



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

"Hear, ye children, the in-  
struction of a **father**, and at-  
tend to know understanding."  
Proverbs 4:1

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# FATHERS

*"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

*Ephesians 6:4*

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

"bring them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

"When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

Proverbs 6:20-23



## MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

### “COMPASSIONATE FATHERS”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Fathers need to be strict, but the problem is, we may have a tendency to be stricter with our children and with others, than we are with ourselves. This is a concern to me because I realize that we really should be the strictest with ourselves. Jesus said, “First cast out the beam out of thine own eye.” (Matthew 7:5)

In contrast to being strict and stern, we have the statement in the story of the prodigal son, “His father saw him, and had compassion.” (Matthew 15:20) It’s this matter of having compassion that intrigues me. To have compassion alone will not cure an alcoholic or a drug addict. In some cases, enlightened compassion may require a strictness in order to prevent our children, or others, from getting into a place of suffering and heartache.

In the army, I assisted a German born doctor who was known to be very rough with his patients. He told me, “They will never get well if I stand there and feel sorry for them.” I haven’t forgotten his statement and the element of truth it

contains, but I think a gentle approach would probably not detract from the effect of his treatment. The same is true in regard to how we treat our children, our spouses, and others.

Father’s Day is a day to show honor and respect to fathers, and this is proper. While being so honored, let’s try to set high standards of conduct while being filled with compassion. Others hurts and sorrows may be greater than we know, and it is also true that our hurts and sorrows may be greater than others know. Compassion is a wonderful thing. Let’s have it with each other.

Quite often we read in the New Testament of the Lord Jesus Christ having compassion. The Apostle Peter, himself a rather outspoken individual who suffered for it afterwards, wrote, “Having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” (I Peter 3:8)

## TEACHERS

### Educational Coordinator Opening at Gateway Woods

If you have been reading the Silver Lining for the past few years, you may have noticed this advertisement comes up every summer. Let me explain that the high turnover is not because this is an awful job! It is full of challenges, rewards and welcomes creativity. I am sad to leave this position, but praise God as He has blessed me with a child of my own to care for.

We are looking for a brother or sister who has a desire to light a spark in a child’s mind for knowledge and in their heart for Jesus Christ. Qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and work experience in the field. We offer competitive salaries, benefits and continuing education opportunities. Please prayerfully consider this work. For more information contact one of the brothers listed below.

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

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

## GATEWAY WOODS

*Apostolic Christian Children’s Home*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1994  
CHILDREN’S HOME  
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 13, 1994

## THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

### EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

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### IN MEMORY – EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER



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).*

## GOD'S PLAN FOR FAMILY UNITY - II

This second in a series of articles considers the blessings of the extended family as well as the great need for guidance from the Lord in bringing up children in a godly manner.

The value of the God-given family structure extends beyond the nuclear unit of parents and children. Grandparents and other extended family members and friends can also reap benefits from, and be blessed by, our children. They can help bring generations together and provide a special joy to grandparents. "Children's children are the crown of old men" (Prov. 17:6).

The experience of godly grandparents and other faithful older family members and friends can be a valuable source of advice as young parents seek to raise their children according to God's will. Much can be learned by spending time talking with and seeking advice from those who have successfully guided their children to adulthood. Children also can benefit from time spent with grandparents and other older faithful servants of God. As our children grow to adulthood, we must not overlook the valuable resource God has preserved for us in these experienced soldiers of Christ.

As valuable as the relationship between generations is, there are, however, pitfalls to be avoided. Parents must not take unfair advantage of the grandparents in placing too much of the responsibility for raising the children on the grandparents. They have raised their family and should not be too tied down with excessive babysitting for grandchildren.

Grandparents, on the other hand, must be careful that the advice and assistance they provide for their children does not become overbearing and meddlesome. Too much influence can cause friction within the family and a lack of confidence in the parents. Godly wisdom and restraint are in order and a realistic balance must be sought. Grandparents must be careful that they do not undermine the authority of the parents with well intended but misdirected com-

passion when children are in need of parental discipline. Also, the excessive showering of material gifts must be avoided. Cooperation, love, and understanding are in order as we work together to teach our children the proper relationship they need to develop with God.

Although children are a blessing from the Lord, being a parent is a responsibility that at times can seem overwhelming. The physical needs of children must be supplied, the emotional needs must be tended to, the social development is a challenge, and most of all, the spiritual needs of children are of great concern. The pressures brought on by a very materialistic and worldly society can cause parents to lose focus and to have inappropriate priorities. The advice from many modern day child rearing professionals runs so counter to the Word of God that it can cause a great deal of confusion. We really should not seek the counsel of ungodly people, especially as it relates to rearing our children. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psa. 1:1). The salvation of the souls of our children is far too important to entrust their future to the ungodly or to those who espouse questionable doctrines. God gave us our children and he expects us to teach them properly.

God did not place this tremendous responsibility upon His people without providing instruction on how to accomplish this task. His Word provides the principles upon which we can build a solid, stable family structure. However, since these instructions are not conveniently located in one place, one must search the Scriptures for the guidance that is needed. "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isa. 28:10).

Preparation for parental wisdom should begin before the first child is born. The first step in fulfilling parental responsibilities is

self-examination. Many times in the Scriptures God's people are advised to examine their lives in the light of God's Word in order to be at peace with God. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Cor. 13:5). "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God" (1 John 3:21). In His sermon on the mount, Christ explained very clearly how important it is for us to cast the beam from our own eye so we can see clearly to remove the mote from our brother's eye (Matt. 7:4-5). If our lives are not in good spiritual order, it will make our task as parents much more difficult. If we are not submissive and obedient to God's Word and are not supportive of the church, how can we expect our children to learn obedience and submission to their parents?

Prayer for guidance in raising children should begin very early—prior to a child's birth. Manoah, the father of Samson, prayed fervently that God would show him and his wife how to raise their child, "O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?" (Judges 13:8, 12). Likewise, Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prayed fervently that God would bless her with a child, and she promised to lend him to the Lord as long as he might live (1 Sam. 1). These early prayers can help us focus our attention on the importance of entrusting our children to God's care and keeping and teaching them by word and by example of God's plan for the life of each of His children.

A life of much prayer and sincere dedication to this sacred task of child-rearing will bring boundless blessings to a family circle. Although the Apostle John spoke of spiritual children, his profound words echo the heartfelt longing of every believing parent: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).

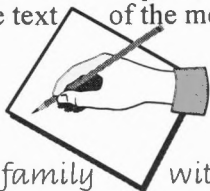


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

## Expression of Thanks for Food Packages

Each month, brethren and friends gather at the distribution center in Bluffton, Indiana to package foodstuffs for needy brethren in Romania. These are packed into a sea container, and delivered into Romania, to be distributed. Many needy souls share in this assistance, and express their thanks by letter. We are printing a few of these letters below so that our generous workers and givers can see how much their efforts are appreciated. Each letter begins with greetings and thanks to God, but for the sake of space, we will print only the text of the message.



We are a family with four children, a son who does not attend church, and 3 daughters who do, one is a believer, the second is a friend, and the third is 13, still in school. Since we have freedom, and the church is finished, many attend. We have many here who are awaiting baptism. In closing we thank God and you for the love you show us.

**B.A.-Arad**



I am 18 years old, a senior in High School. I received your address from someone who is receiving food packages. Under present living conditions, old people, instead of living a quiet life must struggle and live in fear of tomorrow. Your help is great and of real value, spiritually and materially. I thank you in the name of the recipients.

**H.C.-Timisoara**

I am from Timisoara, of Serbian nationality. I was raised in a Christian family of 15 children, 10 are still living, 6 in our faith. I am 61 years old, and the oldest sister is 70. I became a widow 13 years ago. I have two children, the daughter married, the son not. He is 36 years old, and not healthy, but I thank God that He gives me strength to carry on. He does not forsake us and sheds His grace and mercy on us, and gives us strength.

Dear brethren, we thank our Lord for your love you show to us. God bless you and all His children wherever they be. I beg you in the name of Jesus Christ greet all our brethren wherever you meet them. The mercy and peace of our Lord be with us all as long as we live, and let us remain in the love of our Lord.

**N.M. - Timisoara**



Your efforts are directed towards us so that we will not lack the things needed for our body. Through your love, packages arrive here each month. I have no words which could express my thanks to God and you brethren, because this is a great help for me. We are a young family and live in a high rise apartment with very small space, and we have 6 children. We put our trust in Jesus our Lord and the merciful God to take care of us. He fulfills His word, as these aid packages arrive here on time from thousands of miles away. Only through His great love is this possible. I drive the car that distributes these packages, and do my best so they arrive on time. May the good Lord bless you and help you in everything. Your reward is in heaven.

**F.I.-Arad**

I write in the name of my 82 year old mother. She thanks you from the bottom of her heart that in spite of the calamities that have befallen America, you continue to help us. It is true that many of the good things you send we cannot buy here. We are modest people and do not possess earthly riches, but man does not live by bread alone. Even if we are few, it is a great blessing to gather together for worship. Our joy is great to know that thousands of miles away there are brethren with the same faith who comfort us with gifts and thoughts. Only God can reward you. May He give you health and strength and endurance so that you can overcome all your troubles. We assure you of our love.

**M.D.-Timisoara**

A team of brethren plans to be in Europe in June, with the mission and purpose of visiting Romania, Hungary, and Germany, as well as meeting with representatives from Yugoslavia and Ukraine in Budapest. They will evaluate the results of our efforts there, and make plans for future assistance. This cannot be accomplished without God's guidance and direction, and they humbly and sincerely ask all of you to remember them and their mission in your prayers.

Without the prayers and financial support of our brethren and friends, none of this work would be possible. Through God's grace, borders which formerly were closed have now opened, and it is possible to become acquainted with, and assist brethren who have endured severe tests and trials. Your gifts are appreciated more than perhaps you will ever know.

## EUROPEAN WORK TEAM

Skilled bricklayers could be used for the new church building in Breidenbach, Germany this summer.

Please contact:

Gene Lehman Remington, IN  
219/261-3313.



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

The Mission Committee is the arm of the Church with the responsibility of carrying out the goals and purposes of spreading the gospel. But each of us can have a part in this endeavor. One way that we can be involved is through the distribution of Bibles. In the darkness of this present age the seriousness and the significance of this work cannot be emphasized enough. The following article is to remind each of us of the purpose of the Bible in our lives, the urgency of sharing this truth with a lost world and suggestions to accomplish this important mission.

### The Purpose of the Bible

The Bible has been given to mankind as a witness of one God, who created and sustains the universe, and of His holy son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The story it tells is continuous—that of the perfect redemption of fallen mankind.

This story unfolds as one reads through the books of the Bible. The great truths of redemption are given through history and prophecy. By studying these truths, one can understand the divine role of Jesus Christ as redeemer. God's plan for man in time and eternity are set forth in this cherished volume. It is divine inspiration which sets the Bible apart from any other book in the world, for it is the mind of God.

### Jesus Christ is the Center and the Heart of the Bible

The Old Testament is the account of a nation. The New Testament is the account of a man. The nation was founded and nurtured by God to bring the man into the world.

One can read at the beginning of Genesis that God made man in His own image. Man is the highest form of life on earth, and alone has been given the reasoning ability to make personal choices. In exercising this right of choice, man willingly disobeyed God, and the sentence of death was placed upon him and his posterity.

In the fullness of time, God Himself was born as a man in the person of His only son. First man in God's image, and then God in man's image as an offering for sin. **Christ's appearance on the earth is the central event of all history.** The Old Testament sets the stage for it. The New Testament describes it with deep passion.

As a man, He lived the most beautiful life ever known. He was the kindest, tenderest, gentlest, most sympathetic person who ever lived. Multitudes, weary, worn, painridden, and heart-sick came to Him, and found relief. It is said of Him, and none other, that if all the deeds He did were written, the world would not contain the books.

Then, He died, cruelly tortured, to pay the price for sin. He rose from death, and lives today, not as a character of history, but the true redeemer of mankind. The Bible was written only that men might believe, repent, be converted, serve their God in loving obedience, and finally inherit life eternal in heaven.



### How Can They Believe if They Have Not Heard?

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* ROMANS 10:14&17

It is by grace that we are saved through faith. Being justified by faith, we have peace with our Lord Jesus Christ. This faith was made possible by having and hearing the word of God. Truly we are undeserving of such an opportunity and unworthy of this gift of salvation.

We now have the privilege and responsibility to share this good news with our fellow man—the good news of the Gospel recorded in the Bible.

### Ways That We Can Share the Gospel

Bibles are available from distribution centers in Leo, Indiana and Eureka, Illinois. Several foreign language Bibles are also available for distribution in other countries. Listed below are some suggestions on how we can bring the bread of life to a hungry world:

- Plastic boxes are available that hold New Testaments. These can be placed in businesses, hospitals, motels, gas stations or anyplace where people can take them. On the front is a small decal that encourages anyone to take one free.
- Newspaper ads can be placed in your local paper offering a Bible free to anyone who requests one. These can be delivered in person, offering an opportunity to meet both physical and spiritual needs.
- Ask those who you work with if they own a Bible and offer to get them one if they express an interest.
- Keep Bibles available in your car to give to someone who has a need.
- Invite someone to church. Have Bibles available to give them when they leave.
- Large print Bibles can be placed in doctor's offices, hospitals or anyplace where they would be read.

These are only a few suggestions. Each of us has unique opportunities to confess our faith individually and give a testimony of the work Christ has done in our life. May we encourage each other and pray for one another that our efforts will bring honor and glory to our great God and Lord Jesus Christ.

TO SEND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BIBLE DISTRIBUTION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Apostolic Christian Mission Committee  
P.O. Box 23356  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 681-3796  
(913) 681-1519 (Fax)

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR  
THE HANDICAPPED**

On Sunday afternoon, April 24,

an "Open House" was held at Linden Estate, our new 16-bed group home. Then on May 9, the first four residents from ACHH moved in at

Linden. They are: Jane Aberle, Sharilyn Rowell, Kent Knobloch and Carl (Chip) Johann. They are all very excited about their new home and are adjusting extremely well. The others will move, a few at a time, during June, July and August. Linden Estate is a lovely, beautifully decorated home where the people living there can experience more independence. Another advantage is that they will each have their own room instead of sharing a bedroom, giving them much more privacy. We praise God for providing, through His people, this wonderful home for those who are able to "move up", thus making room for other developmentally disabled who need more assistance.

We plan for 16 Special Olympics athletes to attend the State games at Illinois State University over Father's Day weekend. The sports in which they are involved are track and field, swimming and gymnastics. These 16 people won gold medals (first place) in earlier regional event competitions. Seven residents have taken up weekly golfing lessons. They look forward to this time, as do those residents who are involved with horseback riding each week. Friday evening song service is a special time for residents. They enjoy singing, and it goes especially well with the support from our visitors.

July birthdays at ACHH are: Billie Tatum (1), Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Cindy Virkler (6), Michael Oates and Dan Zimmerman (18), Michelle Maloney (19), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29) and Kristie Ramp (31). At Hazelwood, Ed Getz (31). There are no July birthdays at Oakwood or N. Main.

## — 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

Ten Years — August 1983 thru July 1993 — 256,743

Bibles Distributed — Eleventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1993 —	1509	1509
September 1993 —	1661	3170
October 1993 —	3572	6742
November 1993 —	2580	9322
December 1993 —	2864	12,186
January 1994 —	1486	13,672
February 1994 —	1998	15,671
March 1994 —	2741	18,412
April 1994 —	3599	21,511
May 1994 —	3292	24,803

\*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

We are completely out of Bibles to repair and send overseas. We'd appreciate any you could share.

Thank you,  
Jerry and Arlene Banwart

### LAMAR SOLDIERS' REUNION

The Lamar Soldiers' Reunion will be held this year on July 23 and 24. Plan to meet at Thieb Auditorium in Lamar at 1:30 Saturday afternoon. For futher information, call Charles Martiat 417-682-3216 or Eli Manz at 419-399-5848.

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

Summer time! The time to catch our breath, enjoy the great outdoors, catch up on repairs, enjoy the friendship and fellowship that volunteers bring, and prepare for the next year. We finished out the 1993-94 school year with a total of 51 students. Each of these children do add their own qualities and characteristics to our day and they have really kept each of our staff busy. Most of our students keep coming year round, however, since our enrollment typically does drop some in the summer, we have decided to also add a few school-aged children once again this year.

With each additional student comes the responsibility of spreading the love of God to that student and his or her family. We can be so thankful that God's love is limitless and is always there for us. We never have to wait in line for it, or take turns with it, or even just take a little piece of it. The whole of God's love and mercy is there for us if we but ask. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7:7)

We do have a need that we would again bring before each of you. Anyone who would consider volunteering this summer at the preschool, please let us know. We have many odd jobs that we count on volunteers for, and the staff tries to fit in much needed vacations. We can use people of all ages and occupations and the Lord will bless your efforts. If anyone is interested, please call Sis. Joan Reinhard at 205-233-0591 or write to 15284 Hastings Road, Athens, AL 35611. The sooner we know of your plans, the better we can plan. May God bless your unselfishness.

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**GATEWAY WOODS  
Apostolic Christian  
Children's Home  
Heidi Schrock**

Many of our staff and young people enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with visitors from the Bloomington, IL Bible classes and young group. The afternoon was

spent in various service projects. Thank you for coming out Bloomington, we enjoyed the weekend and value the friendships.

As summer is just a breath away our staff is growing to accommodate the need while school is out. We welcome Bro. Chad Plattner (Princeville, IL). He will be our Volunteer Coordinator this summer. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact him at (219) 627-2159. We also welcome Sis. Rachel Clough (Philadelphia, PA). She is filling a great hole as we are still looking for another couple for alternate houseparents. Rachel will be helping the East House sisters out as an alternate for the summer months. Sis. Kelly Leyse (Bluffton, IN) is our summer intern fulfilling a part of her Social Service degree. Our volunteers this past month were Gretchen Hanson and Kara Banwart from Champaign, IL and Bro. Pete Monagle from Chicago, IL. Thank you for your time and blessings we have received from sharing in your fellowship.

The 1994 Recognition Dinner was held May 20 for our staff, board members and their wives. We welcomed our new board members, Bros. Les Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bob Bowerman (Milford, IN). At the same time we were sad to say farewell to two dear brothers who have completed their terms on the board. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Edison Gutwein (Francesville, IN) our appreciation for your service go with you. And we know your prayers for us will continue.

The theme for the evening was Light. It was good to be reminded from verse after verse in the Bible how we are to be lights to a dark and dying world. Philippians 2:14-16 tells us: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world: holding forth the Word of Life." Our children and young adults here at Gateway Woods need the light of Jesus Christ. It is exciting for us to watch as a resident turns toward the Light and desires to seek it out. We are humbled knowing it is nothing of

our own doing, but the work of the Lord. May all the praise, honor and glory go to Him as He reforms our children's lives and our own.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Pamela Moore**

This month, we enjoyed the warmer spring weather, by having our monthly potluck lunch at the park in Athens. The grilled hamburgers and hotdogs were a treat for everyone.

