johnson, and their first little addition to their home. Kyra Ann was born August 16.

Happy grandparents are Sis. Mary and Bro. Herman Baer (Princeville, IL) and Roy and Susan Johnson (Tallahassee, FL). Also, Brad and Karen Metz have been blessed with a little girl, Larissa Catherine, born September 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL) and Mark and Ruth Ann Martino (Roanoke, IL).

We are also thankful to have Dave Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth) as he has found employment in the Denver area

Lastly, it was a privilege for our single group to host Labor Day weekend this year. What a foretaste of heaven we experienced as we sang hymns amidst God's beautiful creation.

We also thank our visiting ministers; Bro Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Give Your New and Old Address
To Your Reporter

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

"Love of all gifts is the greatest
..." (Zion's Harp #37)

Sis. Cherinne Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) is engaged to Bro. Burt Wheeler (Margo and Burton). We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their new life together.

"At Home, 'tis well!
With God in close relation
The soul forgets the sorrow it has
borne
With pains o'ercome on that bright,
golden morn,
Rejoices in our God's sublime
salvation."

(Zion's Harp #170)

It is always sad for the family of loved ones, yet it is victorious when a soul leaves us, for their battle has finally been won. Sis. Carolyn (Fehr) Hartmann passed away October 12 (age 81). She was the widow of Raymond Hartmann. She leaves her son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Roberta Hartmann; four grandchildren, Darcey, Kristen, Joshua and Caleb; three sisters, Sis. Catherine Farney (Cissna Park, IL), Elizabeth Fehr and Margaret Hodel (both of Roanoke, IL); and several nieces and nephews. Sis. Carolyn will be missed here in Rockville.

As the season approaches Thanksgiving time, we draw our thoughts to those we love, and the richest blessings we share from our Savior.

"Blessed, holy is the hour
When we Jesus think of Thee
And Thy word in godly power
Hear and in our hearts receive
So we pray to Thee, imploring
Open Thou our understanding
May we hear, as Mary heard,
Sacred teachings of Thy word.
Zion's Harp #218

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"That I may publish with the

voice of thanksgiving, and tell of
all Thy wondrous works."

Psalm 26:7

As we approach the coming holidays may we always be sharing the real meaning of the celebrations with others.

This fall we have had many visitors. This month our visitors were from Naumburg, NY, Rockville, CT, Rittman and Sardis, OH, Leo, IN, Silverton, OR, Iowa City, Oakville and Lester, IA, Eureka, Forrest and Peoria, IL. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to serve us.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion 156:4

We sang this on October 3 as we said farewell to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer Mangold. We pray the Lord will guide and keep them as they move to South Bend, IN.

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 for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship or singing and the other Sundays for a tape, so please let us know if you are in town. 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, FT. LAUDERDALE Caroline Hejja

"Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20) What a wonderful day of rejoicing it was as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Florence Grandinetti. Florence, the grandmother of Bro. Bill Kuntz, moved here awhile ago to live with Bro. Bill and his wife, Sis. Joan.

We are so glad that she has felt the need to give her life to the Lord, and we welcome her into our fellowship. Bro. Vic Beer and his wife, Dorothy (North Fort Myers, FL) were present to share in the events of the day.

North Fort Myers recently invited the Fort Lauderdale and Sarasota churches to join them for a day of Christian fellowship. Those who went that Sunday enjoyed worshipping our Lord together. After services, we were treated to a delicious picnic-supper. The kind invitation and warm hospitality shown were very much appreciated.

We've been blessed by the visits of several visiting brothers who have willingly shared God's Word. These include Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Tim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN).

Another group which we appreciate are those who work with our children. They have spent so much time planning interesting activities, always with the intent of teaching them more about our Lord. The importance of family and of carrying out responsibilities were stressed during a recent activity. Each child was part of a group which planned some aspect of the evening. The parents were invited and treated to a delightful picnic, organized in large part by our children. A singing and hayride followed. Our young people recently spent another Saturday together at a park where they were able to visit an observatory in the evening and gaze in awe through the high-power telescopes at the wonders of God's creation in space. Viewing the rings of Saturn was particularly awe-inspiring.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) As we realize that our Christian walk is rooted so deeply in faith in things we cannot see, we also realize how important it is that we sharpen our vision of those things

which are eternal. This can only be done by feeding frequently on God's Holy Word. A wonderful side benefit is that we find ourselves spending less time to focus on the things of the world, thereby enjoying contentment with less distractions from the world.

We enjoyed a Sunday school picnic in late September and wish to thank all those who came from Fort Lauderdale and Sarasota to spend the day with us here. We trust that all was done to the praise and glory of God, and pray that the blessings of fellowship felt that day will continue to bear fruit in the future.

We were fortunate to have two visiting ministers and their families travel to share with us. Bros. Glenn Price Jr. and Ron Koehl (Sarasota) shared God's Word and we trust the Lord will bless them for their service.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues should be paid in November.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We wish God's blessings to Brent Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy, Bradford, IL) and Michelle Hayenga (Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hayenga, Mt. Morris, IL) as they plan for their wedding. May God be near them during their engagement as they look forward to sharing their life together.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers again. We thank Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We also pray God will bless our Bro. Dean as he serves us unselfishly.

We've finished listening to the conference tapes, and we're thankful for the instructions we've been given. Someone commented that it seems like there are some things the elders shouldn't even have to say. But just like something were never heard of in our church, now they are creeping in or seem to be more accepted since they are so common in the world. May we encourage our dear elders to continue to sound the warnings and may we all be obedient to the Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

The first event of our reporting period this month was our College Student Welcome September 23. The new ISU students were treated to a delicious meal followed by a Bible study conducted by Bro. Kevin Knapp. People from our congregation have signed up to "adopt" or mentor each of our new students over the next year. This relationship proves to be a source of blessing for both the student and the adoptive family as the school year progresses.

On September 30, the funeral of our Sis. Jean (Lehmann) Orth was held at our Bloomington-North church. We are so thankful that the Lord was merciful to Sis. Jean and she was able to commit her life to him during the last months of her life. She was able to express during this time that she had longed to repent for years and was so grateful that the Lord, through His infinite grace, gave her this opportunity. At her baptism, which was held in her Restmor room with close friends and family present a week before her death, she stated that her only regret was that she had waited so long to answer Christ's call. Sis. Jean is survived by her husband, Ed; and three children, Susan Getz, Greg Orth and LuAnn Pratt. Our sympathy goes out to these loved ones as they mourn the loss of wife and mother. However, we rejoice that we have been given the promise of seeing Sis. Jean once again in heaven where there will be no more tears or pain.

In September, Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) was our only visiting minister, on the 26th. We received great blessing from his message regarding fighting materialism in our lives and of reaching out unselfishly to others in need as God call us to do. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure

is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

We are praising God that we have eighteen converts, young people who have answered His call and are in different stages of their conversion experience. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8) We are so grateful and thankful that these young men and women have sought after His righteousness in their youth before years of sinful living and their resultant consequences have left their mark. We need to bathe these young converts in prayer to protect them from the darts of the "great deceiver", the devil, who would love to discourage and confuse them.

Our youth choir was invited to sing at Cissna Park October 23. It was reported that it was a very enjoyable eve as the Lord's name was lifted up in song and we thank Him for safe travel and this opportunity for our youth to reach others through song.

The Lord is so good. He is the giver of all good and perfect gifts! He has given Ron and Tami Masters a healthy baby girl, Tiffany Christine, born October 1. She is welcomed by her sister, Ashley, and grandparents, Bill and Mary Masters and Jim and Anita Allen (Leroy, IL).

We have missed Sis. Ruth Lowery in our midst during her brief hospitalization following surgery. She is now recovering at home and we are praying for the Lord's healing touch upon her. We look forward to her returning to our assembly and joining in our worship and fellowship.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Our congratulations go to Mike Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) and Susan Turnbull (Pat and Bill Turnbull of Sparland, IL) who were united in marriage. May they look to God to given them direction as they begin their life together.

We thank Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington) for spending a Sunday with us and bringing us the Word of God.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner are the thankful parents of their first child, Caleb Daniel, born October 3. We rejoice with them and welcome Caleb into our church family. "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:13)

On October 10, Bro. Alex Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann, Francesville, IN) and Sis. Lorelei Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta, Fairbury) were united in marriage. We are thankful to see God working in their lives and we pray for His continued guidance as they walk together with Him.

The now-traditional Sunday school wiener roast/hayrack ride was held on a brisk and beautiful Saturday evening in October. Many children and adults from far and near came together to rejoice in God's goodness. It was a blessing for all who attended.

The wedding of Jeff Zuspann (Gerry Zuspann and Evelyn Mingle) and Julie Vogel (Gerry and Lois Vogel) was solemnized September 25. We pray for God's love and blessings in their marriage. Jeff and Julie will be living in Bloomington and we hope they will visit us often.

We want to express our appreciation to the visiting ministers and their families who served us during the past month. Thanks to Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I saw a clock of faith today. It was in a store, of course, and it was quite meaningful. However, I really think the Lord wants each of us to be a "clock of faith" for Him: Our

hands must accurately point to Him. We must be more available to show our faith to others than we think possible, for we are always on display. Yet we do not have to tick off more than a second at a time, and thus we should remember that our movements, though actually quite small, need to be very steady. We must not go at our own pace, either too fast or too slow, but reflect His timing instead. He must be the one who gives the energy for our thoughts and actions. Let us be prayerful that we may be counted . . . worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power . . . (II Thessalonians 1:11)

Our visiting brothers were Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). We are thankful for all the Spirit taught us through their messages. Bro. Andy gave his as a topical Bible study, "The Benefits of Church Worship." The focus of the Spirit in all cases seemed to be towards keeping us in the mainstream, the active part of the "fountain of life," always stirred up in His will. May our brothers be rewarded for their gifts to us.

Jamie Washburn is a convert here from Francesville, IN. He plans to be here for several years, going to school in Joliet. We welcome him to our church family, looking forward to much fellowship.

Sis. Molly Witzig (daughter of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary, Gridley) is engaged to Bro. Thad Walter (son of Bro. James and Sis. Juanita, Fairbury, IL). The Lord uses work in His vineyard to create additional plans. We are thankful for their contributions in Haiti and for waiting upon His will. May we be prayerful as they anticipate joining hearts and hands together in His.

Our building committee is trying, but the Lord is filling up the baby room faster than our expansion is moving at this point. Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner are the grateful parents of Anissa Lynn, born September 30. Thrilled grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl and Bro. Eldon

and Sis. Wanita Plattner (Bern, KS). Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser are also thankful in the Lord. They have a son, Drew Frederick, born October 6. The delighted grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Morris and Sis. Eileen Getz (Remington, IN). We are so thankful as a church to be able to encircle these new parents and their precious babies with our love, our prayers, and our support.

Bro. Ray Young is at rest. He leaves a hole in our fellowship. He was born September 14, 1919, and died September 24, 1993. He and his wife, Sis. Marge, have been a part of our church family for many years. We appreciated them and they appreciated us. Being together in fellowship always meant a great deal to them. And, with their health problems in recent years, we were always thankful when they could worship again with us. Though he was no stranger to pain, Bro. Ray was a thoughtful man, not afraid to speak his mind, but compassionate, caring about others. His funeral and burial were back home in the Cissna Park area. To our dear Sis. Marge; his sons, Jerry and Alan; and seven grandchildren, we extend our deepest sympathy, our love, and our prayers. Bro. Ray truly is "back home" again.

One of the songs we began to practice at choir had this suggestion for our tempo: "Quietly with freedom." I think the Lord put it there for me to consider it a suggestion for the speed and reaction of my life in Him. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion in the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Galatians 5:13, 14) To live our lives for others is Christ's way, quietly with freedom.

And who is my neighbor? I am often ashamed of myself. First of all, I don't even know all of my neighbors physically - and I sometimes put boundaries on those that I may pray for. Komal, in my first hour class, always does her homework, so I was surprised October 1

that she did not have it finished. She went on to explain that her family had had a call from India. I was still puzzled – and then she matter-of-factly said that her state had been the epicenter of the terrible earthquakes; one of her friends had “expired” and the parent of another. To me they were thousands of people who died – tragic but nameless. To Komal, many had names. The Lord knew each one by name. Does He really want me to have “boundaries” on my prayers?

We had a wonderful reunion this month with some former ISU brethren and friends. Just think of the reunion the Lord is planning for us.

“So I’ll wait a little longer,
till my Lord’s appointed time,
And along the upward pathway
still my pilgrim feet shall climb;
Soon within my Father’s dwelling,
where the many mansions be,
I shall see my blessed Saviour
and He then will talk with me.”

“O I Love to Talk with Jesus”
Hymns of Zion #87

—————
ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Cyndee Anderson
Anna Marie Reutter

I would like to express my feelings, along with the Psalmist as he writes in Psalm 122:1, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” After six days of labor, it was so good to set aside the cares of life and come together in God’s house, where our spiritual man is refreshed. I’d like to say “thanks” to our ministers who provided for our spiritual needs through the inspiration of God’s Spirit, as well as our Sunday school teachers who teach our youth and give of themselves in many ways. “Thanks” are in order, too, to our song leaders, and our custodians and trustees who keep the physical church building and grounds in good repair, clean and neat. You are all appreciated.

On Sunday, September 19, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy) was our guest minister. He was inspired with many teachings. The following Saturday evening we heard how God drew two souls to Him, name-

ly Clint Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) a young college student, and Bob Kellerhals (Astrid) a retired businessman. Both testified of the goodness and mercy of God and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The following Sunday, we witnessed their baptism and they are now our new brothers-in-Christ. We were reminded that Jesus is the Light of the Word and our lives should be a reflection of this light. We must walk carefully, cheerfully, prayerfully, and hopefully. Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Sis. Vila Mae, Morris, MN), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne) and Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel) were with us for this blessed day. Baptisms are a moving experience. Following baptismal services, our Bible class and teachers traveled to Morton for ACYF.

