



"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, . . ."
Galatians 5:1

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:32

VOLUME 44

JULY 1994

NUMBER 7

"MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE"

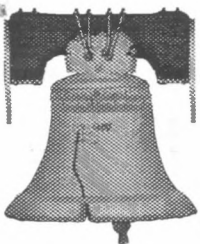
My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty.
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From ev'ry mountain side.
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music sweel the breeze
And gring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break
The sound prolong.

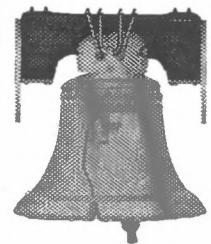
Our fathers' God, to Thee
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

Gospel Hymns #738



"Now the **Lord** is that **Spirit**: and where the **Spirit** of the **Lord** is, there is **liberty**."

II Corinthians 3:17



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

“IS LOVE MEASURABLE?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We were studying the love of God and came upon the verse, “For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.” (John 16:27)

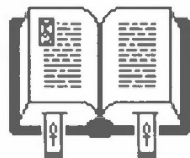
We had been reading verses which indicated that God loves the whole world when we came upon this verse which seems to inform us that God’s love for us is conditional upon our love for, and our faith in, the Lord Jesus Christ. This made me reason that it isn’t that God does not love the unbeliever but that His love for that person increases when he or she becomes a believer. Does that sound reasonable to you?

So far so good but this brings up the concept of measuring love. This is no simple matter. There are no scales for measuring love and besides it is not a tangible commodity which you can get a hold of to put on a scale even if you had such an instrument. What does this mean for us in our daily lives? It means we can no longer be concerned only with whether or not we love God and other people but with how much we love God and

other people. Love is quantitative but only in abstract terms, such as more, or less.

In John 15:13 the Lord Jesus Christ indicated there is a difference in the quantity or greatness of love. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” In Ephesians 5:25, husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,” the exhortation is for husbands to be willing to die for their wives. No one has greater love than that, according to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not enough to love your wife, you need to love her more, and wives need to love their husbands more so that each will be very reasonable with the other.

Our prayer must change from, “God please help us to love everybody,” to “God, please help us to love everybody more.”



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.

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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.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

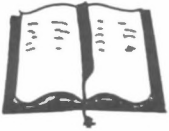
Counselors: Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

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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 - III

This third in a series of articles on the family deals with the major impact of role models and peer influence on children. It also discusses certain key areas in the healthy emotional development of children and the long term consequences of their ability to make proper choices.

Parental influence by example can be either very negative or very positive. The sad account of a particular king of Israel was that he "did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father" (1 Kings 15:26). The evil influence of ungodly fathers was passed on from generation to generation.

Herodias' evil influence on her daughter caused her to ask for the head of John the Baptist in a charger when she was given the opportunity to ask whatsoever she wanted, even to the half of the kingdom (Mark 6:22-28).

On the other hand, the faith of the grandmother (Lois) and the mother (Eunice) of Timothy was so strong that Paul was persuaded that this unfeigned faith was also evident in the life of Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5). It is therefore vital that parents establish a strong relationship with God and that their faith and trust in Him be unwavering. Children need to see from the very beginning of their lives that God is in control and that His influence is evident in the lives of their parents. We simply cannot begin too early to teach our children of the love of God.

Most of the emphasis of the series of articles, "God's Plan for Family Unity" is focused on the parental duty to teach and to train children in the spiritual aspects of life and proper conduct of children. There are, however, other responsibilities of parents that are not totally "spiritual" even though the way we carry out these other duties will have a strong impact on the spiritual lives of our children.

Parents obviously have the duty to provide for the material needs of the family, "...for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (2 Cor. 12:14). Yet we must not

overemphasize the material things of life by laying up treasures on earth and not treasures in heaven. Jesus said, "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). If we place too much emphasis on the pleasures of this life, our children will not develop the proper priorities for their lives.

Parents must also provide for the emotional and social stability that children need. Children must not feel forsaken by their parents. Parents need to spend time with their children, just as Jesus took time for children (Mark 10:13-16). Children must learn that they can depend upon their parents for emotional support and sound advice.

A child's relationship with his parents is usually his first exposure to authority figures. This makes a lasting impression on the child's attitudes toward all forms of authority. If the child experiences inconsistency, unreasonable demands, unnecessary harshness, or lack of praise for worthy accomplishments, he will fail to develop proper trust and may even feel resentment and anger toward his parents and other authorities. The Apostle Paul directed a specific warning to fathers: "Provoke not your children to wrath" (Eph. 6:4). Rather, parents should make sincere effort to establish reasonable, but firm and consistent standards for their children to work toward. They should try to always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), and they should not hesitate to give kind words of encouragement and praise when they are due (1 Cor. 12:26).

Children must be taught that their friends have a strong influence on their lives and they should be careful with whom they associate. The prodigal son would have had a much better life had he not spent time with those who influenced him to do wickedly. The impact that sin has on a person's life may extend far beyond the specific sin itself.

The consequences of sin can last a lifetime, even though the individual repents of the sin and is forgiven. Sin can ruin a

person's health, can bring permanent injury or some other lifelong consequence. God's people would do well to teach this very important fact to their children.

The prodigal son repented of his sin and was forgiven by his father, but after returning, he was more like a servant than a son in certain aspects of life. His father said to the older son, "all that I have is thine" (Luke 15:31). The younger son was forgiven but his earthly inheritance was not restored. Peer pressure is powerful and this influence can last a lifetime. Parental influence, however, is more powerful and can last throughout eternity. Parents need to be ready and willing to combat peer pressure and to give their children a foundation that can help them overcome any negative impact their peers may have on them.

Parents need to control the activities of their young children and exert more influence than their friends. The Lord said of Araham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they will keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment" (Gen. 18:19). As head of the household, fathers should gain the respect of their children through God-given strength, wisdom and tender affection which they convey to their children through unwavering love.

There is a very important lesson for fathers in the parable of the prodigal son. Even though the wayward son was a great disappointment to his father and no doubt caused much suffering, there was an abiding love which endured this difficult trial. Our children should always be assured of our unconditional love, even though they may at times fail very badly. Just as in the case of our beloved Saviour, such love reaches out in a special way to those who seem to deserve it the least. The Lord Jesus spoke of a man leaving ninety and nine sheep to find the one which had gone astray (Matt. 18:12). If we are guided in our parenting by constant awareness of our own desperate need for the Saviour's love, we will bring much comfort and assurance



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

On the 27th of May, 37 members and friends from 15 congregations arrived at the airport in Montego Bay to participate in the seventh World Relief work team in Jamaica. This is another step in our continuing program of assisting a Christian center with facilities to educate and care for deaf children.

All arrived safe and sound, although the same could not be said for their luggage. However, within twelve hours the airlines did deliver, the group had their belongings and they were ready to go to work.

After breakfast the next day, they boarded a van for the two and one-half hour trip to their home base. The accommodations were adequate, including a conference room which allowed them to have quiet time, and provided a place for worship and fellowship. The Jamaican cooks prepared mostly American dishes, mixing in enough Jamaican entrees to provide a flavor of their country.

As is typical of believers working together, singing became a natural part of everything they did. The local folks commented often on the blessing the singing was to them.

Devotions every morning preceded their travel to the work sites in two vans. Upon arrival, before beginning actual labors, a prayer was offered seeking the blessings and protection of God. With only minor scrapes and bruises quickly attended to by the nurses who were a part of the team, these prayers were answered.

The site of the center consists of about 100 acres on which up to 200 homes, several light manufacturing facilities, day care facilities and a church, are part of the projected plan. A big concern is that once the children complete their schooling, there is a place for them to go. Unemployment is very high, families are poor, and they have no place to worship. This forces them to take to the streets, a social problem existing in many third world countries.

During the week they spent at the site,

the group had the opportunity to work on the four buildings currently under construction, each in a different stage. The house most complete is occupied by the on-site project manager and his family. Cleaning and arranging rooms, sanding and painting of doors and walls, grading, forming and pouring a sidewalk, and painting of exterior objects were all part of their work. Most of this was completed with simple tools and methods. The next building had rafters in place on about half of the structure. The team cut and fitted more rafters to complete the roof structure, and began installing soffits and stringers for the metal roofing. Also, much chipping and hammering was

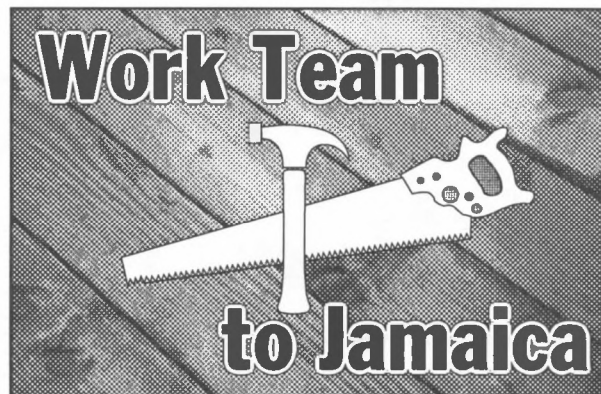
rain during construction. A trench was cleaned out and a water line run to the site. Finally, the tool trailer was left clean and well organized for the next work team.

Tired, but content after each day's work, the group looked forward to cold showers and good meals, plus more singing and fellowship. Each member of the work team could testify of the nearness of their Lord. They were impressed with the evidence they saw that these people in another culture were also recipients of the grace and mercies of our Heavenly Father. Jesus Himself referred to sheep which He had who were not of this fold, and them also He must call.

Two side excursions completed the intense experiences. One was a visit to a small hospital for elderly and severely handicapped poor who often find themselves lonely, rejected and starved for attention. The work team was inspired by the simple faith, and the love of God shown by the fact that they knew scripture and hymns by heart.

The second visit was to one of the schools. Although the latest in materials and techniques was not always present, all was clean and neat. Trades are taught on site, and some graduates find employment at the school. The faculty and administration were clearly committed to their work.

The time spent working together in this labor of love was fulfilling and uplifting. Every experience left an impression which will long linger. Each felt they took something home with them worth much more than they brought in to these dear people.



needed to fit conduit and electrical boxes in the block and concrete walls.

Most of the footings and several of the walls were in place on the third building. The team laid several courses of blocks and poured two bands of concrete around the cistern. Water is collected from the roofs of buildings as ground water is deep and expensive to obtain. Bucket brigades were deployed to get the concrete to where it was needed. Although effective, it was a very labor intensive process.

The fourth site is going to be a large two story dormitory which when complete will initially house work teams. With the footings already dug, our team spent the week cutting, bending, and wiring reinforcement bars for the footings. A shelter was built next to this site for cover from the sun and

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROJECTS
IN THE CARIBBEAN, PLEASE CONTACT:

Roger Sauder, Caribbean Committee
Apostolic Christian World Relief
6261 SW 5th. Street
Plantation, FL 33317
305/584-0947



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

...Go Ye Into all the World



...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ST. MARK 16:15-16

After the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the apostles began in earnest to obey His last words of instruction. In the course of this effort, the Apostolic letters were written, eventually being compiled in the volume we know today as the Bible.

Through the centuries, the faith spread across Europe, and as time passed, serious apostasy and doctrinal error occurred. In reading history, one finds accounts of corruption and practices far removed from original apostolic intent and doctrine. This gave rise to evangelists and reformers resulting in the numerous denominations which exist today, the Apostolic Christian Church among them. In order to understand the present, it often helps to review the past.

Samuel Heinrich Froelich (1803-1857) is known as the founder of the Apostolic Christian Church in America. Born in Switzerland, he was the son of a sexton, descended from a French protestant family. Although trained for the ministry in the Protestant state church, he was awakened to scriptural truth and repentance in a manner far different from the lukewarm state church teachings. The story of his life is quite interesting, as the birth struggle not only of a single soul, but a movement which finally reached those of us living today. Even during his training, he wrote of the

attitude of his heart as follows, *"In the meantime the might of sin and the power of death had grown up hand in hand with unbelief, since it cannot fail that where the head of the old serpent rises, its members also rise, and of necessity stir. I became enwrapped and entangled in such a horror of sin that I shudder now when I think of it, and the saddest of all was that in accordance with my very principles I could pass over it so lightly and so easily quiet and deceive myself, that I could even formally say to myself, That which I am doing is not sin."*

With praise to Almighty God, the time came when this struggling soul came under conviction of the Holy Spirit, and experienced a true conversion, a process which took about eight years. During this time, he entered the ministry of the state church, and was later removed from it because of his doctrine. The breach became total with young Froelich's excommunication from it in 1831. The concept of repentance and conversion, which is the heart of our faith, was strange and foreign to the established church.

He became somewhat of a traveling preacher, and served various groups who were dissatisfied with the state church and had no spiritual leadership. Bro. Froelich had no intention of starting a denomination. In his heart was a burning passion for the purity of the Gospel and bringing it to the lost. Like the apostle Paul hundreds of years before him, he wanted to learn *"how with simplicity and shrewdness the Gospel might best be spread."* What had began as an individual search for truth, because of his tireless efforts, became a movement that spread throughout Central Europe.

As emigration from Europe to America began in great volume, it was inevitable that the faith of our fathers on that continent would take root and develop in this country. It was in 1847 that a group of farmers in upstate New York had written to Froelich's group,

known as "Evangelical Baptists" in Europe, requesting assistance in spiritual matters. Unable to go himself, Bro. Froelich sent a young man recently ordained an elder. His name was Benedict Weyeneth. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Christian Church in America. The story of these pioneers of faith are well documented, and books are available through Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka, IL (309/467-3611). The Mission Committee encourages our people to read and learn more of their heritage, which came about through intense struggles and persecution.

Over the years, the faith spread across the nation, and from small beginnings, flourishing congregations grew. This process is continuing today. One of the purposes of the Mission Committee is to encourage and assist new congregations in this country and around the world. Most of our churches begin with just a few members who move and assemble in homes or hotels for a period of time. Ministers are sent on a rotating basis to help them grow. We must recognize that the world begins at our doorstep. As Jesus said to his disciples, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few..."*

In keeping with the directives in the Scripture, we encourage one another to lives of godliness and holiness, and a sharing of the Gospel with friends and neighbors. Through the years, seeking souls have been brought to repentance, faith in Christ and a hope for eternity, initiated by an invitation from a friend or neighbor to come to church. These souls found an interest by observing the walk of life of those whose faith was shown by their actions.

The final instructions of Christ to His followers, just before He returned to heaven, were sincerely and seriously given. Today, perhaps as never before, believers should take them to heart and put them into practice. We surely wish to be found working for our Lord when He returns to claim His own.



GATEWAY WOODS AUCTION AND SALE

Saturday, August 13, 1994

Timetable of Events

7:30 A.M. Meals
7:30 A.M. Pre-priced Crafts and Bake Sale
8:30 A.M. Gateway Woods Songs and Devotions

8:45 A.M. **Quilt Auction**
Pieced and hand-stitched quilts; baby crib quilts; comforters; afghans; handmade dresses; rag rugs; pillows; and many more quilts in all sizes.

9:30 A.M. **Craft Auction**
Oak country hutch; handmade wooden semi-tractor trailers; gazebo birdfeeder; baskets; oak silverware chest; children's remote controlled semi truck; wooden children's wagon; swing set; assimilated farm play set; marble games; Indy pedal car; and many other items.

10:00 A.M. **China, Art and Antique Auction**
Antique dress and hat; antique pitcher and basin; antique oak hatbox dresser and lamp; Everybody's vacuum cleaner (not electric); tin cans; antique end table; graniteware; oil lamp; primitive tools; country store items; flat-top trunk; R.S. Prussia china; collectible plates; framed cross stitch and artwork; and much more.

12:00 Noon **Specialty Items Auction**
8-sided, 12-foot Gazebo with screens; John Deere LX176 lawn mower with 38" deck; Vietnamese pot-bellied pig (for a pet); one week Fairfield time-share 2-bedroom condo (choose time and between 12 locations); and more.



*All Items Are New Except Our Quality Antiques
MasterCard and Visa are accepted.*

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian Children's Home



P. O. Box 151

Leo, IN 46765

(219) 627-2159

GATEWAY WOODS is located ten miles northeast of Fort Wayne on State Road 1 to Leo, one mile east on Leo-Grabill Road to Klopfenstein Road, then north 1/4 mile. Watch for signs.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Here is an article that was printed in the MCC publication, "Dialogue on Disabilities";

"Don't you send birthday cards to your family?" The question burned in my ears as Miriam and I stood in front of the card display.

When I entered the grocery store earlier, I recognized Miriam, who lives in her own apartment supervised by Friendship Community, an agency serving developmentally disabled adults. Miriam was putting numerous birthday cards into the grocery basket hanging on her arm. We talked about her job at Billy Penn Restaurant where she is celebrating her tenth year anniversary. While we conversed about the Friendship Singers, a group in which she sings, Miriam continued to choose cards to purchase. Thinking that buying that many cards was unusual, I decided to investigate by asking Miriam to whom she sends the cards. That's when she asked me the burning question, "Don't you send birthday cards to your family?" I fumbled for an answer, not wanting to admit that I habitually send cards that arrive two weeks late or use the telephone instead. Looking at the number of cards in her basket I wondered

about the size of Miriam's family. "Don't you send birthday cards to your church family?" I could not respond. Miriam continued, "I want

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

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Bibles Distributed — Eleventh Year

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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
June 1994 —	3096	27,899

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and testaments, 3rd shipment

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testaments, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL — ATHENS, AL URGENT NEED!

We are in need of a teacher here at the Preschool for this coming school year. Please help us spread the word. Anyone with a Child Development, Elementary Education, or related degree who would be interested in using his or her talents to work for the Lord, is encouraged to call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 for more information.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

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

my church family to know that I am thinking and praying for them on their birthdays."

I cringe as I think that I questioned the number of birthday cards Miriam was purchasing because I thought it was not "normal". The Millport Mennonite Church family is fortunate to have Miriam as a member, as I was fortunate to have been one of her pupils at the grocery store that evening.