Sis. Clarann Haggemaker has requested to take a rest from Sunday school teaching for awhile. We wish to thank Sis. Clarann for her many years of faithful teaching of the children, of God's wondrous love and plan for their lives. Sis. Pam Moore will take her place (or attempt to), teaching the grade school children and Sis. Louise Haggemaker will continue teaching this age also.

The Barnes family has suffered a tragic loss this past month. Sis. Ola Mae Barnes' youngest son, Thomas Allen Barnes, 26, died in a tragic car accident Thursday, May 12. Sis. Louise Hall and Sis. Barbara Coulter are sisters of Thomas. Such an unexpected death bring so much grief to family and friends. Please pray that they may find strength and comfort in God, and that God can bring hope and love out of tragedy.

We have had those in the hospital in the past month, and we ask you to pray for their healing and recovery; Izora (Granny) Cooley, Sis. Ola Mae Barnes and Sis. Eunice Kelley.

John Moore (Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris) and Holly Jones (Robert and Carolyn Jones, Athens) have announced their engagement. We pray for God's blessings on their lives.

Always, if you are planning a vacation and heading south, please keep Athens in mind, as a place to worship on Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening service at 7:00 p.m.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr  
"Harden not your heart." (He-**

brews 3:8), while it is said, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Hebrews 3:15)

With His love in our hearts, we share news of our people.

On May 15, our temperature reached a comfortable 101°. It only gets better, so plan a visit to Phoenix and Prescott.

Our graduates will be honored at a fellowship dinner and a reception May 22 in the congregational room.

Completing eighth grade are: Steven Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne), April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena), Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary), Kory Langhofer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy), Jason Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) and John Woodruff (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy).

High school graduates are: Sis. Beth Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon), Adina Johnston (Debra and Jeff McCoy), Ann Marie Kieser (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie), Todd Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn) and Justin Roth (Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty).

Those with hard earned degrees and sheepskin in hand are Lex Beres (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois) with a D.V.M., Stacy Emch (Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy) with a B.S. in Family Resource Planning and Jeff Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn) with his Pre-Med.

Our recent business meeting elections to tend to church business will be Bro. Ken Lawson, treasurer; Bro. Joe Greenbank, interior maintenance; Bro. John Dotterer, song leader; Bro. Herb Knochel Jr., assistant song leader; Bro. Jerry Emch, usher; Bro. Bill Sanders, lunch fund treasurer; Bro. Alan Knochel and Bro. Mark Steffen, coordinators for the congregational room. We thank those who have served so faithfully and pray His blessings on our new officers.

We appreciate Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) for encouraging sermons when they visited us.

Sis. Martha and Sis. Jan Elsasser flew to Illinois for Sis. Ann Rumbold's funeral May 9 at Bradford, after the visitation in

Princeville May 8. We extend our sympathy to them on their sister and aunt's death. There are many of us who will miss dear Ann, and ask the Lord to comfort all. I Thessalonians 4:13 gives us hope.

Death is so untimely. Bro. Carl Gasser passed away in Akron, OH, May 15. We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Evelyn Howley, who had flown in a few days before he died. Three grandsons survive, as well as nieces, here, Sis. Katherine Laukhuf, Sis. Dorothy Zollinger and Sis. Linda Zollinger. May the Lord be the Healer. We are never closer to God than in sorrow.

Bro. Ron Lindenbaum's uncle, Byron Lindenbaum, passed away in Illinois. Bro. Ron flew back for the funeral. Once again we call on our heavenly Father for comfort.

We need the prayers of those we love. Sis. Toni Bentley was hospitalized for bone surgery and we are happy to see her back in church. Sis. Vera Jivan is hospitalized for studies. Sis. Dorothy Kraft is also in the hospital. Shirley Blunier was a surgical patient.

Best wishes to Floren and Mary Ella Klopfenstein on their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children and grandchildren honored them May 14.

Sis. Josephine Martin (late Bro. Glenn) welcomed her first grandchild, Josiah Ean Lacy, May 2. His parents are Ken and Liz Lacy and Sis. Della Martin, his happy aunt.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith are announcing daughter, Debra's, marriage to Jeff McCoy May 7. Family members came from near and far.

A plant needs water to grow and produce. A church (people) needs love to grow members. Please be sure to add your share and watch for God's blessings. It never fails.

How you read the seven I ams in John recently? And what about Paul's courage in II Corinthians?

We bid you adieu with II Corinthians 13:11.

## ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

Our annual business meeting was held recently and the follow-

ing elections resulted: Sunday school superintendent - Bro. Fred Funk, trustee - Bro. Jay Knapp, kitchen chairman - Sis. Joan Knapp, and usher - Bro. Paul Knobloch. We pray the Lord will provide guidance and grace for the brethren entrusted with these jobs. We also wish to thank Bro. Brad Bauer, Bro. Don Bauer and Sis. Marge Fehr for serving faithful in the positions they are vacating.

We said farewell to Sis. Rita Knobloch, who was with us for several months working in our area. We will miss Sis. Rita as we got used to having her around! Please come back and visit sometime, Sis. Rita.

We were privileged to host the young group from Phoenix recently for some fellowship and we wish to thank them for making the effort to be with us. We hope they will join us again soon.

Communion services were held recently with our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich here to serve us communion, along with our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp. Once again many blessings were received as we took communion together and greeted each other with a renewed spirit. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for making the familiar trip to Tucson!

## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Carol Graf**

The second weekend in May we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of two new brothers-in-faith, Bro. Mark and Bro. Philip Nenadov. Their brother, Bro. Sam, and sisters, Sis. Joy and Sis. Grace, were baptized two months ago here in Altadena. We rejoice with the Nenadov family as five of their children have become brothers or sisters in the faith in the past two months. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and his family came to Altadena for Bro. Mark and Bro. Philip's testimonies and baptisms, and Bro. Jon ministered to us Sunday. Also here for the baptisms was ministering Bro. Peter Petrovic and his family from Escondido, CA (San Diego). Also, this past Sunday Bro. Curt Kaufman was here with his family from Tucson, AZ. We appre-



ciate our visiting ministers' willingness to serve us.

On a more somber note, our dear Sis. Blanche Coldeen (affectionately known as Grandma Coldeen by many of us here) has been hospitalized again. She had recovered somewhat from a broken hip and was able to attend church with us for a few Sundays, but she has become ill again. Our prayers are that God would be with her and heal her if that is His will.

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Rose Huette**

**MOM**

A word that means . . .  
Closeness and caring . . .  
A wonderful word  
That means love.

Jeannie Hund

"God bless all the mothers - today, tomorrow and always!"

What a special day we all had with the men and children making lunch and serving us. We even had fresh roses on each table. Thank you. Most of the roses were later taken to the Home for the Aged where some went to sing.

On this same day, we went to where we are building our new church and had a ground-breaking ceremony. It was beautiful. Such a feeling of closeness to God and to each other. The foundation seems to be going along nicely.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and his wife, Louise. We were richly blessed and want them to come back soon. May you be richly blessed for your labors of love. Also, we wish to thank all our visitors for coming and to come back soon.

We extend a loving welcome to Don and Brandy Stemen and daughter, Lindsey, from the Bluffton North, IN, church. We wish you many blessings. So glad you are here. Don is in the navy and has been stationed here. He is out to sea but will be back in July.

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**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Jamie Grant**

Have some of you ever adopted or considered adopting a child? Do you think you would qualify even if you wanted to? Who is best for the adopted child?

Until I asked myself these questions, I could hardly grasp the responsibility that I, a member of God's family, have to a new convert. Are we, as a church, still the "best family" that a soul can be entrusted to be trained and nourished?

In the legal adoption process, the family is carefully examined to see if their home will best serve the child's well-being, and to help that child grow into responsible adulthood. In the church, it is to help that soul make it to heaven.

Naturally, being the oldest of the family, I thought my parents were very cautious in raising me, and by the time my youngest of sisters came around, well . . ., I thought they let her get away with everything! Perception or practice? Are converts getting away with things that thirteen years ago, one would never think of allowing? Or, have I set a bad example for my siblings to follow?

I esteem the Apostolic Christian Church as one of the most beautiful loving "families" I know. It's a family origin where many of you were biologically born into it, and for a few, like myself, were "adopted". I read an article some time ago that 250,000 children need "rescued" from the orphanages every year! I'm willing to say that there are a lot of souls outside of our "family tree" that need "rescued" also. May God giveth us the increase of fruitfulness, and the grace, where we are in need of pruning.

Ultimately, we all are "adopted" by our heavenly Father. He signed the legal papers with His blood and claims us as His sons and daughters. Romans 8:12-17, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the

sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

We welcome Bro. Chuck Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Fredora, Eureka, IL) as our newest "adopted" child, into precious "Family of God"!

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**  
**Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper**

Glenna and Barry Luginbuhl rejoiced in the birth of their first child, Bradley David, who was born April 9. His grandparents are Bro. Alden and Marion Reutter and Lillian Luginbuhl.

May 1 was a joyous day for Mark and Cathy Kloter, with the birth of a daughter, Melissa Ingrid. Her brother, Scott, welcomes her. Her grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.

Another reason for rejoicing is the birth of a son, Justin Guy, to Bro. Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier. His brothers, Bruce and Kevin, and his sister, Julianne, welcome their new brother. His grandparents are Warren and Carol Gottier and Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider.

Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider welcome a new granddaughter, Bethany Anne. Bethany's parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sue- Ellen Gasser (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Kent Zahner was added to the fold the weekend of April 30. We wish him much grace in this walk of life.

Visiting for the baptism and communion were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). May the Lord reward and bless these brothers for their labors of love.

We are very thankful for all our hospital patients that are recovering, Sis. Anna Tschudin, Sis. Bertha Trueb and Luann Hoffman.

Sis. Martha dePosch went to her rest after a long illness. Our sympathy goes out to her loved ones.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

Our flowering spring has given way to a green summer. We are looking forward to meeting many of you, while you vacation in the nation's capital. As I re-read the above, I sound like a representative of a tourist board. Am I that excited about sharing the Lord's invitation?

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Richard Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to serve us. Other visitors this month were also from Philadelphia and Rockville.

Note of Thanks: We would like to sincerely thank all those who kindly remembered us with cards, prayers and other support during my illness. We are thankful for the extensive support from brethren across the land. May our heavenly Father bless each one of you.

Bro. Matthew and  
Sis. Jill Aeschleman

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 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  
Mary Ann Klaus**

We are sorry that the birth of Craig Ryan Huber was not reported before. Craig was born August 13, the son of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terry Huber, and is a new brother for Allen and Sheryl. Happy grandparents are Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Robert and Sis Doris Huber.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris are also happy grandparents to Cameron Lee Steffen born April 25 to Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie Steffen (Alto, MI). Also welcoming their new brother are Carrie and Derek and his grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen (Alto, MI).

Bro. Roger Sauder presented a very informative and interesting slide program on the many aspects of the World Relief projects Wednesday night, April 20. May God continue to bless this work.

Once again we were privileged to partake of holy communion April 27. Elder Bro. Joe Braker assisted our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein as we traveled in thought to the upper chamber for the Feast of the Passover where bread was broken for Christ's body and wine was shared for Christ's blood. As we thought about Christ's suffering and what He has done for us, we realized that in partaking of holy communion, we had passed another milestone in our journey to heaven.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this month are Kristen Pinto, Sis. Jayne Webb (Bro. Brian) and Bro. Harry Sutter. We are happy they are all feeling better and are able to assemble with us again. Also undergoing tests and treatment were Bro. Ed Gerber, Bro. Peter Green and Sis Helen Luginbuhl.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month and want to thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) for their visits and their ministry.

The senior Sunday school class accompanied by Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzanne Sauder, Bro. Seth and Sis. Dawn Sauder and Bro. Aaron Webb, spent May 7-8 camping in the Keys. They returned in time to spend Mother's Day with their mothers. Let us all be thankful for our mothers who have sent many a prayer to heaven on our behalf and remember them every day with a special prayer of thanksgiving and love.

Graduation time has rolled around again and we want to extend our congratulations and best

wishes to our two high school graduates. They are Jennifer Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Seth Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne). Hearty congratulations also to Mary Fulop Storrer (Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop) who graduated from nurse's training.

Our thoughts now turn to the family of our departed Bro. Sherm Steffen (Bluffton North, IN), another one of our faithful winter visitors. May God wrap His loving arms around them and comfort them in their lonely hours. We will miss him, too.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS  
Marvin and Rhea Steffen**

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) Oh, that we never take this privilege for granted!

We are thankful for three visiting ministers this month. Bros. Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota) and William Gudeman (Elgin, IL) shared with us. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) also shared with us. We trust the Lord will bless them.

Bro. Roger Sauder shared a very eye-opening presentation on what the Apostolic Christian World Relief is doing throughout the world. We saw so many dire needs throughout the world making us appreciate so much more what the Lord blesses us all with. We know that we have an added responsibility to help where we can as the needs are shown to us.

At the end of April, our church gathered together for a potluck at Marvin and Rhea Steffen's. This is one blessing of a small church. We can all gather at one time in the homes of our members.

We all honored our mothers and the mothers of our children this month. What a blessing they are to their families. We need to make them feel like it is Mother's Day all year long!

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE  
Peg Anliker**

We are thankful to welcome Bro. Larry Gramm to our congregation. He has moved to Woodstock, IL.

We hope we can encourage one another on the way to heaven. We hope you feel welcome, Bro. Larry.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2) The first, third, and fifth Sunday and one Wednesday evening a month visiting ministers come to help our Bro. Dean preach the Word. We appreciate Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and their willingness to serve us. It's an encouragement to have visitors. If you are traveling and plan to be in our area, please come worship with us.

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

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**ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco

**FATHERS ARE  
WONDERFUL PEOPLE**

Fathers are wonderful people  
too little understood,  
And we do not sing their praises  
as often as we should . . .  
For, somehow, Father seems to be  
the man who pays the bills,  
While Mother binds up little hurts  
and nurses all our ills.  
And Father struggles daily  
to live up to "his image"  
As protector and provider  
and "hero of the scrimmage" . . .  
And perhaps that is the reason  
we sometimes get the notion  
That Fathers are not subject  
to the thing we call emotion,  
But if you look inside Dad's heart,  
where no one else can see,  
You'll find he's sentimental  
and as "soft" as he can be.  
But he's so busy every day  
in the grueling race of life,  
He leaves the sentimental stuff  
to his partner and his wife . . .  
But Fathers are just wonderful  
in a million different ways,  
And they merit loving compliments  
and accolades of praise,

For the only reason Dad aspires  
to fortune and success  
Is to make the family proud of him  
and to bring them happiness.  
And like our Heavenly Father,  
he's a guardian and a guide,  
Someone that we can count on  
to be always on our side.

Helen Steiner Rice

Father's Day is a very good time to show our appreciation for our earthly fathers, and to focus on how important they are in our lives.

May 5 was a happy day for Bro. Darwin and Sis. Laurie Steidinger, as that was the day their first child, Karina Marie, was born. Proud grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie Young and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Gridley) and Bro. Don Steidinger (Fairbury). God has blessed another home with a bundle from heaven.

The Sunday school junior high and Bible class visited the Leo Children's Home in Leo, IN. They did a variety of service work while they were there. They played games, made crafts, and entertained the children there. What a very special blessed weekend to remember.

We were richly blessed to have Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) share God's Word with us. Thank you for ministering to our church.

This month's Bible study was given by Bro. Kevin Knapp. The topic of discussion was Prayer. He helped all of us prepare our hearts and minds for the National Day of Prayer. Not only should we pray on the National Day of Prayer but everyday for our nation. Our only hope for America is Jesus and we definitely need to put God in America again. We thank you Bro. Kevin for the time and effort you put forth in presenting this topic.

What a blessing it was to hear the group Heart to Heart sing May 4. We thank you for sharing your talents and may the Lord richly bless all of you.

The Sunday school held a senior breakfast to honor all seniors graduating from high school. The juniors presented the seniors with a Bible. May the Lord continue to keep His hand on these dear ones as they move into another phase of

their lives.

Our monthly hymn sing was May 15. We wish to thank the Mortonaires and The Young Boys Group for giving so freely of themselves.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
Les and Barb Fehr

Several bundles of joy have arrived in Bradford. Taylor Jade was born to Kevin and Marina Endress. Grandparents are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser and Jerry and Caroline Endress (Wyoming).

Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz were blessed with a new son, Caleb Samuel. Big brother, Nathan, welcomes him home, along with grandparents, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Elgin).

First-time parents, Jim and Cindy Ehnle, welcome a son, Ryan James. Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle and Doug and Pat Mink (Princeton) are happy grandparents.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers, Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and William Gude-man (Elgin).

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Anna Rumbold. Our dear Sis. Anna was called home to heaven after a time of suffering with cancer. The week before she passed away, Sis. Anna sent this note to us. She wanted to express her thanks to each of you who remembered her.

**NOTE OF THANKS**

I would like to thank my children, relatives, friends, neighbors, ministers and my friends from Florida for their prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts since I have been at the hospital and at the Eureka home. It is all very much appreciated. May God bless you all for the deeds of kindness you have shown me.

Love,  
Ann Rumbold

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**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**  
Margie Heintz

On a Wednesday evening in

early May, we took part in the holy communion service which our Lord invites us all to share: "take, eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26:26) We were reminded that Jesus had invited His followers to this holy sacrament early in His ministry (John 6:51-58), but many were offended and turned away. Now we can better understand the meaning of those words and can rejoice at His promise: "he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever." (John 6:58) In response to the incomprehensible gift and sacrifice which Christ gave in order to make that promise possible, we were encouraged to make Romans 12:1-2 the guide for our lives. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka) joined Bro. Dave for this service.

As the school year ends, many students are graduating and moving on to other challenges where God is leading them. We appreciate all that we have gained from the fellowship we have shared. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart . . . In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Our thanks to Ed Scott for his poem, "Mothers." He was moved to write the following poem for a Mother's Day dinner with his family. It conveys some of the deep sentiments which he feels toward mothers. We appreciate his thoughts and his willingness to share them with others.

Dedicated to:

MOTHERS

(Past, Present and Future)

O how dismal life would be  
If the world, of mothers were free.  
Not to know the warmth of a  
smile,  
Or the tender look that says –  
All this is worthwhile.  
May we never forget,  
That without them –  
There would only be regret!