On October 3, the junior choir and teachers from Bloomington were with us in connection with our monthly hymn sing. This was enjoyed by all who were present. The following Sunday our Bible class and teachers were guests at Eureka. Our young people have a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and learn.

Sue Knapp and Michael Vazis (Barrington) were united in marriage August 28 at Bloomington. Parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp and Charles and Dorothea Vazis. The blessings of God are wished for this couple and their families.

We rejoice with Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser over the birth of their first grandchild, Drew Fredrick, born October 6. His parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser (Aurora, IL). Maternal first-time grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen Getz (Remington, IN).

Bro. Alvin Baumgartner was hospitalized several days for observation and tests. Another thing to be thankful for is our doctors and nurses and God’s healing power. We sympathize with Bro. Harry and Sis. Bonnie Young over the loss of their brother, Bro. Raymond Young. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Margaret grew up in this area. They lived in the Chicago area and wor-

shipped in our Chicago church. Funeral services were held for Bro. Ray in our church here in Cissna Park September 24. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Bros. Lenard Meyer and Virgil Metzger, along with our ministers, conducted the services. This family needs our prayers. Also, sympathy is extended to Bro. Lester and Sis. Arlene Stock, as well as Sis. Rosie Martin, over the untimely death of Sis. Jane Martin, Morton.

Just this past week, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufman received word of the sudden passing of a brother-in-law, Bro. Virgil Stoller (Gridley, IL). Sis. Kathryn Farney received word that her sister, Sis. Caroline Hartmann, was relieved from her earthly struggle, in Rockville, CT. A verse from Zion’s Harp #170 reads:

At Home ’tis well. Then let us
hasten thither
Through pain and death on to our
homeland shore!
On, boldly on! When this short life
if o’er,
New life will bloom for us and
never wither.

—————
ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Beth Steffen - Sue Wiegand

“While the earth remaineth,
seedtime and harvest and cold and
heat, and summer and winter and
day and night shall cease.”

Genesis 8:22

Once again we are thankful for a bountiful harvest here in Central Illinois and yet our hearts go out again to those who lost their crops to flood waters. I recently read the June 1973 Silver Lining of where Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) had been to Pulaski, IA, April 29, 1973. I quote what was written: “He made the parallel of our life to a flooding river. A flooding river that cannot be restrained in its natural banks becomes wider, causing much destruction. If we do not live according to God’s plan, our path becomes wider, and we are led into destruction and heartache.” We find that 20 years later God’s Word is still the same and will be forever.

We are also thankful for faithful brethren who preach the Word and visited us this past month – Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). God bless them.

Sis. Esther Troiky has moved back “home”. We certainly welcome her and wish her God’s nearness and rich blessings in this transition in her life.

Sis. Ginny Zimmerman (Bro. Chuck) was a surgical patient and our thoughts are with Sis. Fannie Schieber (Bro. Harvey). May God be near them and grant healing strength.

Alex Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) has started on the pathway to heaven. May God be near and grant him grace for each day.

Kent and Sis. Crystal Rimmert are parents of Blake Douglas. Brooke is happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure and Waldo Rimmert and Sharon Rimmert.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock are thankful grandparents of Mason Allen born to Jeff and Rose Schrock.

Wendi Lynn has come to bless the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Roth. Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri Dietrich and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth are grandparents.

October 24 was the wedding day for Bro. Trent Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Heidi Broquard of Bay City, MI (Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol). They are making their home in Leo. We wish them God’s blessings.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

“The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer.”

Psalm 6:9

Indeed the Lord has heard the prayer and supplication of our congregation on behalf of recently hospitalized loved ones: Neal Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), Bro. Les Heiniger (Sis. Emma),

Matthew Schmidgall (Bro. Rick and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann). We have witnessed how quickly one or the other can be struck down but God is so faithful to answer prayer and heal as only He, the Great Physician, is capable of.

This month has also been busy with various church and rehome activities. Our Sunday school held a pancake breakfast, the home had their annual bake sale and all enjoyed the fall pig roast. Also, on October 3, Elgin hosted the I.S.U. reunion of those who attended the church gatherings held there between 1961 and 1973. There are always many willing hands and hearts to make these things possible but we trust the Lord will be the Rewarder of all deeds, large or small, known or unknown.

“. . . take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

St. Matthew 10:19-20

Our ministering brothers, speaking by the inspiration of God, are a blessing we truly value and are so thankful for. This month Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) were in our midst. May God bless the words He inspired these brothers to speak and may we each do our part in continuing to support our ministering brothers in prayer.

Often we are reminded of the beginning and ending of our sojourn here below. Such was the case with families in our church family. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn) and Pat Young (Morris, MN) each laid a dear aunt to rest. May God comfort them in their loss. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ruth Schurter welcomed a new little grandson, Jacob Daniel, into their earthly family October 12. Jacob’s parents, Ken and Karen Schurter (Watertown, NY) are thankful for the safe arrival of their first little blessing.

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

II Corinthians 9:15

We are such a blessed and privileged people, living in a land of freedom, having the opportunity to worship according to the dictates of our conscience, being the recipients of many, many blessings - the most valuable being the sending of His only begotten Son so that we might have a hope of life eternal. May we pause in our busy schedules and take the time not only to count each and every blessing but to thank our Heavenly Father for His abundant love and care shown to us every day.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

“Do you love to pray?” was the opening statement of Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont) as he ministered to us recently. It made me think how thankful we should be for the avenue of prayer, and how often we pray out of habit instead of sincerity. Bro. Bruce Lemman spent a Wednesday evening with us and reminded us how in the Dark Ages the Word became almost non-existent. We can be so thankful for the availability of the Bible today. Let us appreciate those two most necessary parts of our spiritual life, praying and reading the Word.

We also appreciated the ministry of Bro Tom Troxel (La Crosse, IN), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury).

We will miss Bro. Brad and Sis Cheryl Kupferschmid as they have moved and are now worshiping with the Bradford congregation. We wish them the blessing and guidance of God.

We express our sympathy to Sis Clara Bach in the sudden death of her daughter, Sis Jane Martin (Morton). We also sorrow with Sis Mary Beth Kupferschmid, a sister to Sis Jane. We pray that God will comfort Sis Verna Lehmann in the loss of her stepdaughter, Sis Jean Orth (Bloomington).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Vernon Blunier (Sis Katie) who had knee surgery, and also with retired Elder Bro. Walt

Anliker (Sis Claribel) who is in ill health.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded of David, the psalmist, and how he praised the Lord at all times in his life. "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

BE YE THANKFUL

Arising from a night of peaceful rest to feel the warm summer breeze of God's breath blowing in the open window, to hear the birds singing in the trees and watch the bright sun rays as they begin to show the beauty of God's creation, it moves us to once again fall upon our knees.

Our prayer may be for help through the coming day, for humbleness to accept His freely given grace, for meekness, for patience, for strength to overcome temptations, for the nearness of the Holy Spirit, for God's protecting arm of love to ever surround us. Oh yes, there are many things we weak mortals must plead for at the beginning of each new day of grace.

Perhaps our thoughts would then turn to those of our loved ones who are sick or suffering, physically or spiritually, those with a heavy burden to bear, or perhaps a precious soul who has slipped from the narrow way, or maybe one who has yet to acknowledge their sin. Many are the times that we pray for the Holy Spirit's comforting to those left to mourn when a loved one who was dear to all of us has passed from this life. Though these pleas, along with many others, are very essential at the beginning of each day, do we remember to be thankful?

Are we thankful for the precious peace God has given us by the awful cost of our Lord and Saviour's life? Do we thank Him?

Are we thankful for that shed blood of the sinless lamb of God that has washed away our sins? . . . for the unbounded grace and mer-

cy shown to us each and every day? . . . for the cross or burden that we bear that helps to keep us humble, no matter how heavy it may be? . . . for the fiery trials in life, whenever they come? . . . for the hope we have within our hearts to someday inherit eternal rest? . . . for the Bible (each and every verse)? . . . for our church, the bride of Christ, the family of God, the body of believers? . . . for our faith that has been kept in store through all the generations and preserved especially for us? . . . for the doctrines and traditions which help to keep us humble and close to God?

. . . for the privilege of prayer? . . . for Jesus interceding our prayers for us to our Heavenly Father? . . . for the close Christian friendships we share? . . . for our health? . . . for our family which we grew up in our heritage? . . . for the love among the brethren? . . . for the right to assemble in our land of freedom? . . . for our elder brothers, ministers, Sunday school teachers and all other brethren whose duties help to keep the faith alive and steadfast? . . . for our senses (each one . . . sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing)? . . . for material blessings (our food, clothing, shelter and all other riches we have been given to use to God's glory)? . . . for our occupation? . . . for our community and the environment in which we live? . . . and many more blessings we receive each day which are too numerous to count . . .

Are we thankful? Are we truly thankful.

Let us pray every day for that true spirit of thankfulness, lest our negligence in this duty would bring us short of entering the glorious portals of heaven.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20)

- A.M.F.

This little essay seemed so appropriate for this time of the year, when we count our blessings and thank God for them. And it is also a reminder that for us every day

should be Thanksgiving Day. No matter how difficult our lot, we have such abundance for which to thank Him!

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today . . .

- Tabernacle #202

Another soul has found the grace to begin repenting. Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell are especially rejoicing as their daughter Annette Hale (Troy) is turning to the Lord. We wish her much grace as she builds her foundation in Christ.

Our congregation was again blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Earl Kilgus and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke). We are grateful to them for sharing with us His Word, "the lamp unto our feet and light unto our path" that we "might not sin against Him." (Psalm 119:11 and 105)

On September 26, the engagement of our Bro. Thadd Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) to Sis. Molly Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary, Gridley) was announced. We pray that as God has led them together, they will continue to look to Him in their new walk of life.

Danny and Patty Walter have a little daughter, Heather Michelle, born September 11. Travis and Dana and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen Walter and Charlie and Sandy Sisco, Fairbury, welcome her home.

In the midst of all this rejoicing, we also have sorrow and sickness, but we are thankful for God's promise to be with us even in these times.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Donna) and his family in the loss of his father, Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA).

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

In patience then bear

All trial and care
Above streams of bliss will refresh
thee.

"The Best Refuge"
Zion's Harp #46

A number of our loved ones were hospital patients this month: Sis. Perseda Moser, Bro. Ezra Steffen (Sis. Aldine), Sis. Louise Sohn, Harvey Steidinger (Christine), Marvin Maier and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge). May they look to that "Best Refuge" to sustain them.

I want to thank you for the many lovely cards and remembrances sent to me during my recent hospitalization and since I've returned home. May the Lord bless all of you for your kind deeds.

- Sis. Lydia Eisenmann

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter - Mary Bachtold
September 19 was the wedding day of Sis. Sarah Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Bro. Doug Wettstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria, Gridley). May God bless them as they walk the path of life together. We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bros. Virg Metzger (Chicago), Earl Ringger, Steve Baner (Gridley) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) for sharing in this special day.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Rick Plattner (Peoria), Jim Plattner (Princeville). May God bless them for being willing to serve us through the preaching of God's word.

We are thankful that Kevin and Denise Coffey and Kathleen Lanz (Bro. Troy) have answered God's call to repentance and rejoice with them. We wish them much grace.

Bro. Roger, Sis. Sheila, Ashley and Abby Steidinger are happy to welcome little Joel Steven into their family circle. Sharing in this happiness are grandparents Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb (Cissna Park).

Those requiring hospitalization

have been Betsy Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Kimberly Wenger (Sam and Ten), Reuben Metz, and Sis. Pauline Wiegand. We are thankful they have all returned home. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barb Kilgus (John) in her battle for health and strength. May she and her family feel God's nearness as they go through this difficult time.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Lyle Ebach and family in the sudden passing of his sister, Sis. Jane Martin (Morton) and to Bro. Gary Brown and family in the death of his grandmother, Margaret Brown. May God comfort those in sorrow.

We have many reasons to be thankful to God this Thanksgiving season for all the material and spiritual blessings we have received. May we remember to "offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High." (Psalms 50:14)

Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall wish to thank everyone for all the prayers, gifts, and food brought in while Stephanie was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

I recently heard a story of two horses. One was able to pull 9,000 pounds; the other 8,000 pounds. Logic would conclude that together they could pull 17,000 pounds. Surprisingly, when yoked together they pulled 30,000 pounds, or 75 percent more weight than expected.

This illustrates the power in numbers, especially when efforts are made in a common direction. The same principle is true in the church. When we are yoked together and pulling in the same direction in Christian brotherhood, we can contribute to a remarkable strength that can be beneficial to each of us who are brothers and sisters-in-faith.

The wedding engagement of Sister Molly Witzig to Bro. Thad Walter (Fairbury) was announced to the congregation September 26. She is the daughter of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig; his parents

are Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter (Fairbury). We are happy for them and wish them God's richest blessings.

Sis. Hulda Yergler, 92, passed away October 4. She was a member of our Gridley congregation for approximately 70 years. She was a widow for many years, having lost her husband, Edward A. Yergler, in 1957. They were married for 35 years.

While many of this present generation did not know her because physical infirmities prevented her from attending church for many years, she is nonetheless remembered by many of us for her kindly smile. Often, in her declining years, she would sit on her front porch and give a kindly smile and wave to those who passed by.

She was one who reaped what she sowed. For many years, as the next-door neighbor to her father, Bro. Philip, and her bedfast sister (Sis. Elizabeth, who suffered from arthritis), she helped care for the latter. Then, Sis. Hulda, in her declining years, was the recipient of faithful care from her two daughters, Virginia Yergler (with whom she made her home), and Erma Hany, who lived next door. These two daughters are her survivors, along with five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Again this month we were reminded of the brevity of life as three of our loved ones were called into eternity. Sis. Salome Carius died September 26 after a short hospitalization. May our Lord comfort her two sons, James and Allen; her daughter, Marjorie Zimmerman; her 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and all the many others that loved her.

