



"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full com in the ear."

Mark 4:28

"But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

Mark 4:29

VOLUME 44

AUGUST 1994

NUMBER 8

The Master Calls For Reapers

Great the harvest, few the toilers,
Work is waiting one for all;
Answer quickly, and rejoicing,
Hear and heed the Master's call.

Gather golden sheaves for Jesus,
Ere too late, they ruined be;
Great and precious is the harvest,
And 'tis Jesus calleth thee.

Jesus shed His blood so precious,
On the cross for thee didst die.
Therefore heed His call so earnest,
Swiftly to the harvest fly.

Gospel Hymns #800, vs. 2, 3, 6

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white *already* to harvest.

"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may *rejoice* together.

"And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

"I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."

John 4:35-38

MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

“BELIEVERS HELPING BELIEVERS”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

As a young believer, I one day was speaking enthusiastically to an older brother about the Gospel and about the Lord. He listened respectfully and contributed to the conversation occasionally. After a while he calmly informed me that if I intended to work for the Lord, it would be better if I would remove my cap when speaking of spiritual things. I removed the cap I was wearing and proceeded. The incident remains in my mind and helps to make me more reverent and respectful toward the Lord. If it is winter and I'm outside in the cold, I would keep my cap on, which is reasonable, but the importance of showing reverence in one way or another remains. In this way the brother helped me a great deal.

It is very important for believers to help believers by engaging in conversations about how we can better follow the New Testament teachings. I Corinthians 16:15, 16, “I beseech you, brethren, that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.” Having and maintaining reverence for God is a New Testament teaching and we must

not lose it. Hebrews 12:28, “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

When a group of believers lose their ability to converse about how they can be more Godly and more holy, there is great danger they will lose their identity as a people of God and also their spirituality. This must not happen to us. We must follow Titus 2:1-8 more closely. “That the aged men be sober . . . , the aged women likewise . . . , that they may teach the young women to be sober . . . , Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.” We cannot force others to be more sober, modest and spiritual, but we can enquire of them as to their thinking on the matter and suggest that, together, we try to do better.

NOTICE

The Leo congregation is meeting in the fellowship center at Cedarville until the new church building is completed.

TEACHERS

Educational Coordinator Opening at Gateway Woods

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

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

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL — ATHENS, AL URGENT NEED!

We are in need of a teacher here at the Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL, for this coming school year. Please pass the word along. 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 as soon as possible for more information at (205) 232-2035.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

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Counselors: Loren Stoller,
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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).

MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER

When we become converted to Christ the Word teaches us to become assimilated into the church, which is Christ's body. All of us can testify of the wonderful loving warmth we felt from God's people when we first came into the faith. This warmth and love is to be ongoing!

As believers become one in Christ they gain strength. When brothers and sisters come together to comprise a larger body (the church of which Christ is the head), we benefit by the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love and we also find a safer haven from evil. By being united in Christ, we become stronger in our mutual efforts to face a devious, evil enemy—Satan!

Our spiritual life in Christ is not to be self-oriented. There are many people in our society who express belief in God, but who are emphatic in stating they don't need the church. To a great extent in modern American protestantism, it is stressed that one's religious faith is solely a private matter between God and man, and it should not interfere with one's personal choice of lifestyle. This is the opposite of true brotherhood and bears no resemblance to the Bible's pattern for the family of believers.

An individual believer's relationship to God, while personal in certain aspects, is also corporate (combined into a body). It is vertical (man to God and God to man) and horizontal (man to man, i.e. brotherhood). Because all true brothers and sisters in faith have God's Spirit within them, it is important that they relate to one another *spiritually in this unique horizontal relationship*. In a sense, as we relate to God's children, we are relating to God. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

When we approach God and serve Him in the brotherhood, we are beneficiaries of each other's strengths and experiences. Such a support group can help us in our understanding of the distinctions between

godliness and worldliness. It will also help keep us from error and from naively turning onto pathways that are spiritually harmful.

As fellow-believers in Christ, we are accountable not only to God, but to each other. We have many responsibilities to each other as "fellow-citizens" of the household of faith (Eph. 2:19): We are to share each other's joys and sorrows (1 Cor. 12:26); We are to comfort one another (1 Thes. 5:11); We are to be subject one to another (1 Pet. 5:5); We are, lovingly and with meekness and patience, to admonish and exhort one another when necessary (Col. 3:16); And in our lifestyle we are not to offend one another (Rom. 14:21) or put a stumbling block or occasion to fall in our brother's way (Rom 14:13); Nor are we to judge our brother (Rom 14:4).