Visiting ministers this month were, in addition to Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht, Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Gary Brown (Forrest) and Gary Endress (Bradford). We thank you for ministering to us God's truth and love.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Expanding extra effort may be part of the cross. I must remember that and stop being angry or resentful when 1) someone takes me for granted, 2) another gets credit for my idea, 3) a student demands something I could give but I'm tired, or 4) getting something worthwhile done takes so much more energy and time than I think it should. Who am I? When I have done all, it is only my duty – and there is more to be done. Forgive me, Lord, my considered refusals, my dug-in heels. May I be open to all Thou hast for me to do, as Thou first opened Thy arms to show how much Thou loved me and every one of us. ". . . when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10)

We are grateful for our visitors, however brief: Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury). May the ever continue to be filled with the inflowing of His Spirit.

We welcome a new brother-in-faith. The weekend of May 21 and 22, Elder Bro. Dave served with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann as Matthew Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) gave his testimony before the congregation and was baptized. We pray for our new brother, trusting in the Lord who has given him a good foundation. We will enjoy his love and tenderness in Christ in our fellowship this summer and entrust him then to the brethren at Champaign, where he will return for his sophomore year in the fall.

Rachel Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) and Greg Carder (Carol Stream, IL) are engaged and plan to be married August 20. We appreciate their love for each other and encourage their concern for this important step in their lives. May the Lord keep them in His love as we keep them in our prayers.

We offer our numerous graduates our love as well, along with congratulations. Darin Metzger (Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary) plans to attend a two-year program at Lake

County College. Bro. Lance Pfeifer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy) and Rachel Rassi graduated with B.S. degrees from the University of Illinois, Champaign; Bro. Lance in chemistry and Rachel in computer science. Sis. Luann Eisenmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy) received her B.S. in nursing from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Sis. Bonny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Erin Jennings have new B.S. degrees from Illinois State University, Normal; Sis. Penny in business information systems and Sis. Erin in secondary education - math. All have jobs in the Chicago area, though we will lose Bro. Lance to continuing education this fall. We are thankful for their success so far. We welcome them "back home," and we are prayerful that the Lord will continue to guide their lives in His paths.

We appreciate extra summer "visitors," those in work programs and internships. Sis. Bonnie Wieland (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Eureka, IL) have joined us this year. We look forward to the advantage of their fellowship and pray they can enjoy the challenges and joys of their summer experiences and count us as a supportive church family.

Bro. Larry Gramm has been led to worship in a smaller church, with the brethren in Belvidere, IL. Though we miss his smile and ready, uplifting conversation, we appreciate his value to them and remember the exhortation of the brothers at the conference about the wonderful opportunity in the Lord's work available in smaller congregations. Godspeed, Bro. Larry. Our prayers and love go with you – yet we urge you not to forget to visit us.

A two station wagon caravan took the place of our usual bus trip this year. We landed in the year 1836 at Conner Prairie in Indianapolis, IN. There we learned about politics and education, travel and their everyday lives, from those who purported to remember only that time. The actors and actresses who portrayed the people of the time added life to the buildings we visited, and we learned more because we were interested in their stories

and because they were willing to be careful in their speech and manner, faithful to the era. As children of the King, saved by His grace and tutored by His saints, we, too, are representatives to those who so often know little of Christ and His power and blood. May we be so appropriate in our "conversation" that those who visit us may be drawn by our faithfulness to know more of Him. The Indianapolis brethren and friends were, as always, hospitable and joyous. Being with them was a foretaste of heavenly sharing. May the Lord reward them with added blessings for their cheerful giving.

Several times in recent weeks I have heard sermons exhorting us to take "everything to God in prayer." (Hymns of Zion #161, vs. 1) The point was clearly made that the size of the decision or its triviality was not a concern to God. Indeed, I have often been encouraged about God's goodness in answering big prayers by His immediate attention to small and seemingly insignificant needs. Thus, I would be more prayerful and more open to the Lord's choices before I allow every prospective brain occupant thought-space. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6)

Last night, at Wednesday evening church, someone's beeper went off. Within ten minutes, it went off again. Obviously there was someone needing this person's attention. Sometimes I am not very electronically inclined, and have beeper numbers with the accompanying instructions for contacting someone so I can get a call back, gets very involved. However, I was struck by the differences in our responses to the beepers. Loud beepers are more demanding of attention than those which are silent. On the other hand, if someone is very aware, that person will return even a silent number within minutes. It made me think about what kind of a responder I am to God. He certainly can page me, beep me at will. Sometimes He is very unobtrusive in His call; at others, He can catch me in a more respon-

sive mood because He has more forcefully gotten my attention. Yet He never calls without a message. Am I getting them all?

We want to be appreciative of our country and its freedoms. Nevertheless, our real home is not here:

"What a joy 'twill be when I wake  
to see  
Him for whom my heart is  
burning!  
Nevermore to sign, nevermore to  
die -  
For that day my hearts is  
yearning.

Chorus:  
I'll exchange my cross for a starry  
crown,  
Where the gates swing outward  
never;  
At His feet I'll lay ev'ry burden  
down,  
And with Jesus reign forever."

Hymns of Zion #173,  
vs. 4 & chorus

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK  
Anna Marie Reutter  
Cyndee Anderson

O Father hand, that guides me so  
securely,  
O Father eye, that watches over  
me!  
O Father heart, that hears my  
prayer so surely,  
And thinks of me in love and  
charity!

Conduct me further on my pilgrim  
journey,  
The narrow way that leads to  
heaven above,  
And make me worthy of that life  
eternal,  
Alike in sore distress, in peace  
and love.

Zion's Harp #180

While the words of this beautiful hymn are to the praise of our heavenly Father; what a loving, kind example they set forth for all earthly fathers to follow. And how blessed is the home where the father's first priority is to help lead his loved ones to heaven.

On Sunday evening, April 24, we gathered at church along with

Elder Bros. Art Bahler, Alfred Bahler, Wendell Gudeman, Dave Wiegand and Ed Ringger, and learned of the decision of Bro. Art to step down from the eldership of our church and turn it over to Bro. Dave Wiegand. We are so thankful for Bro. Art's willingness to serve us the past five years, and want to thank him and Sis. Suzanne for the love and kindness shown to us in so many ways. The Lord knows and sees all, and will surely bless the efforts of our dear elder brethren.

We want to welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethyl and show them a true Christ-like love through our prayerful support. May we take to heart the words that the apostle Paul gave the church at Phillipi:

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Philippians 1:27)

Our prayers have been with Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin as they continue to seek medical help for their baby son, Micah. How comforting are the words of the Lord "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5) Also hospitalized this month were Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann and Sis. Sharon Walder. We are thankful both are home and doing better now.

Our annual Mother-Daughter dinner was held Thursday, May 5, and was well attended. We can never appreciate enough the blessing of a Godly mother. Her example is like a foundation laid in the hearts of her children that can be built upon years later when they are called to repentance. "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand.

On May 15, we heard the engagement announcement of our Bro. Steve Eisenmann (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon) to Sis. Cheryl Frank (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie,

Tremont). We rejoice with this young couple as they have surely felt the hand of God in their lives.

"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6)

The differences in knowledge, understanding and wisdom were made known to us at a topical Bible presentation at our fellowship hall this month. We appreciate the willingness and time spent on this topic by Bro. Sid Kaufmann. He spoke to us on how any of us can have knowledge of God by reading His Word, but true wisdom is a gift of God, and comes only to those who "seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures." Men must "incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding." For "The Lord giveth wisdom . . . He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous." (Proverbs 2) Our spiritual ears must be open to the voice of God in order to receive the wisdom He has for us. May we daily take the knowledge He has given us through His Word and ask Him to show us how to apply it to our lives and to make us receptive to the voice of His Holy Spirit.

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

The 1993-94 Sunday school year has passed so quickly. It's now time to be thinking of our graduates and looking forward to culminating this year with Vacation Bible School (June 6-10) and the Sunday school picnic June 26. As we hope the Lord will bless the farmers with the early and latter rains, so do we pray our students receive the spiritual rains that result in a fruitful harvest. We thank each outgoing teacher and support each new teacher that begins duties July 3.

Our eighth grade graduates include Adam Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell), Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn), Doug Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), Kevin Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay) and Grant Ringenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna). Congratulations to our high school graduates: Matt Zimmerman (Bro. Fred

and Sis. Maryellen), James Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley), Brian Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria), Bros. Kurtis and Kevin Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Jeremy Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn).

We also extend our best wishes to our college graduates as they begin their employment. They are Sis. Sarah Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Gay Knapp (Bro. Denny), Bro. Derek Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Bill McClure (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon). We wish God's providences on Bro. Brent Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) as he completes a summer internship in Hartford, CT.

Our heartfelt thanks and welcome to return go to our visiting ministers and families. This past month we were blessed by the presence of Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). A special thank you to Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) who came to minister to our Bible class and their guests from Bradford and Fairbury. Bro. Carroll left the concluding thought with the students and teachers in poem form - will God find the time to write our name in the Book of Life if we don't take the time to pray to Him?

We welcomed two new sisters into the fold May 15, Sis. Christie Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley, Forrest) and Sis. Lori Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene). Our appreciation goes to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter for sharing in that special occasion.

Rejoicing in the birth of two new babies, we welcome Zachary Michael Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie, and Caleb and Kali). Grandparents are Bro. Rusty and Sis. Joyce Zobrist and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp. Brett William joined the family of Doug and Miriam Kath and Jessica. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk and Mr. and Mrs. John Kath (Carlock). We enjoy each new baby - the future of our church.

Answering God's call, our

thoughts and prayers are with Marie Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy). We encourage the young convert and are thankful for the support received from the Bible class. May each Sunday school teacher also feel the blessings for their labors.

God has certainly been good to us this past month. With Father's Day upcoming, might we be more thankful and obedient to our heavenly Father, Who lovingly gave us our earthly fathers.

The family of Bro. Clayton J. Ott expresses our deepest gratitude for the love and kindness shown to us during our loved one's illness and death. The many cards, sincere prayers and gifts of love were greatly appreciated. We pray God will bless you all.

Sis. Margaret and family

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"His wholesome word accepting  
May we His likeness bear  
By works and deeds confessing  
His righteousness we'd share."

Zion's Harp #138, vs. 4

We are thankful that God continues to inspire faithful brothers, both home and visiting, to speak His Word, in season and out. May the Lord bless visiting Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and John Stoller (Leo, IN) for their willingness to serve us during this past month.

Several in our congregation have recently been surgical patients. We trust the Lord will continue to restore, as He sees fit, Sis. Sara Dietz (Bro. Jeff), Eric Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne), Sis. Rose Eurich and Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma).

May God also comfort the heart of our dear Sis. Edna Bolliger, who has recently been bereft once again.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

How thankful we are that yet another soul has been crucified with Christ and has made a covenant to remain true all the days of his life. May our new brother-in-faith, Daryle Kellenberger (Sonia), continue to daily find the grace needed to live the faith of the Son of God and strive earnestly toward the heavenly goal, awaiting all the true and faithful.

We would like to recognize our high school graduates for 1994 and wish them God's blessings as they go forward into a new phase of life. Graduates include: Janice Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie), Jeff Feucht (Chuck and Carolyn), Rob Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), Charlene Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) and Brian Schifferer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Shirley). May they each look to God for their daily help and guidance.

In commemoration of Father's Day, how we love and appreciate our earthly fathers! How much more should we love and daily live for our Father in heaven who so lovingly supplies our every need.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscription fees (\$9.00) are due in July for the Elgin congregation. We sincerely appreciate your help in this matter.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

#### Dori Blunier

On Sunday, April 24, we witnessed the baptisms of five precious souls. As our Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht expressed it, "One of the highlights of our lives as believers is a Sunday with baptisms." It is uplifting and renewing to the believer and a call to the unbeliever. We are thankful to welcome into the body of Christ, Bill Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna), Cynde Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna), Janell Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna), Randy Huber (Bro. Gary and Karen) and Charles Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora). We also appreciated the service of our visiting ministers that weekend, Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN).

Bro. Fred Meyer (Sis. Marie)

died Wednesday, April 20, at our nursing home. We sympathize with Sis. Marie, and Bro. Fred's son Bro. Lenard (Chicago) and two daughters, Patty Roth (Mesa, AZ) and Nancy Wuthrich (Sanford, FL). May God be their comfort.

We pray for Sis. Rachel Hodel who met with accident and is confined to her home. May God provide His healing touch.

We are enjoying an extended visit from Sis. Eva Rocke's (Bro. Dave) parents. We welcome Bro. Janos and Sis. Eva Szabo (Ersekcsanad, Hungary). Even though we cannot communicate with language what a blessing to feel the same faith and love as we communicate through the greeting, through song, and through smiles. Someday we hope to all sing that same new song together in heaven.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

As Father's Day is near, our thoughts turn heavenward in a prayer of thanks for our heavenly Father and for the many faithful fathers of old and present.

#### A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three  
He said his nightly prayer to Thee;  
Before his eyes were closed in  
sleep  
He asked that Thou his soul  
would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,  
My hand upon his tousled head,  
Do ask, with deep humility,  
That Thou, dear Lord, remember  
me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,  
That I may lead this little lad  
In pathways ever fair and bright,  
That I may keep his steps aright.

O God, his trust must never be  
Destroyed or even marred by me.  
So, for the simple things he prayed  
With childish voice so unafraid,  
I, trembling, ask the same from  
Thee,  
Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember  
me.

Author Unknown

We wish to extend congratulations to our high school graduates: Matt Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), Davida Steidinger (David and Deann), Karla Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky), David Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna), Bro. Kevin Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane), Sis. Wendy Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys), Bro. Todd Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd). College graduates are: Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara (Meiss) Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller and Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss), Darin Bazzell (Bro. Donald and Sis. Carol), Jami Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) and Cheryl Slagel (Ron and Sis. June).

Kurt and Tammy Hoffman are rejoicing with their baby son, Kyler Aaron. He was born April 19. He has two brothers, Trevor and Trent, to welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Jay and Roberta Zimmerman and Sam and Norma Hoffman. Great-grandparents are Bill and Liz Bartlett and Bro. Les and Sis. Edith Zimmerman (Forrest).

First-time happy parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Kathy Fehr. A sweet baby boy, Kent Richard, was born to them May 3. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita Schneider (Forrest) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr. Great-grandparents are Sis. Kathryn Schneider (Forrest), Sis. Carolyn Fehr and Mabel Young (Danville).

David and Deann Steidinger have announced the engagement of their daughter Deborah to Steven Vaughan. They will be married June 4.

Also the engagement of David Slagel (Ron and Sis. June) to Kristi Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne, Forrest) has been announced. An August 27 wedding is being planned. We wish both of these couples God's blessings.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Walder in the April 1 loss of her grandmother, Tema Weerts, 82, of Rankin. Also to Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen in the passing of her father, Bro. Clayton Ott, 78 (Congerville) April

24. Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy Hinrichsen also lost her grandmother, Sis. Gladys Warner, 82 (Morton) who passed away May 14. May they feel the Lord's nearness.

Hospital patients this month were Chad Worthington, Melvin Zimmerman, Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Bro. Ezra Steffen and Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis).

We are all busy each in our way, but let us not forget those who are shut-in, sick in their homes, hospitalized or in nursing homes. May God comfort all of them.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Marlene Walter - Mary Bachtold

Three precious babies have been born this month. Daren Joe has arrived in the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker. Martin, Corbin and Loren are happy to have a baby brother. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger. Bro. Kent, Sis. Paulette, Jesse and Jordan Zimmerman have been blessed with a sweet little girl, Amanda Lynn. Her grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman. A little baby girl has also been born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus. Big sisters of Brooke Lynnae are Amber, Natalie and Kyrstin. Happy grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka) and Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Elgin).

We are thankful that three dear souls have turned their hearts to the Lord. Our converts are Gina Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol), Jennifer Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Garrett Kupferschmid (Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda). We wish them God's nearness and grace as they begin this new walk of life.

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers. Serving us this month have been Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Brian Waibel (Champaign) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka). We appreciate their willingness to serve in God's vineyard.

Spending time in the hospital have been Bro. Dean Nussbaum and William Fehr. We pray that God will provide strength for these loved ones.

On April 20, less than a month after losing his wife of 67 years, Andrew Metz, 94, passed away. We extend sympathy to his family: daughters, Thelma Harms (Forrest) and Margaret Hamilton (Maroa); son, Glenn (Normal); and brother, Reuben.

We also sympathize with Jay and Kay Davis and sons in the passing of his mother, Royalene Davis. Bro. Duane, Sis. Mary Ifft and daughters have also felt a loss in the death of her grandmother, Mary Fosdick. May God grant His comforting Spirit to all these loved ones.

Planning an August 27 wedding are Kristi Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonee) and David Slagel (Ron and Sis. June, Fairbury). We wish them God's blessings.

We want to congratulate our graduates and wish them God's blessings in the future. They are Bro. Matt Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL), Arlen Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Shanna Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally), James Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra), Sis. Sarah Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Bro. Tom Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy), Cory and Jeremy Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki).

The Glenn Knapp family would like to thank everyone for the prayers, memorials, cards, visits and other acts of love and sympathy shown to them since the passing of their loved one. May God bless each and every deed.

Note: July is Silver Lining collection month for our Forrest congregation.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Trish Gerber

What a joy it was to share in the testimonies and baptisms of three more new sisters-in-the-Lord. We welcome Mindy and Marsha Knapp, daughters of Stan and Sis. Judy and Lisa Wiegand (Ben) into our precious family. Thanks to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton

North, IN) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) for sharing this blessed weekend with us.

We rejoice with Duane and Vermeda Freidinger as they welcome two new grandchildren into their family. Kelsey Sue was born to Troy and Donna Young April 18. Her other grandparents are Daryl and Karen Nichols. Taylor Marie arrived May 12 to Jeff and Jodie Sauder. Her other grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder (Roanoke).

Our prayers are with our precious friends, Don and Ginny Bauman, as they begin their life for the Lord and also as Ginny continues in her battle with cancer. May God be with them and bless them.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our dear loved one, Sis. Minnie Stortz, 93, passed away at the Eureka Home March 27. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Two nephews were particularly close to her, Bro. Rick Hany (Bloomington) and Roger Hany (Gridley).

Sis. Minnie reached a high age, and during all her years she was a friendly person who always displayed a gracious and genuine smile. She was conversant and a good visitor. For many years she made her home with her widowed sister, Sis. Katie Moser, and later with her niece, the late Sis. Marcella Hany.

On May 1, we rejoiced over the baptism of four souls. Now counted among the congregation are Bros. Tony Dohman, Richard Martin, Arlan Miller and Sis. Jessica Zimmerman. Here for the occasion was Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke). Ministers here for the weekend were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Ed Fritz (Washington).

Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) spoke to our youngsters in grades five through eight Wednesday evening, April 27. His topic was "Serving Others." Our students were very receptive to his remarks.