Sis. Jane Martin died suddenly September 25. May God put his arms of comfort around her husband Bro. Bill; her sons, Bill, Bro. Scott, Bro. Tim, Bro. Jake; her mother, Sis. Clara Ebach; her two brothers, Jake Ebach and Bro. Lyle Ebach; her sister, Sis. Maribeth

Kupferschmid, her two grand children and her many other relatives and friends.

Kenneth Warren died October 4 after a lengthy illness. We are thankful that Kenneth was receptive to God's plan of salvation in his last days. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife Leah; his son, Lawrence; his daughters, Sis. Linda Egle, Lorraine Olsen, and Lois Boyd; his ten grandsons; his sister, Mildred McAvoy; and his other relatives and friends.

God is good, for as we weep with those that weep, He gives us opportunity to rejoice with those that rejoice. We rejoice with Tracy and Melissa Grimm as they welcome home their new baby girl, Macy Leigh. She was born October 7. Her big sister is Allison and her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Mary Lou Grimm, Shirley Byler, and William and Karen Klopp. We wish them God's wisdom and guidance as they rear their daughters.

We also rejoice with Bro. Fred Hermann and Sis. Ella Geiger as they were united in holy matrimony October 13. The congregation, along with their children and grandchildren wish them God's richest blessings.

We wish to thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL) for visiting us and bringing the truth to us.

During this Thanksgiving season we are reminded to be truly thankful for all that the Lord provides and to not take our blessings for granted. We pray especially for those of our brotherhood and friends who were not able to reap a material harvest this year. Also for all those who do not have adequate employment and all those who face uncertainties.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

We extend our congratulations to Bro. Matt Waibel and Sis. Lisa Schock who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock. Their wedding date is January 16.

Hospitalized patients this

month are Sis. Mabel Hoerr, and Bro. Ben Steffen from our home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

We were saddened at the recent death of Bro. Ed Hoerr, husband of Sis. Esther and father of Bro. Ken. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family.

Note of thanks: I would like to thank everyone for their love gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital and at home. It was appreciated. Also thanks to the quilters and knotters for their sunshine box. God bless.

— Sis. Donna Ferrero

We want to thank Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for participating in our October "Family Night." He spoke about the New Age Movement, a very timely subject that we all need to be aware of.

A recent automobile accident has left Steve Sauder hospitalized and his wife, Vicki, convalescing at home. They are the son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Roy and Sis. Gertrude Sauder. We pray for God's healing touch upon Steve and Vicki and strength and courage for their children and also for Bro. Roy and Sis. Gertrude.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville), Bros. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). We wish to thank these brothers for laboring in our behalf.

Our sincere sympathy to the Mary Scholl family. Their dear mother, Sis. Mary, went to her reward October 4, at the age of 88. She was the last of her family as her sister, Louise, was laid to rest 18 days before. She resided at the Peoria Home for over eight years. Her husband, Bro. William, was taken from this life in an automobile accident August 23, 1949 at the age of 43. She leaves one daughter, Sis. Mary Lou Scholl; four sons, Bro. Robert (Sis. Arlene), Wayne (Linda), all of Princeville, Bro. Rolland (Sis. Carol) and Bro. William (Sis. Joanne), both of Peoria;

eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. May the Lord fill the vacant place with His love and mercy.

We have those among us who have been hospitalized. Bro. George Kieser (Sis. Esther) and Roy Mueller (both farm accidents). We are thankful both are home and back in church.

Thank You Note:

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us so graciously for our 50th wedding anniversary. We appreciated the many cards, gifts and prayers. A special thanks to our children for making this such a memorable occasion.

May God bless each one for all their kindness. Otto and Eleanor Baer

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

The touch of God's hand is seen on the face of each little one He sends us. We have several births this month and we pray that God will bless each of these families.

David Scherer and Mary Lee Faupel have a son, Charles Robert born September 3. "Chase's" sister, Emma, grandparents, Charles Faupel (Chicago), Robert Scherer (Texas), Sis. Ruth Scherer, great-grandparents, Bro. Lee and Sis. Emma Scherer, all of Roanoke, welcome him home.

Jon and Jill Fehr have a son, Jacob Ryan born September 20. Justin and Jordan, along with grandparents, Steve and Sally Onnen (Eureka), and Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr (Roanoke) are all thankful for the new addition to the family.

Jeff and Eva Fehr and their daughter, Amy, welcome their new little boy, Zachery William, who was born September 20. Grandparents are Bill and Yvonne Ward and Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr (all of Roanoke).

Clayton James was born September 23 to Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman (Washington). Clayton has a big sister, Kendra, and his grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington) and

Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman (Roanoke).

Jason Gregory was born September 24 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser. Jason has an older brother, Joshua, and his grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser (Roanoke.)

Elizabeth Jean was born September 25 to Jim and Connie Hodel. "Elissa" has an older brother, Dalton, and his grandparents are Marvin and Sharon Lascelles (Bath) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel (Roanoke).

Claire Elizabeth was born September 29 to Bro. Rich and Sis. Deanna Isaia. Claire has an older sister, Kaitlyn, and two older brothers, Landon and Derek. Grandparents are the late Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores Marti (Gridley) and the late Barney and Dorothy Isaia (Roanoke).

Tyler John was born October 15 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Barth. Tyler has an older brother, Cody, and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle, Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth, great grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Fannie Zimmerman (all of Roanoke).

We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) with us for a topical Bible study on the conservative Christian lifestyle in the '90's. We appreciate the advice and insight he shared with us. We also had Bro. Steve Banner (Gridley) with us Sunday, October 17. We pray that God will bless these brothers for their labor of love.

We appreciated the ministry of song given to us by the Peoria choir at our family hymn sing.

We pray for God's continued love and grace to those who are recuperating at home; Bros. Art Bowald and Lloyd Gerber and Dale Whitten.

We are thankful that another soul has answered the call and turned his heart to God. Paul Hangartner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn) has started his repentance and we pray that God will give him the grace to draw close to Him.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Marsha Koch

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Gary Endress (Bradford) and Fred Knapp (Congerville). Our Bible class had company October 3 and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) spoke to them. We wish to thank all these brothers for coming and laboring on our behalf.

Brett Douglas was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch October 10. Sister, Kathy, and brother, Bradley, helped welcome him home. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose Mary Frank. May God bless this couple as God has given them another child.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Arnold Rassi on the passing of his brother-in-law, Kenneth Warren (East Peoria).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

The sermon preached last Wednesday evening was based on Daniel 6. In this chapter, it speaks of Daniel being thrown into the den of lions because he was faithful to his Lord in prayer. How faithful are you and I in our prayer? Do we come to the brink of the den and then fail to trust God to close the mouths of the lions? Each of us need to stop and think about how we would have reacted if we were Daniel. Would we have closed the doors and prayed in secret to avoid the consequences or would we have given into the pressure of others and stopped praying? Many of us have our own den of lions to deal with. We should follow the example of Daniel and continue our daily walk with God. Most of all through, we should take the step into the lions den knowing God can do all things.

We were once again blessed to have several visiting ministers. It is a privilege to know we can go from one Apostolic Christian Church to another and hear the Word of God in its truth and purity. Those who visited were Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL),

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Mike Ricker (Peoria, IL).

October 17 was our "Invite A Friend" Sunday. It is always a joy when the church is filled to overflowing. A meal was enjoyed by all following the services. The Lord is so gracious in providing for fellowship.

Clayton James Leman is the new son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori (Wyss) Leman. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Kendra. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss and Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman (of Roanoke). We are also thankful that God's hand was on Lori to protect her from complications she experienced. She is now home after several days in the hospital.

We rejoice in the announcement of the engagement and upcoming wedding of Bro. Paul Streitmatter and Sis. Jean Leuthold, both from our Washington congregation. Parents are Sis. Pearline Streitmatter (Wash) and Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold of Princeville, IL. May the Lord bless your life together with His love.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:16,17,18

Bro. Stacey and Sis. Gwen Stucky rejoice in the birth of their new daughter, Breann Alyse, who was born October 1. Her grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer and Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy Stucky.

On October 3, we witnessed the baptisms of four new sisters. They are Sis. Heidi Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie), Sis. Leah Habegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane), Sis. Jenny Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon), and Bobbie Girod (Bro. Jack and Sis. Carla).

Bro. Fred Moser passed away

September 27. Bro. Fred is survived by his wife, Sis. Mabel and children, Art Moser, Sis. Rose Frauhiger (Bro. Tom), and Sis. Sue Yergler (Bro. Kim).

On October 2, Sis. Frances Kaehr went to be with the Lord. She is missed by her sisters, Sis. Mabel Kipfer, Sis. Lillian Bertsch (Bro. Loren) and Sis. Aldine Moser, and brother, Bro. Ted Kaehr.

Sis. Janet Morris (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bob Herring were united in marriage September 26. We with them many happy years in their walk together.

Two couples have recently announced their engagements. They are Sis. Jayla Frauhiger and Bro. Toby Steffen. Their parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger and Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen. Also announced, were Bro. Arlo Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val, Bluffton North) and Sis. Lisa Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat, Milford, IN).

Let's not forget to pray for those who have been hospitalized: Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Bro. Scott DeHoff (Sis. Rita), Sis. Mary Gerber (Bro. Sylven) and Bro. Herman Bertsch (Sis. Effie)

On October 9th & 10th, our young group hosted College Weekend. It was such a blessing to have so many single brothers and sisters get together with a desire to learn how to be better disciples for the Lord.

We want to extend our appreciation to the ministers who travelled to Bluffton and shared the Word of God with us. They are Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer, Bro. Carroll Gerber, and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (all from Bluffton North).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Sue Harris - Kay Steffen

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the gospel message with us this month. They were Bro. Lynn and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Bro. Mark Bahr

(Detroit, MI), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). May God richly reward these brothers for their effort.

Larry Gerber has given his heart to the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber (Latty, OH). We wish him God's grace as he begins his new walk.

This month we were happy to hear of two engagements. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Jayla, to Bro. Toby Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta). Also Sis. Lisa Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) is engaged to Arlo Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val). May His blessings be with these dear couples.

We rejoice with Sis. Janet Morris and Bro. Bob Herring as they were united in marriage September 26. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin a new life together.

The joy I can't explain fills my soul, since the day I made Jesus my King. His blessed Holy Spirit is leading my way; He's teaching and I'm learning to lean. There's glorious victory each day now for me, and I found his peace so serene. He helps me with each task if only I'll ask; Every day now I'm learning to lean. Learning to lean, learning to lean, I'm learning to lean on Jesus. Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed, I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

Stallings

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us once again. Are we practicing thankfulness as we should be? Our thankfulness is really an indication of the condition of our hearts. Even during the hard times, a thankful heart shows our total reliance upon Jesus Christ and His will for us. In I Thessalonians 5:18, the Apostle Paul teaches us that in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." As we strive daily to become a more thankful people, the

joy within us will overflow. Praise be to God!

On October 10, a beautiful crisp fall day, Sis Lorelei Broquard (Champaign, IL), daughter of Bro. Wayne and Roberta (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Alex Gutwein, son of Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann, were united in marriage. We wish the blessings of God upon their marriage as they become heirs together of the grace of life. (I Peter 3:7)

Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman were blessed with a little girl, Alexandria Nicole, September 19. Britni, Luke and Quentin are happy to have a beautiful baby sister. Also Bro. Brad and Sis. Barbara Neuhouser were given a little boy October 11. His name is Kirby Morgan and his sister, Cecilia, welcomes him home. May God bless these little lambs and their families as they rejoice in the fresh miracle of life that only comes from God on high.

Our dear Sis. Viola Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil) spent time in the hospital recently. Our prayer is that God will add strength to her each passing day.

Special thanks goes to Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) who so kindly came and shared the Word with us in the past month.

Sis. Mildred Clauss would like to share this note of thanks following her recent accident.

So many from other congregations have remembered Bob and I with cards and with gifts during my long hospital stay. We take this opportunity to thank-you for your kindness and for your prayers. We trust that God will bless you as only He can do.

Sincerely,
Sis Mildred Clauss

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

The Fall colors in Northwest Indiana are at their peak as this column is written. Although we enjoy their beauty now, we know that they will soon become brown and flutter to the ground to become humus for next Spring's grass and flowers. By the time these articles are published, we will be preparing for Thanksgiving.

The time flies on and death draws
nigh;
Unite us Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

O, sanctify our heart and mind,
That we, Thy chosen ones, may find
The path from this turmoil on earth
To God's bright home of peace and
mirth!
(Zion's Harp #188, verses 1 & 10).

The Fall of the year reminds us
that our time on earth is closer to
the end with each new day. We
must be sure that our hearts are
always ready, and live each day as
if it were our last.

"Not forsaking the assembling
of ourselves together, as the man-
ner of some is; but exhorting one
another: and so much the more, as
ye see the day approaching." (He-
brews 10:25). We have appreciated
each of the visitors we have had in
the last month.

INDIANA, LEO

Doug Kellenberger

That which is living, by its ba-
sic definition, has to have move-
ment. Something alive cannot re-
main permanent in one fixed posi-
tion. Just that though helps us ex-
pect change in our life. And, then,
change being imminent, we don't
have to waste energy to prevent.

Jesus taught how to cope with
the anxieties of change. He taught,
if you want something, don't try to
hold on to it for your own sake. If
you try to control it for your sake,
you'll loose it. (Luke 9:24) Maybe
that's why God described His Son
as a living stone. (I Peter 2:4) His
principles were as firm as a rock
but the way he carried them out
was as flexible as life. (I Corinthians
12:5-6)

Our dear beloved Jeff Thames
family is moving back to central
Illinois. Bro. Jess and Sis. Brenda
recently made that announcement.
We had mixed reactions but real-
ized the Lord has something spec-
ific in mind. Their love, encour-
agement and precious children will
be greatly missed.