The Bible is explicit in stating that God's people—those who have repented for their sins and have been truly converted—are members of Christ's body, the church. "Member" is defined as part of a larger whole. Our personal bodies are made up of many members, and so is the church; therefore, the members, in both instances, are to function cooperatively. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Rom 12:5). In this composition, individual members are given various God-ordained gifts and talents. From this, everyone in the body can benefit. There are "many members" in one body (Rom. 12:4).

As brethren we are under an umbrella of kindly spiritual authority. We are placed in the body of Christ (the church) as God sees fit: "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him" (1 Cor. 12:18). Also we are to obey those in the brotherhood who rule over us and lead by example (Heb. 13:7, 17). And we are to submit one to another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21). We are not independent entities walking on personal and isolated spiritual pathways.

Christ and the church are inseparable. Christ is the head of His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). We are members one of another. As a part of a body we cannot separate ourselves from this body and assert that we are following the Bible's pattern. If we go our own way or begin to "do our own thing" we are like a physical body part trying to exist on its own without benefit of all the various parts of the body being perfectly joined together.

The "unity of brotherhood" concept helps to perpetuate the faith from generation to generation. Keeping the faith and passing the torch to succeeding generations is very important—and especially so in our time when relativism and rationalism tend to undermine any type of absolute beliefs.

The enemy of our souls (Satan) is determined to undermine the virtues which are essential for a body of believers to thrive. Through the ages his goal has been to send individualism into the church. His tactic is to do it through seepage, not in a noticeable flow. To resist Satan, and to protect the holy church, we are to be obedient children, not fashioning ourselves after our former lusts (1 Pet. 1:14).

We are to be one bread and one body (1 Cor. 10:17). The concept, spiritually, of becoming one bread can be likened to physical bread. In making bread, a baker takes various ingredients, mixes them, kneads them (presses into a mass), and then bakes the dough into loaves.

Spiritually, we come as various individuals into the church. We are kneaded as we become crucified with Christ and the old man is pressed down. Finally, as the old man dies, and we come into the warmth of the Spirit and the brotherhood (the baking), we are blended into one bread and one body. Our fleshly individualism (the old Adam) is destroyed and we become yielded unto God (Rom. 6:11, 13), and only then do we truly function as members one of another according to the biblical pattern.



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

European Board History and Update

The European Board is one of four boards functioning under the jurisdiction of the World Relief Committee. As its name implies, the purpose is to work with our brethren in Europe, most particularly with humanitarian aid. Any efforts which pertain to spiritual matters are assigned to the Mission Committee, including the building of churches. But, because of the nature of our efforts with brethren in Europe, the World Relief European Board also cooperates with the Mission Committee on projects which involve church building.

In an effort to help our American brethren understand more fully what is happening, and to inform you of how your funds are being used, we will have a series of articles on these pages in the next few months. We hope that they will be of interest to you.

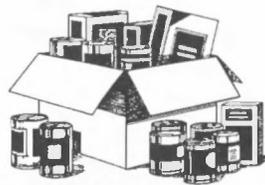
After the fall of communism, the borders between the east and west European countries opened, allowing brethren in and out. The 70 years of oppression took a heavy toll on everyone, including our brethren. When it became possible for people to pass from one country to another, and even before the borders were fully opened, brethren from western Europe established contacts with those in the eastern bloc countries. As a result of this, efforts to help the needy and suffering began.

Romania

Members of our faith have lived in Romania for many decades. Typical of eastern bloc countries, borders have changed over the years, and what was once one country now is in another. Romania is no exception. In fact, what is now the Ukrainian province of Bukovina, where we have several churches, was once considered a part of Romania, and formerly of the Austrian-Hungarian empire. This political instability, plus wars and

oppressive regimes have taken a heavy toll upon our struggling brethren. By the grace of God, they managed to keep their faith alive by meeting in small groups in homes during the strict regimentation. Although the flame of faith flickered in these distant lands, it did not go out, and today is flourishing.