Bro. Ralph Kuntz was hospitalized this month. Bro. Kenneth



Meiss remains as a patient as Heritage Manor (El Paso). He is very sick and needs our prayers.

Sis. Lillian Fenton is a resident at the Meadows Mennonite Home, which is four miles east of Gridley.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**  
**Phyllis Farney - Cheryl**  
**Wuthrich**

As is not unusual for our large congregation, we see different phases of life represented in happenings this month. While we are saddened by several deaths of loved ones, we have hope for the future as we see a new class of graduating seniors, as we see young and old repenting and being baptized, and as we see new Godly homes being established. No matter what our stage of life, let us look to the Lord for direction and wisdom.

John Hohulin died May 8 at the age of 83. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Lucille (Martin); his son, John; his daughters, Janice Collinson and Joyce Collinson; his three sisters, Julia Sauder, Dorothy Hohulin and Ella Musselman; and four grandchildren. We are thankful that the Lord was merciful and worked His wonderful work of salvation and repentance in his heart and in the heart of his wife.

Eva Moser, formerly of Morton, died May 9 in Avon Park, FL. May God bless and comfort her son, Robert; her brother, Raymond Paddock; her sister, Lou Aberle; her two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Sis. Gladys Warner was called home to heaven May 14. May God bless her family for their constant vigilance during her illness and comfort them. They are her son, Robert; her daughter, Sis. Lynn Garber (Ralph); her five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

We rejoice to see that God has called another soul to work in His vineyard. On Wednesday evening May 11, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our Bro. Melvin Steiner. We wish Bro. Melvin and his wife, Louise, God's richest blessings.

We were happy to hear the announcement of the engagement of

Bro. Dan Kaiser, now of Bay City, MI, (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine, Morton) to Sis. Jane Kaisner, Detroit, MI (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary). We wish them God's richest blessings as they now work together for His glory.

We wish to thank Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us as Morton hosted college weekend Sunday, April 24. How wonderful to see so many God-fearing young people and know that they are being fed the Truth by our faithful ministers across the land.

May all those precious souls that are graduating from high school and college rest assured that God is on the throne and with His grace you can overcome Satan. If you have not already done so, now is the perfect time to put God on the throne of your hearts.

The family of Edward Belsley wishes to thank each and every one who remembered us so generously with flowers, cards, food, visits, memorials and most of all prayers, especially our ministers, at the passing of our dear beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandpa. All was greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. May God bless each and every one.

Mrs. Edward (Dorothy) Belsley  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph (Karen)  
 Zeigler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Judy)  
 Downes  
 Jane Zeigler and  
 the great-grandchildren

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Cara Nussbaum**

Peoria is rejoicing for four more young souls were added to the fold Sunday, April 30. Baptized were Eddie and Nicholas Meister, sons of Bro. Ed and Sis. Dana Meister; Amy Schmidgall, daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schmidgall; and Rick Kaisner, son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner. May God bless them richly.

We were saddened by the recent death of Bro. Joseph Hoerr. We extend our sincere condolences

to his wife, Sis. Wilma; and children, Sis. Darlene Hoerr, Sis. Lori Kinney, Sis. Susi Herman and Joe Hoerr, Jr.

The graduating seniors were honored at a breakfast Sunday, May 15. They are Jason Bowen (Terry), Mark Causey (Bro. Rod and Sis Sharon), Sis. Deanna Geyer (Bro. Roger and Sis Melanie), Sis. Jody Herman (Bro. Allan and Sis. Lois), Steve Hodel (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Sharon), Bro. Joey Hoerr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jo Anne), Mike Kaisner (Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice), Ryan Klein (Brenda), Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein (Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen), Lisa Leathers (Philip and Sis. Linda), Sis. Christy Rieker (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn), Sis. Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Steve and Sis. Christine), Bro. Brandon Schoch (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan), Janelle Scholl (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joanne), Rebecca Staley (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Rose), Sis. Angie Suttor (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), Sis. Patty Triplett (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise) and Sis. Jennessa Woodcock (Les and Sis. Connie). The graduates received a Bible with their name imprinted on it. We pray that God will protect each one.

We pray that God will bestow healing mercies upon Bro. Leland Swadley and Sis. Vera Irions, who have been hospitalized recently.

Visiting ministers in the past month have been Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL). We thank each one of them for bringing us the Truth.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Martha Jane Siebenthal**

We appreciate all of our visitors, especially thankful for the visiting ministers, Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Gary Endress (Bradford). May God bless them for their labor of love on our behalf.

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

Proverbs 22:6

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Douglas and Sis. Angela Herrmann are the happy parents of a boy, Aaron Douglas. Amanda and Ashley welcome him home as do his thankful grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Lou Herrmann and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne Knobloch (Bradford). Curt and MaryBeth Wagenbach were blessed with another girl, Courtney Jo. Welcoming her home are her sisters, Jill and Tanya, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach and Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold. Russell and Sis. Roma Rumbold are happy grandparents of Caleb Stickling born April 26 to their daughter and husband, Sis. Marsha and Bro. Chris Stickling (Peoria). Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter (Kitchener, Ontario) were blessed with a baby girl, Hannah Leigh born May 11. Welcoming her home are a brother, Andrew, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal. May God bless these dear families as they rear these precious souls in the ways of the Lord.

We are thankful Bro. Herman Baer (Sis. Mary) (heart) is home from the hospital and back in church. May God grant His healing power and let us remember to pray for our loved ones who are suffering the afflictions of the body. God knows our needs and hears every prayer and may He keep all of us in His care.

Our sincere sympathy to Bro. John Grassi (Sis. Cheryl) in the sudden death of his brother from New York. Also to Andrew and Bernice Streitmatter and Helen Streitmatter the death of their sister, Hilda Streitmatter; and to Bro. Ronald and Sis. Jackie Rumbold, Raymond and Joan Rumbold, the death of their mother, Sis. Anna Rumbold (Bradford). Our sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Lucille Knobloch (Bro. Ed), Sis. Hilda Dietz (Bradford), Sis. Martha Elsasser (Phoenix, AZ); and her brother, Bro. John Endress (Bradford). May the Lord be their Comforter at this time of sorrow. It just never seems easy

to lay a dear one to rest.

We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to all of our graduates. Our eighth grade graduates are four boys, Ted Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), Troy Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), Mitchell Hartzler (Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki) and Aaron Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy). Our high school graduates are Kari Feucht (Bro. Jordon and Sis. Kathy), Bethany Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn), Denise Joos (Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda), Tiffany Wieland (Bro. Robert and Sis. Nancy), Brandon Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette), Ryan Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay), Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) and Craig White (Sis. Gloria). College graduates are Sis. Carol Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane), Sis. Jill Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Kara Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon), Bro. Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Blake Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette). May each one look to God for divine guidance as they further their education or seek employment. We must leave the future in God's hands, knowing He will provide what is best for us.

I apologize to our mothers for failing to mention something in our last issue about our mothers. So I am putting something in for both mothers and fathers. Our nation sets aside a day to honor our mothers and fathers. Many of us have memories of our God-fearing parents that are so precious. We are thankful for our mothers and fathers and the many sacrifices they made for us and the many prayers they prayed for us. We pray God's blessings upon all of our mothers and fathers. May they be granted a double portion of God's grace and wisdom to fulfill this great responsibility and be the light and example foremost and first to one's household and loved ones. The Bible reminds us to "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gaveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Memorial Day is a good time to remember our wonderful heritage

and the blessings we do take for granted. Let us remember the freedom of heart that is our privilege because Christ was willing to pay a price on the cross.

If you see someone without a smile give him one of yours. A smile costs nothing but gives much.

Reminder: Dues for Silver Lining for Princeville will be collected July 3.

The following was written by one of his grandchildren:

In loving memory of  
JOHN H. STAHL  
who passed away May 13, 1993

Each moment you were with us  
precious memories were made.  
From the hours that we worked  
together,  
to the moments that we played.  
We always will remember  
feeding cows and baling hay.  
And riding in your pickup truck,  
to pass along the day.  
We won't forget the evenings  
when,  
we'd laugh and play around.  
And the times we spent as  
family,  
they really did abound.

A husband, father, grandpa too,  
you fit each role just right.  
And when it came to serving God,  
you didn't hide your light.  
For you taught us many things in  
life,  
that we appreciate.  
Like how to treat your neighbors  
or the love to give a mate.  
A life of full abundance,  
in God and family.  
You showed a prime example,  
of what our life should be.

We realize it's only been  
one year since you have gone.  
But you wouldn't want us down  
and out,  
so we'll just carry on.  
And as we pass on through our  
life,  
we always will retain.  
The memories we have of you,  
and all that we did gain.  
We're thankful for the blessing  
of having you to love.  
And we live with hope of  
reuniting,

someday in heaven above.

Grandchildren,  
Darin & Keri,  
Janel, Douglas,  
David & Dustin

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### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

At this time of year our thoughts turn to our graduating high school and college seniors – that as they begin a new chapter in their lives, they will take with them the wisdom of Psalm 1, especially verse 3, which states: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season . . .”

#### PRAY FOR ME

Here is where the road divides;  
Here is where we realize  
The sculpting of the Father's  
great design.  
Through time you've been a friend  
to me,  
But time is now the enemy,  
I wish we didn't have to say good-  
bye.  
But I know the road he chose for  
me  
Is not the road he chose for you.  
So as we chase the dreams we're  
after,  
Pray for me, and I'll pray for you.  
Pray that we will keep the  
common ground.  
Won't you pray for me, and I'll  
pray for you,  
And one day love will bring us  
back around.

Painted on our tapestry  
We see the way it has to be  
Weaving through the laughter  
and the tears.  
But love will be the tie that binds  
us  
To the time we leave behind us;  
Memories will be our souvenirs.  
And I know that through it all  
The hardest part of love is letting  
go,  
But there's a greater love that  
holds us.  
Pray for me, and I'll pray for you.  
Pray that we will keep the  
common ground.  
Won't you pray for me, and I'll  
pray for you,

And one day love will bring us  
back around.

By Michael W. Smith &  
Wayne Kirkpatrick

We rejoice with Brenda Hartter in her new-found faith in the Lord. Her parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder announce the engagement of their daughter, Jill, to Richard Wilhelm, the son of Arthur and Clara Mae Wilhelm (Mascoutah). They're planning their wedding for October 23.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann also welcome a new granddaughter, Taylor Marie. She was born May 12 to Jeff and Jodie Sauder. Her other grandparents are Duane and Vermeda Friedenger (Congerville).

Victor and Lora (Bowald) Zimmerman became parents March 22 when their son, Lucas Andrew, was born. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Mardell Bowald and Gerald and Barb Zimmerman (Paxton).

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford).

We extend sincere sympathies to Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol Rumbold and their family in the passing of Rol's mother, Sis. Anna Rumbold (Bradford). She is in a better place, but we know she will be sadly missed by her family.

Our recent hospital patients were Sisters Ann Wagler, Emma Blunier (Harold), Helen Zimmerman (Rich) and Carol Feucht (Randy). We're thankful they are all on the mend.

Note of thanks: We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all for the prayers, cards, food, flowers, the memorials to the nursing home, and the many kind expressions of love and support in our time of sorrow.

We feel that we are truly blessed to be a part of such a beautiful faith where there is such a strong bond of Christian love.

While we are deeply saddened by the loss of our loved one, we know that she is in a far better place, and as it says in the hymn, “Some time we'll understand.”

The Willis Hodel family

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

#### Barbara Dill - Barbara Kaeb

We are always grateful for our visiting ministers. Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron Messner (Sis Pam, Washington, IL). Bro. Ron had a topical Bible study on Depression. We appreciate these brothers being willing to bring the precious Word to us.

The engagement of Sis. Cheryl Frank (Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose) and Bro. Steve Eisenmann (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park) was announced May 15. We rejoice with them and wish them much happiness.

We sympathize with Sis Julia Sauder in the death of her brother, John Hohulin (Morton).

Their first child, a precious baby boy, was born April 21 to Kappy and Gayle Koch. They have named him Ryan Mitchell. Grandparents, Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Tom and Judy Lowman, welcome him home. Elsie Jo was born April 22 to Bro. Chuck and Sis Cathy Koch. She was welcomed home by two sisters, Lori and Heidi, and grandparents, Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer. Bro. William and Sis. Marilyn Huette welcome a new grandson born to Rick and Susan Berchtold. Dilan Wade was born April 23. He was welcomed home by a brother, Weston.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our hospital patients. Samuel Koch (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Amy), Carole Barnard (David), Sis. Merna Koch (Bro. Vernon), Bro. John Griener (Sis. Emma) and Sis. Doris Staker (Bro. Weldon). May God ever comfort our loved ones in their time of need.

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### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

#### Sue Ruppert Denise Romersberger

“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”

Romans 12:12

Recently I heard of a woman in her 90's who was confined to her

bed due to her body giving out. She said she felt like a prisoner, unable to do anything worthwhile. Until now her life had been full of activity and service, especially for her church. Her world now revolved around the bed.

But she could pray! Waiting for the Lord to call her home, she continually offered up prayers for anyone and anything that came to mind. Not only did her prayers benefit an untold number of people, but she, too was blessed. In those prayers, the loneliness of her confinement was replaced with an intimate fellowship with Jesus, the Friend Who had born all her sins and griefs.

Saint Paul found out this secret long ago. When he was in prison, he spent much of his time praying. He experienced the same blessings this elderly lady had found.

The same is true for us. When we find ourselves confined, pray.

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Luke 18:1

We read in Isaiah 52, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings that publish peace." We have really appreciated the prayers of our loved ones during my illness and the encouraging cards and kindnesses of so many we hold dear to our hearts. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Carl and Lydiann Wyss

Bryce Daniel Wegman was born May 16. He is the first child of Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen (Staker) Wegman. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker (Morton). Mother and son are doing well. Congratulations!

This month we were again privileged to have our dear Elder Bro. Don Sauder minister unto us. We always appreciate his wise council and guidance.

Hospitalized this month were

Sis. Ruth Kellenberger, Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Betty Schumacher. Those having outpatient surgery were Bro. Mark Teubel and Sis. Esther Banwart. We wish you all God's healing hand.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

##### Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

On April 26, Bro. Ron and Sis. LaNae Macklin became first-time parents to Olivia Louise. Her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Carl and Betty Macklin. Also on April 26, Esther Jean was born to Keith and Martha Stoller. She joins Isaac, Emma, Anna, Aaron and Eli at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie Stoller. Bro. Richard Reinhard welcomes a new grandson, Nathanael Wayne, born to Rodney and Deborah Reinhard.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die . . . A time to weep and a time to laugh."

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 4

Sis. Frances Clark went to her eternal rest May 11. She will be missed by her son, Mark Clark. On May 21, Sis. Leona Gerber went to be with the Lord. She was the wife of Bro. Obed Gerber (Bluffton North) and mother to Rosetta Ringger (Gary) and Bro. Lee Gerber (Sis. Jennie). Our prayers are with the families in this time of their sorrow.

We share in the joy of Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer as they celebrated their 50th anniversary May 14.

We have two couples who recently announced their engagements. They are Sis. Amber Heyerly to Bro. Tony Gerber. Their parents are Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly (Bluffton North) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber. Also engaged are Sis. Lana Ringger to Bro. B. J. Frauhiger. Their parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger.

We rejoice to hear that our

friend, Floyd Caldwell, has answered the call of God. We trust that the Lord will be with him and his wife, Sarah, as they travel life's road with the Lord.

Those hospitalized recently have been Sis. Dorothy Gerber, Sis. Frances Dubach, Bro. Wilmer Steffen (Sis. Ida) and Mildred Krill.

We extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

##### Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

A father is a gift from God  
From which we learn to be  
Patient, strong and loving,  
Filled with integrity.

We are thankful to have loving fathers and mothers who have taught us the way of salvation from our youth. We are especially aware of this blessing as we remember our dear fathers on Father's Day.

We rejoice that God is still calling and converting souls to Him. On May 4, David Eric Roberts (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn), and May 13, Amy Smekens (Mike and Sis. Melissa) gave their hearts to the Lord. May they continue to feel His direction in their lives.

The engagement of Bro. Tony Gerber (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann, Bluffton) to Sis. Amber Heyerly (Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne) was made known Mother's Day, May 8. We wish Bro. Tony and Sis. Amber God's nearness and blessings as they make plans for their future together.

Steve and Sis. Shawna Betz are thankful their little son, Ian Patrick, has safely arrived. Ian was born May 9, and is welcomed home by his brother, Alec. Ian's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Sue Lantz and Ron and Marty Betz.

On May 13, we laid to rest a dear brother, husband, father and pillar of our congregation. Following an illness, Bro. Sherm Steffen has received the reward he has strived for. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Lucille; a son, Bro. Mark; two daughters, Sis. Ann Isch and Sis. Susan Harris; a sister, Bernie

Nahrwold; a brother, Bro. Max Steffen; also eight grandchildren. Also, May 21, Sis. Leona Gerber went to be with her heavenly Father. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Obed; a son, Bro. Lee; a daughter, Rosetta Ringger; 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to the dear families. We surely rejoice with Bro. Sherm and Sis. Leona but, pray for the families as they feel a deep loss. May the Lord ever comfort their hearts.

Our prayers go to Sis. Melvena Gerber as she spent time in the hospital and is now recuperating at home. May she find strength through the Lord.

On May 7, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dee Steffen observed their 50th wedding anniversary at the fellowship hall, hosted by their children and grandchildren. They are very appreciative of everyone who remembered them at this special time.

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Stefanie Wuethrich

Many thanks to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Victor Beer (Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

God has blessed Mike and Tracie Shidler with a precious little girl, Shelbi Lyn, April 7. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker and Steve and Barb Shidler and great-grandparents, Bro. Eli and Sis. Pricilla Anliker.

Elizabeth Marie arrived April 13 to Greg and Tina Reinhold. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton are happy grandparents.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger were blessed with a son, Gideon Luke, born April 20. He has two sisters, Serenity and Jasmine, and one brother, Eli. Thankful grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt and great-grandmother, Sis. Marian Gutwein.

Our dear Bro. Emil Gutwein

was called "home" to be with our heavenly Father April 22. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sis. Mary; and their three daughters and three sons, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren as well as many other relatives and friends.

Bro. Andy Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Jill Herman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Lois, Peoria) announced their engagement. We rejoice with them during this time and wish them the blessings of our Father as they plan their life together.

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Missy Baumgartner Sandy Lichtle

On the weekend of May 14 and 15, we enjoyed the company and fellowship of a small group of visitors from the Chicago, IL, church. On Saturday evening, a singing was held at our church. How precious and uplifting to sing hymns of praise to our Lord on high. Then on Sunday, we were blessed to hear the Words of Life spoken to us by visiting minister, Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL). May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

A blessed and joyous weekend was shared May 21 and 22 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our dear couple, Ron and Marcelle Gress. May God grant Bro. Ron and Sis. Marcelle the grace to be true and faithful until life's end. Our thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) with this occasion. May God bless them for their faithfulness.