We were visited by a number of
brethren from the Goodfield, IL,

congregation. Elder Bro. Wes
Knapp accompanied them and
served us many good thoughts from
the Word of God.

Sis. Elda Steiner has been hos-
pitalized. We wish her comfort,
peace and grace.

Bro. Art Gramm is back home
from surgery and back on the job
being "grandpa" at Gateway Woods.

Bro. Levi Pfister spoke for many
of us when he expressed Leo's ap-
preciation to the many other con-
gregation for donating to our new
church building fund.

It is a privilege to take part in
this new venture with all of your
help. Thank you. We hope to break
ground soon.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Judy Longcor

God has blessed two more homes
with precious babies. Bro. Sam and
Sis. Rachel Beer welcomed little
Abbey Nicole September 26. Excit-
ed about being big brother and big
sister are Brooks and Betsy. Grand-
parents are Gary and Rosetta
Ringger (Bluffton), and Bro. Jesse
and Sis. Shirley Beer of our con-
gregation. First-time parents,
Lowell and Rose (Haab) Bender,
welcomed Kami Lenae October 15.
Thankful grandparents Bro. Don
and Sis. Martha Haab and Robert
and Barbara Bender (Goshen, IN).

"But seek ye first the kingdom
of God, and his righteousness; and
all these things shall be added unto
you." (Matthew 6:32) The engage-
ment of Sis. Lisa Mikel (Russ and
Sis. Pat) and Bro. Arlo Kipfer (Bro.
Lynn and Sis. Valerie, Bluffton,
IN). They have chosen March 6 as
their wedding date. May God be
with them as they make their fu-
ture plans.

Our prayers will be with Bro.
Bill and Sis. Stacey Feller as they
give of their time in assisting with
the Hurricane Andrew work
project. They will be in the Florida
area the week of October 25.

Rustin Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat)
had the misfortune of breaking his
collar bone playing football. We
pray that Rustin can feel God's
healing hand each day.

Recently we had our church
home parking lot black-topped and
really do appreciate this as it need
to be done for some time. We also,
want to thank all of the brothers
who have given of their time, tal-
ents and efforts in this project. God
bless you.

As I sit and write these notes I
have looked out the window and
seen the beauty of God's creation
in so many beautiful ways. God
has given us so much to enjoy, the
beauty of the fall flowers, the reds,
rust and golden colors of the trees.
The warm sunlight warms us so,
and puts a wonderful feeling in our
hearts knowing that God is real all
around us. "This is the day which
the Lord hath made: we will re-
joice and be glad in it." (Psalm
118:24)

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

Behold, how good and how pleas-
ant it is for brethren to dwell to-
gether in unity!

It was pleasant to have Elder
Bro. Wendell Gudeman and wife,
Marcella (Francesville) to spend
Sunday, September 19 with us.

On Sunday, October 3, Bro. Don
Braker (Kansas City, MO) was with
us. Also his wife, Sis. Eileen, and
his mother, Sis. Clara, and others
of his family spent the day here. It
was good to have them here. Bro.
Don is the only one of Bro. Ben and
Sis. Clara's family that did not live
here at one time. We enjoy having
you just the same. We thank you
and Bro. Wendell for your visits
and inspiring messages. Do come
again.

September 29 was a happy day
for Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette
Bahler, as that was the day their
first daughter, Anna Marie, chose
to come. She has three happy broth-
ers, Trent, Dave and Luke. Happy
grandparents are Bro. Marshall
and Sis. Jan Heinold (Washing, IL)
and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn
Bahler from here.

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

Psalm 127:3

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Renee Mangold**

This September we had a fellowship weekend and received a blessing as we renewed old friendships and fellowshiped together.

Our children and some of the adults in our church had the privilege of experiencing Camp Mac again. Everyone enjoyed the singing and were uplifted spiritually during that special weekend.

The Mortonaires blessed us with their singing one weekend in October. Not only did we enjoy the sweet harmony of voices, but we were also enriched by the fellowship we shared.

Our prayers of support and sympathy were with Sis. Mildred and Sis. Ernestine Meister at the passing away of their brother, Roy. We pray that God would lend comfort to them during this difficult time.

Welcome home to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer Mangold! Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer have just recently relocated to South Bend from Washington, D.C.

We were, once again, humbled and thankful that Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso) and Bro. Walt Stephen (Milford) came to minister to us during the absence of our own ministers. How blessed we are to have a network of love and support on which we can rely.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO**Ken and Cindy Susdorf****"PRAISE AND THANKS FOR
GOD'S BLESSINGS"**

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise They mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
They mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh, and soul.

Zion's Harp #13

The Lord again has richly blessed us this past year. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, may each of us thank God for our moderate health, strength, religious freedom, and many earthly blessings.

Ministering brethren visiting us this month were Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us and may His love and grace keep you encouraged.

Our Bible class traveled to Camp Mac this last month to share in singing and fellowship. It brought back many memories. It had been 25 years since I stood on the stage and sang with the Sunday school. One thing for sure is that the Lord is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We were once again blessed as we had a church potluck followed by a singing afterwards. We are very thankful that we have such a close church family where we can come reason together, and be encouraged by one another's love. We owe much thanks to our Lord.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT**Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp**

"The Seed of God" was the topic of our Bible study conducted by Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) September 29. We hope this precious seed would not be planted in dry ground or be choked up by thorns, but rather it would spring up and be fruitful.

Sunday afternoon, October 3, we held a dedication service for our new Sunday school addition. Our Sunday school children recited pieces and sung songs about Biblical teachings. We pray that our children will always remember their days spent in Sunday school and that the precious seed will remain firmly planted in their hearts.

October 9 was the wedding day of Phillip Kyburz (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) and Angela McCarthy (Mr. and Mrs. John Mohn). May the Lord fill this newly established home with love and happiness.

Melissa Miniear (Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna) is engaged to be married to Michael Blanding (Glenn and Linda Berg). We wish them happiness and God's guidance as they plan their lives together.

Our thoughts are often with Bro. Steve Hofstetter (Bro. Ted) as he is residing in Poland for a year. May

he feel God's protection and nearness. His address is: PPUH KoMTECH. Sp. Z0.0, ul. Pulawska 23C, Radom, Poland 26-600.

On the weekend of August 28 and 29, over 90 brothers from across the land gathered here at Wolcott to sing songs of praise and make a recording. It was a very blessed weekend of fellowship and singing.

The Wolcott brethren would like to thank all those that made the effort to come and sing. We would also like to thank the Remington and Wolcott congregations for their tremendous support.

NOTE: The tapes will be available around the first of December. We regret that this news piece was omitted from last month's news.

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Carolyn Wulf - Jana Massner**

We're thankful once again for the many visitors who have assembled with us this past month, especially ministering brothers Eugene Metzger (Lester), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville). May the Lord richly bless each one of them for their efforts in bringing to us the Word of Life.

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Schulz as they welcome home little Andrew Joseph to their family circle. Julie, Brenda, Philip, Lori, Matthew and Jacob are the happy brothers and sisters.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Blain Applegarth as he has recently undergone heart bypass surgery. May God grant him health and strength according to His will.

As Thanksgiving approaches it causes our hearts to think of our forefathers who have labored and have done so much for us. May we continue to thank our heavenly Father daily for the material blessings He has allowed us to have, but more importantly, for the spiritual blessings which will lead us to the mansions above.

My Country 'tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty, of Thee we sing;
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every

mountain side, Let Freedom ring.
Gospel Hymns #738

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Ephesians chapter 5 begins: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children", then follows with several instructions and examples for His followers. In verse 20 we find that one of these instructions is "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." "Always, for all things". It isn't easy to be thankful when crops fail to produce as we hoped, when our health isn't good or when struggles and cares come our way but God wants us to know and be thankful that He is in command and He knows what is best for us. We may not understand but may we be granted the faith to trust.

We are thankful that Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) and Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City) were willing to share God's Word unto us. God alone knows when we are in need of admonishment, conviction, direction or encouragement and He can provide the words we need to hear through faithful brethren who trust in Him provide the words they speak.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk - Dawn Moser

As fall is fast approaching and harvest is in progress, we want to thank the Lord for the blessings bestowed on us. Maybe the harvest won't be as abundant as we would like, but all we have to do is look about us and find someone with a heavier cross.

Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? We were reminded to ask ourselves those three questions before we speak. I have to stop and think how much grief we'd save ourselves if we'd ask ourselves those questions before we spoke.

Once again the Lord has heard our prayers and extended many blessed teachings to us. Our visiting ministers include: Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski,

IA), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), and Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). We wish to thank each minister and visitor who come to Garden Grove. You are all appreciated.

Our senior Bible class has been busy. They have visited Burlington, IA, and Pulaski, IA. They also had a Sunday afternoon picnic with Pulaski. Thanks to those churches for hosting these events. We know our children had a very enjoyable time.

One thing never changes
The seasons swiftly come and go
And with them comes the thought
Of all the various changes
That time in flight has brought . . .
But one thing never changes,
It remains the same forever,
God truly loves His children
And He will forsake them never!

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! Another change of seasons is upon us. As we welcome the crisp, colorful days of autumn, we also know they hold the promise of even colder days ahead. So is life full of changes - some good, some bittersweet, some welcome and some unwelcome, but all directed by our loving Father above.

One very happy change in our congregation is the addition of several new converts. We daily lift them in prayer, knowing that our Heavenly Father can direct their hearts and minds into paths of righteousness. May we all be watchful and prayerful that God can use us in helping these young souls in turning their backs on Satan and the temptation of this world and searching out the things that will gain them spiritual wisdom, the fruits of the Spirit, and eventually, eternal life. Their youthful zeal and sincerity can certainly be an encouragement to us as well.

Another welcome change is the arrival of Nickolas James Grimsman, the first child of Doug and Karla Grimsman. May he bring joy and love into their home. We look

forward to meeting this precious bundle from heaven.

Another change we face in the days ahead is the moving of our beloved Bro. Bruce, Sis. Bonita, Bethany, Bonnie, and Belinda Frank to Cissna Park, IL. While we cannot doubt the leading of our Heavenly Father, and know He plans everything with our soul's best welfare in mind, we know the great sense of loss we will feel at their departure from our congregation. We earnestly pray God will prepare us all for this change, that He will provide their every need through the adjustments they face in the days and weeks ahead, and that they will be a blessing to the Cissna Park congregation as they were to us. "In every change He faithfully will remain."

We are looking forward to a Student-Parent weekend this week. We hope to meet some of the new students in our area, as well as get to know the families of them and others who assemble with us.

Last but not least, we thank our visitors the past two months, including ministering Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and his family. May God richly bless them for traveling to share the Word of Life with us.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

After an unseasonably wet and cool summer, we are enjoying and appreciating a lovely dry and pleasant harvest season. The crisp autumn temperatures and bright sunshine remind us that God is in control and He knows what is best for us.

Shannon Rose is the name chosen by Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley De Smet as they announce the birth of their little daughter. She joins the family of Kristen, Stacy, Chad and Grant. Happy grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch.

Our single group recently hosted a weekend with guests from the Kansas churches as well as brothers and sisters from congregations at Congerville and Goodfield. It was a blessing to have these loved ones in our midst.

Many souls from our congregation have endured afflictions of the flesh recently and required hospitalization. Medical patients were Bro. Fred Metzger (Sis. Esty) and Bro. Lawrence Wulf. Those who experienced surgery and have returned to their homes were Bro. Gary Metzger (Sis. Beth), Sis. Twyla Meyer (Bro. Raymond), Jodi Heyer (Ryan), and Sis. Zelma Knoblock.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Vera Knobloch (Bro. Earl) and her family on the death of her mother Sis. Emma Staub (Peoria).

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Sr. in the loss of Sis. Bonnie's father, Ted Beline (Burlington). May God comfort their hearts in the days ahead.

Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) has recently brought forth the Word of life in our Oakville congregation. May God richly bless him for his sincere efforts.

This poem was found in a volume at our public library. It is entitled "The Shepherd Boy Sings In The Valley Of Humiliation" and reminded me of the story of David and how simple the life of a shepherd was compared to the fast-pace and complexities of our daily lives. Let us take time to reflect upon the simplicity of God's holy plan of salvation and view our lives as He would see us. May we all strive to be more humble.

He that is down needs fear no fall,
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

I am content with what I have,
Little be it or much:
And, Lord, contentment still I
crave,
Because Thou savest such.

Fullness to such a burden is
That go on pilgrimage:
Here little, and hereafter bliss,
Is best from age to age.

IOWA, PULASKI

Ernestine Wuthrich
Carol Wettstein

We extend sympathy to Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) in the passing of her sister, Rebeccah Sinkey (Boulder, CO).

Dennis Teubel spent some time in the hospital, but is out again at this time.

We wish God's blessings on Eugene Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris) and Lana Garrett (Phil and Kathy, Bloomfield) as they have announced their engagement. They are planning a March wedding.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich in the arrival of Kendra Sue September 28. Brent, Stacy and Angie are eager to help with their sister, along with grandparents, Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich. Great-grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich.

We are always appreciative of God's traveling mercies and enjoy visitors when they assemble with us. On October 16 and 17, brothers and sisters from Taylor, MO, Oakville and Burlington were with us along with the Bible class from Garden Grove.

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

"Faith of our Fathers" renew us
again
And make us a nation of
God-fearing men
Seeking Thy guidance, Thy love
and Thy will,
For we are but pilgrims in need of
Thee still
And, gathered together on
Thanksgiving Day,
May we lift up our hearts and hands
as we pray
To thank You for blessings we so
little merit
And grant us Thy love and teach
us to share it.