Alonna Gautsche Sprunger

Good church family relationships are so critical to our spiritual growth. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us . . . "and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more as you see the day approaching." Besides Sunday Bible classes held at the Morton Church, Washington Church and at ACHH, occasionally some folks are able to visit other congregations. A small group of residents from our group homes and several staff had the blessing of traveling to Sabetha, KS, the first weekend in June. Besides making a mini-vacation out of the experience, all the residents participating were able to visit family who live in Kansas. Lakeside Terrace, the group home in Sabetha, hosted a Saturday evening picnic and fellowship for the group. Upon return-

ing to Morton, the entire group expressed thankfulness for the fellowship enjoyed, as well as the safe trip.

In our May article, we announced that the first four residents have moved from ACHH to Linden Estate, our newest 16-person group home. By August Linden should be filled to capacity, transitions to Oakwood Estate should be completed and several new residents will be admitted to ACHH. We appreciate your prayers as these resident and staff changes occur. We remember that unless the Lord builds the house it will not stand.

August birthdays at ACHH are: Dan McDonough (2); Eric Ringwald (4); Susie Landis and Peggy Full (5); Martha Clymer (6); Nancy Eschmann (12); Shirley Pfeifer (23); and Barbara Perkins (30). There are no August birthdays at our other facilities.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Reinhard

The summer heat is here, but the children are enjoying the time and keeping cool with lessons and some small wading pools. We are also enjoying the summer theme of "Creation." Each week as we discuss what the Lord God created on a certain day, we are made more aware of His almighty plan. What

a wonderful Creator we have made evident by His creation.

We still need volunteers for this summer. It is not too late to come. If you can give of your time and talents and would be willing to do so, please call Sis. Joan Reinhard at (205) 233-0591.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Kevin and Brenda Feichter

"Glory ye in His name: Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength."

Psalm 105:3-4

School has ended and a busy but exciting summer has begun. It is wonderful to know we can have joy and strength from the Lord in all situations. We are very grateful to Morton Young Group, who donated a large amount of money they had raised in a Pork Chop Supper, to help support our summer vacations. East House took a four-day vacation to Chicago, IL, where they visited Lincoln Park Zoo, Shedd Aquarium/Oceanarium, and Six Flags. New House went to Lexington, KY, touring Mammoth Caves, Cumberland Falls, and a Corvette Plant. They later went to a cottage on Lake Wawasee for a few days, donated by Ken Kipfer. West House was able to go to St. Louis, MO, for a six-day trip enjoying the Arch and various fun-filled parks.

Summer brings a variety of daily activities. Mornings usually start with work duties, summer school or tutoring, Independent Living Courses or swimming lessons. Sis. Tonya Wieland has started working as summer program coordinator, and Bro. Rob Honegger is volunteering his services for the summer. Tonya and Rob have begun a woodworking job opportunity for the older children on campus making Adirondack chairs that will be sold at the Auction and locally. They also, along with Bro. Chad Plattner, organize afternoon activities for the children including swimming, crafts, museum outings and service projects at our local retire-

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT OPENING

Child Care Supervisor at Gateway Woods

We have an opening for a key leadership position at Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home. The Child Care Supervisor's responsibilities include supervision and support of all Houseparents, recruiting and training child care staff, supervision of maintenance and resident intake coordination. This critical member of the management team must have experience with children and supervisory ability. Salary is commensurate with training and experience and benefits are excellent.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information job description and application process.

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

ment community and church. We have had a good number of volunteers help also. Those who have given their services are Sisters Grace Nenandov, Anita Wilkerson, Kara Leman, Cherise Knobloch, Cami Isch, Kim Meister, Jodi Knobloch and Kristy Stoller, as well as Bros. Kevin Plattner, Phillip Kellenberger and Bob Zimmerman. We are grateful for all the hands that help make summer go a little more smoothly.

Summer can also bring a transition of children. Doug B. from New House is leaving us to return home to Peoria, IL. Doug is now a convert and our prayers are with him and his family. We welcome Mike M. to New House and Aaron J. to the West House. We pray for smooth transitions for these young men as they adjust to different households.

The Auction committee is meeting in preparation for our 18th annual Children's Home Auction and Sale scheduled for August 13. There is a tremendous amount of love-filled labor that goes into all the quilts and other sale items donated to Gateway Woods Auction. We look forward to sharing an exciting week before the sale and on sale day. May God bless all those who are already preparing for this rewarding day. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you here!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

In the past month, we have experienced the joy of a new birth, in the Athens congregation. Eric and Retta Knobloch are getting to know their newborn daughter, Adrian Christine, born June 10. We are all thankful for a healthy baby girl. Adrian's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen (Bloomington, IL).

We have also experienced the loss of a very special person to the Athens congregation, Izora (Granny) Cooley. "Granny" was a granny, not only to her own grandchildren, but also to anyone in need of a grandmother. We will miss her,

but rejoice that she can go to her heavenly home.

We hope, as you all plan your summer vacations, that you will include Athens as a place of worship on Wednesday evenings or on Sunday.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"... Behold, a sower went forth to sow: ... Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 13:3 and 9

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 13. The word "vacation" sounds relaxed, yet the same respectful love for our Saviour is maintained and observed. His love flows freely, hand crafts and singing make for a happy time, a Bible lesson and the youngsters have had a great evening.

Our visiting ministers for Bible School were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). We are indeed grateful to all who served our dear Lord in this event. Each duty was equally important in our Master's eyes. God bless you.

We also appreciated Bro. Don Miller's (Minneapolis, MN) visit this month as our guest minister.

Welcome back, Bro. Duane Gudeman. Bro. Duane flew back to LaCrosse, IN, for baptism July 12. The tie of Christian love makes us a happy family. May God bless you.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi welcome grandson, Wyatt Christopher Frautschi (Chris) born May 2.

Psalms 117 gave strength to all of us when we learned of Bro. Jerry Emch's (Sis. Cathy) bicycle accident June 5. His merciful kindness is great toward us. Praise the Great Physician for earthly doctors who worked on Bro. Jerry repairing and reconstructing his face. At this time (mid-June) Bro. Jerry is up and about; thankful to be looking forward to a full recovery.

We are never closer to God, than in our time of need. "O, how we give thanks unto the Lord!"

We have God's promises to never

have more than we can bear. Thus, knowing Bro. Earl Sanders desires to go to his heavenly reward, we could give thanks to the Lord.

On June 13, at 8:20 a.m., our dear Bro. Earl Sanders passed away to his eternal home. He leaves dear wife, Sis. Emma; son, Bro. Bill (Sis. Sue); grandchildren, Jason, Jonathan and Mindy. A daughter, Linda, preceded him in death. Several nieces and nephews, and other relatives in Arizona and Kansas survive. Visitation was at Mercer Mortuary. Funeral services were held at the church Saturday, June 18. Internment was at our church cemetery, Resthaven. May the Lord comfort his family and others as one of our church pillars is laid to rest.

We need prayers for Sis. Vera Jivan, who (mid-June) went to her sister's (Sis. Sophie Huber) home. Sisters Verna Peuschel (Ray) and Lindy Knochel (Alan) were in the hospital.

Our sympathy to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine Beyer on the death of a sister-in-law, Lydia Fankhauser (Clarence). They were in Kansas and attended the funeral.

Also, our sympathy to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Katherine Laukhuf on his sister's death, Sis. Marie Stoller (Latty, OH).

Ann Kieser (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) will get a real look at life in the Philippine Islands before returning home for college. May God be your constant companion, Ann, as you get another perspective of just how much others need the Lord.

Bring your love to share in God's house, don't come empty handed.

We are enjoying summer visitors from several Midwest states.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We recently were privileged to take part in a week of Vacation Bible School with our Sunday school children. There was a class for adults, along with the children's classes, so everyone was given an opportunity to come and learn. It was a blessed and busy week.

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and his wife, Sis. Shirley, were with us for Sunday services recently. We would like to thank them for their visit. We enjoyed having them here and being able to fellowship with them.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Carol Graf

Our visiting minister last month was Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ). He was here with his wife, Sis. Joan.

This past month, Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Many of their relatives from other states were here to celebrate with them.

In June, Theresa Luginbuhl graduated from junior high. Our thoughts are with her as she enters a new school next year.

We were happy to have the junior high and high school Sunday school classes and their teachers from Wolcott, IN, here for a long weekend. It's a blessing to be able to fellowship with others of our faith and to have the students get to know each other while they are still young.

Reminder: August is the month for Altadena to renew Silver Lining subscriptions.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

We were richly blessed and want to thank all who came recently to help us work on our new church which is being built. There were three groups who came, Tucson, AZ, Phoenix, AZ and Altadena, CA. May God richly bless all of you. We appreciate your help so much.

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We want to thank them for their labors of love. Also, thanks to all the visitors. Come back soon.

Due to my being late, April's report did not get in. I wanted to mention our special evening of hearing the reading of the memorandum and following this meeting, we held communion which was and always is so special. Elder Bro.

Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) served us holy communion. Thank you for your labors of love. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Kirk Koffman (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Lajosh Erdlyi from (Seged, Hungary). Thank you all for coming and God bless you.

We recently said goodbye to Sis. Elizabeth Erdlyi from Seged, Hungary. She has been enjoyed by all and we invite her to come back soon.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Peter Petrovic and his family on the loss of his father. May God grant comfort to them.

COLORADO, DENVER
Jamie Grant

"Change requires the passing of one second." Isn't that the truth? The Word tells us in I Corinthians 15:52 that, "In a twinkling of an eye at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

It is true that change is inevitable, even until the last second of this world, as we know it, expires. Anymore, "change" seems to be such a negative word to mention. It seems as though the world has never known the value of consistency. As believers, we recognize that change is not always bad. We rejoice when a soul has a changed heart that leads to repentance. We see change when one graduates academically. We see change when one feels that they should accept a new position at work. We see change when God directs two single lives to become one in Him. The difference is that change determined or allowed by God is for stimulating spiritual growth and allows good for those that love Him. This past month our little church has faced many changes. We trust that God has been the innovating force, and that He will continue to see us through every placement in life.

Bro. Tom, Sis. Diane Ebert and family have felt God's direction to move their business to Phoenix, AZ. We will surely miss them!

A graduation meant great excitement for our Sis. Kristi

Kellenberger (Bro. Denny and Sis. Shirley, Lester, IA) as she received her degree from C.S.U. We are happy for her, but also sad to see the time come for her to return to her home in Lester to finish her internships. God be with you Kristi!

Bro. Joe and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin have also felt God's direction to move to Roanoke, IL, be closer to their families. Their "Colorado family" will miss them also.

We are ever so glad to see Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Pfloderer (Sarasota, FL) migrate back to their summer home here in Colorado. It was a big boost to our spirits as we've been saddened to see so many of our brothers and sisters moving.

We also are rejoicing with Deborah Braun (Sis. Sharon) as she has found peace with God and man. In the last fourteen months we have seen evidence of the Holy Spirit that is alive and working! Also, we congratulate Deb as she has graduated from high school.

Sis. Jenny Schmidgall was involved in an automobile accident. We are thankful that the angels were watching over her and that her injuries were minor.

Bro. Mark Kiefer was put in as trustee, Bro. Chris Johnson as World Relief treasurer and Bro. Doug Hohulin as Sunday school teacher. All positions previously had been held by Bro. Joe Hohulin, before his move to Illinois.

Another encouraging change was the blessing of having two visiting ministers on one Sunday! We enjoyed hearing from Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). Thank you so much dear brothers for giving of yourselves for others!

Yes . . . , it certainly has been a month of change here in Colorado, but one thing remains the same . . . , "For I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6)

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

June 9 was a joyous day for Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler, with the birth of a daughter, Chelsea Rose. Her sister, Amanda, welcomes her. Her grandparents are

Sis. Maxine Bahler and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Behling.

We also have reason to rejoice over Paul Hany starting on his walk with the Lord. We wish him the Lord's grace and blessings.

Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bro. Willard Schieler were visiting in our congregation this past month. We wish them God's blessings in their labors for the Lord.

Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) was put into the ministry May 21. We wish him and his family much grace and blessings to continue on in this important work.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Luginbuhl as she recovers from hip surgery.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Summer has arrived. We hope many of you have planned a visit to the Nation's Capital as part of your vacation. Our weather is hot and humid. Yesterday we broke a record with 99°, but it was at least 30° cooler in the room where we meet for services.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Shawn Metzger and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). We appreciate the efforts of these brothers and their families to come to minister to us. Other visitors were from Philadelphia, PA, Lester, IA, and Smithville and Rittman, OH.

We welcome Brad Meyer and Bro. Barry Steffen to our congregation. Both are doing internships in the area this summer.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Many from the area gather in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often gather for fellowship or singing on Saturday evenings and for a tape the other Sundays, so please let us

know if you will be in the area. Some Sundays we also continue our fellowship at one of the local parks or in someone's home.

For more information, assistance of just to let us know you will be in the area, please contact Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Billie Klopfenstein**

Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Jill Sutter were blessed May 19 with a precious son, Jesse Robert. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Sutter and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanie Kaufman. Bro. Harry Sutter is also a delighted first-time great-grandfather.

Sis. Joyce Banwart has traveled to Saratoga, WY, where she resides during the summer months. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ann Klaus also departed to spend June and July in Eureka, IL.

Our congregation was fortunate to have Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton) and family spend some time in Fort Lauderdale. His messages were certainly appreciated.

On June 4, Fort Myers Sunday school hosted a "Day at the Park." Our children and parents turned out in good number and all enjoyed the fellowship. Thank you, Fort Myers.

The annual elections were held June 12. The results are: trustee - Roger Sauder, Sunday school teachers - Aaron Webb and Dawn Sauder, hospitality - Faye Hohulin, sound system - Seth Sauder, usher, Peter Green and Doug Sauder will serve as Sunday school superintendent for the coming year. Thanks to each person who served in some capacity in the past year. Everyone appreciates the effort put forth.

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

On June 4, North Fort Myers Sunday school invited Sarasota and Fort Lauderdale Sunday schools for an afternoon potluck in the park. We met in a park in Naples, and had a nice-sized group of 33. We thank those that were willing to

travel and spend the day in Christian fellowship. Although the weatherman and the skies threatened rain much of the day, prayers were answered, and the Lord did provide.

On June 5, our church was privileged to witness the testimony and baptism of our newest dear sister-in-Christ. We welcome Sis. Marie Blough (Paul) into our fellowship and pray that we will always be good brothers and sisters to her. We also had communion that same day giving us a blessed weekend that we will treasure.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." (I Corinthians 11:24-25) We thank Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sarasota, FL) for traveling to assist our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein in ministering and serving the Lord's Supper. We enjoyed a supper later that day at the church. We thank those that traveled to spend the day with us that came from other churches.

Our church has been enjoying our meal out together after church once a month. We do this through the summer.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Jeff and Gloria Fischer**

When my family moved down to Sarasota in 1977, we no doubt were all greeted first by a solid, energetic Christian man. This man was instrumental in the construction and the addition to our church building. He was a spiritual pillar supporting our body with good, solid advice. He was a stabilizing member to the church in its infancy. We will all miss Bro. Fred Knapp who has received his eternal reward. It will be nice to greet him again in heaven. The church extends its hand in sympathy and prayerful support to his dear wife, Sis. Elizabeth.

Our monthly church potluck also served as a wedding shower for

Kelly Price and Scott Barr. We had the opportunity to meet his two sisters. We look forward to "adopting" Scott into our church family. May God bless them as they marry June 18.

An additional church potluck was held to honor another special couple for their golden wedding anniversary. Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach were married fifty years ago on June 25 in Morton, IL, by Elder Bro. Carl Rassi. The Maibachs have been instrumental in the development and the leadership of our congregation. May God's rich blessings be upon them.

With joy we are happy to announce that two souls have turned their hearts to the Lord. Rachel Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) and Lea Andra Schnell (Regina and Bill Schnell) are seeking the Lord through repentance. As classmates they can stand firm together and resist Satan's fiery darts. Our prayers are upon them as they will be seniors next school year.

We celebrate with our graduates their accomplishments. Bro. Matthew Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) and Nathan Sabo (Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda) graduated from high school. Both have answered God's calling. We have confidence that their lives will be blessed as they have sought God first. Bro. Jeff Fischer graduated from the college of engineering.

Bro. Ernest Koehlert moved into Hillview, a nursing home, from the hospital. He is doing well and enjoys company. Still hospitalized this month is Harold Spyker. He has been hospitalized now for ten weeks. It is expected that he will be hospitalized for six more weeks. He is the father of Sis. Linda Sabo. The family appreciates the prayerful support.

Sis. Viola Leman wishes to express her gratitude for the farewell gifts that she received prior to her move to Peoria. The quilt provides her comfort in her cooler climate. Her new address is 7023 Skyline Drive, Room 124, Peoria, IL 61614, (309) 689-0233.

We extend a warm welcome to Kenneth Buser who recently moved here from Rockville, CT. He is the

son of Bro. Ernest and Lucy Buser. Kenneth found employment quickly in electronics. Our church in Sarasota needs a few more men like Kenneth.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

In May, our congregation was shown the slide presentation of the work and goals World Relief is accomplishing. What struck me most was the help we have given to those in the Eastern European countries. It wasn't too long ago, the Romanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and other European brothers had to hide at houses and secret hideouts just to spend time together, to worship God, and to study the Word. Now those governments have given back churches and allowed these brothers to build new churches for their congregations. It is amazing how God has worked and blessed these people to allow them to worship freely again.

Of course this is July as you are reading this article, and we have just honored July 4th, celebrating the birth of our country and the freedoms that were established. It is ironic though as we have the freedom to worship together without harassment, and speak without arrest, that not only we take this freedom for granted, we may be losing some freedoms and abusing others. As disciples of Christ, we mourn (Matthew 5:4) the chaos and loss of moral fiber that is witnessed as we walk in life. We can all name different atrocities that we have seen take place in this country the last few years (breakdown of the family, abortion, divorce, drugs and the list goes on). There has been many stories how our European brothers have prayed for us, because they have an understanding that freedom has great responsibility to keep that freedom. They realize that before their freedom the battle lines and those they struggled against was black and white. The struggles in our country sometimes are not as black and white at first, sneaking on us until they have some foothold before we realized what has happened.