Our high school graduates this year are Ryan Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann), Bro. Jeremy Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Andrea Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). Sis. Carolyn Gutwein (Edwin and Mary, Francesville)

spent her last semester of pharmacy school here in Indy working on her internship. She graduated from Purdue University this month. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates! May they seek God's guidance as they journey on life's pathway.

We want to welcome Bro. Derek Sauder (Tremont, IL) to our Indy church. He will be working here in town through the summer.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

We truly love and appreciate our fathers who have loved, nurtured and taught us the way of salvation from our youth. Happy Father's Day!

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

"Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." (Matthew 9:2) Our dear friend, Michelle Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie), having repented of her sins, has professed peace with God and man. She is now looking forward to baptism.

We are happy to have Sis. Szilvia Diriczi visiting us from the Budapest, Hungary congregation. What a blessing it has been to meet others of like mind and faith from so far away! "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9-10)

#### INDIANA, LEO Judy Gehring

We held our last service in our Leo church Wednesday, April 27. Bro. Oliver Stieglitz led the last song "Nearer Still Nearer." We are now meeting at the fellowship center on Cherry St. in Cedarville.

Our first Sunday we were blessed by having guests from Bloomington-Normal, IL.

We had two visiting ministers our first two Sundays. Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Ron Bollier were with us Mother's Day.

Saturday, May 14, was our Spring Banquet. There were around 125 in attendance. Several of Ruth Gramm's poems were read in memory of Ruth and her three daughters, Jenny, Holly and Susie, sang a couple of songs.

Thank you to the committee which consisted of Sisters Brenda Wieland, Jane Baumgartner, Joyce Stieglitz, Deb Neuenswander and Rachel Fessenden.

Having an opportunity to help with the food packaging at Bluffton was an evening blessing. Fifty volunteers from Leo were there to help. Bro. Art Gramm took care of the planning and arrangements.

### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

The engagement of Bro. Brent Beer (Milford) and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH) has been announced. Brent's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer. Pam is the daughter of Sis. Irma and the late Bro. Millard Stoller. An August wedding is planned, and they plan to make their home on a farm south of Milford. We rejoice with this young couple and ask the Lord to richly bless them as they make their plans together for the future.

We were favored with visits from two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Edwin Bahler and Bro. Earl Kilgus shared the Word with us. On the same Sunday our small Milford church was privileged to have a group of Remington couples, plus the Latty, OH, Sunday school Bible class, and guests of the young potluck group. Our pews were filled with visitors and it was pleasure to their hosts.

Sis. Kate Price underwent medical treatment recently. We're so happy she's able to be in church with us again. Our sympathy is extended to her, also, on the death of her sister, Leona. We ask God to

be especially near to Kate and her family at this time.

Our retired deacon, Bro. Elmer Hartter, had hip surgery this past month. He is currently at Lakeland Loving Care. His wife, Sis. Flossie, has been a patient there and Bro. Elmer lovingly attended her on a daily basis. He is making satisfactory recovery in the same room which has been her home for the past few years. We think of the difficult adjustment he's had to make from care giver to patient. Our prayers are with him and we ask for a rapid recovery to full health once again.

Bro. Ted Baumgartner has been admitted from his home at Lakeland Loving Care to the hospital for medical treatment. His wife, Sis. Helen, joins us in concern and prayers for his return to moderate health.

Ray and Rosemary Piper were involved in an auto accident, as they drove to meet Sis. Ann and Bro. Carl Frautschi for a trip to one of the southern states. It was necessary for the trip plans to be canceled but we're so happy the injuries were not serious. They have returned home safely, and we thank God for their safety.

June is graduation month and the time of new beginning for our graduates. Caralee Steffen, daughter of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy, is graduating from Fairfield High School. Jim Price, son of Bro. Tom and Becky, is graduating from Warsaw Community High School. We ask for God's guidance in the lives of these two young people.

Bro. Bob Cockburn received his Ph.D. in Education from Indiana University. Bro. Bob is one of the valued teachers in our Wawasee school system. We rejoice with him, Sis Sue, and their three daughters, in reaching this goal. It was gained through dedication and sacrifice by him and his entire family. He's been a Christian example to our young people, and we are thankful for teachers like him.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Amelia Schini**

Love . . . Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth; Beareth

all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." (I Corinthians 13:6-7)

Love is not a matter of counting the years, it's making the years count. (Wm. Smith)

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

It is with great thankfulness that we can tell you that Sunday, May 1, Bob Schini and Dan Getz were announced as having peace with God and man and desire baptism.

Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) conducted the topical Bible study for us this month. He had his topic well studied and outlined on God's plan for a Christian woman. We thank you very much, Bro. Allen. Do visit us sometime on a Sunday.

We are always happy to have visitors, even though there isn't always a minister along. We have a strong chord of love among us which is the tie that binds.

This past Sunday, May 15, the young people who went to Juarez, Mexico last summer as a work team, and their parents, put on a supper for all the church. Of course, the theme was Mexico. Um-m, I can taste those haystacks yet! After supper was cleared away, chairs were set up and Bro. Ed Bahler, Jr. and Bro. Dick Meister showed slides of that trip. It was made more special that they passed the mike around to those who had gone on the trip, and let them take part in narrating part of it. It was really a blessed evening.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Patti Bahler just returned from a trip to visit churches in Ostritza, Ukraine; Tirnaveni, Romania; Budapest, Hungary and Breidenbach, Germany. The purpose of the trip was to gather facts to assist the believers in building a new church in Ostritza, Ukraine. The church there is growing and the need for a new building is great. Currently there are 165 members with 250 in attendance. On the Sunday they were in Ostritza, Ukraine, there were six new souls baptized and brought into the church. They were deeply touched by the love and hospitality they were shown in each of the churches visited.

In closing, I'd like to remind us all of some of spring's blessings. When we count our many blessings do we remember to include any of the following?

The first flowers that bloom in the spring, i.e. the crocus, jonquils, tulips, lilacs, etc.

The first asparagus and also the first rhubarb pie we make. When we think of these, are we thankful for our good tasters? As with the flowers, are we thankful we can smell them?

How about the many birds that return in the spring. Do we appreciate that some come back to us, flying as far as from South America?

Do we thank God for our sight that we may enjoy all these things? I hope perhaps I've caused some to appreciate these things even more. We have six feeders in our backyard. We enjoy lingering at the breakfast table and enjoy seeing how many birds enjoy their meal too.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer**

April 24 was the 97th birthday of Bro. Dan Clauss. Even though he has been a resident of Parkview Haven in Francesville for a number of years, many of us at South Bend have special love for and memories of Bro. Dan. We wish him the Lord's blessings in his 98th year!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Renee Mangold as she mourns the loss of her grandmother, Mildred Selis. Mrs. Selis was a special part of Sis. Renee's life, and we pray that God's love and her fond memories will be a comfort to her.

We are again thankful for the faithful brothers who shared the Word with us this month. They are Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford).

Mother's Day was a special Sunday for our congregation. Our children sang us the touching hymn, "Tell Mother I'll Be There" and then served a delicious lunch which everyone enjoyed. Bro. Walt Rager encouraged us to seek after heavenly gifts for our children, not the

fleeting things of this earth. The text read was Matthew, chapter 20, where the mother of James and John asked Jesus to set her sons on His right and left hands when He came into His kingdom. Generally, we would consider it quite presumptuous on her part to ask such a thing of the Lord. However, it was pointed out that she wasn't requesting worldly fame or fortune for her sons but a place close to Jesus in heaven. We would hope that would be the prayer of every Godly mother for her children - to someday see them sitting at the feet of Jesus.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to all once again. It seems as if the time is passing so fast now as the beautiful spring weather has arrived.

As in all of our churches we are thankful for our young brothers and sisters. But we are also concerned for their spiritual welfare. Satan is trying hard to attack each soul as he knows that there is so much potential for each one to do good in the Lord's service. We must all do our part to nurture these souls, to pray for them and to help them fight a successful battle against the enemy.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Lance Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Christine Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline) as they have graduated from college. May the Lord grant them many opportunities to be a strong witness to those around them.

We had many blessings recently as a group of sisters known as "Heart to Heart" favored us with many songs. We want to thank them once more and for all who came with them. What a beautiful fellowship we enjoy!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carol Bucher at the passing of her brother.

We also want to thank our dear visiting ministers for coming and sharing in God's Word. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Bros. Willard Schieler (Milford) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North). May

the Lord continue to bless all of our dear ministering brothers.

Fathers' day will have been here by the time this is read, so we take time to bid you all a happy Father's Day. May each day be special to all of you.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Sheri Bahler

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

Each little flow'r that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings."

Hymns of Zion #207, vs. 1 & 2

We are once again reminded in this spring season how God shows forth His power through every little blossom and babe. All of His ways are unfathomable by man, but we can be so blessed if we are appreciative of His blessings to us.

We are always grateful for visiting ministers willing to share God's word. Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) was with us April 24. Also, Bro. Alan Stoller (Bluffton, IN) came for a Bible study concerning "God's Role for Godly Women." We were given many good instructions and trust that God will bless these brothers.

Donna Kyburz (Ron) was hospitalized this past month for surgery and Sis. Marilyn Schieler has also spent some time in the hospital. Both are now home and doing much better. We must remember to pray diligently for those who are afflicted.

Mike and Melissa Blanding are first-time parents of a healthy daughter, Kylie Jean, born May 14. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear and Glenn and Linda Berg.

#### IOWA, AMES Luann Schmidgall

We are thankful for Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) who ministered God's Word to us at our last gathering for the school year.

May God bless all who ministered to us and worshipped with us during the 1993-1994 school year.

Lord willing, we will resume services August 21.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Lorna Knapp**

**Monica Eisenmann**

As the weather gets warmer, our thoughts turn to summertime and the ending of another school year. Our prayers are with those who are graduating. May they all turn their lives over to God, and let Him guide them in their walk of life. The graduates from our small congregation are: Gerald Beyer (son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb), Lenny Heniger (son of Mike and Pat) and Erika Salek (daughter of Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Kim).

Also at this time of year, we would like to express our deep appreciation for our mothers and fathers. With Father's Day swiftly approaching, we must not think only of our earthly fathers, but also our heavenly Father who has done so much for us.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**

**Gloria Frieden**

We have four seniors looking forward to graduation, Sis. Heide Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne), Bob Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan), Greg Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Amy Butikofer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer). Also two college graduates, Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) and Bruce Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan). We are thankful that God knows the strengths, weakness, and dreams of each one. We wish them God's blessings and grace to be submissive to God's leading in their lives.

Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer welcome a new grandson to their family circle. Little Andrew Kent was born April 8 to Drs. Kent and Jody Pulfer in Tulare, CA.

**A FATHER'S PRAYER**

Dear God, my little boy of three  
 Has said his nightly prayer to  
 Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in  
 sleep,

He asked that Thou his soul  
 would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,  
 My hand upon his tousled head,  
 Do ask, with deep humility,  
 That Thou, dear Lord, remember  
 me.

Make me, king Lord, a worthy  
 Dad,

That I may lead this little lad  
 In pathways ever fair and bright,  
 That I may keep his steps aright.  
 O God, his trust must never be  
 Destroyed or even marred by me.  
 So, for the simple things he prayed  
 With childish voice so unafraid,  
 I, trembling, ask the same from  
 Thee.

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember  
 me.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**

**Laura Funk - Dawn Moser**

We once again have been blessed with visiting ministers which we truly appreciate. Here to willingly serve us have been Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We were challenged to willingly share with others some of the love and blessings the Lord has shared with us. Do we give a smile instead of a frown or an encouraging word instead of a harsh word? Just giving a smile is sharing some of the Lord's love.

We have two high school graduates this year, David Clark, son of Don and Sis. Willa Clark and Court Smith, son of Bro. Gene and Rachel Smith. We pray for God's nearness as you step out into the world.

The Junior Bible class enjoyed a Sunday school gathering with the Kansas churches in Kiowa. Many new friendships were made.

I was looking through a book of poems and my eyes fell on this one. Even though this boy is three, I think each father would have this prayer on his heart no matter how old the son.

**A FATHER'S PRAYER**

Dear God, my little boy of three

Has said his nightly prayer to  
 Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in  
 sleep,

He asked that Thou his soul  
 would keep.  
 And I, still kneeling at his bed,  
 My hand upon his tousled head,  
 Do ask, with deep humility,  
 That Thou, dear Lord, remember  
 me.

Make me, king Lord, a worthy  
 Dad,

That I may lead this little lad  
 In pathways ever fair and bright,  
 That I may keep his steps aright.  
 O God, his trust must never be  
 Destroyed or even marred by me.  
 So, for the simple things he prayed  
 With childish voice so unafraid,  
 I, trembling, ask the same from  
 Thee.

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember  
 me.

Author Unknown

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**

**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! What a busy, blessed, beautiful month we've had! Among our many blessings were all of our visitors, including Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and ministering Bros. Duane Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We were privileged to hear the memorandum, a letter of loving instruction and encouragement from our elder body, to witness the testimonies and baptisms of our new brother and sister-in-faith, Tim and Sharon Gerst (Joe and Connie) and to partake of holy communion, the memorial service for our Lord and Saviour. Such a time of spiritual refreshing, as necessary and as stimulating of new growth as the spring rains are to our awakening summer landscape! May we all drink deeply during these times of refreshing, so during the seemingly hot, dry days we can draw upon them for sustenance.

As we welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon into our church family, we also look forward to meeting and welcoming Sis. Lucy Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), whose engagement



to our ministering Bro. Trent Meiss was announced May 8. We trust she will feel welcome and at home here, and pray that God will direct and bless Lucy and Trent as they begin serving Him together.

### IOWA, LESTER

#### Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

We rejoice with Vernon and Chalea Knobloch, who been blessed with the wonderful gift of peace. Our prayers are with them as they await baptism.

We're thankful for the Word of Life which our ministers so willingly share with us. We pray that God will richly reward them. Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

On May 14, Jason Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy) and Mindy Kerkvliet were united in marriage. We wish them much happiness, and God's blessings.

We also extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Kristy Metzger (Bro. Art) on the death of her stepfather, Andy Zeek (Springfield, MO).

Our heartfelt prayers are with John DeHaan (Sis. Ione) and Jack Wyson (Sis. Janet), who were both hospitalized and are both suffering bodily afflictions. We pray that God will strengthen and comfort them and their families.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bro. Orvie Knobloch (Sis. Lauretta) and his family. Bro. Orvie is now residing at a nursing home at Hartley, IA. His address is: Community Memorial Health Center, 8th Ave. West, P.O. Box 188, Harley, IA 51346.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to our many graduates as they close another chapter in their lives. High school graduates include: Michelle Feucht (Ronald and Sis. Sandra), Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Dustin Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor), Jeanne Leuthold (Bro. Robert and Sis. Cindy), Durwin Martin (Edward and Judy), Clay Metzger (Keith and Mary), Jared Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy), Jodi

Metzger (Charles and Linda), Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth), Raw Lynn Metzger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella), Reed Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Stacy Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), Joy Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Wes Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn), Lori Nester (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley), Joni Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) and Melissa Van Whye (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan).

Graduating from college are Dudley Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie), Craig Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), and Clark Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn). We feel fortunate that all of our college graduates have found employment and will be staying in the area.

We pray for our graduates, and hope they will always seek God's direction for their lives. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct they paths." (Proverbs 3:6)

### IOWA, OAKVILLE

#### Melody Steiner Debbie Wagenbach

We welcome two precious souls into our brotherhood. We recently heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Ted Wiegand and Sis. Rosalie Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand). May they ever have much grace and strength as they walk this steep and thorny way with their Saviour by their side.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for sharing the weekend with us. May the Lord bless him as he faithfully carries out the duties of our precious faith. May the Lord also bless and strengthen the other ministers who've shared with us from the Word of Life this month including Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington).

### IOWA, PULASKI

#### Ernestine Wuthrich Heidi Metzger, daughter of Bro.

Ben and Sis. Partice, has been hospitalized with a rare disease but is making a rapid recovery and hopes to be home again soon.

Dennis Teubel has been able to assemble with us again. It is good to see him and his father among us.

The oldest sister of our congregation, Sis. Elizabeth Banwart Wuthrich, recently passed away. Sis. Elizabeth was 92 years old and had been married to Bro. Albert for 71 years. Children are Robert (Osceola, IA), Bros. Russell, Joel and Bill (Pulaski) and Sis. Lois (Taylor, MO); Delores (Oakville) and Mary Elizabeth (Gridley, IL). There are also 26 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren. We will all miss her but we feel she has lived a full lie and prepared herself for an eternal heavenly home.

### MY MOTHER

She carried me under her heart;  
Loved me before I was born;  
Took God's hand in hers and  
walked through the valley of  
Shadows that I might live;  
Bathed me when I was helpless;  
Clothed me when I was naked;  
Gave me warm milk from her own  
body when I was hungry;  
Rocked me to sleep when I was  
weary;  
Pillowed me on pillows softer  
than down, and sang to me in  
the voice of an angel;  
Held my hand when I learned to  
walk;  
Nursed me when I was sick;  
Suffered with my sorrow;  
Laughed with my joy;  
Glowed with my triumph; and  
while I knelt at her side, she  
taught my lips to pray.  
Through all the days of my youth  
she gave strength for my  
weakness, courage for my  
despair, and hope to fill my  
hopeless heart;  
Was loyal when others failed;  
Was true when tried by fire;  
Was my friend when other friends  
were gone;  
Prayed for me through all the  
days, when flooded with  
sunshine or saddened by  
shadows;

Loved me when I was unlovely,  
and led me into man's estate to  
walk triumphant on the King's  
Highway and play a manly  
part.

Though we lay down our lives for  
her we can never pay the debt  
we owe to a Christian mother.

Anonymous

Visiting ministers were Elder  
Bros. Roy Grimm and Ed Lanz, re-  
tired Elders Bros. Sam Anliker,  
Harold Messner and Raymond  
Banwart and ministering Bros.  
Dewayne Metzger, Virgil Metzger,  
Roger Aberle and Gerald Sutter.  
We wish to thank for all the special  
efforts made by them and their  
families.

Thank You: We would like to  
extend a very humble and heart-  
felt thank you to everyone who has  
remembered us in any way. Your  
generosity will never be forgotten.  
God bless you all.

The Dennis Teube family

The family of Sis. Elizabeth  
Wuthrich wishes to thank every-  
one for their love and deeds of kind-  
ness recently given to them. May  
you be blessed always.