May we be thankful this
Thanksgiving for the many blessings
and freedoms we so often take
for granted.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Marcy Gerber - Lela Banwart

Looking back on the years gone by, we find that one by one God calls His children home. Through many years, our dear Bro. Earl Banwart preached the Word in season and out of season. Bro. Earl, after many months of suffering, has finished his course and kept the faith. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr mentioned his example of patience and kind way. Offering prayers at this time of sorrow were Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Dale Wulf (Lester). We appreciate their support, as well as that of a host of other ministering brethren from across the land. We extend sympathy to Bro. Earl's family: his wife, Sis. Edna, Bro. Eldon (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Ken (Sis. Marlene, West Bend), Bro. Dale (Sis. Donna, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Leann Schambach (Bro. Don, Elgin, IL); thirteen grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Bro. Albert Banwart (Sis. Betty) and Sis. Helen Zaugg (Bro. Ed, West Bend), Sis. Irene Kaiser (Bro. Lester, Morton, IL), Glen (Doreen) and Sis. Ruth Bahr (Bro. Jim, Fort Scott, KS).

Other visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We appreciate their service in the work of the Lord. May God richly bless them.

Hospital patients have been Jamie Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey), Sis. Lezlee Leman (Bro. Dale), and Bro. Fahey Gress (Sis. Marie). We are thankful that Jamie and Sis. Lezlee are home again. Clinton Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) has suffered a broken arm and is recuperating at home. May God continue to heal and bless all the sick and suffering.

Our best wishes go to Cory and Jennifer Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Gary and Pat Alberts), who were united in marriage recently. We pray the Lord will bless them in heart and home as they begin their lives together.

Although we have experienced adverse weather this year and the harvest in our area looks somewhat meager, we still have much to be thankful for. Let us count our bless-

ings. "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms." (Psalm 95:2)

JAPAN, SHIODA
Willis and Lois Ehle

Sunday evening, October 10, and Monday, October 11, we held our autumn fellowship meeting in the mountains between our Tokyo church and our Shioda church. Our theme was, "Christ is the Vine and We are the Branches." Christ's qualifications to be the vine are (1) He was with God at the time of creation, John 1; (2) He was born of a virgin; (3) He arose from the dead. "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (I Corinthians 15:17)

Our qualifications to be the branches are repentance, faith and obedience. We found plenty of scripture verses for those. The big question is, how do we bear fruit and keep bearing fruit year after year? A branch that doesn't bear fruit is cut off and thrown away. The extent to which we give ourselves completely to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ, is a leading factor, it was thought. Someone said that the sap in the grapevine is similar to the Holy Spirit in our spiritual lives. The sap carries nourishment from the root of the vine to the branches for the bearing of fruit. Likewise, the Holy Spirit must have free flow in our lives if we are to bear fruit. Fruit was thought to be, not only the fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22, but also daily Bible reading and prayer, and being a good example and witness.

Mrs. Ishikawa was in church last Sunday and seems to have recovered from having a vertebra missing in her lower back - it had disintegrated. How she recovered without surgery only God knows.

Sis. Hideko Kido, who lives on Kyushu, Japan's southern island, came to the Tokyo church and to our fellowship meeting. She said that it has been about ten years since she attended any of our services but that the weekly sermon tapes have kept here spiritually alive.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

Our high school Sunday school classes spent an enjoyable weekend September 18 and 19 in Fort Scott. We extend our thanks and appreciation to all who planned and labored to make this time of fellowship possible.

Happy grandparents of Anna Christine, born to Meryl and Diane Stoller September 27, are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl Stoller and Bill and Alice Deaver. A precious little girl, Jacqueline Elizabeth, was born to Roy and Sheri Frey October 8. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter and Fred and Alta Frey. May God bless these families with their bundles from heaven.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Tim and Sis. Margaret Edelman on the death of Margaret's grandmother, Hattie Frazee September 22. Sympathy is also extended to Bro. Dan Edelman, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman on the death of Samuel Edelman October 13. May God be the Comforter.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Katie Grimm (Bro. Paul) and she presently is recuperating at the Apostolic Christian Home.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) minister to us this month. May God bless him for his work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hand and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

May we always remember to thank our great God for the blessings He bestows on us not only Thanksgiving Day but each and every day.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

After Thanksgiving, we will discontinue having our Sunday evening singings. We will then begin our Wednesday evening services alternating with Sabetha.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

Our congregation was thankful to have Bro. Bob Stoller with us this month to minister from the Word. May the Lord bless him and his family for their efforts on our behalf.

As we once again approach the Thanksgiving season, may we ever be reminded of the labor our Lord has called us to.

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.
Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"By Him (Christ) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Hebrews 13:15

As Christians, not only should we give thanks to God during this season of Thanksgiving, but continually as the Word proclaims! As we count our blessings every day, we realize just how much we have to praise God for (which leaves us little time for complaining.)

Our youth group, their parents, and teachers would like to give Fort Scott a hearty thanks for all the labor of love put forth to make the Sunday school fellowship a special blessing. The spiritual lives of our youth are important to us all.

Our prayers for healing this month have been for hospital patients Sis. Edna Reed, Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber and Bro. John Hoffman. Sis. Myrtle remains in the hospital at this time.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Clarence Frieden. May they feel God's healing presence in their lives.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger
 Sharon Strahm

We have appreciated a few visiting ministers again this month. They were Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Harvey Grimm (Bern).

"Seeds of goodness we are sewing in the hearts of man today. Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper and bear fruit for harvest day."

Hymns of Zion #46

We were sorry Bro. Edwin Bahler had to spend a short time in the hospital while visiting here. Also hospitalized have been Bros. John Plattner and Nathan Grimm and Sis. Evelyn Wysong and Sis. Esther Grimm. We wish grace and patience for those recovering. Sis. Esther is now residing at our Apostolic Christian Home. We pray and trust she can endure the afflictions of the body and look forward to a better home where all is bliss and joy.

"Patient in suffering, in trials found true; So happy when my departure is due!

"Christ, my faith's author and finisher, too, Wish nothing more! Wish nothing more!"

Hymns of Zion #258

Our senior Bible class traveled to Fort Scott for a blessed weekend in September. Our special thanks to all for their efforts in making it an enjoyable and memorable time.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman have felt God's blessings and observed their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless and provide for them.

"We wish to thank all of our Sarasota Snowbird friends who helped to make our 50th wedding anniversary a very special occasion. May God bless each of you."

Andy and Irene Lehman

As we will soon be observing

Thanksgiving Day, this verse reminds us "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." (Psalm 103:2)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We extend our sympathy to the Bro. Harvey Farney family. His brother, Louis Farney (Mesa, AZ) died in mid-October.

We rejoiced the Sunday Jill Wiegand, a first-year student at nearby Hesston College, worshipped with us. Jill is from Goodfield, IL, and we welcome her to Kansas.

Our fall Bible Study topic is the Book of Psalms. The theme in Psalm 1, the contrast between the godly and the ungodly, seems to be repeated throughout the entire book of Psalms. Rather than to delight in ungodliness, sin, and scorn, we are to delight in the law of the Lord and to meditate on it day and night. What a blessing when we do so!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Beck Snodgrass

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

"and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

"They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

"Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

"Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

"And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

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

Psalms 107:1-8

Doesn't this chapter put us to

shame? Thanksgiving Day is soon here, to remind us to thank the Lord for His many blessings. Yet many times when the bills pile up, the dishes and clothes pile up and the children get sick, and nothing seems to go right you feel alone in your troubles. It's pretty hard to feel thankful. Then God gently reminds us with chapters like this one. Four times this chapter repeats, "then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distress." and four times it repeats, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

How soon we forget to lay everything at Jesus' feet, and when He gives us peace, how soon we forget to praise Him for it.

Let us try to have Thanksgiving 365 days a year. It's pretty hard to be depressed or despondent with a thankful heart.

We are very thankful for the visiting brothers who ministered unto us this past month. They were Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and their families.

May God richly bless them for their love and encouragement.

The parsonage is still available for anyone who feel the spirits guidance to join us here in Lexington!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING?

Thanksgiving is an autumn day
 And a tree of scarlet hue,
 A special time we set aside
 When thanks alone are due.

Thanksgiving is a quiet place
 Where we may kneel in prayer
 And there converse alone with God,
 Enfolded in His care.

Thanksgiving is a table spread
 With bounties from the land,
 A special time to share with all
 God's wealth in every hand.

Thanksgiving is a sacred time
 To praise our Lord above

For guidance through our earthly days,
His comfort, care, and love.

Thanksgiving culminates a year
Of blessings from God's store.
He pours them forth to all on earth
Then offers more and more.

We give our thanks and praise to
Him,
For He has blessed our days
With life and health and blessings
In many uncounted ways.

Marian L. Moore

We were honored to have the Agenda Committee for the General Conference with us again this year. Participating at the meeting were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). In the evening, everyone went to Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough's for fellowship and to see Bro. Nathan's pictures of India. We thank these brothers for sharing the weekend with us. We appreciate their labors of love.

We extend our sympathy and love to Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst in the passing of Bro. Bill's grandmother, Sis. Marie Butikofer (Taylor, MO). May God be with you in the days ahead.

There were "Showers of Blessings" October 16 when two young couples were wed. Joining hand and heart were Jennifer Harp (Paul Harp and Mary Fye) with Joseph Schlatter (Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat) and Jodi Byam (Doug and Marilyn) with Thomas Joseph Kennedy, Jr. We wish them much success and happiness.

Our Sunday school students and teachers want to thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough for hosting our picnic again this year. A great time was had by all.

Congratulations go to Ramona Snyder (Davenport, IA) on the birth of her son, Jalen William. Jalen's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst.

Because Thanksgiving is nigh upon us, we ask our Lord to:

Accept our simple thank you
Lord, for many things;
For warm sunlight and rain and
falling snow,
For books and friends and firelight's
glow;
For love as warm as sunshine,
Strong and true;
And faith in Thee that lifts our
hearts anew.

For food and fellowship and quiet
rest,
For prayers, for peace, for work;
For all we have and are
We give Thee thanks.
Amen.

Carol Bessent Hayman

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

We wish the Lord's grace and healing hand on our sick this month.

Sis. Doris Knochel needs our thoughts and prayer in her illness.

Sis. Mac Guenzel has suffered a broken left leg and broken right elbow. Sis. Mae especially needs our prayers, she is very much missed in our congregation. Sis. Mae is always ready and willing to help her brothers and sisters-in-faith. Whenever they are in need, now she needs our prayers.

Sis. Barb Knochel has also been in the hospital but she is doing better.

Sis. Laura Mudge needs our prayers. Sis. Laura is in a nursing home and appreciates the love and blessings of her Lord and Savior.

Congratulations to first-time parents, Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne Wieland, on the birth of their son, Brice Davis. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Scheiler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Roger Wieland and Sandra Buza (Bay City, MI); also great-grandmothers, Sis. Margaret Molner and Sis. Marie Wieland (Bay City, MI).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

Our prayers and thoughts are extended to Diane Peterson and her

family in the passing away of her father, Bob Ackerman (Morton, IL). The funeral was held September 19.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Guy Weiland (Sis. Rosie) as he is recuperating from a recent surgery. May God restore health to Bro. Guy according to His will.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

We are encouraged to know that God is still working in the hearts of our loved ones. Diane Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) confesses to being at peace with God and her fellow brethren and is anxiously awaiting to make a covenant with God in the baptismal waters.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should live alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

Believing that it is God's perfect will for their lives, Bro. Doug Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dolores, Garden Grove, IA) and Sis. Elizabeth Spangler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) prepare to be joined as husband and wife December 28. On October 5, the Beverly Hills church held the monthly Tuesday evening worship service at Woodhaven. On December 7, our Bay City congregation is scheduled to host this service. Everyone is welcome to come and worship with the residents and help support the willing brethren who so faithfully give of themselves in service for the Lord's use.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms
"For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Psalms 95:1-3

With Thanksgiving upon us, I

believe we can say God has once again provided for us in the past year and we have much to be thankful for. May we remember to daily thank God for the blessings along with the trials that we face each day.

Thought: The Lord will aid if men will call, For the blue sky bends over us all.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, . . ." (Psalms 68:19) Not only on Thanksgiving Day but each day of the year, may we give God thanks for all our many blessings.

LET US GIVE THANKS

Let us give thanks for everything –
The charm of fall, the cheer of
spring,

The unmatched splendor of the
skies,
Songbirds, brooks and butterflies –
Let us give thanks for all good gifts,
Inspiring words and faith that lifts,
Various joys of every kind,
Enduring health, and peace of
mind –

Let us give thanks for all that
cheers,

Home and family, fruitful years,
Abundant blessings on our land,
Knowledge, ventures to pursue,
Sleep and rest when day is through,
God's love to guide us on our way –
For all these things, on this glad
day . . .

Let us give Thanks!

Author Unknown

Our small congregation is always thankful when brethren worship with us. Visiting ministers were our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. James Lemen (Roanoke, IL). They were accompanied by their wives, Sis. Kathy and Sis. Myra.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos

Our hearts rejoice with Tim Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) as he has found the need to seek

the Lord as his Saviour. May Tim experience the love and grace of God as he begins his journey on the straight and narrow pathway which will lead to heaven.

We miss Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer and their children, Beth, April, Timothy, Andrew, Sarah and Rebekah, as they have moved to Prescott, AZ. We trust that they will feel God's presence there and wish for them His blessings on their family.

God's precious Word was brought forth to us this month by two visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Jim Knoblock (Winthrop, MN). We appreciated their visits.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Nohl are the happy grandparents of two little girls who arrived three days apart. Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly Koehl became first-time parents of Olivia Rae October 9. On October 23 Larissa Kay was welcomed by Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall and big sister, Anna. The babies are also special to the other grandparents, Bro. Eddi and Sis. Lois Koehl and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Kim Messner - Joleen Messner

Greetings!! We were blessed last month with the privilege of having Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) bring forth the reading of the memorandum. We pray that we will all apply it to our lives and we appreciate the efforts our dear elder brothers put forth.