As we remember the birth of

our country this July 4th, we need to remember the freedoms we still have, and the responsibility that comes with them. This may include helping those who are hurt, standing firm on our convictions, calling sin, sin, and being a light to those who do not know Christ. But also it takes prayer and love. Praying for our government that may not see eye to eye with us, praying for our leaders who may seem a bit tainted, loving those we may try to stay away from loving our enemies who only wants us to see our demise, and praying and seeking God to give us the grace and strength to attempt to love and pray. I am thankful for the blessings God has poured out, and I pray that I have wisdom and faith to keep what only God has given me.

We have been blessed with many visitors that have stopped through or visited our area which include Eureka, Princeville, Cissna Park, Fairbury, Forrest and Bloomington, IL, and Bay City, MI. We appreciate also the visiting ministers who came by, Bro. Jim Ramsier (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Erik Givens and Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA).

If you are driving through, or just in the Atlanta area, please stop in to visit. Services start at 10:20 with singing and the worship service at 10:30. We are located at the Renaissance Hotel, which is on Riverdale and I-85, just south of Atlanta Hartsfield Airport. Please call either Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Bro. Mark Gerst (404-339-4454) or Bro. John Brewer (404-502-8629).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

Greetings dear ones! We are so thankful for our visitors and for the dear brothers who willingly preach God's Word to us. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). May God richly

bless our elders, deacons and ministers for all they do for us.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3) On May 17, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sarah Steffen became the parents of their first child, Trenton Ward. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest, IL). How precious these little bundles from heaven are.

We appreciate the exhortations brought to us by Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and Bro. Ron Schambach as they brought to us the conclusions of the conference. May we all strive to be more faithful. We also held elections that evening and Bro. Brian Anliker will replace Bro. Jim Jepson in the senior Bible class. Bro. Art Mueller will replace Bro. Dirk Steffen in the junior Bible class. Sis. Carlene Jepson will replace Sis. Marlene Mueller in the pre-k to first grade class. Bro. Aaron Steffen will replace Bro. Brian Anliker as trustee. We sure appreciate all those who have served us in teaching our children and caring for the church building. May God encourage those newly elected and give them much grace. May God bless each one.

We have one college graduate. Ryan Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) earned a four-year degree from Carroll College. May God lead and direct Ryan.

We wish to welcome Sis. Loise Knecht, formerly of our Chicago church. She has moved to Rockford and will assemble with us in Belvidere now. We are thankful to have her in our church family. Her address is: 3655 N. Alpine Rd., Room B215, Rockford, IL. We hope Sis. Loise will feel at home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Deb Steffen as she was in the hospital. We wish her God's healing.

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner
It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. Our congregation honored our high school graduates at a senior break-

fast May 15. These graduates include Valerie Davis (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Kathy), Julie Gudeman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan), Brett Heiniger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen), Angie Ifft (Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy), Chad Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda), Bro. Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ann), Ronald Kieser (Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura) and Danielle Stoller (Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol). A delicious breakfast was served at church followed by a program prepared by their Bible class teachers. This consisted of a brief summary of each graduate's accomplishments and immediate plans for the future. In a subsequent message these young people were urged to remember their Lord as they seek out their occupations and make plans for the future. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) We pray these graduates will not focus on the wisdom the world has to offer. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (I Corinthians 3:19) "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (I Corinthians 1:27) Instead, we pray our graduates will first seek out God's wisdom as they would a hidden treasure and realize this wisdom is priceless and an absolute prerequisite for a fulfilled life. "If thou seekest her (wisdom) as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:4-6)

Our monthly hymn sing May 15 featured the Mortonaires and we were blessed as the Lord's name was lifted up in song and praise.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) joined us June 5 for the afternoon service and his message gave us much to consider. During the week of Vacation Bible School (June 6-10) the adult Bible

class was privileged to hear messages from Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). The Holy Spirit spoke through each of these brothers as they each presented a separate parable spoken by our Lord Jesus.

The theme of VBS was "Are You Ready to Take a Stand for Jesus?" and the teaching to the adult Bible class focused on the principles of seeking His love, savoring the seeds of His Word, lending a hand to those who are in need, utilizing the talents He has entrusted to us, and looking expectantly for His return. Not only were we challenged by our visiting ministers' messages, but we received special blessing from the following singing groups - Heart to Heart, Young Men's Group-Bloomington, New Life, and the Morton Trio. The Sunday school children's lessons revolved around the theme of "Living in the Son Produces Good Fruit" and in response to this theme, a nice collection was taken up for our local Home Sweet Home Mission. Through the many hours of preparation and effort by the teachers, craft helpers, story tellers and song leaders, the children received wonderful teaching and produced some lovely crafts. We pray the "seeds" that were planted during this week will yield a lifetime of "good fruit".

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden illness and death of our dear Sis. Shirley Aberle Monday, June 13. She died within a week's time of learning she had a terminal illness which gave family and friends little time to cope with the news. However, we are thankful that Sis. Shirley did not have to suffer any more physically. We are, above all, thankful that she had our Lord's promise of eternal life and that we have the assurance she is now with Him. She is preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Aberle, and is survived by three sons, Merle, J.C. and Duane, as well as two daughters, Sharon Noe and Janeen Kilpatrick. Our sympathy goes out to all of Sis. Shirley's family and friends. Her

presence will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Praise the Lord! He is still calling souls out of this world of sin and darkness. Darwin Stahl has answered the Lord's call. He is the son of Sis. Charlotte Stahl. Our prayers are with Darwin as he makes this change in his life and with those who still need to give their hearts to the Lord.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

Animals of the Bible was the theme for Vacation Bible School this year. Each evening a different animal was featured as well as a Christ-like character quality that we could learn from each animal. One evening the children learned about donkeys, and how they were used in Bible times to carry the burdens of others. The Bible directs us to do the same in Galatians 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We thank all who helped teach and pray that the seeds of truth will bear much fruit in the lives of the children.

We rejoice at the birth of two new little ones in our congregation. Jarod Michael was welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy Schieler and big sister, Abbey. Jarod's grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss (Elgin, IL).

Bro. Thane and Sis. Heidi Hanson were also blessed with a new baby boy, Daniel Wayne. His grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen Gerst (Oakville, IA)

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia Endress, who hope to make Champaign congregation their home church. We pray they will experience God's nearness and provision as they establish a new home.

Hospitalizations this month included Bro. Melvin Walder, Ed Scott and Carl Moser. We pray that

each of them will have a complete recovery.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington). We thank each of them for their messages of inspiration and encouragement.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

It was truly a difficult day. No one was terribly nasty to me, but no matter what happened, I cried. Whether I looked at the past, the present, or the future, tears spouted and my heart heaved. I listened to a wonderful Bible study tape on "Joy," and felt inadequate. I spent special time with others and with my husband. Still I felt watery. When we finally reached our destination for the night, I went upstairs to the bathroom – and there on a little girl's bedroom door was a sign: "God already made my day." Finally, I let go. Of course. No matter how I felt the day had been in God's hands and the next day and the next would be perfect in His sight. I was struggling with submission – again. And there at my bedside was this reminder, which I have learned but seem to need to relearn periodically. "I find that it is not the circumstances in which we are placed, but the spirit in which we meet them, that constitutes our comfort; and that this may be undisturbed, if we seek for and cherish a feeling of quiet submission, whatever may be the privations allotted us." (Elizabeth T. King) Truly I am exhorted, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all the rest shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) This is not only the plan for my lifetime; I need to live it day by day!

We were appreciative of several brothers' visits even if they were sometimes short. Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) spent themselves in the Spirit for us. Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) joined us Saturday, June 4, when the children's choir and adult choir sang, especially hoping that all

would "Find Us Faithful" and see us as "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) was with us for a look at our European churches Friday evening, June 17. We pray these brothers may feel blessed in their offerings. We welcome visitors always, for any occasion.

Let my try summer visitors, those working and interning in our area for a brief time, again. I owe apologies to Bonnie Wieland (Bay City, MI), working at Sherwin Williams out by Munster, IN; but we are happy to see her among us. Others who will almost have returned home by the time one can read this in print are Sis. Mindy Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Keith Knepp (Champaign, IL). They are involved in separate programs related to their respective careers. Bro. Keith also has his wife, Sis. Michelle, and their children with him. We wish them all profitable summers, particularly in the spiritual realm, and offer them our love and support.

A nephew of mine was in a 5 kilometer (5K) race. He wasn't sure that he would be able to finish it. And then when he saw the steep hill ahead as he reached the 4.5K mark, he was very apprehensive. Nevertheless, he persevered and successfully completed the race, step by step. Is not life that way? Even near the end, there are hills that seem insurmountable. Always we need the Lord by our side, and, as one 94-year-old told a minister who sought to pray for her, we must "pray for courage."

When one close to us dies, we lose a part of ourselves, but may feel more drawn to heaven to see them again. We extend our love and sympathy to George Foxe and his wife, Velda, on the death of his mother. We also are prayerful for Sis. Martie Grivet and Bro. John Schrenk (and Sis. Pauline) on the death of their brother, Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI). May we support them in our love and prayers as they adjust to their losses, leaning on the arms of the "Gentle Healer."

There are times I have prayed about parking spaces. Yet I believe an elder brother has a better idea.

He often chooses to park a goodly distance from his purpose and prays on the way, as he walks towards the entrance, for those who are handicapped and particularly need those close spaces. Too often I only pray for "the strangers I have met," whom I know and love, forgetting Christ died for each one in the whole world. My prayers must be unceasing. Even with my relatives and church family and students, I forget to hold all of them up to the Lord at times. May I take every opportunity to commune with the Lord about His own - and that includes everyone.

I saw a certain young man unexpectedly in Wednesday night church. Seeing him squeezed my heart so tightly. How much I long to know him in the Lord! Please, Lord, keep calling, calling.

"Though all this world be fleeting,
True love will still abide,
And when our journey's ending,
Lord, lead us to Thy side."

Zion's Harp #137, vs. 3

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Cyndee Anderson
Anna Marie Reutter

The high school graduates from our congregation are Michael Kaufman, Elizabeth Laubscher, Christina Martin, Amber Walder, Amy Walder and Bro. Nathan Young. We wish each one God's guidance as they go on to schools of higher learning or into the work place.

Visiting elder brethren since our last report have been Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Sarasota, FL) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Others who ministered to us have been Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). We appreciate each one and marvel at the way God inspires and uses those who He has called into His service. They need our prayers every day.

On May 29, our little Sunday school students, along with their teacher brought a ray of sunshine to the residents of Heartland Health Care in Paxton, IL, by pre-

senting to each one a fruit plate, flowers and singing to them. The first Sunday in June, the annual Youth Fellowship Day was held at the Bone Center in Normal, IL. The combined Bible classes of all our Illinois churches, plus Taylor and St. Louis, MO, and Oakville, IA, enjoyed a day of learning, singing, and fellowship. At 3:00 p.m. they presented a program to the public. We certainly appreciate our teachers who give of themselves for the sake of our youth. Two weeks of Vacation Bible School has just ended. Our young people have a great privilege to learn what God says in His Word. With us for the evening Bible classes were ministering brethren Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Ed Fritz (Washington), Ted Witzig (Morton) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign). The students were very attentive to these interesting and timely presentations. We are so thankful to those who came to take part in any way.

We reach out in sympathy to Sis. Kate Young and her family over the loss of her mother, Caroline Slagel (Fairbury). Bro. Fred Knapp, formerly of our congregation, and Sarasota, FL, but recently of Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, passed on to his reward May 29. Our sympathy is extended to his helpmate, Sis. Elizabeth, to his children, Richard and Roger Knapp, Aldine Locher and Sis. Eva Jean Schafer, as well as his sister, Sis. Verna Lehman. Bro. Fred will be remembered as a steadfast, faithful pillar of our church.

On May 28, John Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) and Tresa Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol) were united in marriage in Fairbury. Couples planning marriages at this time are Doug Drayer (Bill and Judy) to Stephanie Heller (Glenn and Dianne, Batavia, IL) and Abigail Winger (Gordon and Aldine) to Bud Petry (Gary and Sandy, Council Bluff, IA). They will be at home in Davenport, IA, after their September 3 wedding. May the Lord direct the paths of our young couples as they take this step in life.

Hospitalized for treatment were Sis. Naomi Knapp and Sis. Lisa

Kaufmann (Bro. Wes). Those who underwent surgery and have felt God's healing are Sisters Elsie Bauer (Bro. Elmer), Sylvia Knapp (Bro. Lynn) and Patti Marti (Bro. Les).

On May 26, Mark and Sherri Sauder, along with Nicholas and Joshua, welcomed their third son and brother, Derek Alan. Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine are grandparents, also Mr. and Mrs. Bush (Watseka). Scott and Debbie Beer welcomed a daughter, Melissa Nicole. She has a brother Jeff and a sister, Christina. Grandmothers are Sis. Twylla Beer and Ruth Kessler.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder have moved into an apartment at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. Bro. Phil is one of our retired ministers who labored many years in our congregation. We wish them God's nearness in their declining years. We will miss them in our assembly.

Since our last writing, we have commemorated Memorial Day, the 50th year of D-Day, Father's Day, and soon Independence Day. The battle of freedom still rages. In Micah 6:8 we read "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God."

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Beth Steffen - Sue Wiegand

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, . . ." (Ecclesiastes 12:1) We are thankful Brian Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) has chosen to walk in God's ways. May God be near and grant him grace.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3) Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein were blessed with the arrival of Dale Joseph. Henry, Reuben, Amber and Joel are his brothers and sister. Also welcoming him are grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka).

"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife. (Ephesians 5:31) On Father's Day, June 19, Bro. Jay Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Melinda Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy,

Eureka) were united in marriage. We welcome Sis. Melinda to our congregation.

May God's healing hand be on Sis. Millie Schieber (Bro. Carl) and Sis. Emma Schieber.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

On Saturday evening, May 21, we, as God's children, assembled to hear the elder meeting conclusions, delivered through the memorandum. What a blest reassurance that "God is yet among us" as was so evident through the loving and timely exhortations shared with us by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN), our Elder Bro. Nathan and ordained deacon Bro. Ron. God has been so good to us, in providing solemn instruction through the humble servants which have been sanctified in the leadership of our beloved faith. We trust God will bless them for their faithfulness and may each of us daily find the grace to daily "pick-up" our cross and "obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)

Also serving us in the ministry this month was Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We each are often charged to be not only a hearer, but more importantly, a doer of the Word: in the process, let us remember to "... diminish not a word." (Jeremiah 26:2)

We prayerfully support Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bro. Keith) and Bro. Gerry Wonnemberg (Sis. Gail), who were elected to teach our Sunday school youth. Our thanks to Sis. Jeanne Schambach (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie) for their consistent example and faithful service throughout the past years.

"Behold the Lord's hand is not

shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

Isaiah 59:1

Many, and continued prayers have been offered for those recently afflicted within our congregation; Dillon and Taylor Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie), Andy Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Rose Eurich and Sis. Ada Mae Schrock (Bro. Mel). While some are now prayers of gratitude for God's healing touch, others are pleas for His sufficient grace to accept whatever each future day may hold.

We have two sets of thankful and rejoicing grandparents in our midst. Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock have a new granddaughter, Hannah Heidi Larsen, born June 1. Grant, Heidi and big brother, Ryan, as well as paternal grandparents, Gordon and Corinne Larsen (Arlington Heights, IL) are also anxious to care for her. Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger welcomed little Alexis Renee Smithberg into their hearts and family June 10. First-time parents, Roger and Mary Kay (Las Vegas, NV), as well as Grandma Barb Smithberg are also thankful for her safe arrival. May God bless these parents and grandparents with the wisdom from above to raise their little blessings in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Grant Schrock (Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae) and Jan Ogden (Jerry and Jody, Elgin) have announced their plans for a September 1995 wedding. May God's presence and blessing be a part of their lives, as they plan for their future together.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The 23rd Psalm seemed especially fitting as Elder Bro. Bob Walder read it to us to begin the wedding service of Bro. Jay Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois, Congerville) and Sis. Melinda Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy). Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda have felt the leading of that shep-

herd to join their lives together. The Knecht family also had need of the shepherd as a comforter the same weekend as the wedding (June 19). "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." Sis Sandy's father, Morris Mooberry passed away June 16. We sympathize with Sis. Sandy and Bro. Ervin, their family, and Morris's wife, Opal. May the shepherd comfort them in their loss.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne Schumacher are the happy parents of Seth Tristan, their first child born May 19. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. Larry and Sis. Rebecca Endress (Bradford). Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki Wiegand are thankful for their second little girl. Julie Ann was born May 27. Julie is welcomed by her sister, Katie, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht.

Feeling God's Spirit leading them together, Bro. Eric Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Tami Martin (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta) announced their engagement June 5. May God be their source of guidance as they plan their wedding in the coming months.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Elizabeth Knapp in the loss of her husband, Bro. Fred. Bro. Fred died May 29 and his funeral was in Cissna Park.

We appreciate those who have ministered to us in recent weeks, Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville).

"I want to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts that were sent to me on my 90th birthday. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and love shone toward me."

Sis. Evalina Sinn

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that remembered me on my 70th birthday. God bless each one of you."

Bro. Richard Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.

Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 1

On June 19, we witnessed the joining in holy matrimony of Bro. Rick Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Sis. Kim Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley). Ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Kenneth Weerts and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park) shared the joyful day with us.

As they go forth upon life's way
Sustain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey
And live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 3

We rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Sis. Joy Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) to Bro. Jason Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene) May 29. As God has led them together, so may they look to Him as they plan their August 21 wedding.

Other visiting ministers who labored among us were: Bros. Jim Byrd and Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Earl Gerber (Forrest) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We wish them a rich blessing. We also wish to thank Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), Ted Witzig (Morton) and Kenneth Weens (Cissna Park) who came to share with our Bible class during Vacation Bible School June 6-10.

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

Proverbs 17:6

Two little bundles have come to bless families in our congregation. Abigail Louise was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth Rinkenberger. Brianna, 2, is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park). Bro. Warren and Sis. Louise Hartman of our congregation are great-grandparents.

Troy and Annette Hale are thankful for their first child, Jenna Marie. She was born June 6. Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell are her grandparents.