Presently there are 38 congregations in Romania with five elders having the oversight. The telephone connections are workable, and there are fax machines in certain locations, making it possible to keep close contact. For



several years, regular shipments of material aid have gone into the country from Bluffton, IN each month. With recent availability of goods locally, programs like this are being reviewed. Nonetheless, the amount of assistance provided has been very beneficial to these struggling souls, and all involved appreciate the support of our brethren in America. By God's grace, they have built 6 new churches in Romania, and others are planned.

Ukraine

Since 1991, six or more shipments of foodstuffs and clothing went from Breidenbach, Germany, to the brethren in Ukraine. The World Relief Committee has participated both physically, by sending Americans to go along, and financially to help make these shipments of much needed essentials possible.

Hungary & Slovakia

Hungary and Slovakia are beginning to get established as democratic nations, and our brethren there have no pressing physical needs. We have been assisting brethren in these countries as well as in Germany to build churches.

Evaluation Trip

A group representing the World Relief and Mission Committees visited Europe in June and early July of this year for the purpose of evaluating past efforts and planning for future ones.

Elder Brothers Gene Marti, Ed Aeschleman, and Bro. Andy Hunyady traveled in Romania for five days. They visited a number of churches, and brethren, staying in homes. They observed several vehicles that had been purchased for use in delivering food packages, attending church functions, etc. Needs exist for 2 more, which have been approved by the European Board. A full report of church building activities will be covered in a future issue. Estimated funds necessary to provide a place of worship for each of the congregations needing buildings in Romania are \$159,000 total.

On June 16, this group traveled to Budapest where they were joined by Bros. Gene Lehman and Louis Bikadi. Friday, June 17, was spent in meeting with representatives from Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Slovakia, and Hungary in separate groups. Each group outlined the needs in their country, and explained local situations.

On Saturday, June 18, brethren from across Europe sat together in one group, and the overall program was reviewed. Topics of discussion included material aid and assistance in building churches, printing hymnbooks and Bibles, etc. Doctrinal issues were not discussed. The American brethren found these meetings very productive, and returned

with much information for future decisions. There was a strong feeling of unity and harmony. Your support and prayers in these endeavors are very much appreciated.



My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 1 JOHN 3:18



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

Report of the Meeting with Yugoslavian Brethren

Representatives from the Mission Committee met in Budapest, Hungary on June 17, 1994 with members of the Relief Committee from Yugoslavia and several of their elders. A cordial feeling of brotherhood was evident and issues were openly discussed. Languages used were Serbian, Hungarian, German, and English. In spite of the difficulties of translation, much valuable information was gathered which will be used for future planning.

Funds from the U.S. which have been sent through Szeged, Hungary have reached Serbia. A report was given of fund balances, and future needs were estimated. Throughout this report, one must keep in mind that the political situation in this troubled land is a major obstacle. In spite of this, the brethren assured us that physical needs for all of their members and friends are being met at this time.

Because of the war many young people have taken the opportunity to leave the country. Due to decreasing membership, 30 older churches were sold, and the funds used to repair the remaining ones. They believe the selling of these buildings leaves the wrong impression, and has been a hindrance to the faith. So they don't intend to sell any more of the 100 church buildings that remain. They placed strong emphasis on spiritual efforts, which they view as much more important than material aid.

They requested funds for three new buildings and the renovation of six old ones, at an estimated cost of \$200,000 total. We are giving this matter serious attention, and will report again on the decisions as they are made.

Fuel for heating has been a problem since the UN embargo and the civil war, but has somewhat eased recently. They estimate 200 families will need aid for heating homes next winter. When we asked about home heating, we were told that in addition to heating



oil, they burn wood, plus they do not heat every room in the house. They were satisfied that the amounts requested from us were sufficient for their needs.

Presently they have two mini-vans and a station wagon which are used for visiting church members and distributing food and money. There is a dire need for several more vehicles, and this was approved during a conference call on July 12. Fuel is expensive, but it is available. Medications are acquired locally or brought in from western countries and distributed. Most of the believers are within a relatively small geographic area of Serbia, and communication with each other is possible. None of our

appealed to them for help. Distribution is always a problem due to lack of public transportation.

Since there is improvement in the economic situation, the Yugoslavian elders have decided to have a nationwide collection within Serbia for those in need, which includes money, food, and clothing. This collection is in progress. Many international powers are involved in their internal strife, and only God knows what the future will bring. The young men can serve in the military as non-combatants, but must serve twice as long as a regular soldier. As of now, none are in prison.

War damaged houses have been repaired on a temporary basis, and when the war is over, will be restored if possible.