May God provide His comforting hand to Sis. MaryLou and Bro. Dick Schmidt and family in the sudden passing of her sister, Patricia Peterson.

Our hospital patient was Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Sis. Delores). May God provide His healing hand.

Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike) would like to thank everyone for remembering her during her time of need. The thoughts, prayers and cards were deeply appreciated.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joah Fehr - Jamie Marti

On September 19 and 20, Fort

Scott hosted the Kansas Bible classes. Many thanks for your labors of love.

We enjoyed visiting minister, Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) this past Wednesday evening. May God bless you.

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (St. Luke 2:7) As the holiday season approaches, may we focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

KANSAS, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin

Carolyn Banwart

"And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

St. Matthew 3:2

We are so thankful that Kristen Braker (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janice Stoller) has turned her heart to God. May God continue to call souls who linger without.

A special thank you to the Fort Scott congregation for hosting the Sunday school youth fellowship day in September.

We want to welcome Matthew Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) to assemble with us. He is living in Springfield, MO, and has recently turned his heart to the Lord in repentance.

Also, we want to welcome Dawn Clark (Garden Grove, IA) to assemble with us. She is attending college at Point Lookout, MO.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The following ministers and their families visited St. Louis recently, blessing us with the messages they brought and with their love and fellowship: Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

We were exhorted one Sunday to prepare for heaven, as heaven is a place prepared for a prepared people. As we need to plan and pack and travel here on this earth to reach our destination, we need to

get ready for heaven. We won't just end up there by chance. The unconverted were encouraged to pack their bags! We will be going soon!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tami Grimm

A special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). We always enjoy having them visit their families here in Taylor and appreciate their willingness to minister to us.

Bro. Donnie Hoerr (Sis. Elaine) suffered a fractured skull in a fall while working on a flood-damaged building. Our hearts go out to him and his family at this time. We pray for a quick recovery, if it is God's will. Other hospital patients this month were Forrest Whitsitt (Oakland, IA), father of Sis. Janelle Scott, and Bro. Dave Marquart's (Sis. Lori) father, Joe Marquart (Palmyra, MO). Also, Sis. Anna Hoerr (Bro. Scott) underwent outpatient surgery and is recuperating at home. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one.

On October 4 our congregation laid to rest one of the strong but silent pillars of the church, our dear "Aunt Marie" Butikofer (the late Will). At 94 years old, she was loved by all and will long be remembered by those whose lives she touched. In recent years she had begun restoring and dressing dolls. The way she transformed some worthless looking dolls into beautiful creations reminds me of "The Touch of The Master's Hands" (author unknown).

Well it was battered and scarred
 and the auctioneer felt
 It was hardly worth his while
 To waste much time on the old
 violin,
 But he held it up with a smile.
 "It sure ain't much but it's all we
 got left,
 I guess we ought to sell it too.
 Now who's got a bid on this old
 violin -
 Just one more and we'll be
 through."

And then he cried, "One, give me
 one dollar,

Who'll make it two? Only two
 dollars, who'll make it three?
 Three dollars twice, now that's a
 good price,
 But who's got a bid for me?
 Raise up your hand and don't wait
 any longer,
 The auction's about to end.
 Who's got four, just one dollar more,
 to bid on this old violin?

Well the air was hot and the people
 stood around
 As the sun was setting low.
 From the back of the crowd a
 gray-haired man came forward
 And picked up the bow.
 He wiped the dust off from the old
 violin
 and he tightened up the strings.
 Then he played out a melody pure
 and sweet . . .

Sweet as the angels sing.
 And then the music stopped and
 the auctioneer,
 In a voice that was quiet and low,
 Said
 "What is my bid for this old
 violin?"
 Then he held it up with the bow.

And then he cried, "One, give me
 one thousand,
 Who'll make it two? Only two
 thousand, who'll make it three?
 Three thousand twice, now that's a
 good price,
 But who's got a bid for me?"
 The people called out, "What made
 the change?
 We don't understand."
 Then the auctioneer stopped and
 he said with a smile,
 "It was the touch of the master's
 hand."

Now you know many a man with a
 life out of tune
 Is battered and scarred with sin.
 And he's auctioned real cheap to a
 thankless world,
 Much like the old violin.
 Then the Master comes and the
 foolish crowd may never
 understand
 The worth of a soul and the change
 that is made
 Just by the touch of The Master's
 Hand.

Just as each of us who own one
 of Aunt Marie's dolls appreciate the

work created by her hands, may
 we also treasure and appreciate
 the change that our Heavenly Fa-
 ther performed in us when He con-
 verted our sinful lives into some-
 thing new and beautiful.

"To every thing there is a sea-
 son, and a time to every purpose
 under the heaven: A time to be
 born, and a time to die; a time to
 plant, and a time to pluck up that
 which is planted . . ." (Ecclesiastes
 3:1-2) As our congregation was lay-
 ing our oldest member to rest, a
 new baby was born. Bro. Benji and
 Sis. Karen Knapp welcome Brice
 Nathaniel into their hearts and
 home. Bill and Ann Killday
 (Quincy, IL) and Bro. Ralph and
 Sis. Linda Knapp are the happy
 grandparents.

Our congregation is once again
 united in worship as the bridges
 opened September 25. The separa-
 tion we felt for a time has given us
 all a deeper appreciation for one
 another and strengthened the bond
 between us. May we always be unit-
 ed in heart and mind and willing to
 go the extra mile for our brothers
 and sisters.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks
 to all those continuing to come and
 help with flood clean-up. We ap-
 preciate each and every one who
 comes and would especially like to
 thank the Morton Bible class for
 being willing to work here in place
 of a day of recreation. It may not
 be the most pleasant work, but we
 pray each one will be blessed for
 their efforts!

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"Dost thou know the balancings
 of the clouds, the wondrous works
 of him which is perfect in knowl-
 edge?"

Job 37:16

We thank Bro. Duane Reutter
 (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Duane
 Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY)
 for sharing God's Word with us
 these past two months. May God
 richly reward these brothers who
 have put the effort to be with us.

Services are held the second
 Sunday of the month. We encour-

age all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelles Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (301) 478-7846 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577.

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

Frederick Lawton, Jr. and Julie Posello were united in marriage August 28. Their parents are Fred and Linda Lawton and Albert and Nina Posello. We wish them God's nearness as they begin their lives together.

I was glad to be able to assemble again at church and return to work following several weeks at home recovering from a back problem. Times of trial and illness seem to increase our faith and then we can be thankful to see God's healing touch in our lives.

"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."

Acts 14:23

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof . . ."

I Peter 5:2

On Sunday, October 17, we gathered to witness the ordination of Bro. Duane Farney as our elder of the Croghan-Naumburg congregation. As he begins these very important duties of guiding the flock of God it is our prayer that God will grant him the necessary grace to carry out that which has been laid upon him. It is also our prayer that each of us will strive to uphold that which is right in the sight of God. We thank our Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for lending themselves in the Lord's service throughout this most humbling and blessed weekend. Many others were also with us for the weekend and

we thank each of them for their support.

**THANK YOU, GOD,
 FOR EVERYTHING**

Thank you, God, for everything --
 the big things and the small,
 For "every good gift comes from
 God" --

the giver of them all --
 And all too often we accept
 without any thanks or praise
 The gifts God sends as blessings
 each day in many ways,
 And so at this Thanksgiving time
 we offer up a prayer
 To thank you, God, for giving us
 a lot more than our share . . .
 First, thank you for the little things
 that often come our way,
 The things we take for granted
 but don't mention when we pray,
 The unexpected courtesy,
 the thoughtful, kindly deed,
 A hand reach out to help us
 in the time of sudden need . . .
 Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
 of little daily graces
 That come to us with "sweet
 surprise"

from never-dreamed-of places --
 Then, thank you for the "Miracles"
 we are much too blind to see,
 And give us new awareness
 of our many gifts from Thee,
 And help us to remember
 that the Key to Life and Living
 Is to make each prayer a Prayer
 of Thanks
 and every day Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

OHIO, AKRON
 Joyce Gasser

Bro. John Graf was in the hospital again recently. We are thankful that he has been released and has been able to assemble with us again. Bro. Ben Ammann was in the hospital but has been able to return to the Rittman Nursing Home where he is a resident. Sis. Elizabeth Heib has had serious problems with a sore leg. Hans Heib was in the hospital but has again been released. Bro. Paul Gangel was in the hospital but has been released to the Rittman Nursing Home where he and Sis. Margaret are presently residing. It is our

hope and desire that each of these loved ones will feel God's help and blessing in their needs and adversities.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Vicki Palitto of Akron (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell) and Bro. Gary Schar of Rittman (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) was recently announced. We wish the Lord's blessing on Sis. Vicki and Bro. Gary in this endeavor.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf are the parents of a new baby, Kenneth Owen. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf (Akron) and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario).

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Doyle Frauhtiger and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Mark Steiner (Smithville) have visited us. We appreciate the fellowship of these brothers and their wives, and are grateful for the message of salvation they were willing to proclaim.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
 Julie Grimm

September 19 was our annual college welcome day. The Lord provided a beautiful day for a picnic at a local park following services. We appreciate the students who worship with us and hope they will always feel a warm welcome. We thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for lending himself to minister to us.

We have been blessed with many visitors the months of September and October. Visiting ministers include Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). May God bless and encourage these brothers in their calling to minister His Holy Word.

For the last several Wednesday evening services, we have been privileged to hear the conference tapes. We truly appreciate our elder brothers and the timely exhortation.

tations which encourage us in our spiritual walk of life.

A warm welcome is extended to Lloyd and Lois Tackwell who have recently moved to our area from Chicago, IL. May God provide for them as they make Columbus their home.

May we take time to count our blessings as we behold the beauty of God's creation this fall season and may we ever thank Him for His goodness and His love. Truly we have much to be thankful for!

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the Word of God today." Helen Hurd (Pete) has been given grace to repent and turn her back to the world. May the Lord grant her the peace that she seeks as together now she and her husband can seek their soul's salvation.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Doug Reinhard (Detroit, MI), son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deloris (Garden Grove, IA), and Sis. Elizabeth Spangler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) have announced their engagement. May they feel God's nearness and guidance as they make plans during the busy time ahead.

We were disappointed that once again Bro. Gus Dietrich's kidney transplant had to be postponed. However, we have faith to believe that it just wasn't meant to be, and trust that the Lord will in His own good time "work things together for good." Gus's parents Bro. Clarence and Sis. Betty were in our area during this time, and we appreciate Bro. Clarence's willingness to share the gospel with us.

Elaine Manz (John) underwent surgery but was soon home and is reported to be recovering nicely. May God be near her and her family.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let

not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

Our convert Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) feels that he is at peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism.

Brian Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen) and Becka Forrer (Garnet Beagle and Robert Forrer) were united in marriage October 9. We pray that they will make Jesus the center of their home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nicole Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) as she has been hospitalized. We pray that God will heal her and she will be able to return home.

We appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers and we ask that God would richly bless them. We were privileged to hear the Word brought forth by Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Doug Harman (Toledo, OH), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Carl Mann

HIDDEN BLESSINGS

We always seem to find the time
To grumble and complain,
To think of all our troubles,
Our sorrow and our pain.

Yet if we would but stop and think,
I'm sure we would be glad
If we counted all the troubles
That we never had.

The loved ones we still have with
us;
Our house that didn't burn;
Our automobile that wasn't
wrecked;
The money we still earn.

When we're counting all our
blessings
God gives us by His grace,
Let's think today of all the trials
We were not asked to face.

Ramona K. Cecil

As the annual time to celebrate

Thanksgiving is once again upon us, let us each remember to be thankful for all that God has given us and all that He has spared us from. May we also remember to keep that thankful Thanksgiving spirit within us each day of the year.

"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21, 22) It is my prayer that Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka (Mansfield, OH) will forgive me for unintentionally omitting their names from the joyful extended family in the birth announcement of little Marjorie Dawson. I realized just a few days after I sent the article for last month that they had not been included and deeply regret the oversight as it was by no means intentional.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) On Saturday, September 25, we were privileged to hear the testimony of our friend, Stephany Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) and the following day, our house was full as we welcomed her as our newest sister-in-faith. When Satan tries to attack, may she always remember this precious time and cling to her Heavenly Father.

We are thankful that Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Glenn Riegenbach (Smithville, OH) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and their wives and families were here to share the weekend with us. Later in the month, a belated wedding reception for Bro. Lonny and Sis. Becky Moser also brought us a visit from Becky's parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). It is such a blessing to have brethren of like mind and faith travel the many miles to come and share the Word with us. May they all be richly rewarded as they so willingly serve our spiritual appetites.

Also the weekend of September

25, we had several visitors who had gathered in Mansfield for the Mental Health meeting. As these brethren strive to serve this aspect of our spiritual life, may they always feel God's hand guiding them.

Our Bro. Frank Bertka has recently been hospitalized but has now returned home. May God comfort him spiritually while he is still unable to gather with us.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) In my Bible, these words are in red indicating that this beautiful promise was spoken by our Blessed Redeemer. It is our prayer that our friends, Jerry and Betty Mills, will feel His comfort as they mourn the tragic loss of their son, Jerry. Accidents such as these always bring the thought to mind that none of us are promised tomorrow. Therefore, are we ready to go today?