Bro. Albert Wuthrich and family

### IOWA, WEST BEND

#### Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

We had a blessed evening when  
we had the privilege of partaking  
of holy communion and reflecting  
upon the great price our Lord paid  
for our redemption. We appreciated  
having Elder Bro. Wes Knapp  
(Goodfield, IL) with us to assist El-  
der Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro.  
Wayne Grimm in this service. At  
the time of communion, we were  
reminded of the many grains of  
wheat that make up a loaf and how  
each one loses its identity when  
placed in the loaf. So must we be as  
believers of the Lord.

Other visiting ministers the past  
month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger  
(Morris, MN) and Bro. Andy Virkler  
(Croghan, NY). May God bless each  
brother who labors so unselfishly  
in the Lord's service.

The Lord has called home a dear  
one from our congregation, Sis.  
Leah Traub (90). While we are sad-  
dened by the parting, we are also

thankful she has been relieved of  
the suffering she has endured from  
strokes and surgery. At the funeral  
we were again reminded of our  
mortality and the importance of  
how we spend our time here in this  
life, as Sis. Leah spent much of her  
time in serving others. Our deep-  
est sympathy goes to her surviving  
sister, Sis. Elizabeth Traub; and  
her brother, Joe Traub; as well as  
many nieces and nephews. Sis.  
Leah's death causes us to reflect on  
her life's work as a baker making  
many loaves of bread. May we thus  
remember the Bread of Life and its  
significance in the death and suf-  
fering of our Lord, as we were re-  
cently reminded.

Luke Alvin joined Bro. Lynn and  
Sis. Amy Mogler May 6. Bro. Art  
and Sis. Eula Mogler and Ron and  
Sis. Sandy Luethold (Lester) are  
enjoying this blessing from above.

Bro. Bert Thomann and Pearl  
Gerber (Eli) have been in the hos-  
pital this past month. We wish  
them God's healing touch as they  
are now at home recuperating.

Randal Metzger and Dawn  
Smith (Bro. Lelan and Sis. Kathy  
Metzger) are planning a July wed-  
ding. We wish them many bless-  
ings as they plan this step in life.

We extend sympathy to Sis.  
Kathrine Fisher as her brother-in-  
law, Bro. Ryan Banwart (Portland,  
OR) has gone home. Bro. Ray and  
Sis. Margaret have many loved ones  
from our area. They were in our  
midst many years ago as a part of  
the West Bend congregation. We  
likewise extend sympathy to Dave  
and Diane Gerber and family on  
the death of Diane's grandmother,  
Mayme Payne (VA). May God give  
comfort to each of these loved ones  
in their losses.

### JAPAN, SHIODA

#### Toru and Junko Saigusa

The three churches in Japan are  
combined for singing four times a  
year. April 17 was the day for sing-  
ing, so we gathered together in  
Shioda church. Every spring the  
middle of April is the best time for  
enjoying seeing peach blossoms in  
Shioda, Ichinomiya area. As some  
of you know, Ichinomiya is very  
famous for peaches. So we had been

looking forward to seeing peach  
blossoms. Unfortunately it was too  
late for peach blossoms, for this  
spring was a little bit warmer than  
usual. But we had a blessed time  
for singing together. We miss Bro.  
Andy and Sis. Jana. Andy is a good  
song leader for us, but this time it  
was impossible for them to attend  
singing, because they were going  
to be given a new baby. We prayed  
for them.

April 17 is a memorable day for  
our churches in Japan. On that day,  
Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois  
Ehnle came to Yokohama, Japan  
for the first time for missionary  
work (Bro. Willis had visited once  
before). If they were to come to  
Japan now, they would come by  
airplane. But in fact they came by  
ship. We were surprised to know  
that ship had been the only avail-  
able transportation then and that  
it had taken two weeks to get to  
Japan. In those days this country  
was so poor and we guess many,  
many people sought for the way of  
living or thinking such more ear-  
nestly than today. Without Bro.  
Willis and Sis. Lois, and their hard,  
continuous labors, we would not be  
here and our churches would not  
be here in Japan. So we thank them  
so much.

On that Sunday we were glad to  
have a guest, Bro. Gary Hartzler  
(Sabetha, KS).

### JAPAN, TOKYO

#### Andrew and Jana Klaus

Our church has had a truly  
blessed month. On April 23 we  
gathered to hear the testimony of a  
young Japanese man, Takaaki  
Miyagawa, and witnessed his bap-  
tism the next day. He grew up in  
Nagasaki with little exposure at  
all to Christianity and the Bible  
except that he went to a Christian  
kindergarten similar to the one we  
use to operate at Shioda church.  
When he came to Tokyo for college,  
it was a college professor that first  
introduced him to the real God four  
years ago. Through seeking out  
many churches, he has come to  
embrace our faith above all others.  
We welcome him into our fellow-  
ship and pray that God's continued  
blessings will be evident in his life.

It was the first baptism in Tokyo Church in 14 years.

May 15 was our annual business meeting where we decided the events for the coming year. Also that day we had the privilege of having visitors from America.

Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wag- enbach (Tremont, IL), as well as Bro. Adrian Strahm (Bern, KS), were all in Japan on business and yet made the time to worship with us.

Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and his two sons were gone on a trip to Australia for a couple of weeks and visited one of the churches there started by European brothers. We are glad all went well and they are back safely.

#### KANSAS, BERN

##### Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

We have recently added four new sisters to our household of faith. April 24, Sis. Sheila Edelman and Sis. Lucy Goodman (both daughters of Gene and Judy Edelman) gave their testimonies. We thank Elder Bro. Sam Huber for his labors of love. On May 7 and 8 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Lisa Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Liz Brey (Roger). May they always serve the Lord with joyful hearts and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives.

Three dear ones needed to be hospitalized this month, Sis. Ella Hartter, Sis. Anna Ulmer and Sis. Marlene Edelman. May God bless them with renewed strength and faith as we pray for them.

We appreciated retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter giving an exhortation on communion as Elder Bro. John Lehman had duties that called him to Smithville, OH. May we all prepare our hearts and minds as we plan to partake in the Lord's Supper May 22.

Another school year is about to end and graduations are here once again. Our best wishes along with many prayers for God's blessings are extended to both high school and collage graduates.

The high school graduates are as follows: Jeanelle Edelman (Bro.

Wayne and Sis. Linda), Michael Grimm (Bro. Gorden and Sis. Sharon), Amy McGuire (Rudy and Linda Lehman), Trent Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey), Dayra Meyer (Bro. Jim and Jeanne), Matthew Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet), Thad Reist (Dave and Marci) and Bruce Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria).

College graduates are Michael Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brian Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda).

"Hear, my son, your Father's instruction, and reject not your Mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck."

Proverbs 1:8-9

How important is the father's role in the family and we thank them for their love and direction they have given us. We also so appreciate the guidance and direction of our Father in heaven!

Note: July is Silver Lining collection month for our Bern congregation.

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

##### Joleen Sinn

We had the blessing of Christian fellowship this month as our young members invited several from Akron, Mansfield, Rittman, Smithville and Toledo, OH. On Sunday, April 24, we had a church potluck then a singing in the evening. It is such a joy to feel the love of our Savior when we meet with brethren from a distance.

Sis. Rebecca Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Karen) is graduating from high school this month. We want to encourage her to continue walking close to our Lord and to always keep His will first as she looks to the future.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

##### Doug and Judy Kraft

Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Jay Luthi (Lamont) came to share holy communion with us the weekend of April 23-24. It was good to be reminded of our Lord's crucifixion,

His resurrection and plan of salvation.

On May 15, Sis. Hope Williams and Bro. Victor Edelman exchanged wedding vows. Parents of the couple are Ed and Mary Lawton (Lebo, KS) and Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We thank these dear brothers for their labors of love on our behalf. May we continue to remember our ministering brethren in our prayers.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

##### Janice Bahr - Darcy Kising

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.

Children come the grain to gather,  
While the morning sun doth shine;  
And ere long, beloved brethren,  
It will be your harvest time.

Now the field is ripe for harvest;  
Let us then all garner in;  
For if we should stand here idle,  
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?

He who gathers not at harvest,  
Will a beggar be at last.  
Therefore rise today and labor,  
Gath'ring golden sheaves with haste!

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

Harvest in our area is almost here, and I always have to think of the many times in the Scripture that our Lord compares this world and the latter times to the harvest. As we watch all the things that are happening around us, we can't help but feel that we are in the latter

times and we need to plead with one another and encourage one another to be watchful, and careful, and prayerful about every aspect of our lives: For Satan never sleeps, and is constantly trying to wean us away to that broad path that only leads to heartache and destruction. Sometimes that narrow road seems like an awfully heavy cross, but with our eyes only on Jesus we don't carry the load alone, and the end goal of eternal life will be more than worth the effort.

Graduation is here "at last" for two of our young people. John Schupbach, son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling; and Matt Tucker, son of Stan and Judy Tucker. It is our fervent prayer that God will go with them as they step into the future, and that they will make God the most important part of their future. God bless you both! We will miss you next year.

Some people are so faithful when it comes to giving of themselves to the work of the Lord: Whether it be supporting services at the home (which we had this month); visiting the sick and aged; church attendance (Sunday and Wednesday evenings); Bible study and singing attendance; working and cleaning at the church or cemetery (which we had this month also). Not everyone notices or realizes what these people do, but some of us do, and give thanks to the Lord for these silent givers. God bless each one who gives of themselves for the Lord. God knows who you are and you must be richly blessed in "His eyes".

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to all of our wonderful parents in the Lord. We, your children, are most wonderfully blessed!

#### KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

"To break Thy bread we now have gathered, In covenant to drink Thy wine." (Zion's Harp #125) On Saturday, April 23, we gathered together to partake of holy communion. What a blessed and solemn occasion. We thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City) for com-

ing and assisting our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi.

We are always thankful for all our visiting ministers who so willingly share the Word of Life with us. Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) have been with us this past month. We thank each one for coming.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Hulda Jacobs. We miss her presence in church and pray that God will be her strength and that she can assemble with us again soon.

Our college graduate this year is Brent Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan). May he seek the Lord's guidance as he closes this chapter in his life.

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

#### KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger  
Sharon Strahm

We wish to express our appreciation to the brethren at Kiowa, KS for hosting the youth fellowship weekend April 9-10.

We welcomed Bro. Kyle Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) as a new brother-in-faith April 24. His grandfather, Elder Bro. Sam Huber, was assisted during this special time by Elder Bro. John Lemam (Bern, KS).

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Psalm 1:2

Many thanks to Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) for sharing with us the Word of God. Bro. Randy shared beautiful thoughts for Mother's Day.

As we see God's handiwork in creation it brings to mind how fitting the words in the hymn, "How Great Thou Art".

Bro. Nathan Grimm (Sis. Lois), Sis Evelyn Steiner and Don Strahm have been hospital patients. Our prayers are with each one.

Prayer has been answered since Brian Schweitzer (Sis. Kristy) has made a significant recovery from a head injury.

High school graduates are Bro. Korbin Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne). Graduating from Kansas State University is Bro. Tom Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon). Bro. Tom has found employment in the Morris, MN area. We welcome him home anytime. We wish God's protection and blessings for each graduate.

"Education without God is like a ship without a compass."

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Evelyn Wysong in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Dorothy Stavenik (Mansfield, OH).

#### KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Last month I reported that Bro. Harvey Farney was expecting to return to his home to recuperate. Instead, he entered the Wesley Hospital Rehabilitation center and at this writing, plans are for him to return to his home. His loving family attends to his needs and we continue to pray for Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann during this critical time in their life.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Virgil and Betty Barth. Bro. Virgil's sister, Ellen Marie Phelps, died May 2. We also offered prayers for the healing of their son-in-law, Alan Martin, who has a coronary affliction.

The family of Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer welcomed a new member when their granddaughter, Angela Peyton, married Steve Johnson May 6.

Sis. Lillian Bowers and her daughters and daughters-in-law hosted the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet the evening of May 7. They had collected traditional recipes from the church families and distributed the collections to the guests. What a wonderful out-pouring of love!

Our graduating seniors this year are Derek Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) and Nathan Carnahan (Bro.

Jerry and Sis. Pauline). Our prayers go with them as they make choices for their future.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

#### Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings from Lexington! We are having pretty warm and dry weather right now, but aren't really hurting for rain yet. The flowers are really blooming and everything is green. It's beautiful this time of the year! Actually it's beautiful down here year round, which is only one more reason that's going to make it hard to leave here. This will be the last article we will have the privilege to write from Lexington, as we have felt the Lord's leading to relocate in Garden Grove, IA. The Lord doesn't always lead down easy roads, and so often we would just like to stay sitting where we are comfortable instead of getting up and working or moving on with life. We are very saddened to leave our "family" here, who we have come to love. But also have that bittersweet joy and peace in knowing we are following our Lord and Saviour, and He has promised that "all things will work together for good to those who love and obey Him." How wonderful it is just to trust in our heavenly Father, and cast all our cares on Him. He has blessed us far beyond anything we ever imagined here in Lexington and we are so unworthy of it and of such a loving Father.

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let us reflect on the many, many things our heavenly Father has done for us, and also our earthly fathers who God created in His own image. Many of us have our earthly fathers to thank for their Godly examples and training in the ways of the Lord. Father's have a very great responsibility laid on them, and only by walking in their heavenly Father's footsteps can they make a clear path for us. May we always remember them in our prayers. Along with our many church fathers, who must carry the responsibility of the church on their shoulders.

We want to extend a special thank you to Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for ministering

unto us this month. May God richly bless him for his efforts.

### MICHIGAN, ALTO

#### Jane Grawburg

#### MY MOTHER'S LOVE

Through the endless years of time,  
Her love will always be  
A citadel of quiet strength,  
A pool of deep tranquility.

A fount of wisdom in the day,  
A shining star in heaven's night,  
The lambent flame of mother love  
That guides my stumbling feet  
aright.

A place of refuge for the heart  
When the skies have turned to  
gray;  
A loving smile and warm embrace,  
A prayerful thought to light my  
way.

A love that always stays the same  
And forever blesses me;  
As timeless as eternity,  
My Mother's love will always be.  
Joy Belle Burgess

Thank you mothers, grandmothers, and mothers-of-faith for your special kindnesses and love you share with us each day. God's blessings always.

Congratulations to three of our families rejoicing with the birth of new babies. Spencer Howard was born to Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristin Plattner. Brett, Aaron and Holly join him at home. Michaela Jane was born to Carlton and Brenda Blough (Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite). Paula joins her at home. Cameron was born to Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie Steffen. Carrie and Derek join him at home.

Those visiting this month were Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller (Minneapolis, MN), for Good Friday services; Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens, AL), for Easter Sunday services; and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) joined us for communion the weekend after Easter. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

Our snowbirds are all back home now. We welcome Sis. Helen

Steffen, returning from Phoenix, AZ; Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk, returning from Zapata, TX; Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier, returning from Sarasota, FL. It is good to have these dear ones with us again.

Those hospitalized were Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Elouise) for knee surgery and Eric Blough (Gordon and Trisha), grandson of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise, for heart surgery. God's love and tender mercies were truly felt when Eric was able to attend church less than a week after his surgery.

Eric Blough, Gordon and Trisha, and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise want to thank you for your love and support, and especially for the prayers said in their behalf.

Graduating from high school are Rachel Schrenk (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kathy), Jamie Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta), Rich Stauffer (Dave and Bonnie) and Gary Zaagman (Ed and Joyleen). Our prayers for God's blessings are with them as they pursue their future endeavors.

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) came to assist Bro. Aaron with the reading of the memorandum. This was truly a special weekend and we thank Bro. Joe for his labors of love.

Several of us traveled to Detroit for the annual Woodhaven Benefit. This is always such a beautiful weekend. Groups from Bay City, Alto, and Detroit, joined in singing praises to His Holy name. We all went away thoroughly refreshed and renewed in our Lord.

The same weekend, others from Alto traveled to Bay City for the baptism of Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Berg, Sis. Marlene McNally and Sis. Jennifer Schlatter. May God's grace and blessings be with our new brothers and sisters.

Sis. Michelle Blough (Bro. Martin) was hospitalized a couple of days for tests and Sis. Helen Steffen and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Bro. Ott) were involved in an accident in Bluffton, IN, which sent them to the hospital for observation. They were released the same day but Sis. Pat, at the time of this writing, still suffers with complications from

the accident. Our prayers are with these loved ones.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Marlene Mosher**

A poem for those of our loved ones who are hurting, physically, mentally and spiritually.

**ALONG MY WEARY WAY**

When I find I am laden  
 With cares of the day  
 I turn to Sweet Jesus  
 Who lights up my way.

He knows of my feelings,  
 Each heartache and bruise;  
 He gives strength and courage  
 And aching limbs soothes.

He gives me confidence  
 That I sometimes lack,  
 He lightens the load,  
 I bear on my back.

Catherine Janssen Irwin

"Cast your burden upon the Lord  
 and He will sustain you."

Psalm 55:22

We were blessed in our congregation to have two marriages maintain many years of two as one, through all kinds of trials and tribulations.

Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta (Wackerle) Mosher have been together 60 years and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Nina (Knochel) Wieland, 55 years. May our Lord bless and keep these two couples as time goes by.

We were greatly blessed to have with us Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and to see the World Relief pictures, which puts we with so much and things so easy to bow our heads in shame for what we take for granted.

The engagement of two dear souls were announced. Sis. Jane Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Dan Kaiser (Bay City, MI). We wish the couple the Lord's blessings and grace in the undertaking of a new life as one.

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 Address Changed . . .

Give Your New and Old  
 Address To Your Reporter

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Marlene Reinhard**  
**Holly Barton**

As our congregation shared holy communion together May 14, we were reminded several times that it is a love feast. Not only do we honor and remember Christ's love and sacrifice for us, but it is also a time of fellowship or "communion" with our brothers and sisters. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), who assisted Bro. Ben, told us that our relationship with each other cannot be better than our individual relationships with Christ. As we love Him, so will we love each other. We thank Bro. Edwin for his service, and also appreciated Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) ministering to us Sunday.

Several of our converts were able to share in the communion exhortation with us, and we were happy to hear that Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche) has found peace with the Lord. May he continue to grow as he has to this point, and we hope to hear his testimony June 26.

On May 15, Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) had the pleasure of announcing the engagement of his daughter, Sis. Jane, to Bro. Dan Kaiser (Bay City, MI). Bro. Dan's parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine (Morton, IL). May Jane and Dan continue to find delight in the Lord, and may He give them the desires of their hearts! (Psalms 37:4)

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord . . ." (Jeremiah 30:17) We are glad to see Sis. Ann Tachar in church after her recent foot surgery.

Our sixth annual choir benefit dinner and singing for Woodhaven was held May 22. We had tremendous support for which we were so thankful! Besides the choir and a men's quartet from our congregation, we were delighted to hear groups from Bay City and Alto. Bro. Curt Heimer, in addition to singing with the Alto octet, ministered to us Sunday afternoon. It was a beautiful weekend and we appreciate everyone who helped by serving, singing, or listening.