Inasmuch as they now have fewer young people in their churches, the future for the faith in Yugoslavia is not as bright as in the west. The subject of trade schools and higher education was discussed, and their feeling is that at this time, nothing is practical until the situation becomes more stable.

They once more stressed to us that their primary concerns are for the spiritual side of the brotherhood, such as church buildings, transportation, Bibles, song books, etc. as opposed to material needs. Programs are presently in progress, supported by the Mission Committee, to reprint the "Zion's Harp", and also to furnish them Bibles, both in the Serbian language.

At this time, it is best that money as opposed to goods be brought into the country. This is risky, but possible. We have direct telephone and fax connections with them, and monitor the situation regularly.

The Mission Committee thanks all of you for your prayers and support. By God's grace, we must continue to assist in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage the laborers in the fields that are white unto harvest.

"They placed strong emphasis on spiritual efforts, which they view as much more important than material aid."

— NOTICE —

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

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

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 132, 307 West First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
Phone (309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
R.R. #2, Box 95A
Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone (419) 258-2197

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches
Ten Years — August 1983 thru July 1993 — 256,743

Bibles Distributed — Eleventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1993 —	1509	1509
September 1993 —	1661	3170
October 1993 —	3572	6742
November 1993 —	2580	9322
December 1993 —	2864	12,186
January 1994 —	1486	13,672
February 1994 —	1998	15,671
March 1994 —	2741	18,412
April 1994 —	3599	21,511
May 1994 —	3292	24,803
June 1994 —	3096	27,899
July 1994 —	1978	29,877

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

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

NOTICE

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

Thank you,
Phil and Gloria Grant

Our thanks to those who sent Bibles to be sent overseas. We appreciate the response and can continue to use more Bibles, Bible story books and the three hymnals mentioned.

Thank you,
Jerry and Arlene Banwart

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Summertime is always busy at ACHH. We have several activities our residents look forward to that are annual trips. One of these is a trip to Streitmatter's Farm where everyone enjoys farm sites, animals, gardens, flowers, a meal and singing. It is a wonderful Sunday afternoon. A large group of residents will also be going to Great America, another annual event. Throughout the summer we have residents leaving for several different camps and of course, we offer swimming and bowling for summertime activities. There is ongoing activity in Special Olympics. We also plan mini-vacations throughout the summer for small groups.

Some of the recent activities at Oakwood Estate and Linden Estate, the two 16-bed facilities, have been picnics in the park, hikes on the East Peoria nature trail, an outing to see the play "Alice in Wonderland" and a dietary inservice for the residents of both homes.

Like all of us, our residents enjoy receiving mail. We include a birthday list for any of you who

NOTICE TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS

Publication of the September issue of the Silver Lining will be under the supervision of the Apostolic Christian Publications Committee, with Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) serving as the coordinator. Bro. Bruce will be sending a letter of guidelines and instructions to all correspondents.

We wish to thank all the volunteers at Leo, the correspondents, brothers, ministers and elders who contributed articles and writings during the 50 years of publishing the Silver Lining at Leo. To be part of this work and labor of love has been a blessing and privilege.

Thank you all very much.
Elder Bro. David Bertsch

have a heart to give a little uplift to a resident close to their birth date.

September birthdays at ACHH, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Viola Fisher (1); Marta Graber (9); Mike Culkin (10); Lester Miller (16); Lois Egli (19); Glenn Getz (20); Cindy Sigulas (22); Nancy Theis (25); Marsha Miller (26); Doug Steffen (26) and Ethel Borinstein (29).

September birthdays at Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Angela Massner (9) and David Maupin (20).

September birthdays at Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550 are: Janet Christensen (16); Jim Maupin (24); Brent Rebeck (24); Janet Schweigert (10) and David Taylor (13).

The September birthday at 207 Wagler, Morton, IL 61550 is Marlene Esslinger (8).

As many of you probably know, Bob Knobloch, the administrator for the Home for the Handicapped, is retiring July 29. We are certainly going to miss him and we wish him a very enjoyable retirement. We know he will go on to serve, but in a different area. We have asked him to write a small article for the Silver Lining:

As of July 29, 1994, I am retiring from my position at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. In looking back over the

last 23 years, I can recall many instances when the Lord himself went before me and did not forsake me. The Lord deserves all praise and honor concerning any success story or good report about the Home. I know I'm going to miss not seeing the residents and staff each day and the meetings with the brothers on the Board of Directors. The Lord has led many kind and empathetic people to labor at the Home, for this I am truly thankful. Words cannot express my love and gratitude for the staff in charge that I am leaving.