My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
My allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or late.

Tarry not, it will not wait!

Zion's Harp #253, vs. 1

Often we do not comprehend how swiftly our lifetimes are fleeting by, day after day, until the Lord calls someone close to us out of this life.

We extend sympathy to the family of Caroline Slagel, 77, including Ron and Sis. June, Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys and Al and Mary Beth of our congregation. She passed away May 21.

Also we sympathize with Shirley Zimmerman whose father, Arthur Bowald (Roanoke), 81, passed away June 2. May God comfort and strengthen both of these families in their time of sorrow.

"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

Leona Goodart was the only hospital patient reported this month.

The following was shared with me recently and I thought it worthwhile to pass along . . .

THOUGHTS FROM A BLOOD DONOR'S CHAIR

I gave my blood
Christ gave His
I gave a pint
He gave all
The needle is small, sharp
The nails were large, dull
The chair is soft, relaxing
The cross was rough, painful
The nurses kind, gentle
The soldiers cruel, mean
The crowd applauds my sacrifice
"They that passed by reviled Him"
Mine is for O positive
His was for positively all
Mine, at best, will prolong a life

for a while
His, without doubt, can save all,
forever

ILLINOIS, FORREST Marlene Walter - Mary Bachtold

Sharing the Word of Life with us this past month were Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL). Also lending themselves on our Bible class students' behalf during Vacation Bible School were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Rick Plattner (Peoria), Dale Stoller (Fairbury) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville). May God richly bless these brothers for their willingness to teach. Our prayer is that we will apply these teachings to our daily walk of life.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie Koehl have been blessed with a new baby girl, Zoe Christine. She is a sister to Jolyn and Stephen. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl.

Sis. Lydia Sohn has spent time in the hospital this past month. May she feel God's nearness as she continues to regain her strength.

We sympathize with Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid and Ron and Vicki Schaffer and their families in the death of their grandfather, Guy Gee, and with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and family in the loss of his grandmother, Sis. Bertha Bauman (Rittman, OH). We pray that these loved ones will feel God's comforting Spirit.

We are looking forward to our annual Sunday school picnic planned for June 26, Lord willing. It is always a blessing to spend an evening of fellowship with our youth.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Ours is a life of faith. We have been taught that faith is "believing without seeing;" or, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith could also be described as the following letters show:

Focusing
All
Interests
Toward
Heaven

In the context of building up our most precious faith our week-long Vacation Bible School theme was "The Heart of Man." Auxiliary to this was the question, "God's Temple Or The Devil's Workshop?"

Five visiting speakers came to address various aspects of this general theme: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest); and Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont), John Zeller (Morton) and Erik Givens (Princeville). It was a blessed week and a "thirst for righteousness" was evident. One older brother commented, "It was a precious time."

Bro. Clark Stoller was instated into the ministry Wednesday evening, June 8. He is the 20th local minister to serve here since the church's founding in 1870. His wife is Sis. Cindy (Hodel) Stoller, and they have two children, Katrina, 11, and Leah, 10. Bro. Clark is the son of Sis. Lucille Stoller, and the late Bro. Clarence. We wish Bro. Clark much grace and understanding as he meditates on God's Word from the pulpit in the years ahead, God willing.

Our dear Bro. Kenneth Meiss, 75, passed away June 1 after a lengthy terminal illness. His last months were spent at an El Paso nursing home where he was very weak and sick, but uncomplaining.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sis. Ethel. They were blessed with 53 years of wedded life. Two sons survive also, Jerry (Bloomington) and Jimmy (Chicago); five brothers, Ed (Eureka), Charles (Lexington) and Bros. Earl (Morton) and Elmer and Floyd (Gridley); and three sisters, Carolyn Aeschleman (Roanoke) and Sisters Alyce and Viola (Gridley).

Bro. Kenneth Meiss will be remembered for his wide and sincere smile, and his gentle disposition. He was on the quiet side, but his warmth and smiling face reflected the love and gentleness that was in his heart.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice

Wettstein became the parents of their first child, a boy, June 7. He was named Derek Michael. We rejoice with them in their happiness. Grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman (Fairbury) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein (Gridley).

Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Pete Meiss and Sisters Emily Stoller and Norma Butikofer.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

Sis. Marie Moser was called home and her funeral was held May 21. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Ben; her son, Bro. Bob; her daughters, Sis. Virginia Hoerr, Sis. Betty Moser and Sis. Doris Kuntz; her brothers, Bro. Ezra Rumbold, Sam Rumbold and Bro. Paul Rumbold; her sister, Sis. Irene Farney; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and her many other friends and relatives.

Joy and sorrow mingle for the family and friends of Bro. Paul Joos. The Lord was merciful and Bro. Paul was able to repent and be baptized (in his home) while he endured failing health. He was called into all eternity June 14. May God comfort the hearts of his wife, Sis. Margaret; his son, Bro. Robert; his daughters, Patricia Poertner and Rebecca Winter; his brothers, Bro. John, Bro. William, George and Sam; his sisters, Sis. Frieda Joos, Emma Ackerman and Louise Winemiller; and his grandchildren.

Vacation Bible School was held June 6 - 10. The theme for Adult Vacation Bible School was Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. We would like to thank the visiting brothers who helped make this week so beneficial. They were Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We share the joy of Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy Stoller as they welcome a precious baby daughter into their hearts and home. Her name is Jessa Elizabeth and she was born June 8. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Feucht

and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barbara Stoller, all who attend church at Morton.

The families of John Hohulin, Sis. Marie Moser and Bro. Paul Joos all made special requests that their thanks be expressed for love and care shown during their loved one's illness and death. Visits, cards, meals, prayers and other expressions of caring and support were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless all who respond to the needs of one another.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Peoria held Vacation Bible School June 13 through the 20th. Bible school was centered around a western theme this year. Students were enthusiastically welcomed to the Triple A Ranch, which stood for Awesome Ambassadors for the Almighty. Each night included singing, storytelling, lessons and crafts. The week was a blessing and we thank each one who helped in the planning and participated each night.

A baby boy, Wyatt Christopher, was welcomed by Chris and Jamie Frautschi May 2. Wyatt joins Erin, Shana, Abby and Stevie. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi (Phoenix, AZ).

Brian and Terri Kaisner (Austin, TX) are first-time parents to a baby boy, Bradley Leon, born June 15. The happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner and Ron and Sis. Janet Blumenhine, both of Peoria.

A note of thanks: I want to acknowledge with grateful thanks the many kindnesses shown to me while I was confined in the hospital. May the dear Lord abundantly reward you.

Vera Irions

Ministers who visited Peoria recently were Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). We thank each one for lending himself in God's service.

Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with Bro. Robert Beyer, Bro. Leland Swadley and Bro. Floren Stoller, who have been hospitalized this past month.

We were saddened by the recent death of Bro. Joe Hoerr, a beloved father and grandfather. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Wilma, and her family.

And we extend our condolences to the families of Sis. Katherine Schmidtgall and Bro. Sol Hartman, who have gone on to their reward. They were both residents at the home. They will be lovingly remembered.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). May God bless them and their families for this labor of love.

On May 22, the annual senior breakfast was held in honor of the high school graduates, which each received a Bible. May they treasure and use this precious Book of Life. May God direct the paths of each graduate.

On June 5, Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter opened their heart and home to our dear people from the handicapped home. May God richly bless them for this labor of love.

As we celebrate Independence Day, may we thank God for the many years of freedom and blessings we have enjoyed in this our nation. Let us especially be thankful that the Lord has allowed us to worship Him freely in a world where many have not been able to do. Let us not forget to pray for our government.

Sis. Crystal Streitmatter was given the teaching duty in Sunday school for our young children. May she plant the good seed in those young tender hearts. We thank Sis. Mary Martin (Bro. Sam) for her term and may God bless all who work with our youth.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 13-17. We thank the ministers who took their time to speak on the special topic's, Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) on "New Age Movement," Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield) on "Waiting on the Lord" and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton) on "Fitting into God's Plan." May the Lord bless these dear brothers.

We wish to express sincere sympathy to Sharon DeWolfe (Marvin) in the passing of her dear mother. May the Lord be near at this time of sorrow.

We pray for Bro. Floren Stoller (Sis. Dorothy) who has been in the hospital. May God be near him and all who are suffering the afflictions of the body.

Our prayers and thoughts are with our dear elder brethren as they meet in August for the annual conference. May they feel God's nearness and guidance and may we always be willing to support and heed their conclusions. May we offer a special prayer for a safe trip upon the highway or however they travel.

It's nice to be important - but it's more important to be nice.

Thank You:

Dear beloved brothers, sisters and friends: We want to thank each one of you who remembered us with prayers, cards, food, visits and memorials at the passing of our dear mother. May God bless all of you.

The family of Sis. Anna Rumbold

NEVER HE DISCOURAGED

There is really nothing we need know

or even try to understand

If we refuse to be discouraged and trust God's guiding hand . . .

So take heart and meet each minute

with faith in God's great love,

Aware that every day of life is controlled by God above . . .

And never dread tomorrow

or what the future brings,

Just pray for strength and courage\

and trust God in all things . . .

And never grow discouraged be patient and just wait,

For "God never comes too early,
and He never comes too late!"

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 6 through the 10th. We were privileged this year to attend evening sessions while our children assembled downstairs. We were blessed and encouraged as the visiting ministers shared their time in bringing God's message to us. We thank Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington), Ted Witzig (Morton) and Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). May God bless these brothers, along with our other visiting ministers, Bros. John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) for their unselfish service to our great God and to the brotherhood.

Norm and Jan Rechkemmer are thrilled with their new and first grandchild. Abigail Rhea was born May 28 to Troy and Jennifer Eckman. Jim and Marva Eckman are the other happy grandparents. May God bless this family and grant the parents the wisdom and guidance in this responsibility.

Six big brothers welcome a new little sister into their home. Matthew, Mark, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb and Benjamin welcome Lydia Kay into the family. The grateful parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg. Lydia was born June 3. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Ron and Janette Lindberg. May God Bless them and keep them all in the hollow of His hand.

June 12 was the wedding day for our Bro. Brian Moser and Sis. Beth Gerber. Parents of the couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Crista Moser and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber, all of Roanoke.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Beth were married on her parents' 45th wedding anniversary. May God bless this new Christian home.

We rejoice with the angels as Joan Leman (Russ) gives her heart

and life to the Lord. It gives us new zeal and encouragement as we can see the waters stirred and souls still answering His call.

FAITH AND DOUBT

Doubt sees the obstacles,
Faith sees the way;
Doubt sees the blackest night,
Faith sees the day;
Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high;
Doubt questions, "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I!"

Author Unknown

Our sympathy and love are extended in the passing of two dear souls this past month. Bro. Art Bowald and Lewis Martin. Both souls passed from this life into eternity June 2. Our prayers are with the families of these loved ones: Bro. Art is survived by his wife, Sis. Mabel; four daughters, Shirley Zimmerman (Fairbury), Sharon Remmert (East Peoria), Bonnie Beenders (Minonk) and Sharlene Donaldson (Roanoke); two sons, Bros. Duane and Don (both of Peoria); one sister, Sis. Doris Bowald and one brother, Bro. Earl, both of Roanoke. Lewis is survived by his wife, Ruth; one son, Lewis Jr. (Roanoke); five daughters, Sandra McGee (Bloomington), Diane Bailey (Cape Coral, FL), Karen Rogers (Mooresville, IN), Joan Hendren (Chamby, IN) and Jane Kiddy (Normal); one sister, Sis. Dorothy Sauder (Roanoke); and four brothers, Wayne (Winter Springs, FL), John and Eugene (both of Bloomington) and Robert (Roanoke). May God be near and bless these families and fill the void they feel.

Card of Thanks: May God bless all of those who remembered me during my hospital stay and since returning home and recuperating from surgery. I was overwhelmed by the love shown through cards, gifts, prayers and food. May God be your rich Rewarder.

Sis. Marge Luginbuhl

Card of Thanks: Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the beautiful cards, gifts of love, and good wishes, and the efforts of all who made our 50th wedding anniversary such a memorable event.

May God bless each one. In Christian Love,

Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna Roth

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Barb Kaeb

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3) Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner rejoice in the birth of their first child, Victoria Rose, born May 30. Thankful and happy grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner. Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner were blessed with another girl, Lena Beth, born May 31. Heather and Emily welcome her home as do thankful grandparents, Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner. John and Misty Sauder were blessed with the birth of their first child, Willow Rose, born June 19. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and Jim and Shirley Green.

We thank visiting ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. We are always thankful for brothers who are willing to minister to us.

Those spending time in the hospital have been Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Carol), Sis. Rose Knapp and Sis. Charlotte Steiner (Bro. Dan). Our thoughts and prayers are with these loved ones.

Jennifer Beutel and Nathan Fuller have announced their engagement. She is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel. His parents are David and Jackie Fuller (Tremont). An April wedding is planned. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Ruth Endress in the recent loss of her brother, Theodor Bernhardt (Germany).

On May 20, Sis. Doris Staker passed away. She is missed by her husband, Bro. Weldon; and children, Daniel, Dennis, Sue Ann Ratten, Sis. Linda and Joy. May they feel God's comforting Spirit.

It's the time of year when many

of our young people are graduating from school. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to them all. Our high school graduates are Sis. Luci Koch, Sis. Kimberly Sauder, Marcia Beutel, Lisa Elgers, Michael Holmes, Taira Hopkins, Greg Huette, Tom Koch, Joe Mooney, Michael Rassi, Carol Sauder, Carrie Sauder, Todd Sauder, Cindy Schaefer, Marc Schweigert and Heather Stuber. Our eighth grade graduates are Tiffany Barnard, Anne Beutel, Dawna Frank, Kelly Koch, Lisa Koch, Jeff Pflederer, Stephanie Pflederer, Adam Reinbeck, Jeff Sauder, Jenny Sauder, Jolynn Schmidgall, Amber Stuber and Jodi Wagenbach.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, visits, calls, flowers and food. It was all greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Sis. Charlotte and
Bro. Dan Steiner

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Destination shapes attitude. Remember when the whole family would climb into the car and head for grandma and grandpa's house? Yes, the anticipation of it was great, for you knew there were two great people waiting for you to arrive, and that they loved you. Of course, we cannot forget grandma's good cooking!

In the Christian life on earth, destination also shapes attitude. The Bible has given us the ending of our life story, and the ending is a happy one. At the end of our earthly journey, after all the bumps and scrapes and disappointments, is Christ. He has lived for us, died for us and He is waiting for us. Christ death and resurrection paid the price for all of our sins. If we believe this, we are aware of our destination. We have set our hearts on things that are above. With such a destination, we approach life with confidence and with the love we know in Christ. We find the following true: Where there is faith, there is also love and hope.

"We give thanks . . . For the

hope is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."

Colossians 1:3-5

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest
frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus Name.

Chorus:

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand."

"The Solid Rock"

Hymns of Zion #99

We were once again blessed with a number of guest ministers. We are so thankful for those who are willing to lend themselves unto the Spirit. Those ministers were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria), Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley).

Hospitalized was Sis. Betty Schumacher. She is now home and doing well. Sis. Elizabeth (Putt) Herbst fell and sustained many bruises. She is recuperating at home. We think about those who have suffered misfortune and illness. We pray for continued help from our Lord and Savior to make their burdens lighter.

Benjamin David Schick, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan (Hoerr) Schick, was born June 9. He was welcomed home by brothers, Billy, Ryan, Tyler and John and sister, Katie. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Sis. Dolly Schick. We are thankful for a safe delivery and look forward to getting to know Benjamin.

Sis. Sonia Feucht became the wife of Bro. Brandon Endress June 5. Sonia has been attending the Washington church so the wedding was held here. Brandon's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy Endress. Sonia's parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Feucht (Lester, IA). We wish the new couple God's richest blessings and pray they have a long and happy life together.

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10. The children seemed to

thoroughly enjoy the week. Many projects and Bible learning activities were done. We want to thank all who contributed to making this week a success. It is so important to teach our children when they are young.

The Bible class breakfast was held May 15 at Bro. Carl Wyss'. In this day and age the teenagers are so vulnerable to peer pressure. We pray that through Bible class they can know the truth and know how to accept God as their Guide and their Savior.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

" . . . Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart . . ."

We had a blessed weekend June 4 and 5, when we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Tim and Sis. Teresa Claghorn, and Bro. Corey Gerber (Bro. Butch and Sis. Susie). We also rejoice to hear that Nichol Reinhard (Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg) has turned her heart over to the Lord. We wish these souls God's abundant grace to remain steadfast in the faith.

We rejoice with Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr in the birth of their son, Samuel Evans, June 19. He is welcomed home by Sarah, Jesse, Hannah, Lydia and Esther. His grandparents are Sis. Pat Kaehr and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carolyne Isch.

Our Sis. Katie Maller went to be with the Lord May 26. She is survived by her children, Bro. Eugene, Sis. Marjorie Ringger and Dale Maller. On June 11, Sis. Ida Isch passed away. She was the sister of Bro. Henry, William, Ruben and Sis. Lillian Isch.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Romans 8:35, 37

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Ramon Steffen (Sis. Lorena), Harold Baumgartner

(Ann), Sis. Alice Schaefer (Bro. Ken), Bro. Ed Schwartz Sr. (Sis. Josephine), Luke Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne), Bro. Wilmer Steffen (Sis. Ida) and Sis. Ella Yergler. We wish God's protection and healing power for each of them.

We ask God's blessings on Sis. Jami Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Chad Gerber (Bro. Butch and Sis. Susie) who have announced their engagement. And also to two couples who have recently joined their lives in marriage. They are Laura Miner (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev) and Todd Sprunger (Mark and Sherrill) who were wed June 11 and Robin Sutter (Bro. Robert and Sis. Jan) and Harry F. Anderson (Harry F. III and Ruth) who were married June 18.

We want to thank Bro. Dave Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for lending themselves in preaching the Word of God.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Kay Steffen - Susan Harris

We spent a wonderful two weeks in Bible School, with our theme of "Stand Up For Jesus." In the days in which we are living, it is more important than ever that we as Christians stand up for Jesus as more and more people in the world seem to turn away and forsake Him. At our evening program, all of our hearts were touched as 450 students sang "Stand Up For Jesus" from their hearts.