Monthly services at Woodhaven

will be held July 5 at 7:30 p.m. Toledo, OH, is scheduled to host this service and we welcome all who are interested to join us.

The apostle Paul exhorted fathers to "provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:21). Fathers hold a special place in our hearts and homes; let us support those fathers around us so that they will not become discouraged in carrying out their important responsibilities!

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**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Delores Sauder**

We are thankful for the visitors who recently worshipped with us. Among them were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) who lovingly brought forth God's Word.

Our annual business meeting was held in April. Elected to new positions were Bro. Jim Tilbury, trustee; Bro. Damon Knobloch, usher; Sis. LaRae Dill and Sis. Sherry Fritz, World Relief activities; and Sis. Sue Messner to the food committee and Sis. Delores Sauder, substitute. We thank the brothers and sisters who completed duties for all their labors of love.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Linda Schmidgall**  
**Maxine Sauder**

"What can wash away my stains? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." (Nothing But the Blood of Jesus - Robert Lowry) Our hearts were refreshed and strengthened to hear the simple truths of salvation during five testimonies recently. We rejoice with Sis. Marie Feuchtenberger, Bro. Michael Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy), Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen Moser (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser) and Bro. Timothy Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam). May God direct their steps as they seek to follow Him.

Ministers who traveled to worship with us included Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Bro.

Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). May God bless them as they continue to preach His Word.

God has blessed the home of Mike and Jayne Wohlman with a new son, Tanner Michael. He is welcomed home by Gena and Kelsey. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia Schmidgall.

We are thankful that Sis. Eunice Koehl (Mrs.) feels strong enough to worship with us once more. We are also grateful for God's healing hand on Miranda and Jennifer Luthi, daughters of Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa Luthi. May they continue to be strengthened.

To achieve a goal always brings a sense of accomplishment, but especially if you have committed years of your life to obtain it. We congratulate our graduates on their achievements. Those graduating from high school are: Heather Burnham (Allan and Sis. Ilene), Sis. Holly Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Janell Joos (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra), Ryan Kellenberger (Sis. Diane), Brenda Koehl, (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Paula Lesmeister (Paul and Sis. Barb), Sis. Julie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Quinn Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Amy Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn), Daniel Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam), Shari Schmidgall (Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda), Lori Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), Terry Timmerman (Don and Marsha) and Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel). College graduates are Mindy Fehr (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judy), Bro. Craig Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Jamie Joos (Jerry and Cathy), Russ Koehl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen), Galen Luthi (Sis. Della), Bro. Jerry Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Jeni Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel). May they seek paths that glorify God, using the talents He has given them.

Thank You: I would like to thank each and everyone for all the kindness and love shown to me during my recent surgery. Thank-you for your prayers, lovely cards, flowers,

gifts and food. May God bless all of you.

Sis. Violet Wulf

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Jan Messner - Joleen Messner**  
 Greetings!

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers . . ." (Malachi 4:6) With the passing of Father's Day, we think of the responsibility of raising our children in a way that would please our heavenly Father. May our fathers look to Him for guidance.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) with us. May God richly bless them and their dear wives as they so often labor on our behalf.

"A baby was created by the hand of God above to give the world the sweetest touch of tenderness and love." -Barbara Loots- Our congregation was blessed with a new little addition. Darcy and Sis. Rachael Kent, Brooke, Macy and Tanner welcomed baby Logan Richard into their family. Bro. Richard and Mary Lou Schmidt and David and Jean Kent are Logan's grandparents.

Our annual voting took place in May. Sunday school teachers elected to share God's teachings are Bro. Paul Messner and Sis. Joleen Messner. Sis. Nancy Messner and Bro. Veri Schmidt are substitute teachers and Bro. Marlyn Messner was chosen as superintendent. Sis. Jan Messner was elected Silver Lining correspondent. May the Lord be near to guide them as they fulfill their duties.

Our 1994 high school graduates are Jamie Berskow (Joy and Jeff), Amy Messner (Gary), Ryan Messner (Bro. Stan and Jeanine), Travis Redman (Darrell and Jane) and Nathan Leuwsegie (Howard and Charlene). May God lead them in their future endeavors.

Sis. Sophie Miller celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends. May the Lord continue to watch over her as she goes about her daily life.

Our patient recovering from surgery is Bro. Marlyn Messner (Sis. Lois). We pray that God will pro-

vide strength for our dear loved one as he deals with his bodily affliction.

Thank you for your love, concern and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery.

In Christian love,  
 Sis. Delores Messerli  
 (Bro. Cornelius)

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti**

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

On April 18, Austin Robert was welcomed by Bro. Joe, Sis. Joan and Brittany Fehr. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Barbara Fehr (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

We also extend a big welcome to Sis. Renee Hari (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Tonya Neust (Francesville, IN). They will be working here a year as part of their education and are very welcome additions to our small congregation.

On April 17, we were privileged to have with us Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and April 23 Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) ministered God's Word unto us. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Carolyn Banwart - Becky Marti**

God has blessed Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker with a precious baby. Kristi Lynn was born May 1 and was welcomed home by Carol, Sarah, David and Ben. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker.

Little Kelsey Jo Rutledge (Stacey and Karla) had to return to the hospital and undergo surgery when she was less than a week old. We are thankful she is home again and doing well. Sis. Marilyn Luthi (Bro. Ray) was also hospitalized, but is able to be home again. We continue to pray for her as she bears

her afflictions of the body so patiently and always has a smile.

Congratulations to our high school graduates this year. They are Angela Stefan (William Stefan and Sis. Barbara Stefan), Robin Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller), Andre Leal (foreign exchange student of Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart) and Andy Marti (Fred Marti and Sis. Carol Marti). May they seek the Lord's direction as they plan for their futures.

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Betsy Schrenk

We enjoyed a busy, blessed weekend the first of May. Our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) were here for our annual business meeting, communion and the memorandum. The encouragement we were given and the renewal we experienced were and are appreciated. As usual, the elders' dear wives accompanied and supported their husbands in their many duties. We know that God blesses the love given and the personal sacrifices made by all of these faithful people.

Also serving us one Sunday in May was Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). Thank you, Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol.

Bro. Matt Musselman has recovered from a tonsillectomy. We thank God for His healing mercies.

Among the many inspired teachings and exhortations we heard from the pulpit we were told to watch for not only the big things, but also for the little things – gnats and camels are both important.

Also discussed was "freedom". Who has it? Certainly not the unconverted. Sin is bondage, captivity, a trap. Liberty – freedom – is bought by Christ and His sacrifice – and afforded to the converted.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Rusty and Amy Adrian

Thus united And in concord  
Let us walk the path of life;  
Hand in hand, O may love bind us  
For each other's welfare strive.

Thus it is our Saviour's pleasure,  
As His footprints plainly show.

May God's love, our greatest  
treasure,

Richly every heart bestow.

Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1 & 2

The words of this song mean so much to our fellowship as there have been many who have continued to pray, encourage, and labor here due to the flood of 1993. We truly thank each one for the wonderful examples shown and the relationships that have been built. Only through our Lord Jesus Christ is it all possible.

How thankful we are to have Bro. Rod Moser assembling with us again. May God continue granting Bro. Rod much healing, physically and spiritually. Our prayers are also with Sis. Ruth Hoerr (Bro. Louis) as she has suffered a fractured wrist.

Congratulations go to Sis. Vonette Sutter (Bro. Kim) and Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) who have graduated from college. Also to Abbey Kiefaber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) who has graduated from high school. We pray that God will direct each one in their new endeavors in life.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Deb Sutter (Bro. Steve) and family as their grandfather, Bro. Clayton Ott, went on to be with the Lord.

Saturday, May 14, was our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. What a special time it was for everyone who gathered.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) for bringing us God's Word this past month.

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

#### Franz Soni

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Jeremiah 33:3

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. We

thank him for his efforts and may God richly reward him. We thank the visiting brethren who came to worship with us.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage those who are in the area to come worship and fellowship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7846, Bro. Bob Feller (201) 680-8619 or Bro. Craig Schafer (908) 248-6616.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

#### Alice Virkler

Another dear sister has been called out of this life into a better life in heaven. Sis. L. Olivia Schulz was relieved of earthly cares May 7 after having been a hospital patient for several weeks. She was 92 years old and was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Seth, in April of 1992. Our deepest sympathy is extended her children and their families: her sons, Niles and Grant (Lowville); and her daughters, Florence Storms (William, Clay), Louise (Palm Desert, CA) and Miriam, a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

Sympathy is also extended to Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr., and his family as his sister-in-law, Dora Graves, was called out of this life. Dora was a resident of the Lewis County Extended Care for many years and always enjoyed fellowship when we sang at that facility.

Bradley Virkler (Loren and Gloria) had surgery on his hand following an accident. Sis. Charlotte Virkler also had surgery having a knee replacement. Both Bradley and Sis. Charlotte are doing well and may they each feel God's nearness in their recoveries. Ethel Karcher is also doing well following surgery. May God remain near to her as she continues with her recovery at the Lewis County Extended Care Facility.

Elder Bros. Ed Aschleman (Philadelphia) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) were with us the



weekend of May 14 and 15. On Saturday evening, we gather for a covered dish meal and then to hear the memorandum of the brotherhood and elder conferences. We want to thank our elder brothers for sharing these important concerns with us and may we strive to follow the directions given to us in God's Word. On Sunday, the brothers shared with us the Word which gives us the guidelines for preparation of partaking of holy communion. May each of us examine ourselves in preparation for this sacred feast.

### OHIO, AKRON

#### Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and warm greetings from Akron. This past month we were blessed by the ministering of Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). Thank you for sharing the truth of God's Word with us, and for coming with your wife to visit our congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Rosanne Graf as they welcome their new son, Nathan Daniel. Grandparents of Nathan are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf, and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario).

Sis. Louise Graf is recovering from recent cataract surgery. Bro. Ernie and Sis. Louise have moved to the Assisted Living wing of the Apostolic Christian Home.

Sis. Juliet Graf wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards and prayers as she celebrated her 91st birthday.

The daughters of Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako announced their plans to marry. Sandra is engaged to Roy Haga, son of Roy, Sr. and Peggy (Ocala, FL). Sis. Sherri is engaged to Bro. Mike Atanasov of the Rittman congregation (Nick and Sofija). May both couples seek God's direction as they begin their lives together.

Our faithful Bro. Carl Gasser was called to his heavenly home. Our hearts go out to the family of Bro. Carl, especially to Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Graf (his granddaughter), with whom he resided in recent years.

"Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,  
With our dear loved ones who've  
gone before;  
In that fair homeland we'll know  
no parting,  
Beyond the sunset forevermore!  
Hymns of Zion #172

### OHIO, COLUMBUS

#### Julie Grimm

We appreciated ministering Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), who visited us and shared God's Word with us. We also greatly appreciated the loving labors of Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH).

We have felt the blessings and goodness of God upon our small congregation as He has provided another brother to share in the responsibilities of the ministry. Our loving prayers and support are with Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand and their dear children as Bro. Ben begins this service in the ministry of the Gospel.

A sincere thank you to our young members and Sunday school for serving Mother's Day lunch. May God reward their willing efforts.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues will be collected in July. Please pay \$9.00 to your reporter.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

#### Sandra Manz

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment."

Genesis 18:19

Surely every sincere Christian father would desire to have these words of confidence spoken about him. The importance of the role of the father in the home has received increased attention over the past several years, and we would just like to offer them our prayers and support as they carry out their duties as the head of the household. Happy Father's Day!

My apologies to Brandon Miller and his family. Brandon was a junior this past year and thus did not graduate from high school as previously reported.

### OHIO, LATTY

#### Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn

Believing that God has directed them, Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf have accepted a houseparent position at the Gateway Woods home in Leo, IN. May they ever feel God's presence as they raise their two boys and guide the lives of other children.

We thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for visiting us during the month and preaching the truth of God's Word. May God bless him further on. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." (Titus 1:9)

The wedding engagement of Sis. Pam Stoller (Sis. Irma) and Bro. Brent Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda, Milford, IN) was announced to the church during the past month. May these two families feel God's presence during the upcoming months. "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." (II Thessalonians 3:16)

Several of our local brethren were hospitalized during the month. They include Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Melvin), Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge), Bro. Carl Rager (Sis. Louise), Sis. Janet Williamson (Robert) and Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann). We are thankful that several of these are able to worship with us again. We pray for God's healing hand.

As the school year draws to a close, we have several high school graduates. They include Erin Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita), Chris Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Julia Parady (Robert and Sis. Sharon), Kurt Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann), Sis. Carrie Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori), Matt Stoller (Bro. Don and Gail), Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), Steffenie Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley) and

Tammy Whitman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen). May these graduates commit their lives to God and rely on God to direct their future lives. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:6-7)

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Cari Mann**

"For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalms 51:3, 7, 10) On April 30, Tami Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) acknowledged her sins and transgressions and asked to be purged. The following day, she was washed and arose from the baptismal waters renewed with a right Spirit. We welcome our newest sister-in-Him with rejoicing as even are the angels in heaven.

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10) We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffan (Alto, MI), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and their wives join us for the addition of the newest member of our flock. Later in the month, we also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Glenn Riegenbach (Smithville, OH) and his wife. Our Father knows how much we appreciated the visits from these brothers and their wives and we pray that He will bless each of them accordingly.

"And she brought forth her first-born son . . ." (Luke 2:7) On April 25, Jim and Sherry (Bocka) Thompson welcomed James Ray Thompson into the world. Rejoicing with them over their new little bundle of joy are grandparents, Fred and Penny Bocka (Mansfield) and Jim and VeDora Thompson (Lucas). Also rejoicing with them are happy great-grandparents, Bro. Harry and Sis. MaryMae Bocka of our congregation. May Jim and Sherry al-

ways feel God's presence as they guide and nurture this precious gift He has given them.

In peaceful rest we there shall tarry,  
 And live from cares and sufferings free.  
 Embrace these words of hope, ye weary,  
 And to the Saviour's bosom flee!  
 Prepare yourselves, we must move onward;  
 These days of grace must not be squandered!  
 The joyous host awaits us there.  
 My soul, 'tis time for jubilation.  
 Join now in triumph's exultation!  
 Now comes the year of rest so fair!  
 Hymns of Zion #246, vs. 5

On May 19, Sis. Matilda Schauwecker began her eternal year of peaceful rest. She will be joining many loved ones on the other shore including her late husband, Bro. Ted. In addition to many other loved ones, she passes on before her three daughters; Mrs. Jack (Dorothy) Robertson, Mrs. Clair (Donna) Strong, both of Mansfield and Carolyn Roberts of California. May these precious souls always feel God's nearness as they continue on life's pathway.

**MOM AND DAD**

I am the most blessed of all people  
 just because I have you.  
 You've been my constant friends -  
 on my side and always true.  
 But what really means the most  
 is that if I never make it and  
 my life turns bad  
 You would love me just as much  
 . . .  
 you're my treasures - my Mom  
 and Dad.

In this season of Mother's Day and Father's Day, our nation pauses for a day to tell our parents how much we appreciate them. I, too, buy my parents cards and presents to let them know I love and appreciate them. Often as I open my Bible, I am gently reminded to honour my father and mother so that it may be well with me. (Ephesians 6:2-3) Since it is printed in my Bible not only once but ten

different times, I can hear God telling me that this is something to be done more than once a year for only one day. I pray that each of us may speak as gently with our earthly parents as our heavenly Father speaks with us.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$9.00 are due this month. Please pay your reporter.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Marsha Hartzler**  
**Linda Ramsier**

We appreciate ministering Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) teaching us from the Word. May he be richly blessed for his efforts.

Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach welcomed the birth of Alpha Jon April 27. Amos, Joanne, Eric and Matthew are happy for another brother. Also awaiting his arrival were grandparents, Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Those of our loved ones in the hospital recently were Sis. Martha Dotterer (Elder Bro. Henry), Bro. Philip Keiper (Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Dave Emch (Sis. Eileen). May they feel God's hand upholding them.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Dorothy Stavenik (the late Bro. Ben). Sis. Dorothy passed away May 5. She will be missed by her daughter, Sis. Hope Gasser (Bro. Ron); her brother and sister, Robert Kaufman and Sis. Ruth Taylor, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May the dear family of Bro. Carl Gasser (Akron) feel our love and prayers. Bro. Carl went home to be with the Lord May 15.

On May 15, we heard of the engagement of Bro. Mike Atanasov and Sis. Sherri Bako (Akron). Their parents are Nikola and Sofia Atanasov and Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako. May God richly bless them as they prepare for their new life together.

May our graduates feel God's direction and blessings as they prepare for their futures. Those graduating from high school this year are Aaron Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Anthony Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen), Kelly Blough (Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche), Deborah

Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann), Darlene Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Eric Gasser (Jerry and Sis. Ellen), Kelly Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary), Troy Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), Amy Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Melissa Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan), Heather Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), Joseph Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri), Julie Riggenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen), Carrie Smithberger (Barry and Jean), Nathan Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail), Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce), Anthony Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette) and Bro. Darin Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane).

### OHIO, SARDIS

#### Renee Miller

Little Staci Indermuhle (Allen and Janet) was hospitalized for six days with bronchiolitis and dehydration at the end of April. We are thankful she is healthy again.

Bro. Andy Figel (Sis. Cyndi) has recently been employed in our area. We are looking forward to having him back "home", and are excited to have his family assemble with us.

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

#### Edith Miller - Kim Stoller

"We bring our prayer to Thee:  
O Lord, in mercy hear it!  
And now impart to them  
Rich measure of Thy Spirit  
Who now have entered in  
The household of Thy grace;  
Keep them from Satan's yoke,  
Grant them in heaven a place."  
Zion's Harp #42, vs. 7

On May 7 and 8, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sisters Deb and Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) and Bros. Dan Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge), Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith) and Scott Indermuhle (Patti, son of Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet). We are encouraged when we experience a blessed weekend such as this.

Our visiting ministers this

month were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffan (Elgin, IL), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bros. Paul Gasser and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Brill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for their labors.

Sis. Alma Maibach (Tug) was hospitalized this past month but she is now assembling with us again.

We are rejoicing with the angels as another soul, Adam Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn) has chosen to follow the Lord. May he welcome God's Spirit in his life.

High school graduates this year are Krista Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Diane Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Angela Blough (Sis. Janette), Susan Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda), Bryan Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail), Chad Gasser (Ed and Joan), Sheila Hartzler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria), Melissa Johnson (Dick and Ellen), Jennifer Maibach (Bro. Ben and Linda), Ann Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Bro. James Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann), Eric Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith), Andy Moore (Paul and Kathy), Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dot), Storme Saurer (Richard) and Todd Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue). We pray that they will always keep God in their future.

### OHIO, TOLEDO

#### Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." (I Corinthians 11:26) We were privileged to partake of holy communion together when Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) came to share this blessed time with us. May this reminder of Christ's sacrifice stay with us through all our lives.