Bro. Ron Messner, who will succeed me, is a faithful person who I feel confident will uphold all good Christian principles. I encourage you to give him the same prayerful support you have given me.

May God bless you for the continued prayerful, physical and financial support of the Home, that enables the staff to provide for the needs of our loved ones.

In Christian love,
Bro. Bob Knobloch

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

"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." (Psalm 33:5) This verse has certainly been proven true over and over for us this summer. As we continue to study all about the creation, we just realize

this more and more. Soon summer will be over and some of our students will go on to public education where they most likely will never hear again that God created the whole world and everything in it. Hopefully though, this summer will stick with them and they will never doubt the truth about the beginning of time.

Each of us here at the preschool wish to extend our thanks to Sis. Linda Morrison for her faithfulness this year. She is returning to Ohio to fulfill her duties there and then hopefully will return here to Alabama to continue teaching. We can only ask that God will bless her for her many hours spent above and beyond what was required, and that He will keep her and watch over her while she is gone. Thank you "Miss Linda."

We have had several volunteers again this summer and to each one of you we want to say thank you, thank you, thank you! We appreciate so much your willingness to give of yourself and your time to come and help out here. Please keep us in mind for next summer and bring others with you.

We are busy getting ready for the next school year which will start August 22. Each year as the students change classes and go to new rooms, the excitement they feel is a little bit contagious. We, too, as teachers look forward to another year and the new faces that fill our classrooms. We continue to ask your support in prayer for our work here, and we also pray for God's wisdom in all that is done.

**GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home**
Steph Moser

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one, as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

St. John 12:20, 21

This heart cry is nestled in

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

Christ's last recorded prayer before His arrest. It was His paramount intercession to His Father that His future brothers and sisters would work, speak, and act in the unity of the Spirit. In His eternal vision He longed for all believers to pursue the same goal of giving praise and glory to His Father, for He knew what a powerful witness of God's bonding love this would be to unbelievers. Then people of diverse backgrounds can shed their condemning nature and horizontal focus to look upward in adoration of their Lord, the world will know that God desires a relationship with them through His Son. Herein lies the answer for how to lead our family, friends and neighbors to Christ. Are we living lives that are so intimately "spirit bonded" with our brothers and sisters that people are drawn to repentance and faith in God? Then we live in accordance to the desires of Christ's prayer whether here at Gateway Woods, in our families, or our individual congregations, there will be fruit. Please pray with us that all we do and say with the children will glorify our Father and be a testimony of Christ's love for them.

We welcome Maria B. (13) to the Schrock household and trust that the Lord will work in her and in us to bring about a new relationship and new life.

Another prayer of thanksgiving can be offered upon behalf of our annual Auction and Sale (August 13). Items are being brought in daily as sale day approaches! It is so refreshing to see many pulling together from across the miles to lend support for this labor of love. It takes much teamwork to facilitate this event, so many thanks are due to all the volunteers, contributors and patrons. God bless you!

Along with the hustle of preparation for the auction, our normal summer hub-bub of picking berries, making applesauce, driver's ed, Christian Endeavor, Family Camp, jobs and games keep us all hopping! We are able to keep up with these schedules with the generous help of our summer volunteers. Many thanks to Sisters Rachel

Clough and Bridget Zollinger for their extended terms of service. You are both storing up much treasure in heaven. Also many thanks to Brothers: Rudy Hoerr, Chuck Hart, Lance Pfiefer, Jamie Washburn, Larry Gramm, and Sisters Abby Kipfer, Margo Stettner, Marci Metz, Sara Zehr and Jennifer Steffen and Jim Plattner family. We love and appreciate you all.

You will notice from the ads in this issue that we still have openings for Alternate Houseparents, Education Coordinator and Child Care Supervisor. We are praying for you to respond to His call.

May we continue to further our Father's kingdom in oneness of spirit and purpose.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

We were thankful to have Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) as a visiting minister the last weekend of June. Also, Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and his wife and family spent a Sunday with us in July. We appreciate that they took the time to visit us and share the Word of God with us.

We've had those who have undergone surgery and/or hospitalization this month. Christy Thomas and Nancy Chapman have both had surgery, which is thought to be successful, and we pray for their healing and recovery. Please also remember Sis. Elaine Perry and Sis. Eunice Kelley in your prayers, for their health and strength to be restored, if God's will.