We were thrilled to hear that six souls have chosen to leave their past life behind and "Stand up for Jesus". These dear souls are Rob Cupp (Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie), Lindsay Fiechter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee), Nichol Reinhard (Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg), Jaila Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Karen), Amy Lantz (Bro. Junior and Sis. Charlene) and Michelle Evans. May we be prayerful that God's grace will be with them and direct them as they begin this new walk.

We extend our sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Shirley Carrico went to be with the Lord June 1. She is

survived by her husband, Pat; a son, Bro. Bill; three daughters, Lisa Carrico, Mrs. Steve (Marissa) Whitesel, Mrs. Jeff (Teresa) Radabaugh; and five grandchildren.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Ida Gerber as her dear husband, Ray Gerber, was laid to rest June 18. Bro. Ray is also survived by two brothers, Bro. David Gerber and Bro. Obed Gerber; a sister, Sis. Ida Aschliman; and Bro. Carroll Gerber, who was raised by Bro. Ray and was always there for him as he went through life in his joys and struggles.

We were saddened by the tragic passing of Bro. Oscar Schaefer. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Agnes; five daughters, Mrs. Duane (Sis. Betsy) Gerber, Mrs. Max (Peggy) Mygrant, Mrs. Jon (Nilah) Aschliman, Mrs. Larry (Mavis) Madden, Mrs. Gary (Janet) Her-ring; and one son, William Schaefer. A brother, Kenneth Schaefer; a sister, Mrs. Alice Burkhart; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren also survive.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Earl Frauhiger. We pray that God will be his Comforter.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

As we near the end of June, we, at Francesville, are preparing for Vacation Bible School. This year we will be focusing on End Times Events and the Rapture of the Church. What joy the believer has as he knows that soon the Master will be returning. But what sadness He feels as He sees so many still neglecting such great a salvation. The lost need us to be prayerful and to walk as Jesus walked so they can clearly see the path in which to follow. The soon and coming King is worthy of anything we may do or say. Let's daily seek His grace and favor and be looking up . . . "for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 23:28)

We extend a special thank you to Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for so lovingly and joyfully sharing the Good News of God's grace with us this past month. We trust that God's blessings will be upon him and his family.

We had ten young people who graduated this year. We trust that they will remember the many teachings from home and from church and will follow Jesus Who can lead them on their journey here and ultimately into eternity. The graduates are: Sis. Janelle Anliker, Kevin Erb, Anthony Gutwein, Kevin Gutwein, Sis. Heather Gutwein, Sis. Marie Gutwein, Bro. Jason Huber, Bro. David Metz, Deana Overmeyer and Melinda Vogt.

Sis. Mildred Clauss has undergone surgery recently. Let's remember to pray for a speedy recovery for Sis. Millie and that she again can enjoy the simple things that God gives us day by day. We trust that God's nearness and hand is upon her and her husband, Bro. Bob.

In recent months we have had several young converts take those first steps of faith. They need our prayers and encouragement as they build upon the foundation of repentance and faith in the One who gave His all for them.

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich has a note of thanks to share.

In all humbleness and thankfulness I wish to thank my beloved family for remembering me on my birthday with telephone calls, cards, gifts and those that surprised me in my home. A special thanks to Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser and Bro. Brad and Sis. Barbara Neihouser. God bless you all. Humbly,

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle Melissa Baumgartner

Greetings! Our congregation was blessed June 4 and 5 as a group from Francesville came down Saturday evening for a singing. On Sunday, we were thankful to have Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville) share the Word with us. Following afternoon services, we gathered at a nursing home and sang to the aged. We then fellowshiped at a restaurant and said farewell from there. The weekend was a blessing for all who participated as we were able to encourage others and be

encouraged ourselves in the Lord.

Our Bible School was held June 13 -17. The young people learned about Paul and his faith in the One True God. May Paul's faith be a reminder to us all to serve the One True God in our daily lives.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

Some grandmas ride in
limousines -
Wear fancy clothes and lots of
rings.
My Grandma's better yet by far,
Because she has a cookie jar.

These words were in the kitchen of our dear Sis. Lena Hitz and were included in her funeral service at the request of one of her granddaughters. We will miss Lena's presence and sense of humor, as we miss her recently departed husband, Ben. We extend our sympathy to her family: Carol Ailes (LaCrosse), Nila Curry (Argos, IN), Allen Hitz (Monticello, IN) and Roger Hitz (Greenwood, IN), and also to their respective families.

We are happy that Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn) is recovering very well after arm surgery. Our prayers are with Bro. Ralph Levy (Sis. Carolyn), who just had surgery last week, and with Bro. Edward Frank (Sis. Lea) and Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art), who both face surgery this week. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;" (Psalm 103:2-3) There is none so blessed as he who has turned to the Lord, for only He can heal the mind, body, and spirit. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Proverbs 17:22)

Congratulations are due to this year's graduates: Bro. Ned Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie), Bro. Lucas Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. JoAn) and Bro. Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy), all graduated from high school and plan to begin attending college this fall. They will continue to be in our prayers as they move away from home to study in very different en-

vironments. Congratulations also to Christine Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) who has just graduated from college and is now entering the "work force."

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of three dear souls this month. A very warm welcome is extended to our "new" brothers- and sister-in-faith: Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary), Tim Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Michelle Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie). One of the testimonies told of a particularly long and difficult struggle, and truly proved the power of prayer. I am reminded of the hymn, "Sometime We'll Understand" (Gospel Hymns #533). If we are to be instruments of God's peace, we occasionally have to go through difficult times - sometimes to learn lessons, and sometimes to teach them. Once in a while we need to go through a little "training" so that we can help others through similar situations.

We are very happy that Lana Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) and Julie Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) have answered the call of the Lord and have begun their repentance.

Thanks are in order for the ministering brothers who came to help during our Vacation Bible School: Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). Their messages were appreciated by young and old alike. Thanks also to the brothers who came for the weekend of the baptisms: Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), retired Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber (Eureka, IL), and ministering Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN).

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; . . . Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment,

with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14

INDIANA, LEO Judy Gehring

It was so good to see Sis. Minerva Stoller, wife of Bro. Eugene, back in church after having surgery. Many thoughts and prayers went up for her and others who recently have been hospitalized.

Sis. Velma Bollier, wife of Bro. Jack) had a pacemaker put in. She's back home and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Elaine Pfister, daughter of Bob and Sis. Janice, had a close call. She had a ruptured appendix and the doctor didn't know what was wrong. They delivered her son, Maxwell, and both remained in intensive care for several days. Maxwell went home with grandma and grandpa and Elaine is progressing more each day. Isn't it wonderful how God knows all and can handle everything?

Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Lydiann spent Father's Day with us. What a blessing to have visiting ministers.

Our Vacation Bible School was this past week. The program was last evening. It was on the Fruit of the Spirit. Opening prayer was by Bro. Kevin Fiechter, the children sang their songs, the closing comments and prayer was by our ordained deacon, Bro. John Stoller. May the children remember the words to the songs about the Fruit of the Spirit. Sis. Jenny Sauder was in charge and Sis. Rachel Fessenden was her assistant.

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman was here for the wedding of Bro. Ben Masten and Sis. Rachael Kellenberger. May God richly bless their union.

The two sons, Bro. Dennis and Bro. Lynn and the five grandchildren of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pearl Klopfenstein of the Leo congregation helped them celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary June 27, with a family dinner at Halls Factory, a restaurant in Fort Wayne.

Sis. Pearl was born and raised in Wolcott, IN. She is the daughter

of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Bertha Keller who lived in Wolcott for many years. Bro. Lloyd was the son of Bro. Joseph and Sis. Mary (Rupp) Klopfenstein of Grabill.

Bro. Paul and Sis. LeAnne Fischer welcomed a new daughter, Talitha Joy, to their home and their children enjoy their new sister. We all wish Bro. Paul and Sis. LeAnne the Lord's blessings in teaching and raising their children in the knowledge of the Lord.

INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Judy Longcor

Warm Christian greetings to all.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Sam) in the passing of her grandmother, Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed, Bluffton North) and Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Robt. Roecker (Morton, IL). He has been quite ill with cancer. We are thankful his victory is won. Also, Bro. Bob Hoerr (Sis. Marguerite) had a cousin, Bro. Rudy Hoerr, who passed away at the Peoria Apostolic Home. May God comfort each of these families with a perfect peace.

We are thankful that Bob Vice (Jeanette) has returned home from Goshen Hospital where he has been a patient for a ruptured hernia; Bob was quite ill through this. May he feel God restoring his strength each day.

"Christ's Return Is Near . . . Don't Miss It For The World", was our theme for Vacation Bible School. Each night was such a blessing for each of us. May we get right with God, so we don't get left. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). May God bless them for giving of their time on our behalf.

Also, ministering God's Word to us this past month was Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). May we remember in our prayers to thank God for these brothers who have been called to minister Thy Word, and then for grace to support them wholeheartedly.

A reminder to Milford congregation, Silver Lining dues will be collected in August.

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve . . ."

Joshua 24:15

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini

"Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments."

Psalms 112:1

We praise the Lord that He is still calling souls and granting grace unto repentance. Dale and Andrea Schneider have recently answered that wonderful call. Dale is Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta's son.

Elder Bro. Curtis Frank favored us with a lesson on "More Holiness" May 25. Sorry, Bro. Curt, we were unable to be present so I am unable to make comment. However, I can say we welcome your visits anytime.

We had Vacation Bible School June 6-10 with Wolcott participating. Our theme was "Which Way Are You Looking?"

On Monday evening, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) spoke to the Bible class on "Looking Backward." He substituted for Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), who was unable to come because of his father's illness.

Tuesday evening, Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) had for his topic "Looking Inward." The topic for Wednesday was "Looking Outward." Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis) was our speaker. "Looking Forward" was Bro. John Stoller's (Leo, IN) assignment on Thursday evening. The final evening, Friday, was presented by Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), who led all to be "Looking Upward." All of the brothers were God's good messengers, whereby we received many rich blessings. We thank all of you brothers for your services. May God bless each of you.

For a closing thought: No one would ever have crossed the ocean

if he could have gotten off the ship in a storm. (Anon.)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

We are thankful that the Lord has provided visiting ministers to bring His Word to us. Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer all shared many good teachings and encouragements. Special thanks to these faithful brothers.

Sunday school elections were held this past month, and two new teachers will begin their responsibilities in the fall. Bro. Scott Schafer will be teaching the Bible class, and Sis. Gigi Schafer will teach the nursery-age students. They covet the prayers of the congregation as they look forward to the exciting challenges of the next two years.

We have two graduating seniors at South Bend this year. They are Craig Langhofer, son of Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla, and David Beebe, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue. It has been such a pleasure to watch these "boys" grow into young men. They will always have a special place in our hearts, and we wish them God's blessings as they look forward to the future.

June 13-17 was our children's Vacation Bible School. The theme this year was John 14:6, Jesus saith "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." The adults who participated, as well as the children, had a blessed week. The puppets, songs and lessons all encouraged the children to seek and follow after Jesus - the only way to a meaningful, happy life.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In Jesus Christ's precious name we greet you all. For because of Him, we have the hope of eternal life. Because of Him, there is light at the end of the tunnel and He will help us to get there. Isn't it great to know that the victory has been won by Christ! Let's remember that as we sometimes struggle

along life's way, we too will be victorious if we are faithful.

We just recently had the memorandum presented to us by Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We thank our great God for these and all of our church shepherds. Just think how our church would be without Godly men willing to be our leaders. There would no doubt be mass confusion and we know who is the leader of that. Brothers, may God continue to bless you all spiritually and watch over you and your families as we know you are on the road much.

We rejoice with Brady Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane) as he feels at peace with God and plans to give his testimony in the near future.

Sis. Irene Nuest has recently celebrated her 85th birthday. It's kind of special as Irene is the oldest member of our congregation. God bless and keep you.

We would also like to congratulate three students who have graduated from high school this year. Brady Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane), Keith Frieden (Bro. Byron and Sis. Sue) and Joanna Nuest (Sis. Garnet). Also, Kim Frieden has graduated from college. We pray for each one as they go out into the world.

Until next month, "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sheri Bahler

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse) was with us for our bi-monthly Bible study held with Remington at the fellowship hall. His topic was "More Holiness Give Me." We are thankful for the teachings brought to us through him on this subject.

Sis. Teresa Bahler (Chris) was hospitalized for a short time this month. We pray that God will continue to give her strength with each day.

This being the end of another

school year, we have several graduates. Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley), Brian Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell), Don Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla), Michael Minniear (Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna) and Dan Kyburz (Ron and Donna) have all finished their high school years. We trust that God will guide them further on as they look to the future.

On Sunday, June 5, Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) spent the day with us. We appreciate his willingness to share God's Word.

This year our Bible school was held at Remington. We were glad to hear God's Word through several visiting ministers. May God bless each one of them. Along with this, Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was with us Sunday, June 12.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" (Matthew 6:7) How the angels must be rejoicing in heaven with the repentance of these souls: Kelly Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia), Bobbi Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Brian and Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell). We trust that they will continue to look upward as they begin their walk with the Lord.

On Sunday, June 12, we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Marge Hofstetter. It surely renews all of us spiritually to have another lamb taken into the fold. Elder Bro. Wendall Gudeman (Francesville) was here to assist in this duty.

I would like to thank everyone who has shown their love to me by visits, cards, flowers, etc., throughout my illness. May God bless you all!

Sis. Marilyn Schieler

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Monica Eisenmann
Lorna Knapp

Our preschool through sixth grade Sunday school students enjoyed a week in June of morning Vacation Bible School at the fellowship center together with Oakville. We pray that the Scriptures which they learned will remain with them and bear fruit in

due time. Many also enjoyed the Sunday school picnic held June 12.

Sunday school elections have again been held here at Burlington. We thank Bro. Leroy Wulf and Sis. Rachel Massner for their years of dedicated service and prayerfully support Bro. Brian Knapp and Sis. Ingrid Buster who will assume these duties in September. Bro. Gary Schulz will become our new superintendent and certainly has our prayers also.

We were recently blessed through the visit of Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove). May God richly bless him for allowing himself to be used that the Word of God could come forth to us all.

We have prayerfully considered, and are now proceeding with, plans to build retirement duplexes adjacent to our church building. Lord willing, it is our intention that construction begin this fall. Surely our elderly are pillars in the church. Their wisdom can be a great resource for those of us who are less experienced. We esteem them very highly and hope that God can be glorified in this endeavor to help make these years of their lives pleasant ones.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Homecoming, an every-five-year event that takes place in this small town, is scheduled for the 22nd - 24th of July. Plans are being made for entertainments and special events, and "sprucing up" of homes and business places are taking place as we look forward to the return of many former "Elginites." As Christians, we are looking forward to a much greater homecoming, one our Savior is preparing, for He said, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am ye may be also." We cannot imagine the blessing and joy that there will be in heaven as we are reunited with loved ones who have gone on before, but most of all to see our Savior face to face. May we prepare and look forward to this "homecoming" with great anticipation.

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

for him." The wedding of Tom Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne) and Darla Schuchmann (Paul and Bertha) took place June 4. We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they share their lives together.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend). We truly appreciate their visits and for lending themselves to serve us from God's Word. May they be richly blessed for their efforts.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser - Laura Funk

Again we want to thank our visiting ministers of this past month. May God bless you brothers and your families for gathering with us and sharing His Word with us. Thank you Bros. David Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN).

We want to welcome Sis. Nancy Belsely to our congregation. She is taking an internship this summer in southern Iowa and we are her nearest church.

As we welcome one sister, we say goodbye to another. Sis. Melody Knobloch has completed her requirements with the V.A. Hospital in Knoxville, IA, and has found another job in Sioux Falls, SD. So she will be assembling again with her home church of Lester. We shall miss you, Sis. Melody! May God be with you and as you know, we welcome you to visit us at anytime.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We extend our thanks to all of our visitors this month. One of the summer activities that the Sunday school children look forward to is the Sunday school picnic. The children were involved in planning the activities, and by all reports, everyone enjoyed the time of fun and fellowship. The elections for next term were held as well, and we give our prayerful support to next year's teachers. Bro. Brad Eland, Sis. Wendy Eland and Sis. June Knobloch.

This month we bid farewell to Sis. Lisa Staker, who has finished her internship here and has accepted a position in Peoria. Our prayers go with her as she moves home and enters the working world. We also send our prayers with Bro. Jay and Sis. Lorri Wiegand as they relocate to Kansas City, having employment there. We welcome Sis. Carrie Wuthrich, who is doing a ten-week internship at University Hospitals this summer. As our little flock adjusts to the comings and goings that typify a college community, may each one feel our welcoming love and parting prayers — we're thankful for each one of you!

Meet today and part tomorrow,
Smiles of joy and tears of sorrow,
Such is human life,
But in gentle resignation,
And with sweet anticipation,
Of a higher, holier station,
We endure the strife,
We endure the strife.

Meet today in social union,
Spend the hour in sweet
communion

As in seasons past,
Christian friendship is a treasure,
Pure in nature, rich in measure,
Filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
While the moments last,
While the moments last.

If tomorrow tears are starting,
At the tender hour of parting,
Brief will be the pain;
Time on rapid wings is flying,
Christian on their Lord relying,
Present, absent, living, dying,
Soon will meet again.

Hymns of Zion #53

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

With the summer months upon us, come many visitors to our church. Among our guests, we appreciate visiting ministers who bring us God's precious Word. This month Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Michael Rieker (Peoria, IL) were with us.

With saddened hearts we bid farewell to John DeHaan, beloved husband of Sis. Ione, who died after being in and out of the hospital the last few months. He leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Sis. Ione; son, Bro. Tim; daughters, Susan VanDerWolde (Valley Springs, SD), Sharon Gerber (Danville, IN) and Sis. Shirlee DeHaan (Sioux Falls, SD); grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. We express our deepest sympathy to these loved ones.