Sis. Josephine Rehklau was a recent surgical patient. We are thankful that she has felt God's healing hand and is able to assemble with us again.

Nathan Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN) and Tomasine Askins

have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they look to their future together.

### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Mary Berg - Lori Martin

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. We are thankful for each and every one that has taken the time to travel to be with our small congregation. "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." We thank Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) for bringing forth this message. I know I have to think of this verse everyday while I am at work. We always need to remember to be patient with ourselves and others.

On May 4, Bro. Ray Banwart was called to his heavenly home. He was 91. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife, Sis. Margaret. He is survived by three daughters, Idell Higgins, Elizabeth Meyer and Elsie Mae Struwe; and one son, Donald Banwart; Sisters Hilda Topeck and Eytcherson; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-children; and one great-great-grandchild. We will miss Bro. Ray, he had a lot of great stories to tell of his childhood.

### OREGON, SILVERTON

This past month our congregation has had two little additions. Christa Marie was born May 11. Her parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa Kuenzi. Audrey, Tristan and KayLynne love their little sister. Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn were blessed with a baby daughter, Erika Maria, May 15. She has two older brothers, Jonathon and Jordan, to help care for her.

We rejoice with our converts, Andy Angstrom (Nancy) and Jackie and Jodie Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) as they have found peace with our Lord and look forward to erecting a covenant with Him in the waters of baptism.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our dear Sis. Shirley Sinn as she has recently undergone surgery. We are thankful God's heal-

ing hand has allowed her to reassemble with us. May she continue to feel His nearness as she receives post surgery treatments.

Mother's Day is always a special day as we think of all that our dear mothers do and have done for us. Truly God blessed mankind when He created motherhood. On Mother's Day, May 8, we also learned of the betrothal of our Sis. Lucy Kuenzi (Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet) to Bro. Trent Meiss of Iowa City, IA (Ed and Sis. Barb, Eureka, IL). May the Lord be with them as they plan for their marriage.

As June quickly approaches, our thoughts turn to our high school graduates. We wish them the Lord's nearness and blessings as they venture forth into new horizons. Our graduates include Jaimie Bigelow (Susan), Andy Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn), Meridith Branstetter (Mason and Marsha), Adam Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Christopher Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis Marilyn), Mark Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary), Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) and Curt Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen).

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**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA  
Franz Soni**

"When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Isaiah 43:2

God has blessed Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandra Metzger April 23 with their first child, a son, Hunter Eldon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis Doreen Metzger (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz from here.

Bro. Nathan Gasser (Bro. David and Sis. Gail) has graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Computer Science. Sis. Rebekah Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) is our high school graduate. We wish both our graduates God's guidance as they prepare for their future.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE  
Gwen Leuthold**

"Onward, Christian soldiers!  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on  
before.

Christ, the Royal Master, leads  
against the foe;  
Forward into battle, See His  
banners go."

Gospel Hymns #365

Our country will soon celebrate the day so many years ago when the Declaration of Independence was signed, thus permitting our nation to be free from British rule. This eventually led to the writing of the Constitution which allows us to enjoy the many personal freedoms we do today, such as religion and speech. All of this, however, was not without cost in the form of wars and hardships. We, as Christians, also must fight wars each and every day. Our enemy, however, is a much more powerful one than Britain as ours is Satan. As the song mentions, though, Christ is our royal master and leads us against the foe, so that if we keep marching onward, we, too, with Christ's help will be able to win the victory of eternal life and a home in heaven. Let us thank our omnipotent God for the many Freedoms we enjoy today and strive on to take our places to win the battle for Him.

Our church remodelling continues to progress. On Tuesday, April 26, we welcomed a work crew of five from Athens, AL. They were able to nail up most of the drywall in the assembly room and also install a side door which will eventually lead to the dining area. Thanks to all of you for all of your hard labors; may God be your Rich Rewarder now and much more in the time to come. We continue to need assistance in various forms with this remodelling project. Drywall finishers and carpenters are especially needed, but anyone wishing to help would be welcome and should contact one of the numbers listed below. Any prayer and/or financial support would be greatly appreciated as well.

Also, we extend an invitation to

anyone travelling in the Nashville area to come worship with us in our new church building. Services are usually held the first Sunday of the month and sometimes more often during the summer months. July 10 and August 7 are the next two scheduled service weekends. Please call if you plan to be with us on these weekends or any other time you are in the area. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sander (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948, Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

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**TEXAS, DALLAS  
Christine Kaiser  
Kimberly Kaiser**

April and May brought most of us in Texas an abundance of storms. We spent many hours listening to weather reports and severe storm warnings. One of the many area tornadoes hit the town of Desoto, TX, where our congregation meets. Our Holiday Inn was not damaged. The Lord has been with us and given us a peace and comfort through all the turbulence.

Our scheduled church ministers do have conflicts occasionally and cannot come as planned. We are thankful to the many brethren who help us out by trading dates to keep our services going as planned. A very special thank you to Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL) for their Christian labors on such short notice. Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti (Lamar, MO) were also with us for one of our May services. We appreciate their time, love, flexibility.

We have also had an abundance of church visitors recently. Their support, prayers, and fellowship mean so much to us. May God bless you.

A special invitation goes out to anyone traveling in the Dallas area to come and worship with us. Our services are held on 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 Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 or Bro. Greg and Sis.

Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
**Viola Perdelwitz**

Sis. Beth Berry from Rittman, OH, church has accepted employment as a registered nurse in pediatrics at the Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco, TX. She plans to be in this area for three months and make Zapata her church while in Texas. We are happy to have her here and hope she enjoys her stay. Her address is 2828 E. Grimes Road, Skyline on Grimes, Apt. 238, Harlingen, TX.

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## **SILVER THREADS**

### **MOTHER**

It takes a Mother's love to make a house a home

A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam.

It takes a Mother's patience to bring a child up right  
 And her courage and her cheerfulness a dark day bright.

It takes a Mother's thoughtfulness to mend the heart's deep hurts  
 And her skill and her endurance to mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a Mother's kindness to forgive us when we error  
 To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer.

It takes a Mother's wisdom to recognize our needs  
 And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds.

It takes a Mother's endless faith, her confidence and trust  
 To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust.

And that is why in all this world there could not be another.  
 Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a Mother.

### **THE OLD CLAY HOUSE**

When I get through with this old clay house of mine,  
 When no longer, through its windows the beacon lights shine,  
 Just box it up and lay it away  
 With other clay houses of yesterday.

Just study this house; no tears should be shed.  
 It's like any clay house when the tenant has fled.  
 I have lived in this house many days all alone,  
 Just waiting, and, oh, how I long to go home!

Don't misunderstand me; this old world divine,  
 With love, birds, flowers and glorious sunshine  
 Is a wonderful place and a wonderful plan,  
 And a wonderful, wonderful gift to man.

Yet, somehow we feel when the cycle's complete,  
 There are dear ones gone on whom we are anxious to meet.  
 So when I am through with this Old House of Clay,  
 Just box it up tightly and lay it away.

For the Builder has promised when this house is spent  
 To have one furnished with timber I sent  
 Submitted many years ago  
 by Bro. Otto Norr, deceased

### **ARE YOU DRIFTING AWAY?**

Beloved fellow pilgrims all,  
 Who walk this way and heed His call:  
 What's your relationship with God  
 Now that you've some time this Way trod?

Is it still as when first you came,  
 Fell at His feet, worshipped His name?  
 Do you still have that first real love  
 For Jesus Christ our Lord above?

Does yet that love well up inside,  
 An overwhelming surging tide,  
 When other brethren you do meet  
 And in the name of Jesus greet?

Do you yet stand in humble awe  
 Of Christ Whom you in spirit saw,  
 There hanging on that cruel tree  
 Where His blood flowed for you and me?

How do you feel within this fold?  
 Do you church doctrine yet uphold?  
 Do you our under-shepherds trust,  
 Believe that they do what they must?

Is that commitment in your heart  
 To give your all and do your part?  
 To share with those who are in need  
 And be a true Christian in deed?

Or does there seem to be a way  
 That might be shorter, with some sway,  
 That's not so stringent, so precise,  
 But lets each one to his device?

Where there's no need to mind each rule  
 That's in God's Word, for us a tool,  
 But holds in close proximity  
 The world's ways and its vanity.

Do you the midweek service shun,  
 From fellowship and singings run?  
 Are you the first on each Sunday  
 To leave the church and go your way?  
 Do worldly thoughts creep in your mind?

Do you the time to pray not find?  
 Do you the Bible push aside  
 And read what the world does provide?

Do you enjoy to flirt with sin,  
 Allow a little to sneak in?  
 Think that it doesn't matter so  
 If we some little things let go?

Do you search out and try to find  
 Some others who are of like-mind,  
 Who want to seek a broader way  
 And from tradition tend to stray?

Do you feel kind of out of place  
 When other brethren you do face?  
 Do you feel judgment follow you  
 By what you wear and say or do?

Our Master, Ruler; King and Lord  
Will someday to each one accord,  
Depending on the way we trod,  
And if we were at peace with God.

So while we live on earth below  
Within our hearts we each must  
go,  
And ask ourselves today, again,  
Will walking this way Heaven win?

The Word of God, it does not sway,  
Remains the same since dawn of  
day.

It is what will our judgment speak.  
Let's not an easier way seek.

But always there will those souls  
be  
Who stretch God's grace so  
heedlessly,  
The ditches of Life's Way do walk  
Where Satan them does surely  
stalk.

Let's love our Jesus, serve Him  
true,  
Stay close to Him, this we must do.  
Then we'll not wander near the  
edge  
And Satan cannot drive his wedge.

Beloved ones who took the time  
To read the questions in this  
rhyme:  
Let's think about how it will be  
When Jesus face to face we see.

Of thousand questions on That  
Day  
We none will answer, nothing say.  
But, now we live, in grace abound.  
Let's do the best with what we've  
found!

Bro. Bill Schmidgall

### GOD'S TESTIMONIES ARE WONDERFUL

In Genesis the earth is created.  
In Revelation it passes away.  
In Genesis the sun and moon  
appear.  
In Revelation there is no need  
for the sun or moon.  
In Genesis there is a garden; the  
home of man.  
In Revelation there is a city;  
the home of nations.

In Genesis we are introduced to  
Satan.

In Revelation we see his doom.

In Genesis we see the first tear.

In Revelation we read, "God  
shall wipe away all tears."

In Genesis the curse is pronounced.

In Revelation we read, "There  
shall be no more curse."

In Genesis we see our first  
parents are driven from the  
tree of life.

In Revelation, they are  
welcomed back.



Faith grows strong by exercise.  
Use today the little faith you have  
and tomorrow you will have more  
faith.

Blest is he who overcometh  
And doth teach the statutes pure,  
Who resists the fascination  
Of the world which doth allure.  
They shall rule in close relation  
Then with me o're all the nations;  
Who in deeds now faithful are,  
Shall receive the morning star.

Blest is he who overcometh  
And the Lord's rebuke so meek  
Doth receive in true submission,  
When he knocks and entrance  
seeks.

For our heart He is desiring  
To unite with Him. Inspiring  
Us, He shows where He doth reign;  
Great reward the victor's gain.

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### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

"When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:10-12.)

Here He is showing that there is going to be a remnant in all parts of the world of those that do love Him. They are going to come from the east and the west and they are

going to sit down in heaven. But the children of the kingdom of this world shall be cast out into outer darkness and there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Remember the rich man that had a nice home and a nice gate and Lazarus was laid at his gate where the dogs came and licked his sores. Then the rich man was cast into that place of torment. He said, "Could you send for Lazarus, so that he could dip his finger in some water and cool my tongue?"

They said, "Remember, you had the good things in your earthly life, but Lazarus was tormented. Now he is comforted in Abraham's bosom and thou art tormented." (See Luke 16:19-25).

That goes right along with what we read this morning, doesn't it? In Ezekiel it said about those that were a comfort to the poor and helped others. They were not self-centered and thinking just about themselves. That man was blessed of God. Those who live for themselves in this time will have to suffer in eternity.

"And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour," Matthew (6:13)

Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7:7)

If we have faith, the Bible says that we can remove mountains. But we have to have that faith to believe the Lord will do it, and not be doubting.

"And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick." (Matthew 8:14-16)

Here this woman, Peter's mother, was sick; and the Lord healed her. The Lord can heal, if He wants to, today. He can heal our sicknesses. But we should say, "Not my will, but Thy will be done, Lord."

When He touched her hand, it was a beautiful thing, because the fever left her and she arose and ministered unto them. It just shows us that she took care of others. Once she got to feeling better, she wanted to minister unto them.

It says that He cast out devils and spirits with His Word, and He healed all that were sick. (See Matthew 8:16)

There are devils today, aren't there, in this day and time? We think back to when we were a teenager, and see the youth today. We see the rock music and see the things that are devilish. We have seen people where the devils have been cast out of them, and out of our lives.

There was a young man once who got caught up in drugs, alcohol and different things of this life. He was trying to find happiness. He was not from our church, but he came to the point where he didn't know where to go. Those things had messed up his mind. His parents never taught him of Jesus Christ and how you can repent and how you can be born again. He had never heard of the way out.

Are we not thankful, loved ones, that we knew a better way? We knew that if we would humble ourselves, the Lord would be merciful to us. There is more to life than living in this world and time. There is more to life than heaping up riches which cannot bring happiness.

It seems like when we want something and then get it, then we want something else, don't we? The material things of life just don't satisfy, do they?

But if we put our faith and trust in the Lord and possess as though we possess not, then we can be happy.

"And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto Him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." (Matthew 8:21-22) We might think, "Well, that is pretty cruel." A person's own dad and He said, "Do not even go and bury him."

Maybe Jesus could see that deep down, that if that man would have gone back to bury his father, maybe

his family would have come around. Maybe they would have said, "You know, that is a cult you are following. You are getting drawn into that." They might have persuaded him to not follow Jesus.

We have to leave all, don't we?

At one place in the Bible it says that Paul did not confer with flesh and blood. (See Galatians 1:16). He did not talk to his parents about it. He followed the Lord. He took up his cross and left all and left the world. It is not something that we can go and consul with people about. When the Lord calls, we have to come.

"And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him, And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." (Matthew 8:23-26)

It is comforting to know that His disciples had times of doubt and fear, even as we do. Sometimes we worry and we fret, don't we?

We know that the Bible says to cast all our cares upon the Lord, for He careth for us. (See I Peter 5:7). He will provide for us because He provides for the sparrows and He clothes the lilies of the field. We know all that, but we have to apply it.

Have we ever woke up some morning and there was no food in the refrigerator, or the cupboards were empty? No, the Lord has provided for us. The Lord says to us, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" (Matthew 8:26)

"Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" (Matthew 8:26-27)

We do not have that privilege to see the Lord in the flesh, do we, today? He is up in heaven. Back then, there were people that did not believe and there are today.

When Thomas came to Him and doubted and wanted to see the nail

prints in Jesus' hands and the sword that pierced His side, He said to Thomas, "Blessed are your eyes, because ye see, but blessed are their eyes who have not seen and yet have believed." (See John 20:29)

Dear ones, we are among those who have not seen, but yet have believed. So let us continue in that faith when we first saw the light and our burdens were rolled all away, May we continue to look to the cross, that cross of Calvary where Jesus went and walked the lonesome valley by Himself. He suffered and He was tempted in all things, but yet he was faithful.

Then He went and died for us . . . the Just for the unjust. He loved His enemies. He prayed for those who persecuted Him. He was our Perfect Example. May we some day be with Him and live forever and ever.

We should not take our eyes off of Jesus, even as Peter did when he began to walk on the waves. He began to sink when he looked around at the world and the waves. Then he began to sink. But when He looked at the Lord, He could walk again on the water.

Let us keep the Lord in the focus of our life so that we would not become unfruitful or that we would not let the cares of life or the deceitfulness of riches or the things that befall the sons of men be our focus. Like he said about that one man, that he left his household to a steward and when the man was gone, he began to beat the maid-servants and to be drunk with the drunken. Then his Lord came in a moment when he was not ready.

Let us be like those that we could read about in the preceding chapter . . . like the man who built his house upon the solid rock and the rains came and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not. (See Matthew 7:25)

Our house of faith is going to suffer some rain. It is going to suffer some wind and some sun. But if it is built upon the Lord Jesus Christ, it will stand. If we continue in His teachings and strive to be obedient to them, we will hear those words, "Enter in ye blessed of mine."

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## SERMON BY BRO. DEAN A. STEFFEN OF BELVIDERE, IL

**"Faith in God Reaps Blessings"**  
Matthew 8:1-27

We marvel at the Lord's teachings and how His Word was so powerful. He told that one man, that certain scribe that followed Him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20) He was unattached to this world, wasn't He?

For ourselves, we live in homes, and we have things real nice. It is a distraction to us sometimes, isn't it? But here the Lord was not distracted with the things of this world. He spoke the Word of God in truth. He was concerned about the eternal souls of men.

Here in the beginning of the chapter, He came down from the mountains and "there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean, And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." (Matthew 8:2-3)

What did this man, this leper, have that was so important? It was faith, wasn't it, to believe that Jesus could heal Him? Now, He can still heal today -- the lost and sin-sick soul. Jesus was pleased because he had this faith. He said, "if Thou wilt, Thou can cleanse me."

We can look back to the time of our repentance. Maybe even before,

when we were wandering in sin, we always kind of wanted to repent. We would even pray that some day we could repent. Yet, until we came to that time when we just gave up everything and said "Lord, Thou canst make me clean," then the Lord heard our prayer, didn't He?

Jesus said unto him, "See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." (Matthew 8:4) In the old law, the lepers had to go without the city and they could not associate with people because they were a leper. If they were healed, they had to go and show the high priest.

Remember that other time, when Jesus spoke to the ten lepers? They came and He healed them all. He said, "Go and tell the high priest." There was only one that came back to give Him glory. (See Luke 17:11-19). That man was thankful and the Lord loves thankful children.

Even ourselves, we love it when our children are thankful. Maybe Mom makes a good meal or we do something for them, and they say, "Thank you" from their heart. Oftentimes we try to pry it out of them. We try to tell them to thank people for what they do. But when

it comes from their very own heart, that is when it pleases us the most, doesn't it?

That is surely what pleases the Father the most, when with a true and sincere heart, we are thankful.

"When Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed," (Matthew 8:5-8)

Here this man was of a humble heart. He just said, "Speak the Word, Lord. I am not worthy for you to come under my roof." He had to be humbled. We know that pride separates us from God. We have heard it many times.

We know that it is not our human nature to be humble. We want others to think of us to be better than we really are. We know that has been the downfall of this earth, that man has not wanted to humble himself under the almighty hand of God. When we can come to that point, when we see our own wretchedness, then the Lord can work with us.

(Continued on Page 38)