We shared a tearful parting, as Sis. Linda and Sis. Katie Morrison moved back to Mansfield, OH, for what we hope and pray is a temporary parting. Sis. Linda and Sis. Katie have become a vital part of our Athens congregation in the short time they spent here, and we hurt to see them leave. However, we trust that God knows best, the past and the future, and we place it in God's almighty hands.

As always, we enjoy visitors in Athens. If you're planning to be in our area for any reason, please come to visit. We hold Wednesday evening services at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday services at 10:00 a.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

God's Word is the best protection we can have for any situation. Today's forrest fires, floods, and crime is enough to turn your heart to our Lord. He is powerful. Call on Him!

We've had a hot June, with many coming on vacation, it slipped by all too soon. We are so blessed and thankful for your visits.

Across the country, our sisters prepare a Sunday lunch for us. The able bodied who do the planning, fixing, serving, and clean up, do it as a labor of love. We surely appreciate each of you. May God bless each of you for a job well done and appreciated. Your reward is great in heaven.

Sunday school classes will resume August 29.

What a joy to see Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch back in church after Bro. Jerry's accident. He is recovering nicely. Also, to see Sis. Emma Sanders.

Some of yester-year Sunday school lads seen were Shayne Pulfer, Bill and Bob Emch. We love you, please return again.

We are praying for Sis. Vera Jivan and Seth Maurer (leg cast).

Our 116° temperature was a bit too much for our bird friends. A few cooler days brought Inca Doves, Hummers, and Sapsuckers.

We leave you with Romans 8:26 and 8:28 and Proverbs 7:4.

The most uncommon thing today is "Common Sense".

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Harvey and Ethel Smith

July 3 and 4 weekend brought a pleasant surprise when Bro. Doug Wagenbach came from San Diego, CA, to preach to us. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich was here also.

A church picnic had been planned later in the day. A large crowd attended to enjoy lots of food and fellowship.

Come join us every first and third Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. M.S.T. For directions, call 602-445-2164.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Bro. Gene Fehr and his wife, Sis. Marge, were involved in a car accident recently. They were spared serious injury but did sustain severe damage to their car and other personal property. We are so happy that they are recovering nicely since being released from the hospital. We are thankful to be able to report that the loss was only material as good health cannot be replaced so easily.

Our temperatures have consistently been in the 110° range for weeks now; no relief in sight!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

We were blessed with many visiting ministering brothers this month. We thank Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) for being willing to serve us on the pulpit.

We enjoyed having Greg Schlatter live here for the past six months. He has gone back home to Bay City, MI. We pray that God will direct him in the next steps of his life.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetter

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). Thank you so much for all of your labors of love. It was so touching when Elder Bro. Roy Grimm shared with us about his trip to India with Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). How the danger was so close and how he was so ill. How thankful we are that they all three came home safely. How wonderful our Saviour is. He is always so near and will see us through. We just need to trust.

I want to thank all our visitors for coming and please come back soon.

Bro. Leonard Locher recently had surgery but is doing fine and has returned to his work.

Bro. Mike Howell, who is in the Navy, returned last week from overseas. Welcome back Mike. We missed you. It has been a long six months. He is so glad to be back.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Leonard Locher was elected as a trustee. Bro. Rory Strahm's term has expired. We thank him for serving on the board and encourage Bro. Leonard in his new responsibilities.

I just really feel moved to ask that we all keep Bro. Rory Strahm in our prayers. He has been ill for quite some time and has been having some really rough days and nights. May God continue to grant him strength in his illness.

COLORADO, DENVER

Jamie Grant

Did you know that in warm weather, when sap runs freely through a tree, you can actually hear it? The next time you think about it, you may want to find a stethoscope to pack along, from somebody, for an outdoor hike!

Look for a tree bigger than six inches in diameter, with thin bark. Place your stethoscope against the tree and be very quiet. As you carefully move the stethoscope around, you should hear the gurgling and cracking noises the sap makes as it travels through the tree!

You know, it is even true with God, that in our very quietest moments we hear our "spiritual sap" running, that still small voice gently flowing through our hearts. Sometimes it is hard to hear what the Lord would will for our lives and so as one uses a stethoscope to enhance their hearing, we must go to the Word and diligently pray for guidance.