We also wish to remember loved ones from our congregation who mourn the death of Sis. Marilyn (Wulf) Luthi (Lamar, MO). Among her survivors are her daughter, Sis. Lori Moser (Bro. Rick) and her brothers and sisters from Lester: Emil, Bro. Bill, Bro. Jake, Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Karoline Doorne-weerd, Sis. Amelia Roemen, Leah Doorne-weerd and many nieces and nephews. May the dear Lord comfort them at this sorrowful time.

June 18 was the wedding day of Denton Knobloch and Rose Zaugg. They are the children of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg. They plan to make their home in the West Bend area and we wish them God's blessings as they begin married life together. Likewise, may God's blessings rest on Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia (Feucht) Endress who were recently united in holy matrimony in Washington, IL. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Cynthia Endress and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge Feucht.

Linda Klostergaard has announced that she has found her peace with God and man and awaits baptism in the near future.

Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger announce the arrival of Eric Alan June 6. He joins sister, Emma, and brother, Vance. Proud grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella Metzger and Lou and Tina Moser.

Cathi Meyer, daughter of Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn, has graduated from Iowa Lakes Community College and is now employed in Sioux Falls, SD. Our congratulations is extended on her accomplishments.

Surgical patients this past

month were Sis. Becky Ver Beek (Tim) and Bro. Paul Leuthold. Also, Jack Wysong has been hospitalized and is undergoing treatments at this time. May we all remember those who suffer pain and discomfort in this earthly life.

We wish to express our sincere thankfulness for all your prayers, concerns, love, visits, cards and phone calls, during our recent surgeries and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Paul and Betty Leuthold

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

Ministering brothers who take time to visit our congregation are always appreciated. May God bless Bro. Duane Dill (Minneapolis, MN) for expounding the Word to us recently.

We are thankful that twins, Kayla Beth and Kurt Alvin, have arrived safely to bless the home and hearts of Bro. Kent and Sis. beth Banwart and brothers, Kyle, Jason and Darin. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt. These precious little ones are sure to receive a lot of love and attention. We are happy to report the birth of another set of twins. Sidney and Bonnie Anliker are the grandparents of Mark Edward and Karl William, who were born May 9 to Keith and Sally Anliker (Zionsville, IN). Great-grandmother is Louisa Anliker of our congregation. Bro. Duane and Sis. Lucille Schmidt have been doubly blessed with two granddaughters this past month. Lynn and David Petersen welcomed Paxton Lucille, and Gayle, Darrin and Dylan McAfee (Kansas City, MO) welcomed Creighton Erin into their lives. May God richly bless the new arrivals, as well as their parents and all the families as they seek to bring them up in the nurture of the Lord.

Pearl Gerber (Eli) is among us again after submitting to knee surgery. Sis. Lucille Schmidt (Dwayne) was a hospital patient following an injury. We trust they will both continue to heal and God will bless them as they recover.

We want to express our thanks

to the brothers and sisters who have so faithfully taught our youth in the Sunday school. We wish the Lord's blessings and much grace to Sisters Trela Wirtz and Shirley Metzger, and Bros. Jim Wirtz and Mark Skoglund, as they will begin these duties in our Sunday school.

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich

Kari Lynne Wuthrich was recently welcomed home by Bro. Ken, Sis. Lori, Kristin and Eric. To help share their joy are grandparents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Norman Messner (Oakville), Bro Russell and Sis Karoline Wuthrich and great-grandfather, Bro. Albert Wuthrich.

Many prayers have been answered for the recovery of Heidi Metzger. Heidi has returned home and was able to attend school. It was a joy to see her again in Sunday school.

Recent high school graduates were Lana Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn) and Joshua Townsend (Danny and Sis Lynn). Tammy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kristy) graduated from area college. We wish them success in their future careers.

"We ought to obey God rather man." (Acts 5:29) Man's ideas change to suit his wants and not God's will.

You have to count on living every single day in a way you believe will make you feel good about you life - so that if it were tomorrow you'd be content with yourself.

Every morning lean on thine arms
 awhile,
 Upon the window sill of Heaven
 And gaze upon the Lord,
 Then with vision in thy heart
 Turn strong to meet thy day.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

On April 22 we were privileged to partake of holy communion. We thank visiting Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Sam Huber (Sabetha) for assisting our Elder Bro. John Lehman in serving us.

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

Genesis 2:18

Sis. Jananne Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Victor Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise) have announced their engagement and plan to be married August 14. Sis. Sheila Edelman (Eugene and Judy) and Bro. Todd Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) have also announced their engagement and plan an August 21 wedding. We wish these dear couples the love and blessings of God as they make their plans for the future.

On June 4, Marci Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) and Ted Rottinghaus (Gerald and Paula) were united in marriage. Our love and prayers are with them for many happy years together.

We rejoice with Jeanelle Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) as she comes to the Lord in repentance. May God always supply her an added measure of grace and strength.

On June 11 and 12 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sisters Marcia and Wendy Edelman (Eugene and Judy). Our appreciation and thanks to Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Sam Huber (Sabetha) in helping that weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha) and Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha). May God richly reward them for sharing His Word with us.

God has sent a baby girl, Kortney Lyn June 14 to bless the home of Dwight and Vickie Edelman. She is welcomed by a brother, Quinten. Happy grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnne Edelman and Larry and Pam Grimm.

Thank you to everyone for visits, cards, gifts, love and prayers while I was in the hospital for knee surgery. Also for food brought to our home. I am very grateful. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Anna L. Ulmer

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

The week of June 6 we held summer Bible school. Our whole church received a blessing in either attending, teaching or serving a nice lunch afterwards. We pray that the seeds that were planted will continue to be tended and will yield a bountiful crop over the years.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Doug and Judy Kraft

We enjoyed having Bro. Shawn, Sis. Sandy and Hunter Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) home for a visit. We appreciated Bro. Shawn lending himself in God's service. May God bless all our ministering brethren who willingly labor on our behalf.

It is once again time for the Silver Lining dues to be collected in Gridley. Please pay \$9.00 to one of your reporters. Thank you!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

MY COUNTRY, TIS OF THEE

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
 Author of liberty,
 To Thee we sing;
 Long may our land be bright,
 With freedom's holy light,
 Protect us by Thy might,
 Great God, our King!

Gospel Hymns #738, vs #4

As we celebrate our Independence Day this month, let us be especially thankful that the Lord has allowed us to worship Him freely in a world where many cannot.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont) for the reading of the memorandum. As always, the Lord has provided us encouragement as well as admonishment. May we always look to the unchanging One as we travel life's path in this ever turbulent world.

We appreciate Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita) for lending himself to the work of the Lord. We always enjoy the fellowship of his family.

We rejoice with Kelly and Jenny Stewart as they have made known their desire to have God's peace in their hearts. May the Lord grant them grace and mercy as they seek the strait and narrow path.

Bible School this year had great attendance and faithful helpers. All of the effort put forth to lead our youth closer to the Lord is truly appreciated.

The Lord has sent a special bundle down from heaven and entrusted him to Kelly and Jenny Stewart. Joshua Ryan was born June 15. Loving grandparents are Larry and Maggie Stewart and Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling. May the Lord touch each of their hearts and grant unto them the grace to train him in the way he should go.

Our church enjoyed a picnic by the river this month. The fellowship we have is so important to help encourage us in our earthly walk. May each of us find this encouragement as we enjoy our freedom to assemble.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

Faith of our fathers! living still
 In spite of dungeon, fire and
 sword,
 O how our hearts beat high with
 joy
 When're we hear that glorious
 word!
 Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
 We will be true to thee till death!

Hymns of Zion #85

As our country celebrates another year of freedom, may we be thankful for what our forefathers did so that we can enjoy the heritage that is ours and strive to preserve it for those to come.

Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern) spent a Sunday with us. We appreciated his visit so much and thank him for his effort to be with us and to labor in the Lord's house.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm

God has blessed and favored our congregation as He has raised up

one among us to minister His Holy Word. We prayerfully support Bro. Gerry Hertzell in this new duty, as well as his wife, Sis. Ellen, and their two sons, Erik and Mark. May they humbly put their trust in God to provide in all ways. The following Sunday, Isaiah 41 was read. Verse 6 "... Be of good courage." Verse 9 "... Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Verse 10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." We thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) for assisting Elder Bro. Sam Huber in this endeavor. Our church enjoyed a potluck supper that evening. We, also, thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for his weekend visit and bringing us the message of salvation and hope.

Several of our elderly have spent time in the hospital enduring pain and affliction: Sis. Viola Traub, Sis. Marie Kellenberger and Ellsworth Dobson, who also underwent surgery. Bro. Darin Edelman (Sis. Karen) is hospitalized at this time. We pray for each one that God will heal and bless them according to His good will.

"A thankful heart doubles our blessings causing us to enjoy them twice - once when we receive them and again when we remember them."

Day Light/Day Bright

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Saturday evening, May 28, our congregation was privileged to take communion served by Elder Bros. Ed Lanz, (Oakville, IA) and William Schlatter (Junction, OH). We are grateful for brothers who will travel the miles and spend the time required in order for us to have this benefit. The following day, they also ministered to us and we thank them and their families for sharing with us.

Prayer is being answered for our brothers, Phil Bowers and Harvey Farney. While they are not able to

assemble with us, they are responding to treatment in their homes.

Silver Lining dues (\$9.00) for Wichita are due in August.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann

A special thank you to our visitors this past month, especially ministering Bro. Mike Rinkenberger and wife, Sis. Pat (Congerville, IL) who brought with them the Rick Wiegand family, and also Bro. Ed Fritz and wife, Sis. Sally (Washington, IL). Thanks for coming to share with us of your time and talents.

In addition, a special thank you to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky for their efforts as our correspondents from Lexington. On June 17 they were given an extra assignment as Joshua Wayne was added to their family. He joins his brothers, Jacob and Jesse, and sisters, Rachel and Rebekah. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Garden Grove, IA) and Gary and Darlene DeVault (Kansas). May God bless you, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky, as you guide this little one's feet toward heaven's gate.

Our congregation enjoyed our Spring Family Night in August.

On June 17, the monthly Apostolic Youth Fellowship Night was hosted at the Lester Huber home. Our Sunday school children enjoyed an international buffet as we began our study of our church history. The students prepared for a Bible bowl quiz from the book of Matthew and part of "Marching To Zion" and did a great job as they answered so many questions correctly.

We also with Matthew and Maryann Knobloch our best wishes as they prepare to move west to California. May God bless your efforts and we will miss you and your little family here in Lexington. Special congratulations to Maryann upon receiving her nursing degree this past month also.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher

With the sick this month, Sis. Esther Waibel had surgery on her

shoulder, Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) had problems with her leg and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer (Bro. Neil) was home ill for a couple of weeks. We wish our loved ones God's grace and help during times of illness.

We were privileged to have with us Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for the baptisms of four dear souls, Sis. Marlene McNally (Lyle), Sis. Jenifer Schlatter (mother - Sis. Sharon), Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Berg (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer). We wish these dear souls our Lord's love, grace and blessings in their new way of life.

We wish God's watchfulness and blessings over our graduates as they go onward and forward to new lives. They are Gina Meylan (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Carol Meylan), Eric Arnold (Sis. Yvonne Arnold), Sara Jacobs (Sis. Diana and Gerard Jacobs), Sis. Kery Andryewski (Norm and Sis. Linda Andryewski), Fred Knochel (Fred and Helen Knochel), Sis. Maryann Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer) and Steve Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland).

Also, we were blessed to have with us for midweek service Bro. Gary and Sis. Marianne Maibach.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, . . . Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton
Marlene Reinhard

We were blessed to only have one member of our congregation hospitalized this month. Bro. Mark Meyer (Sis. Kristie) has knee surgery. We are thankful to have Bro. Mark up and walking around, and we pray the surgery will be successful.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). We are thankful for each one of these servants who are so willing to lend themselves in the ser-

vice of the Lord. May God richly bless them in His ministry.

Singing and making a melody in our hearts is what we experienced when the Heart To Heart choir from Bloomington, IL, visited us and sang many beautiful hymns for us here in the Detroit congregation. I believe many of our hearts were touched during their singing and a peace placed upon souls. May we never forget to pay due respect to our Creator and praise Him the remainder of our lives.

Many of us have goals in our lives just waiting to be accomplished. Whether they are spiritual or earthly, we sense a measure of happiness when they are completed. Sis. Brenda Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) and Curt Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) have reached an earthly goal in their lives. Both have graduated this month from high school. May they experience God's guidance in the years ahead of them and may they be blessed with much happiness. Let us each one look ahead to our eternal goal with faithful steps toward heaven's gate.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Esther Orcsik (Bro. John) in the passing away of her sister, Sis. Terez Santa (Dunavecse, Hungary). Sis. Esther is a long way from her family in Hungary, but may she feel the love and prayers of her family and friends here the United States and Canada.

Our annual voting was held June 15. Regular Sunday school teachers are Sis. Charlotte Barton (Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi), Sis. Harriet Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther), and Bro. Phil Bahr (Sis. Dawn). Substitutes are Sis. Cindy Hitz (Bro. Tom) and Bro. Troy Schrock. A new trustee is Bro. Doug Maibach (Carole) and the church secretary is Sis. Beth Knochel (Bro. Dana). May God bless these brothers and sisters for their labors of love.

God has blessed Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnn Gudeman with a new little baby girl, Allison Ruth, June 16. Big brothers, Jacob and Jonathan, are glad to welcome home a sister. Grandparents are Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and the late Sis. Ruth Gudeman. May they fer-

vently seek God's wisdom and direction in raising their precious family.

". . . What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

God has blessed our Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach with many years of precious memories together and a wonderful family to love them. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. They have travelled down many roads in God's plan for their lives, and by the grace of God, may they continue to trust Him down many more roads. The congregation here in Detroit appreciates Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene very much and we just want to thank them for their faithfulness to us each one and to each other. The Lord is faithful and He will bless each union of marriage in His name if we have the faith to believe and trust in Him.

We were privileged to have the Beverly Hills church minister to the residents at Woodhaven June 14. We are thankful for this congregation to so faithfully partake in the many different activities with the residents. On August 2, the Bay City, MI, congregation is scheduled to host this monthly Tuesday evening of worship. Everyone is encouraged to come and spend this evening of worship with the residents.

Thought for the day: Put today in God's hands. You have nothing to lose, but everything to gain.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop). We thank him and his wife, Sis. Wanda, for spending the day with us.

The Bible class traveled to Morris June 5 for the Youth Fellowship Weekend. We thank the Morris congregation for all their labors of love.

It is a joy to welcome loved ones to our congregation. Darcy and Sis. Rachel Kent, Brooke, Macy, Tan-

ner and Logan recently moved to the area. They had been worshipping in Winthrop. Summer residence are Kary Metzger (Keith and Mary, Lester, IA) and Wayne Tanner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn, Bradford, IL).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder
Linda Schmidgall

On the 11th and 12th of June, we enjoyed the visits of the Elgin, Lester and West Bend, IA, Minneapolis and Winthrop, MN, Bible classes and teachers. We are thankful that our young people can enjoy this fellowship with other churches and we appreciate their cooperation, which made the weekend enjoyable for all involved. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) for lending themselves to us for the weekend to bless us with God's precious Word.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Leonard Wulf and Mildred Sauder and their families in the passing of their sister, Sis. Marilyn Luthi (Lamar, MO).

Sis. Esther Schaefer and Sis. Sophia Nohl and their families also have our prayers and sympathy in the passing of their brother, Charles Banwart (Dill City, OK).

Our hospital patients this month were Jennifer Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa), Sis. Pearl Moser (Bro. Alpha), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Sis. Vila) and Bro. Shane Jones (Sis. Ruth). We pray that God will be with each one and bless and heal as He sees best.

God has blessed Bro. Mike and Sis. Marci Domnick with a precious little boy, May 17. Paul Alan is their firstborn and the happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA).

Happy grandparents of Abigail Louise are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall. Abigail's parents are Sis. Beth and Bro. Doug Rinckenberger (Fairbury, IL).

May 21, was the wedding day of Ruth Schmidgall (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy) and Jason Gorder.

We wish them God's blessings for a long and happy married life.

We extend a loving welcome to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger and their three boys who have moved from Lester, IA, to our congregation. Also, we welcome Bro. Tom Strahm (Sabetha, KS) who is working in our area. May they feel our warmth and love.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Jan Messner - Joleen Messner
Greetings!

"God bless you on your pilgrim
way,
Thro' storm and sunshine guiding
still;
His presence guide you day by
day,
And keep you safe from ev'ry ill.
Gospel Hymns #514, vs 2

With sadness, we say goodbye to Darcy and Sis. Rachael Kent and family as they will be making the Minneapolis congregation their home church. They will be missed, but we hope to see them often as they have family in Winthrop.

As the annual brotherhood conference is approaching, may we stop a moment and offer a special prayer for our dear elder brothers as they meet and council together, and for their safe travel upon the highways. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your soul, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)

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

Think what great honor and glory
the Lord then will render
Him who from childhood and till
his last years did surrender
All to the Lord; Even old age will
accord

Crowns of God's mercy so tender."
Zion's Harp #168, vs 1, 8

The teachers and students enjoyed a picnic and games to end the Sunday school year. May the teachings brought forth in Sunday school go with them not only this summer, but throughout their lives. We would like to thank the Morris congregation for hosting the Youth Fellowship Weekend.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Rose Alice Howk had the privilege of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and were blessed to have their family with them. May God continue to guide them in their lives together.

Our patients recovering from surgery are Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike) and Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia). May God's healing hand rest upon them.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Wednesday evening we had a farewell singing for our Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller. They will be living in Tremont, IL, while he does his residency at Methodist Hospital in Peoria. Our congregation will greatly miss them and wish them well.

On Memorial Day weekend we were privileged to have Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) minister unto us. May God bless their labors.

We extend a big welcome to Sis. Wanda Grimm (Sabetha, KS). She will be going to school here for two years.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart
Becky Marti

"God with us! We need not fear:
Jesus crowns with life eternal;
Faithful let us be while here,
Till God ends our pilgrim journey:
Trumpets for the conflict sound;
Up, ye valiant, stand your
ground."