May Rick and Jana Vent (New York) feel God's guiding hand as they raise their new little son, Jamie, who was born October 9. Nathan and Sandy are excited to have a new little brother. Happy grandparents are Dick and Sister Becky Vent of our congregation, who were in New York when the baby was born. Four-year-old Nathan knew he was going to have a brother because "he already had a sister and he prayed to God for a brother." Oh, if we each could have such a childlike, complete faith in God. Satan would lose one of his greatest tools if we could cast away all doubt. May we each strive to do exactly that.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Linda Ramsier
Marsha Hartzler

"Glory be to God in heaven, praise to Christ our Savior great!" (Zion's Harp #34). We welcome Sis. Jody Moore (Randy and Sis. Beverly) into our brotherhood. We were privileged to hear her testimony the weekend of September 19. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) assisted Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer in this important work.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville), Bro. Dave Graf (Ak-

ron), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty). Thank you brothers for your labors.

We are thankful to hear Kim Hanzie (Tim) has decided to turn to the Lord in humble repentance. May you look to our Lord and Savior for grace each day.

The Rittman congregation extends a warm welcome to Sis. Gerri O'Brien (Rockville, CT). She has accepted employment in our nursing home. We hope you feel at home here, Sis. Gerri.

We extend our sympathy to Zane Bachman (Betty) on the passing away of his mother.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month - Sis. Ruth Beery (late Bro. Karl), Sis. Pearl Breece (Bro. Bill), Bro. Albert Gasser (Sis. Lucy), Bro. Bob Gasser (Sis. Neva), Bro. Harry Gasser (Sis. Marguerite), Bro. Ernie Howell (Sis. Rowene), Bro. Ralph Weber (Sis. Ellen), Sis. MaryJane Winkler (Bro. Andy) and Bill Young. Our prayers are with you loved ones.

Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche have a new addition to their family - Mary Marie. Other sisters are Kelly, Gerri, Sarah, Rachel, Ruth, Abigail and Rebecca. May God bless your family. Grandparents are Miriam Tieche and Bro. Andrew and Sis. Lillian Maibach.

"Thus united an in concord, let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us for each other's welfare stive." (Zion's Harp #237) We heard the engagement, September 26, of Bro. Tim Geissman to Sis. Shelly Jenkins (Sis. Clara). On October 10, the engagement of Bro. Gary Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) to Sis. Vicki Palitto (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell, Akron) was announced. We pray that both couples seek the guidance of the Lord during this time of preparation.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We certainly appreciate the effort put forth by Elder Bro. Wendall and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elenor Pamer (Ak-

ron, OH), Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer (Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller (Smithville, OH) to travel to be with us. May God richly bless each of these elder brothers and their wives.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Kim Stoller - Edith Miller

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalms 127:3). On October 8, Abigail Elizabeth was born to first-time parents, Russ and Sharon Floyd, who live in Sterling, VA. Grandparents of little Abigail are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam Zollinger are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Carla Lynn, born October 16. Also welcoming her are grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian (Rittman, OH), and Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

We appreciate having Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and his family visit us one Sunday recently. May God bless Bro. Earl for bringing the Word unto us.

We have had several of our loved ones who had to be hospitalized this past month. Bro. Elmer Blough (Sis. Lorene) for heart surgery, Bro. Corban Riggenbach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita) following a farm accident in which he received a broken leg, and Ben Marty (David and Michelle), with a broken arm. We are thankful for God's healing power, and that all three of these have been able to return to our assembly.

There are still those who, having been in the hospital in past months, are yet confined to their homes. We trust the Lord will be near unto Sis. Mildred Hartzler, Sis. Carolyn Gasser, and Bro. Charles Nieman during this difficult time in their lives. Also, Sis. Martha Riggenbach, who had resided in our Nursing Home, has been able to return to her own home. We pray God's blessings upon her and also those of her loved ones who help to care for her in her home. May the following poem be a comfort to all those who must suffer infirmities of the flesh.

Blessings come in many guises
That God alone in love devises,
And sickness which we dread so
much

Can bring a very healing touch,
For often on the wings of pain
The peace we sought before in vain
Will come to us with sweet
surprise

For God is merciful and wise.
And through long hours of
tribulation

God gives us time for medication,
And no sickness can be counted
loss

That teaches us to bear our cross.
Helen Steiner Rice

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We wish to extend a belated
welcome to our returning college
students, as well as those who are
attending school in our area for the
first time. We currently have more
than 20 students from our other
churches here, and look forward to
seeing them assemble with us.

While we see many new faces,
we also send our best wishes with
Chad Sanclaint (Dave and Sis.
Connie) who has moved to Oxford,
OH, to attend college there.

We were blessed with the visits
of three ministers this month. Bros.
Ron Steiner (Rittman), Ken
Indermuhle (Sardis), and Dwight
Stoller (Latty) were able and will-
ing to be with us on recent week-
ends and share with us from God's
Word.

Wedding congratulations are
extended to Michele Kipfer (Sis.
Janet), who was married to Tim
Merritt October 2. We wish them
God's richest blessings in their new
life together.

We also ask God's blessings for
two couples who have announced
their engagements. Kelly Sanclaint
(Dave and Sis. Connie, Tampa, FL)
is engaged to Richard Chamberlain
(also of Tampa). An April 23
wedding is being planned. The en-
gagement of one of our Toledo stu-
dents, Sis. Elizabeth Spangler (Bro.
Jim and Sis. Carolyn, Junction) and
Bro. Doug Reinhard of Detroit, MI
(Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Gar-
den Grove, IA) was also recently
announced. May both of these cou-

ples look to God for guidance in
this important step.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER

Laura Baxter

Visitors are always appreciated
by our congregation, especially
those of the household of faith. We
enjoy the fellowship of brethren and
friends alike and look forward to
each time we get visitors. In Au-
gust, we were blessed to have visi-
tors from Remington, IN, includ-
ing Bro. Earl Kilgus, who minist-
tered God's Word to us. September
brought visitors from Smithville,
OH, and Bro. Gary Maibach was
used of God to minister to us. In
October, we received visitors from
Bay City, MI, and Bro. Bill Waibel
was kind enough to minister to us.
We want to thank each one who
took the time and effort to be with
us in person, and each minister
who shared the Word of God with
us.

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Marg-
aret Fortenbacher were blessed
when their daughter and son-in-
law had a healthy baby boy, Ken-
neth Owen Graf. Kenneth's par-
ents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia
Graf (Akron, OH). We all rejoice
with them and pray that God will
grant them wisdom and joy as they
become parents.

As we reported earlier, two of
our congregation are in the Yukon
for one year. We are including the
address of Sis. Ingrid and Sis.
Maggie Fortenbacher as we know
they would love to hear from friends
and brethren. Their address is:
Ingrid and Maggie Fortenbacher,
207-410 Strickland St., Whitehorse,
YT Y1A-2K2

Anyone who would like to visit
us in Kitchener should contact Bro.
Wladimir Fortenbacher (519)699-
4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519)699-
5081.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Lori Martin

"Hear thou, my Son, and be
wise, and guide thine heart in the
way." (Proverbs 23:19) May we take
the time to remember that we need
Him to guide us in our daily walk.

We have recently finished lis-

tening to the conference tapes. May
we carefully consider the thoughts
brought to our attention by our el-
der brethren.

We would like to thank the fol-
lowing visiting ministers: Walt
Steffen (Milford, IN), Clarence
Dietrich and Art Metz (both from
Silverton, OR).

We are so glad Sis. Golda Ditch
was able to fellowship with us re-
cently. We pray for her and her
husband as the miles separate us
and she is unable to worship with
us every Sunday.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Greetings in our dear Saviour's
name! Are we really thankful
enough for all that He has done for
us? It is a blessing that we can live
in a country that has a day set
aside as Thanksgiving Day, but we
must have thankful hearts every
day for our many spiritual bless-
ings as well as our earthly ones.

We were so thankful to learn
that our dear friend, Jaimie
Bigelow (Susan), has found peace
through a true repentance. We are
so happy to have her assembling
with us and wish her continued
grace and mercy from the Lord.
October 2, was the wedding day of
our friends, Nathan Kuenzi (Bro.
Lee and Sis. Janet) and Sarah
Martin (Stuart and Phyllis, Salem).
We wish them the Lord's richest
blessings and abundant grace as
they begin their married life and
enter into repentance.

We are thankful to have our
friend Alice (Lawrence) Gehring
assembling with us once again af-
ter a brief stay in the hospital.

"Enter into His gates with
thanksgiving, and into His courts
with praise; be thankful unto Him
and bless His name."

Psalm 100:4

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

Look beyond your sufferings,
Look beyond your fear.
Look beyond your adversity

And find the Lord so near.
 Look beyond the problem,
 Look beyond the now.
 Look beyond the turmoil
 And before Him humbly bow.
 For, in looking beyond and bowing,
 You will find your normal sight . . .
 Takes on spiritual vision,
 In God's sustaining light.

Josephine Anne Miller

As another Thanksgiving day approaches may we always be thankful for the many blessings our God has given us. May we remember in our prayers those not so Blessed.

We have completed listening to the brotherhood conference tapes. We thank our Elders for their efforts. May we all abide by His Word in all things we do.

We were blessed with three visiting ministers this past month, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH). We thank them for their efforts, may God richly reward them and their families.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

The fall season has arrived in Nashville and God's handiwork is evident all around us in the gorgeous colors of the trees.

On October 10, we welcomed ministering Bro. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL), his wife, Sandra, and those traveling with them. God's presence was certainly felt in our midst as we worshipped together. We sincerely appreciate all of your efforts in coming to be with us, and may God richly bless and keep all of you in His loving care.

Upcoming scheduled church service weekends in Nashville are January 2, 1994 and February 6, 1994. Come worship with us on these weekends or call any other times you are traveling in the area. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-1081 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

Give Your New and Old Address
 To Your Reporter

TEXAS, DALLAS Christine Kaiser Kimberly Kaiser

With Thanksgiving approaching, we have a special privilege to honor God and give Him thanks for the blessings that surround us. It's pansy planting time in Texas. The bright yellow and purple flowers give our homes and businesses color during the fall and winter. The shorter days allow our families more time together in the warmth of our homes as we come in earlier from the cool evenings.

The Dallas congregation is grateful to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) for labors of love and Christian service in October.

We extend a special invitation to those traveling in the Dallas area to come worship with us. 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. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074, Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102, or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

We wish a safe journey to all those traveling to visit family over the Thanksgiving holiday. May God be with you.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Bro. Lloyd Nohl, his wife, Sis. Joyce, their daughter, Julie, their foster children, Frank, Emily, Rosita, Patrica, Erica and Olivia, have welcomed a new baby into their home. The baby was born July 16 and was in the hospital until she came to live with Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce September 7. We wish them guidance and blessings from God.

Sis. Jane Martin (Morton, IL) passed away September 25 at Peoria, IL. Sis. Jane and her husband, Bro. Bill, spent some winter months with us here in Zapata. They were planning to be here this winter. We will miss Sis. Jane. We extend

our sympathy to Bro. Bill and family.

Sis. Mary Plattner's project to help the children of migrant workers was continued this past week. Mrs. Trevino, teacher of children of migrant workers from Zapata, took the winter clothes sent from World Relief to school to be given to needy children.

SILVER THREADS

THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US

ABUNDANT LIFE

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

UNSPEAKABLE JOY

"Whom having not seen, ye love; . . . yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

I Peter 1:8

ABOUNDING GRACE

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

II Corinthians 9:8

PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING

"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

GREAT MERCY

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him."

Psalms 103:11

SOOTHING COMFORT

"I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

CLEANSING FROM UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our

sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I John 1:9

SOUND WISDOM

"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous."

Proverbs 2:6, 7

PHYSICAL HEALTH

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

III John 2

SAVING STRENGTH

"The Lord will give strength unto his people."

Psalm 29:11

PROSPERITY IN ALL THINGS

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water . . . and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:3

PERFECT PEACE

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

ALL YOUR NEEDS MET

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

KEEPS HIS COVENANT

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

Psalm 89:34

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."

Colossians 2:6

Our SPEECH is to be:

1) Comforting to those who hurt . . . I Thessalonians 4:18

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

2) Calming to those who are angry . . . Proverbs 15:1

"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."

Our CONDUCT is to:

1) Be forgiving of others . . . John 13:15

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

2) Place others above ourselves . . . Philippians 2:3

"But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

Our LOVE

1) For God should be complete . . . Luke 10:27

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

2) For others ought to reflect God's love for us . . . John 15:12

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Jesus' example for our FAITH is:

1) Steadfast, unmovable . . . I Corinthians 15:58

"My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

2) Faith in God, not ourselves . . . Proverbs 3:5

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

A true believer's PURITY should be:

1) Blameless; without blemish . . . II Peter 3:14

" . . . be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

2) From the heart; sincere . . . Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address To Your Reporter

THANKSGIVING

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

Psalm 92:1

Give thanks for GOD'S GOODNESS

"O give thanks unto the Lord: for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

I Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks for GOD'S HOLINESS

"Give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalm 30:4

Give thanks for GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks . . . for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalm 75:1

Give thanks for FORGIVENESS OF SINS

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:14

Give thanks for HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT

" . . . shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

I Peter 2:9

Give thanks for GRACE

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you."

II Corinthians 9:8

Give thanks for PEACE

"My peace I give unto you."

John 14:27

Give thanks for the ABUNDANT LIFE

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

Give thanks for JOY

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

John 15:11

Give thanks for SALVATION

"The Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation."

Psalms 149:4

Give thanks for HOPE

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:13

Give thanks for EVERYTHING

"In everything give thanks."

I Thessalonians 5:18

"Praise him for his mighty acts: Praise him according to his excellent greatness.

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 150:2 and 6



HAITI - JAMAICA WORK TEAM NEWS

Due to political instability in Haiti, the Caribbean Board has decided to cancel the first of this work season's teams, scheduled for December 10 - 18.

Clearance will be sought for each of the other four projects in Haiti six weeks before time of departure through the usual U.S. State Department advisors and missionaries.

The Caribbean Board further agreed to seek a deferred date rather than cancel any of the other four Haiti teams, if the Board does not clear them for travel.