The article I read suggested finding a tree with thin bark. It made me think that the same is possibly true for a soul, that becomes thick and calloused, by the annual rings of time . . . , and how

much harder it is to discern when it is actually God speaking, and to hear His gentle calling.

We were thankful to have the testimony and baptism of Deborah Braun (Sis, Sharon). Welcome Sis. Deb into the fold. May we strive for the day when we shall feast from the Tree of Life!

Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

In God's unique time-table, and over a year of much prayer, the Lord has planted Bro. Mark Kiefer to minister the Word, to spread it, and to be rooted deep in the hearts of man, so that it may bear fruit, as the Holy Spirit sees fit to give increase. We can not express to Bro. Mark, his children, and his dear wife, Sis. Mindy, how much we love and support you.

Our prayers and thankfulness also go to all our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Dwayne Metzger (West Bend, IA), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Sid Kaufmann (Cisna Park, IL) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

As for all the ministering brothers and elder brethren across the land . . . , the church in Denver give you our love and support as we strive for the fellowship beseeched by Paul, where we "speak the same thing, with no division, perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgement." (I Corinthians 1:10).

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

We are happy to have our recovering hospital patients back with us, Bro. Emmanuel Kloter (Sis. Helen), Bro. Jason Kloter (Sis. Sue), Bertha Farney and Sis. Phyllis Gerber (Bro. Everett). We are also happy to have Pete Skipper back in our midst after his recent accident.

We are always so thankful for all our visiting ministers who are always so willing to share the Word of Life with us, Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH).

Planning an August 21 wedding are Bro. Dave Bahler (Bro. Owen and Sis. Lois Ann) and Sis. Peggy Skipper (Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma). We wish them God's blessings.

We want to congratulate our graduates and wish them God's blessings in the future. The graduates are Heather Ellert (Becky and Bill), Sis. Rachel Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Melissa Kupferschmid (Wayne and Marcia), Ryan Kupferschmid (Bro. Dan and Sis. Terry), Sis. Cathryn Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy), Duane Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally), Emily Hany (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy), Amy Zahner (Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet) and Rachel Gerber (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Bev).

We want to wish Greg Galat (Bro. Dave, Sr. and Sis. Marlene) well as he spends a year in Korea with his work. Anyone wishing to write to him, his address is: Greg Galat, PSC 479, Box 208, FPO AP 96269-1199.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

The hot weather shows that summer is here and many have included the Nation's Capital and our church in their vacation plans. On Sundays, there is great anticipation to see how many visitors we have and to hear greetings from the different churches. This month our visitors were from Smithville, OH, Rockville, CT, Philadelphia, PA, Bluffton, IN, Lexington, KY, and Lester, IA. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenman (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). We thank these brothers, their wives and families for making the effort to come to serve us.

We welcome Bro. Steve Manz (Junction, OH) to our congregation for the summer. There are many

opportunities for internships and other educational experiences in this area.

Our prayers are with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jill Aeschleman as he enters the hospital again this week for a few days of treatment.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Some gather in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30.

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

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Billie Klopfenstein**

Summer is in full swing here in Florida. That means temperatures in the 90's every day (until October or November) and quite a few rain showers and thunderstorms. There is a beautiful array of flowers blooming. And of course our church group is quite a lot smaller than in winter; partly because of fewer visitors but it is the time of year some of us migrate (for a short period) to the north.

For six Sundays in June and July, we had "Summer Sunday School". It was our version of Bible school. Volunteers other than regular teachers are in charge. Our theme this year was "A Perfect Ten", meaning the ten commandments. Songs and lessons were centered around these edicts handed down from God to His children. There was a fruitful tree in the fellowship hall and all the children learned Bible verses, read chapters of the Bible or Bible stories to be able to hang an orange on the tree. Each class made several crafts. The children really look forward to this time each summer.

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

"And, ye fathers, provoke not

your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

What a balance fathers have to strive for in raising their children in the love and the fear of the Lord. As we remembered our earthly fathers this past month, we treasure the example they have been to us, and we realize how much time they must have spent in God's Word to find the balance which we now seek in raising our children. We also look to our Heavenly Father for all that we need to strike that balance.