Zion's Harp #100

This was one of Sis. Marilyn

Luthi's favorite hymns. She was called to her eternal home June 3 after a lingering illness. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Ray; and their children, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi, Sis. Vera Frieden, Bro. Calvin Luthi, Darwin Luthi, Sis. Kristi Luthi, Karla Rutledge and Leon Luthi, all of Lamar; Sis. Lori Moser, (Lester, IA), Bro. Bill Luthi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Troy Luthi (Morris, MN). Also, to her grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

We will truly miss Sis. Marilyn as she was a good example to all of us. Her life can be described as written in Proverbs 31:10. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

Sis. Arlene Marti (Bro. Dean) was in the hospital this past month and we are thankful she is home again.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

What a blessing it is when we recognize the miracle of life that God grants us through the little children that are born into this world.

On May 9, Brenda and Dan Winget had a baby girl, Jessica Marie. She will be welcomed home by her older sister, Brandy. The happy grandparents are Ellen Winget (Quincy, IL), and Vernon and Sis. Judy Huber.

Also, on June 9, Bruce and Marsha Huber were blessed with a girl, Taylor Marie. Welcoming her home will be her two older sisters, Tara and Stacey. The happy grandparents are Joe and Mary Eling (Quincy, IL) and Vernon and Sis. Judy Huber.

How thankful we can be that God has given each one of us the opportunity to become newborn babies, through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. For when we make a new beginning in serving the Lord we have much to learn through praying and reading His Word.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

I Peter 2:2

On Sunday, June 5, our youth had the privilege of going to Bloomington, IL for the A.C. Youth Fellowship Day. We thank each of the teachers for their efforts in helping our youth participate in this blessed event.

On Wednesday, June 15, we were reminded of the privilege of being raised in a Christian home through a Bible study given by Bro. Kent Heimer. We truly can rejoice for Godly parents who brought us to church and planted the seed of salvation in our hearts.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberg (Goodfield, IL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN). May God bless each one for their efforts.

Many thoughts and prayers have been with Dana Meyers (Danny and Jody), who had foot surgery this past month. Also, Josh Redd (Dean and Gaye) who suffered a broken ankle. May God's healing hand be upon each one that they may fully recover.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

We were again reminded of Christ's love for us when we were able to partake of holy communion June 12. He loved us enough to suffer, shed His blood, and die for the sins of each one. May the partaking of this feast together bind us closer to Him and to one another as we walk the pathway of life. We want to thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for serving us, along with our Elder Bro. Duane Farney. We also thank the many who traveled to share this weekend with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler and Harriet Lasher and their families as Celia's brother-in-law and Harriet's son-in-law was called from this life into eternity. His home was in Florida and we welcome his wife, Joyce, into our community and extend deepest sympathy to her in the loss of her husband.

Our high school graduates this

month are Tina Bellinger (Darrell and Wanda), Holly Graves (Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda), Sis. Amber Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor), Jacob Hirschey (Bruce and Gayle), Nicole Hirschey (Ron and Beth), Renata Virkler (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae) and Karla Schamback (Paul and Lisa). Our congratulations go to each of them and may God guide them in their future lives and decisions.

Two families have welcomed new babies into their homes as first-time parents, Todd and Danielle Farney, welcomed Brianna Morgan June 13. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen, and Gary Turck and Sue Kelley. Terry and Kari Farney welcomed Skyler Jay June 21. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen, Mark Laubscher, and Diane Lavada. Great-grandparents are Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney. May these new babies bring an added blessing to their families. May they each look to God for guidance as they have the added responsibility of children in their homes.

Silver Lining subscriptions are due in the month of August for the Croghan/Naumburg church.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings to all from Akron. Again this month we are happy to report the birth of another precious baby. Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika were blessed with their first daughter, Adeline Marie. Andrew and Adam welcome home their new little sister. Grandparents of Adeline are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf, and Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

A supper was held recently as we said farewell to David and Pela Naffin who are returning to their home in Philadelphia, PA. We will miss their presence here, and pray that God will be with them.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH)

and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) have shared the precious Word with us. May the feel God's blessings and grace as they serve in His vineyard.

We thank Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer and Andy Stoller for sharing the conference memorandum with us. We are thankful for the loving exhortation which encourages us to a closer walk with our Lord.

Bro. Andy Hunyady is again traveling in Eastern Europe. We ask God's blessings upon the labors on behalf of the brethren in Europe.

Our prayers are with Jeff Lance (Darlene) who has recently undergone surgery for a broken leg. Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) has also been absent from us due to illness. May both feel God's healing power and strength.

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara Stoller who have moved to our area from Champaign, IL. Bro. Bryan will be attending Ohio State School of Optometry. May God provide for them as they adjust to a new home.

We recently bid farewell to Sis. Polly Uhler who has moved back to the Smithville area. We have appreciated Sis. Polly's time with us and she will be missed by our congregation. We wish God's blessings upon her future endeavors.

On June 5, a graduate breakfast was held in honor of Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy), our high school graduate. Emily plans to continue her education at Wilmington College. Sis. Jenny Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) also graduated from Mansfield General Hospital School of Nursing and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree at Ashland University. May both of these young ladies feel God's direction and blessings as they prepare for the future.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Following approximately three months' hospitalization and convalescence in the Chicago, IL, area, Bro. Roger Gasser is back. Because of his suppressed immune system, he must still live in an isolated

environment; so a special area has been set up in the home of his parents-in-law, Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Bro. Roger needs our continued prayers for God's protective hand over him as his body continues to rebuild.

Julie Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), Thor Etter (Rob and Barb Brink, Len Etter) and Rob Brink were each hospitalized for a short time this past month. We are so thankful that Rob escaped serious injury when gas from an outdoor cooker exploded in his face.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

"Nearer, still nearer, Lord to be
Thine,
Sin, with its follies, I gladly
resign;
All of its pleasures, pomp, and its
pride,
Give me but Jesus, my Lord
crucified."

Gospel Hymns #434

We are so thankful that four dear souls have turned their lives to Jesus in repentance. They are Chris Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee), Lori Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie) and Jason Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen). We pray that they will feel God's nearness each and every day.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Della Wenninger have been blest with a baby girl. Welcoming home Kylee Rae are her sisters, Kimberly and Kirsti. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Louis Stoller. Bro. Louis was called home to be with the Lord June 5. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Mildred; and his children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Tam), Bro. Mark (Sis. Shirley) and Dixie Thomas (Brad), and his many grandchildren. Surviving Bro. Louis are his brothers, Bro. Glenn (Sis. Ede), Bro. Dave (Sis. Irene), Bro. Eugene (Leo, IN), Victor and Jesse; and one sister, Sis. Aldine Leman (Bro. Sam, Eureka, IL).

One day later, June 6, Sis. Marie

Stoller was called from time into eternity also. We wish to extend sympathy to her sons, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Darl (Sis. Iva), Bro. Gale (Sis. Janet) and daughter, Sis. Christine; and also to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sis. Marie is survived by several brothers and a sister. We need to remember Bro. Merril Laukhuf (Sis. Dolly), Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge), Bro. Alvin Laukhuf (Sis. Katherine, Phoenix, AZ) and Sis. Mildred Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

We are thankful that God's healing hand has touched Sis. Patty Gerber (Bro. Dave) and She is able to be back in church with us after a short hospital stay.

Sis. Mary Eisenmann is still hospitalized after extensive back surgery, and we pray that God will be able to return home.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). May God richly bless these brothers for their labors.

June 13 - 17 was Vacation Bible School. We so appreciate the hard work and time of those who lend of themselves during this week. It was then a pleasure Friday evening for the church to assemble, and hear the children sing songs of praise to our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ our Savior.

The high school age children were privileged to hear during Bible School the following visiting ministers speak: Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16) On Sunday, May 22, we enjoyed a graduation breakfast honoring our high school graduate, Michael Vent (Dick and Sis. Becky). Sis. Traci Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis.

Karen) also is celebrating her graduation from the University of Toledo. As the graduates now move on to a new phase in their lives, may they constantly remember Jesus' caution to "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:4-6) On June 4, our friends, Craig Vent and Angie Reed were united in marriage. Rejoicing with them are their parents, Dick and Sis. Becky Vent and David and Janet Reed (New Washington). As Craig and Angie begin their walk as one, may they ever feel the cord of love grow stronger with each passing year.

"And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." (Luke 8:10) During the week of June 6 - 10, we heard many earthly stories with a heavenly weight. That was the definition of a parable given by several of the brothers who spoke during Bible School. On Monday evening, Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) expounded on the "Parable of the Soils and the Sower". Tuesday, Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) delivered an exhortation on the "Parable of the Rich Fool". Wednesday, Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) explained the "Parable of the Prodigal Son". Thursday evening brought us Bro. Merrill Laukhaff (Latty, OH) and the "Parable of the Fig Tree". Friday evening, we listened to Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) describe the "Parable of the Wheat and the Tares". "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet,

the hope of salvation. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." (I Thessalonians 5:6-8, 11" We were all encouraged to be spiritually "awake" and to encourage our brethren to do likewise.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Sis. Katie Armstrong in the death of her son. He has been ill for some time now and Sis. Katie has been caring for him. With no experience of my own to base it on, I must trust those who tell me there is almost no greater loss than what a mother feels when she loses her child. May Sis. Katie and her family feel the comfort that can only come from God.

On Saturday, June 18, we had our annual church clean-up day. Many members of our congregation arrived early in the morning for the "sprucing up" of our church building and grounds. As we all worked together, each doing whatever part was necessary, to get the job done, I had to think that we were working according to God's plan as the body of our church. We were all doing a different job but yet we had one common goal - to clean the church. We all have a common goal in this life and that is to get to heaven. For those who are already a part of the body, may we lift up each other's arms when they hang down. For those who are still on the outside looking in, may we fervently pray for them while the day of grace is still here. May we each also strive to keep the inside and the outside of our earthly "house" clean so that we are worthy tenants of a heavenly mansion.

"Brethren, pray for us." (I Thessalonians 5:25) This is a plea that should never need to be uttered. As the time for the elder conference draws near, many of us will hear our beloved elders making this plea. As fervently as we pray for the elders and ministers throughout the rest of the year, may we increase those prayers so that when they gather together, they may feel the Holy Spirit's presence and our loving Father's guidance. May they each be blessed with a double portion of grace and strength.

OHIO, RITTMAN Marsha Rufener Linda Ramsier

Our thoughts and prayers are with the elder body as the general conference draws closer. May the brotherhood be strengthened.

May God bless Bro. Sam Hartzler and Sis. Gail Gasser as they prepare to spend their lives together. Parents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser. The wedding is planned for August 21.

Amy Ingold (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God richly bless her and give her much grace in this important step in life.

Sis. Bertha Bauman (the late Elder Bro. Noah Bauman) passed away June 2. She was the last of the eleven children of Bro. John and Sis. Mary Ramsier. It was mentioned in the funeral service that at least half of our Rittman congregation are descendants of this family, leaving us a wonderful heritage. We extend our sympathy to her children, Sis. Mary Ellen and Sis. Jean, who have cared for her for many years, also Bro. Herbert Bauman (Sis. Bernice), Sis. Melba Miller (Richard) and Sis. Betty Dotterer (Bro. John).

We rejoice with Bro. Kevin Rufener and Sis. Marsha Hartzler as they became one-in-the-Lord June 12. Their parents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener and Bro. Vincent and Sis. Jane Hartzler. We were reminded that peace and joy are not all that make up a marriage, there has to be forgiveness also. The words are sometimes hard to say - I am sorry, will you forgive me - but these seven words are very important. Bro. Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville) was here to assist Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer.

Sis. Barbara Mathys is happy for her new granddaughter. Rachel Helen was born June 15 to Russ and Mary Mathys. Big brother, Derek, is excited to have a new playmate.

Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) was recently in the hospital. May he feel our prayers.

Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the many

prayers and tokens of love at the time of her surgery and recovery. May God richly bless each one of you.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Congratulations to all of our graduates! Carol Indermuhle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen) received an Associates Degree in Accounting from Belmont Technical College. Sis. Sheila Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) completed her final year of high school as well as her second year of college. Graduating from the eighth grade this year were Amanda Alrutz (Allen and Janet Indermuhle) and Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam).

We rejoice that Allen Indermuhle (Janet) has turned to the Saviour in repentance. How wonderful it is that we can all look to Him for strength!

Each step I take my Saviour goes
before me,
And with His loving hand He leads
the way.
And with each breath I whisper "I
adore Thee;"
Oh, what joy to walk with Him
each day.

Chorus:

Each step I take I know that He
will guide me;
To higher ground He ever leads me
on.
Until some day the last step will be
taken,
Each step I take just leads me closer
home.

Gospel Hymns #364

Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Joy Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee, Toledo, OH) have felt God's leading to walk the path of life together. May God's richest blessings be bestowed upon them as they take this step of faith.

Yesterday when I sat down to write this article I thought about the months at the beginning of the year when I really didn't have anything to report. This month was different, so much had happened. Now tonight I have more wonderful news to tell you.

Julia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has heard God's voice and has answered His call. Our prayers are with her and all of our dear converts as they surrender their lives completely to the Lord.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Kim Stoller - Edith Miller

"Let no man despise thy youth . . ." (I Timothy 4:12) We are so thankful for our youth, and we're also thankful for the wholesome activities our church provides for them. On Sunday morning, June 5, our high school graduates from Rittman and Smithville were honored at a delicious breakfast prepared for them and their parents. After the breakfast, Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and our own Elder Bro. Andy Stoller presented each graduate with a Bible with their name imprinted on the front.

Another activity provided for our youth was the annual Sunday school picnic, which was held on a recent Saturday evening at our fellowship hall. This was also a combined event, along with Rittman, and included grades 9 through 12 and older. After the meal, Bro. Allan Stoller (Bluffton, IN) spoke words of wisdom to these precious friends. We hope and pray the many efforts our brothers and sisters put forth for these young people will be blessed by God and bear fruit in due time. We also hope our youth can realize how much we love them and how much God loves them - for they are our future church.

Visiting ministers to our congregation during the past month were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN). May God bless and reward each one.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the families of Bro. Herbert and Sis. Berniece Bauman and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer on the death of Bro. Herbert and Sis. Betty's mother, Sis. Bertha Bauman (Rittman, OH).

Our only hospital patient this month was Megan Jordon (Doug and Nancy) for an appendectomy.

May God grant her a speedy recovery.

Bro. Myron and Sis. Darlene Weber welcomed their second child May 23. Trent Jordan is also welcomed by his sister, Liz, and also grandparents, Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet Indermuhle, and Sis. Marjorie Weber (Rittman, OH). We wish God's blessings to this young family.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels . . ."

Proverbs 1:5

As we plant a garden and wait for God to bless the fruits of the earth with His increase, so we wait and watch for His blessings of increase in the lives of those we love. We pray that the Lord will grant blessing and increase in each of our college and high school graduates lives as they continue on the path of life. Our college graduates are Sisters Traci Baltic (Mansfield) and Jenny Manz (Junction) and Bros. Tom Manz (Junction), Eric Spangler (Akron), Jason Riggensbach (Smithville), Matt Schlatter (Latty) and Jason Laukhuf (Latty). We will miss them as most of them return to their home churches, but we can be glad in the thought that many blessings are in store for them. Our high school graduates are Bro. Seth Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee), Becky Beard (Bro. David and Sis. Geralyn), Heidi Kipfer (Sis. Janet), Kevin Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie) and Kendy Newman (Ken and Pat).

We ever rejoice to see the leading of God in the lives of His children. Believing it is God's will for their lives, the engagement of Sis. Joy Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) to Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda, Sardis) was announced. May God bless and keep them as they plan their new life together.

As often as we gather to hear the Word of God, we are never disappointed by any inability on God's

part to feed us. Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis) recently brought forth God's Word to us. May the blessings of His inspiration ever give them words according to His will.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Lori Martin - Mary Berg

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord . . ." (Psalm 33:12) As our country, once again, celebrates its independence, we pray that God is Lord of this nation, that our country's leaders will recognize that and God will continue to bless us.

We congratulate Jeremy Martin (Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori) as he graduates from eighth grade. We wish him the best as he has reached another milestone in his life and begins in his life and begins high school next year.

We are thankful Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) was able to spend some time here once again. We enjoyed having her and those that vacationed with her in our midst.

We welcome anyone who may be vacationing in this area this summer to stop and worship with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schutz

Greetings. We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. They include Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Gary Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). May the Lord richly reward them for their willingness to be spent on our behalf.

As our country celebrates Father's Day, we pray the Lord will bless our fathers for preserving our precious faith and instructing us in the way of truth. Even more so, may we have thankful hearts for our Father in heaven.

This Saturday is our Sunday school picnic. We look forward to spending this time with the Sunday school. We want to thank the teachers for all their efforts in organizing this event. And also for

their time spent every Sunday in teaching our children the ways of our Lord.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21

We welcome Bro. Ken and Sis. Monique Rader and their children, Rachel, Megan and Kenneth II. Bro. Ken and Sis. Monique come from Bloomington, IL. We look forward to having this young family worship with us.

Sis. Rachel Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) will be doing volunteer work at Gateway Woods this summer. May God look over her.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7848.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Summertime has once again arrived in Nashville. Along with the many activities associated with this season, many of us will think about taking a vacation. This is a wonderful time to view God's creation, get away from the normal, everyday routine, and hopefully, grow closer to God. The opposite can happen though that we may actually take a vacation from God. This allows Satan an inroad to draw us off the pathway. May we ever strive to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, thus blocking Satan from making this inroad.

The following poem about life reminded me of a vacation:

"Life is a journey, not a home
A road, not a city of habitation.
And its enjoyment and blessings

We have are inns on the roadside
of life,
Where we may be refreshed for a
moment

That we may with new strength
Press on to its end
To the rest that remains for the
People of God."

Lola R. Carr

"Joyous Journey"

by Clinton T. Howell

We thank Bro. Randy Gasser and his family for traveling from Detroit, MI, the weekend of June 4-5, to share in our fellowship and minister the Word of God. Other visitors traveled from Bluffton, IN, and Eureka, IL. An extra special thank you and God's richest blessings are extended to those who labored in our church remodeling project during the past several weeks. Bro. Bob and Sis. Gene Knapp (Eureka) helped us put in the front doors as well as other improvements. Bro. Dick Bricker, Bud Sauder and Bud's grandson, Eric (all from Mansfield, OH), worked on and successfully completed the plumbing.