In summary, all of the remaining seven dates in Haiti and Jamaica are open to volunteers except January 27 to Haiti, which already has a full team. Please contact the area representative for the particular project date you are interested in for information. Your

local representative can also help give you direction.

Jamaica continues to be very hospitable to those led to volunteer at C.C.C.P. This Third World Christian school is expanding its facilities for deaf children. Apostolic Christian World Relief has sent material aid to the school for a number of years. Last year we responded to their request for volunteers to help in an expansion program, and sent three teams. We have again scheduled three teams for this work season.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

fect, will of God." (Romans 12:2) Those things are good, perfect and acceptable.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." (Romans 12:3) This is another way. How do we do this? Don't think of yourself too highly.

If we understand who God is, and if we have a fear of God, that will help us get a sense of perspective on who we are and what we can really accomplish, which is virtually nothing.

". . . but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:" (Romans 12:3, 4) He said, "You're going to find yourself in a position and you may question, 'Am I doing enough?' or 'I am not as good as someone else.'" What He says is, "Each one of us have our job to do." He has given to us something to work with.

We think of the parable of the talents. When He went away, what happened? When the Master went away, He gave to them different amounts, different responsibilities. But they had responsibilities to perform.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing . . ." Let us just then through what some of them are. ". . .

. according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy . . . Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering . . ." (Romans 12:5-7).

Now prophecy, here, would probably more properly be preaching, in the sense that it is given in this scripture. Ministering, which we think of as preaching, would really be more of service. There are some people, and you know who you are, and we know who you are as well, as we work together. There are some people who are very good in the work of service.

Did you ever find that person who can just absorb things? You give them a job and they take care of it. What happens to those people? Who always gets the job? The same person. You notice how that always happens? They get a job, do it well, and we keep looking to them. Our head always swivels to them, when there is a job to do. That is the ministering spirit, or servant. That is what ministering means, to be a servant.

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; . . . ' which means not making a big deal out of it, but we just give simply, ". . . he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:8) Forgiveness with cheerfulness. Having mercy with cheerfulness.

Too often, we try to say that we are going to show that mercy or show forgiveness, but we really are not forgiving. What we are doing is saying, "I want you to pay a penalty . . . pay the price. I want a little pound of flesh here or there before I am really willing to forgive."

That is not forgiveness. We are going to read about the instruction that God gives us about what forgiveness is really like a little bit later in this scripture. That is not really true forgiveness, but you are to do it with cheerfulness, to have mercy with cheerfulness.

"Let love be without dissimulation." It is to be shared without judgment. Love is to be without dissimulation or choosing. "Abhor that which is evil;" (Romans 12:9) Here is a way to live our lives.

He is giving us directions, and

He is giving us simple instructions on how to live. "Abhor that which is evil." Abhor is a pretty strong word. This is the kind of thing where you flee from it. It says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thessalonians 5:22) "Abhor that which is evil." Cringe at it. We should have that attitude and not just accept it. Because what do we know happens, when we start to accept those things, partially? When we don't abhor those things that are evil, what happens?

We start to become a little calloused and we accept a little more. Pretty soon, it does not even seem evil anymore. "Oh, well, that is just the way the world is." We say that all the time. We become calloused to it. We need to abhor that which is evil, so that when it shows up again, we can recognize it for what it is, because sometimes we fail to recognize evil for what it is, and because we have not had that abhorrence for evil.

"Cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9) Draw near to it. He is giving us instructions. When we are around things that are good, we should be cleaving to it. That is why we give instructions to our converts as they come.

When the church doors are open, they should be there. We should cleave to that which is good. That versus the other choice, which is to abhor that which is evil.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." These are simple instructions. Sometimes they pass right by us because we don't pay attention. "In honour preferring one another." (Romans 12:10) Do we really do that?

I must confess to you sometimes even as we work together, as Bro. Ed and his son, Gary, and I work together, when we were on a little trip together and as we were going through a door, we would say, "You go first." "No, you go first, because I esteem you higher than myself."

We do that, but we have to be careful with that. I am saying that to myself, "I need to be careful with that," because we really need to be sincere that we esteem our brother higher than ourselves, or our sister higher than ourselves. It is all the same.

We need to have that esteem for one another. That is seeing the value in the other person. Do we do that? When we are saying that we esteem someone, that is what we are doing. We are seeing the value that is in them. They have within them the same spirit that God gave to us. We should be esteeming that spirit higher than ourselves, because of ourselves we are not worth anything.

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." (Romans 12:11) He puts those together, which is always interesting to me. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." (Romans 12:12) Simple instructions.

Don't be slothful in business. It doesn't tell us to be greedy, it just says, "Don't be slothful." Be a good steward. That is what he means. Fervent in spirit. We should be excited about the spirit that God has placed within us. Continuing instant in prayer. We should constantly be in prayer. Too often, what happens? We fall into this all the time.

Decisions need to be made. We make decisions day in and day out. Decisions are made, but are we making those decisions through the use of prayer? Are we communing with God, asking for His guidance, asking Him to open the way?

We have all had great experiences when we ask for God's help. We pray that God would reveal to us what we should do. He opened the way. Then what happens the next time? We don't ask. We want the help, but we don't ask. It is silly, but we are human and so we forget.

I think that God is forgiving and He places in our hearts the remembrance that we need to ask and come to Him in prayer. That is what being instant in prayer is about.

"Patient in tribulation." (Romans 12:12) Can we be patient as tribulation comes upon us? It is just another instruction from Him.

"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." (Romans 12:13) I want to make a point about hospitality, if I could. Hospitality is different than entertaining. Those two things are different.

Entertainment focuses on the host. The house has to be clean. We go through this at our place when we have company. How long does it take to get ready for company that is going to come for one-half a day? A week. You know how that goes. At our house, it is not stacked with things all over the place. It stays very neat, and I appreciate the way my wife keeps the house. But, we are going to be entertaining company!

There is a difference between entertainment and hospitality. Hospitality can occur when all you have on the table is macaroni and cheese. It focuses on the guest. Why are we concerned about what our house looks like? We do not want to look bad. Let us focus on the guest. That is hospitality. To bring them in and to share . . . to talk. You can talk across a dirty table just as well as you can talk across a clean one. You can share things.

You have probably done that. I have had some of the best conversations with our family, when we were growing up, when we were in the middle of a mess. We went out and camped and stuff was a mess. Other families would be there and they would come over to our campsite. There would be stuff strewn all over the place. But that was hospitality.

That is what the scripture means. It means to share those times, those special times that you can look back on when no one remembers how clean the house was or how spick-and-span something was. Let us not worry about entertaining, but let us look at hospitality. Let's focus on the guest, not on ourselves. That is what this is all about.

He says we have to get the focus off ourselves and focus on others.

That is the key. If we focus on others, things will go really well.

"Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." (Romans 12:14) Times come when we are persecuted. God's direction is this. "Bless those people who persecute you." We sit here and say, "I can't do that. I am not very good at it." When someone persecutes me, like they call me on the phone and I feel like I am being persecuted.

They are wrongfully accusing me on the phone, I can tell you the back of my neck gets pretty red and I flare. Now, Lord willing, you don't have those problems, but I sure do. I am not feeling very much like I should bless them. But that is what God tells us to do.

Do we have wisdom, the ability to apply God's Word to our daily walk of life? Can we do that? Do we think about it? Do we exercise it? If you are like me, probably what I need to do, is put up a sign in my office that says "Bless them that persecute you. Bless and curse not."

Get that up in front of you, so you can remember when the times comes so that God's Word is right there, so you can exercise it. It is a difficult thing to do.

I'm sure if something happens and we fail in this, what is our choice? Our choice is then to what? To make a phone call . . . to call afterwards and say, "I apologize, because I didn't handle that the way I should have."

What is that? That is esteeming others higher than ourselves. That is reaching out and be willing to lay ourselves down, to sacrifice . . . the living sacrifice that God requires.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." (Romans 12:15) Have empathy. That is what He says. Be sympathetic. Feel for others. When others have those deep feelings, then our spirit reaches out to them. Simple instruction on how to live.

"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." (Romans 12:16) God knows the confusion that is created by the world. The world says, "This person has a high position, and we should really esteem the person of high position." God says what? "No." It is as simple as that. Do not do it. It is backwards. Rather, look to those men of low estate in simplicity to learn.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." (Romans 12:17) Honesty. It is simple instruction. If we are honest, if we are unfailingly honest, things will go well for us, even in this life. It serves you well

to be unfailingly honest. Sure, sometimes it hurts in the short run, but it definitely is God's way and therefore it pays in the long run.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18) I enjoy this verse because of the "if it be possible." God recognizes that we have this weakness and we cannot always get the job done. He says, "As much as you possibly can, through the use of the spirit, live peaceably with everybody, with all men." Not just among our group of believers, but with all men. He includes everyone to live in peace as much as possible.

"Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21)

When things happen and we are mistreated, and we take this verse and we use it, what is accomplished? There is a possibility of many things. In fact, instead of persecuting in return, what does He ask us to do? To give gifts to those who persecute us.

If you have an enemy, you are supposed to do what? If he is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. That is God's instruction. What will happen when that occurs? What are the possible events? They may ignore it. They may abuse you and take advantage of you. So? You presented yourself that living sacrifice to God.

What else may happen? You may have heaped upon him the coals of fire of personal conviction. Because he sees your actions, your life acted out, what is in you acted out, it will heap upon him the coals of fire of conviction and from that he will be saved.

What else might happen? If we actually act like, if we are honest with ourselves, if we at least act like we are forgiving, maybe we will start to become forgiving. If we start to do things for someone else who we would consider to be

our enemy, if we start to do things for them, even though it may be an act at first, what? Actions can start to become a part of us, and then we will start to have the feeling. It is a possibility. He says to at least make the effort in that direction.

To do what? Throughout all of it, He says to do what? To overcome what? What does it say in the last verse? Remember the last verse of what we read in Proverbs? I wanted to tie these two together.

Let us look again in Proverbs just briefly. I will turn again and read it. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me" wisdom "shall dwell safely," the fear of God "and shall be quiet from fear of evil." (Proverbs 1:33) Be quieted from the fear of evil. Evil will be defeated through this fear of God, through the knowledge that He can give us and the actions that we can take in our life.

What does that last verse that we read here say? "Be not overcome of evil." Through that fear of evil, the thing that disquiets us, the thing that gives us ulcers and causes our insides to be churned up, but overcome evil with good. He says, "Take action and present yourself living, as a sacrifice unto Me."

If there is any piece of advice that we can give to those who are going on, let us talk specifically of that for just a second. If there is a piece of advice that we can give, it is just that: to take the Word of God and to apply it to your life each and every day. To do that, you have to read it. It is as simple as that. You have to read it and study it and begin to understand it, so that you can apply it.

If you ever find yourself drifting along in the sea of life, in the stream of life, and you start to hear the roar of the falls, remember that God's Word and then the fear of Him that comes from the reading of His Word, is the beginning of wisdom. It will help you to find the way to apply His Word to your walk of life.

That is the best advice that I can give you and that God can give, because that is what He tells us. In His Word He tells us, "Fear Me, and wisdom will begin." It is simply that. Fear Him.

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SERMON BY BRO. STEPHEN BANER OF GRIDLEY, IL

"Know the Fear of the Lord" Proverbs 1 and Romans 12

These are simple instructions. Let us review briefly as we go back through it. Let us review the steps that God gives us, the simple instructions that He gives us through Paul of how to live and how to handle situations as they come.

This is the ability to apply God's Word to our daily walk of life. He said, "Here's a situation in your daily walk of life. Here is what to do. Here's another one and here is what to do." We think sometimes that God's Word is not current enough and does not handle the current affairs of today. That is nonsense. It will handle every situation, but we have to use it. Too often we are lazy and we do not want to try. At least I am. You may not be like that.

In verse one, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1) "A living sacrifice." God made a change at the time when He sent Jesus Christ and He sacrificed Him there on the cross for our sins. Do we relate to that as an individual experience?

Jesus Christ, when He hung on the cross, looked across time and space and He saw us - as individuals, you and I. He looked at me and saw me for what I was and He was

willing to sacrifice Himself for me.

If I understand that, if I truly understand that, am I not willing to give Him this life? Holy and acceptable unto Him? A living sacrifice. Each day. Day in and day out. Remember? Applying it to our daily walk of life . . . living the Word. Not applying it every once in a while when we think about it, but living the Word.

In ancient times they would take those sacrifices, and do what? Kill them, cut them into pieces, and burn them on the altar. They were not living anymore, were they?

God wants a different type of sacrifice today. He wants us to take our lives to live them for Him and to be alive in His service. We are much more effective alive, than we are dead.

He wants us to live spiritually. To live so that other lives may be touched, so that they can see in us that living thing that is the Spirit of God, so they can understand that there is an escape from the river that is plunging toward destruction. Many find themselves on that river and they cannot figure a way out. They just don't know what to do. Their thoughts are tangled.

You know, our mind is an amazing thing. You are probably like I am and your mind just races at certain times. Thoughts come from

here and from there and our friends are that way. Their minds are racing, and they have so much more to be fearful of. Remember that fear of evil?

They know they are in it and they are trapped by it and they don't know how to get out. Their mind is racing, trying to use their own ability to escape. The Word says what? The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, the beginning of real knowledge. (See Proverbs 1:7)

So if they begin to fear God and know who He is and understand His Word and believe it, then they must turn and become a living sacrifice, giving their body and their mind and their spirit each day in His service. He says, "How do we do this?" You know, we can say that is what we need to do, now how do we do it?

First step, do not be conformed to the world. Don't be like the world. We must dwell in it, but we do not have to be like it. "But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind . . ." (Romans 12:2) To be changed. Instead of having your own knowledge and relying on yourself, rather to rely on the Spirit of God to give us direction.

". . . that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and per-

(Continued on Page 33)