We encourage anyone interested in helping us remodel, to contact one of the phone numbers listed below. Work at this time is most prevalent in the areas of drywall finishing, concrete and brick laying.

As I was writing about vacations earlier, Nashville is a wonderful area to visit. Please contact us if you are in the area, as we would enjoy the fellowship. Upcoming services are scheduled for August 7, September 4 and October 2. We ask that all of you remember us in your prayers. Call Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser

Kimberly Kaiser

Summertime gives those of us who live away from family and friends a chance to reap the benefits of travel. Whether it's us going back to our hometown or our relatives and friends coming to see

us, the time shared is truly blessed.

The Kaiser family would like to thank Bro. Bill Zeltwanger for the hospitality he showed them on Memorial Day weekend when they stayed at his beautiful home and listened to taped services together.

We also cherish our scheduled church services in Dallas. Not only do we get to hear God's Word, but we gather together and share God's blessed fellowship. Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm (Morris, MN) were our recent ministering guests. We thank them for their support and love.

We extend a special invitation to anyone traveling in the Dallas area: please come 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 additional information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We have been fortunate to have had attendance from individuals receiving employment in the area. This winter we had Sis. Renee Bauer (Princeville, IL) who taught in a school district in Del Rio, TX and now have Sis. Beth Beery (Rittman) who is an RN in Weslaco, TX.

Employment opportunities for teachers and medical personnel are unlimited here in south Texas. Currently the local school district has many openings for teachers and also the medical facilities are looking for licensed personnel. Anyone wishing to apply for a position in either of those areas maybe pleasantly surprised in all the opportunities here, and we would certainly appreciate having them a part of our small congregation.

SILVER THREADS

DYING TO SELF

When you are forgotten, or ne-

glected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worth to suffer for Christ,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take in all in patient, loving silence,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you stand face-to-face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility - and endure it as Jesus endured,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you content with any food, any offering, any climate, any society, any raiment, any interruption by the will of God,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendations, when you can truly love to be unknown,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy, nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death."
Philippians 3:10

IN HIS STEPS

"The Road is too rough," I said,
"Dear Lord,
There are stones that hurt me so."
And He said: "Dear child, I understand;
I walked it long ago."

"But there's a cool green path," I said,
"Let me walk there for a time."
"No, child," He gently answered me,
"The green road does not climb."

"My burden," I said, "is far too great;
How can I bear it so?"
"My child," said He, "I remember its weight;
I carried my cross, you know."

"But," I said, "I wish there were friends with me
Who would make my way their own."
"Ah! yes," He said, "Gethsemane
Was hard to face alone."

And so I climbed the stony path,
Content at last to know
That where my Master had not gone,
I would not need to go.

Leona Bays Gater

PROPHECIES OF THE COMING OF JESUS

JESUS AS RULER

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

JESUS AS SERVANT

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of

God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed . . . He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

Isaiah 53:4, 5, 11

JESUS AS GENTLE WARRIOR

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law."

Isaiah 42:3, 4

JESUS AS PRIEST

"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH."

Zechariah 3:8

JESUS AS SAVIOUR

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

JESUS AS REDEEMER

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins."

Luke 1:76, 77

MY CROSS

It is too heavy, rough and wide
The cross to me assigned;
I wish I might somehow exchange
It for another kind.
While thinking thus, I slept and
dreamed
Of many crosses where
The Master told me I might choose
The cross I was to bear.

A very small one I beheld
With dazzling gems so bright,
"I'll gladly take this cross," I said
And thought it would be light.

But soon I found to my surprise
Its weight too much for me;
This brilliant cross of shining gold
Was only fair to see.

And then I saw another cross
With flowers of every hue;
I thought to bear this fragrant
cross

An easy thing to do.
But, lo! I found beneath each rose
Sharp thorns which made me
bleed;

This cross was large and heavy too;
My heart was sad indeed.

Again to my delight I saw
A cross so plain and fair;
The one word LOVE was carved
thereon;

This one I well could bear;
I raised it to my bosom as
I heard the Master say,
This is your same old cross, my
child,
The one you cast away."

The Master's choice is always best
I now can plainly see;
I feel assured He weighs each cross
Before it comes to me;
Cross-bearers, why should we
complain

Or lay our burden down?
If we are true, we will some day
Exchange it for a crown.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)
ally wonderful. Needless to say, it contained a blessing that they all needed - the water of life for the natural person.

We also know the record of the king who inherited a vineyard and the rich king wanted to take it away from Naboth, but he refused to do it. Because of that, he got into a very embarrassing situation. Even the king's wife entered into it and tried to lie about the situation and finally did give a false record and so forth. But he felt that he should not give up that parcel of ground because it was given to him, in a sense.

In a spiritual sense, we, too, dear ones, especially those who had fathers and grandfathers ahead of us, by the same faith and same mind, that is an heritage to us.

Don't forget that their life, their record and their gift of grace was a help to us, so to speak. The inheritance, even though everyone must need to confess that if we have found grace and faith to believe, it comes from God the Father. But the Lord uses help as He did in Scriptural teachings many times over.

So this parcel of ground was one that was cherished and loved. People came down there to meet and they could fellowship. This woman was one of those on this day that had to come so we could get this lesson. Jesus, being wearied of His journey, sat on this well. Then there came this woman of Samaria and she, of course, was in opposition to the Jewish nation. Everything had to be arranged just this way so that the Lord could perform His work and miracle and prove again that God is no respecter of persons. (See Acts 10:34).

Jesus saith unto this woman, "Give me to drink." (John 4:7) No doubt, that was the natural procedure. But the woman, being one who loved to build on technicalities and respected her nationality, the Samaritan faith, and recognizing Jesus as a Jew, said, "Don't you realize and understand that the Samaritans have nothing to do with the Jews?" (See John 4:9). Now there a technicality was permitted to stand in the way. If the Lord Jesus had listened to her, He could have even withheld His blessings and His teachings, which was so necessary for her, as well as necessary for us.

"How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?" (John 4:9) She was making an issue of a very small insignificant thing. In religious life and in the life of faith, it meant nothing at all. "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." (John 4:9) She was right and she was wrong. That can happen to us, too. We can be right on certain phases of our ideas and our faith and still be very, very wrong in the sight of our God according to Scriptural teachings.

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If you knew . . ." (John 4:10) Now that is putting it squarely, isn't it? That is when people had better wake up. When someone in high authority, in this case it was our own Saviour, Who said, "If you knew the gift of God . . ." That is something again, isn't it? "If you knew the gift of God and Who it is that says to thee, 'Give me to drink,' thou wouldest have asked of him, {instead of thrusting Him away, as to say}, and he would have given thee living water." (See John 4:10.)

"Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?" (John 4:12) His faith points didn't mean a thing, did they? Because now Jesus again, in a sense, started to open her eyes, spiritual-wise, when He said unto her, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again." (John 4:13) She did that, too, didn't she? Time and again, the woman's problem and chore was to come to the well, draw water, take it home on her shoulders, and provide, evidently, for her household and friends. Then she knew she had to drink over and over again.

"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14) What a wonderful, wonderful promise it is! The Lord Jesus giving water whereby we can drink and not thirst again to those of us who have tasted of the love and goodness of the Father through Jesus Christ! Also for having been forgiven for our sins, having made confession of our sins, having received the peace of God in our hearts, we know what that means.

To be sure, the Christians have their troubles. The Christians have their cross to bear, but so does everybody else. The Christians have their trials and their disappointments in Christian life. They have their problems. They have, so to speak, many other things that bother other people, too.

But they do not thirst after that

type of water that will be their safe and salvation in Jesus Christ, because if they have faithfully been forgiven, they have a promise of life eternal. That is the greatest gift of anything! It is the greatest gift under heaven, and it is filled with blessings from the Lord Jesus.

Now then, the thing about it is this: each one must search their own hearts. Have we believed in Jesus Christ, in the blood of the Saviour for the forgiveness of sin to the extent that we received this great gift that we do not thirst after that? Are we free? Is our conscience free? Is our heart clean and pure in the sight of God? Have you received the fullness of the blessings of this Living Water of God . . . this fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Now it is one thing to receive the Holy Spirit, but it is still another thing to keep it. Because we are living in a world that is not fit for the kingdom. It is easy to begin to get out of the way and into error to receive the gifts of the world out of this time and forget the gifts of the heavenly Father, this Living Water. It must be kept within the heart and within the soul and then we will not thirst after this Living Water, but we will have it.

That is where again the Word comes in and the holy church comes in. When we gather together, like on a Sabbath day or otherwise, or even our own homes, if the blessings rest upon us, we can receive a great lifting up through our cares and override the disappointments of this life just by the Word of God, and by the blessings that we receive from Him.

But if we are careless in our Christian life, and, in a sense, let the Holy Spirit again depart from us, it is very disappointing and very easy to see that we do not receive the fullness of it. If we are not careful in our prayer life, which succeeds this very thing, in fact, the Living Water comes only after prayer and after complete submission to the will of the Lord and to yield to Him. If our will, our heart and our mind is yielded to the Lord and to His teachings, then we can day by day drink of this Living Water and enjoy the fullness.

Now many people do not enjoy

the fullness of a yielded and surrendered life, both converted and unconverted, if they lack in prayer and in deep gravity of prayer and earnestness of faith before the Holy Father. It will show itself even in our everyday life, if we are really in subjection and leading a God-fearing prayer life. It will show itself in our very eyes in our conduct and character. But the greatest thing is each one enjoys the best blessing himself if he lives in that kind of faith and constantly daily drink of this water and life.

That is the way the Lord teaches His children to be clean, unstained, unspotted from sin and the world. The church helps. The Word helps. The fellowship and association of faithful brethren all helps us to bring this about.

In the days of King Hezekiah, it took sixteen long days to clean the temple because it had been neglected and was not daily cleansed. Our hearts must be cleansed daily by this Living Water, by eating of the Bread of Life, the Word of God, and drinking of the Water of Life. Then, that kind of believer, who is filled with the Holy Ghost and whose heart is carrying about the Holy Ghost wherever he goes, conscience of it, mindful of it, drinking of that Living Water day by day, even hour by hour, if that is possible, he receives the fullness of the blessing of something terrific . . . something wonderful!

That kind of a Christian will also confess the Lord Jesus, and the Lord Jesus Himself said, "He who will deny Me, I will deny before my Father in heaven. But he who confesses Me, I will confess before my Father in heaven." (See Matthew 10:32-33). So, beloved, this wonderful Living Water that the Lord gives us, is something marvelous.

Now then the woman got a great surprise when the Lord Jesus told her, as He did to us. We had lived in sin and unbelief or at least were careless about our Christian life if we did believe. Many of us were fortunate to have been brought up in Christian homes where we always believed that God was in heaven, the Holy Father. We always believed that Jesus Christ

was the Son of God and that He was the Saviour of the world, that He shed His blood for the forgiveness of sin, but we drug our feet, as we say in everyday language, and hesitated to come to the Lord because we had to yield or surrender certain things that were joyful to us.

But once we saw and once we believed when the Lord pointed out that we were sinful and that we were headed for destruction if we did not repent and conform to the Scripture teachings, we let the Lord look into our hearts, just as He did in this woman's heart here.

No one came to the Lord Jesus and told Him that this woman was an evil and sinful woman, but He had that gift to look into her heart. That is an all astounding thing!

Even today, many of you here believe and many a child, many a Christian, nominal Christians, have been spared, at least, from major sins because they believed that God and the Saviour sees everything. How true it is!

Those very same eyes that saw Eve wrap her hands around the forbidden fruit, and those very same eyes that saw Ananias and Sapphira conspire together to lie, as Peter said, to the Holy Ghost, and those same eyes that looked into the heart of this woman, also looks into our hearts. That is, of course, a shielding thing. That is a wonderful thing if we just keep conscience of that faith so that we are very careful in our Christian life.

But when He said to her, "Woman, you don't have a husband. You had five and they are not your husbands." She said, "I think you are a prophet" (See John 4:17-19) "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her {this truth}, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship

him." (John 4:20-23)

In this generation, we especially have to be thankful. Suppose it would still be like in Old Testament days when we had to go a certain place to worship, to the temple, I would say. There were not too many temples. Or go to the mountainside to worship and build a little altar and bring a sacrifice, an animal or dove, what would happen to millions and millions of people? This is God's world. He foresaw it as we see it today. He even sees the end from the very beginning. He knows that man has to come and worship in faith and in spirit, that we do not have to go to yonder mountain nor to the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem like the Old Testament people had to.

But we can in our own faith and in our own home, according to our dictates but according to the Word, worship God so that He is at least satisfied with us. If our faith is a weak faith, if our prayers are weak prayers, if our understanding is a weak prayer, God knows it, too. He asks sincerity. He asks faith and He asks love. If we have that, then God will surely carry us and give us the needed grace to see and believe because He said,

"God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Now then, when He said to her, "You don't know how to worship," He meant to say, "You don't know how to pray." How true that is. We certainly would have to confess if we found ourselves in that same situation. We prayed at times and simply asked for things that suited our fancy or for our own selfish gain and benefit, and that was not a prayer in the sight and judgment of God nor the Saviour.

But when we once came to light and understanding and prayed for those things for our salvation, that brought light to us. That now even the church is a help to us to be submissive to the Lord. The Apostle Paul said in a defense before the Governor Felix one day, he said, "I exercise myself to be at peace with God and to offend neither God nor man. So the Christian, after all, has a tremendous responsibility and a tremendous thing to keep

himself squared and faithful according to the Word of God.

God is a spirit. We all realize that fully. I think nearly everybody does regard God as a spirit, seated in heaven on His throne as Majesty and the Saviour, Jesus, by Him. But one of the miracles that will still come to pass, as it did when Jesus was upon the face of the earth, they demonstrated His power, not only to call the dead, but He Himself did rise. He said, "No man took Me out of the grave." He was the power of God and lifted Himself from the grave and was transformed into a spirit.

Do you know the happenings at the grave that morning? With tear-stained eyes, Mary was there, and when your eyes are flowing with tears, you don't see very plainly. She could not see though He looked like a man. She said He looked like the gardener, and yet it was Jesus, until He said, "Mary!" Then He was a spirit and He said, "Don't touch Me." Just look at that power!

Here is a human being, as Jesus was, and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, He is transformed into a spirit! He demonstrated it over again when He came several times to where the apostles were, then He transformed Himself into a spirit. Coming to a closed door, a living person can't come in through locked doors and windows, but the Saviour came in through closed doors. He transformed Himself into flesh the morning they ate breakfast of bread and fish together.

But one day, when the Christians shall be exalted, the saved and believed who are ready to appear at the first resurrection, shall be transformed in the twinkling of an eye. That is going to be one of the greatest miracles that heaven and earth have ever seen or witnessed! Now the great thing, are we going to be among the saved and among the fortunate who also will be among those who will worship Him in truth and in spirit?

May God give everyone the needed light, the strength and grace to believe to serve God the short time that is allotted us that we will be among the fortunate ones to arise in the first resurrection.

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W W RAMSIER
2091 ST R 89
JEROMESVILLE OH 44840

SERMON BY DECEASED ELDER BRO. JOE A. GETZ OF MORTON, IL

**“God Performs Miracles”
John 4:1-26**

Many are the examples where the Lord Jesus used different methods of love, shall we say, or to bring people to light and to understanding. This is one of those unusual cases. Now many of them, we might say, are all miracles, from the hand of God to His loving Son, Jesus.

The various apostles touch on it differently. The Lord Jesus, by the touch of His hand, would cure or heal or straighten out many people. For others, He would just look into their hearts and still others, we might say, by remoteness He would be able to correct them.

In this case, He needed to touch the woman with His hand, as He did in the case with the young man who was deaf when He put His fingers in his ears and put His finger on his tongue and said, “Now your ears and mouth will be open in the manhood.” He listened and he could talk again.

In the case of the blind man, the Lord Jesus could again just say, “Now you see.” But in that case, again the Scripture says that He took His fingers upon those blind eyeballs and touched them. Momentarily, the sight did not come back to the man, and the Lord said to him, “Do you see?” The man said, “I see men as trees.” (Mark 8:24) The Lord again gave him further strength and power so he could see. Then he could see beautifully and

wonderfully and see the light of grace.

By the word of mouth, the Lord Jesus helped many men. Take Lazarus when he was sleeping in his grave, the Lord did not touch him. He simply called, “Lazarus, come forth.” In the case of the storm upon the sea shore, when His own apostles were fearful of losing their lives, the Saviour simply said, “Peace be still.” Again, in other cases, He would talk to people as He did to this woman, and it is recorded for us. How the Lord uses various methods of bringing about people by His love and by His sympathy!

In one place, one of the apostles said that He touched many people, but He would not do everything to everybody that came because there was unbelief here. When people rushed up to Him and thought they would be cured of an ailment or a sickness or suffering, He did not always help them because they simply wanted relief from their suffering and did not have faith. In that case, He would do nothing.

On the other hand, when people believed that He was Messiah, as this woman classified Him, or believed He was the Son of God, then the Saviour wanted to do good. But always, not only because He had a heart of love and sympathy, but largely because He wanted to use

the means of sympathy to open the soul and the spirit as He did with this woman.

So often we have heard this passage of Scripture, but there must be a lesson in it again this morning that it fell open for us. So let us systematically again review it. He had to go through this city – an act of God. Those things were not accident, but again, God led Him so this particular passage of Scripture and this miracle could be recorded for us . . . for you and for us . . . and that it would be of a help to us and to help somebody today that they can come to light and come to understanding.

He cometh to this great city which was recognized as a parcel of ground that Jacob gave. Of course, Jacob was one of the patriarchs of faith that many of them loved and that many even, so to speak, worshipped him because of his record of faith. He gave this ground to his son, Joseph, and he gave the well on it. In that generation, like it is today, when one receives inheritance, it is especially cherished, particularly so if it is something tangible, like a piece of property or a piece of land – acreage, so to speak. It is true that many inheritances cannot be cherished to this extent, but in this case, this well was something re-

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