Sis. Kaye Eisenmann had surgery last month and Sis. Viola Keller had surgery this month. We are so thankful to have them both gathering with us again, and thank God for His healing power.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Jeff and Gloria Fischer**

Our church has suffered another loss as we learned that Bro. John Joos has gone on to be with the Lord. As a charter member of our congregation, Bro. John Joos was constantly looking out for the church, ensuring that it was in good repair. Moreover, his concern for the spiritual body and future church was evident by his counsel and support. Our hearts and hands are prayerfully extended to his daughter, Sis. Mary Joos.

It has been announced that two of the converts have found the peace of Christ in their hearts and lives. Nathan and Melissa Sabo (Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda) plan to testify of their joy in early September. We are happy to have a nice group of converts here. There is room yet for more.

We are also happy to report that Bro. Ernest Koehlert has been able to attend church services again. He is now looking and feeling much better. He appreciates cards and letters. He still receives mail at 3329 Beneva Road, #201, Sarasota, 34232-9157 in care of Sis. Edna Roscher.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**John Brewer**

The last couple of summers have been issues of extremities. Last year unlike the Midwest, we were experiencing record heat with little or no rain. This past year we have had record rainfalls that have caused havoc in the southwestern part of our state. It makes one wonder why such disasters happen to people. One could look at such disasters and say why me or them, and just sit in despair over the situation. But remembering the help and neighborly initiative the residents and volunteers of the Midwest flood last year had, I think God allows doors for witnessing and testifying of the mighty hand and love God shows through us. Those who gave their time last year and those who are this year in Georgia, are a testimony of not why disasters happen, but the love and compassion to those who suffer in such times. People tend to see Jesus in others more when disaster and heartache strikes a community rather than when times are good. That may sound somewhat morbid, but in times when tribulation hits others, a humbling process begins. Only those who are humbled can really see Christ and His love for us.

We appreciate all the visitors this summer that have taken the time to worship with us. This summer seems a lot more busier than usual with all the vacationers that are going to the Appalachian mountains or the Florida or South Carolina coast. But our congregation enjoys seeing old friends who pop in or new ones that take the time to stop. It amazes and humbles me the love a person has for others to take the time to visit and make new friends and acquaintances. We also appreciate the visiting ministers who have come down (or up) to be with us this past July. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) to come again and be with us.

Services are held every Sunday with song service beginning at 10:20. We are located at the Renaissance Hotel which is on I-85 and Riverdale Road Exit, just south

of the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport. If there are any questions, please call either Linn Stoller (404-631 4554) or John Brewer (404-502-8629).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Peg Anliker**

We recently had farewells for two couples from our church. Feeling God's direction, Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein are moving near Gridley, IL, Bro. Mark's home church. Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb Steffen and children, Cameron and Cole, plan to move to Goodfield, IL, Bro. Dirk's home church. We are thankful they were all willing to be used as part of a well functioning body. They will surely be missed.

We welcome Rod Farney (Bro. Gerry and Sis. "Gerry", Cissna Park, IL) who has found employment in Belvidere. We hope Rod feels welcome in our church.

This past month we were fed from God's Holy Word by Bros. Gary Anliker and Ron Schambach, both from Elgin, IL. Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) also visited us. We really appreciate these brothers and hope God will bless them and their families.

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

"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

The ordination of Bro. Everett Hari as our elder of the Bloomington-Normal congregation was held Saturday, June 18. As Bro. Everett begins these very important duties of guiding the flock, it is our prayer that the Lord will give him the necessary grace to carry out the duties laid upon him. Our prayer also should be that we all strive to uphold that which is

right in the sight of God. We thank our Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for lending themselves in the Lord's service during this most joyful and humbling time. We thank the numerous others who gathered with us for this special event and gave their support.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch for his many years of service as elder to the Bloomington-Normal congregation. He has a very special place in our hearts, and may the Lord give him a crown that will never fade for his faithfulness.

On June 22, we had the privilege to partake of the Lord's Supper. We thank our Elder Bros. Everett Hari and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) who assisted in serving this holy supper.

Our hearts rejoice when souls find victory over sin. On the weekend of June 26, we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Sara Kieser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma) and Jenny Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary). May the Lord always be near and provide for them as they travel the narrow pathway.

Saturday, June 18, was our Women's Luncheon. What a special time it was for everyone who gathered.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen are happy and thankful to announce the birth of their first grandson, Trenton Ward, May 17, to their son, Bro. Aaron, and his wife, Sis. Sarah (Belvidere, IL). Also their first granddaughter was born June 10! Adrian Christine Knobloch was born to their daughter, Retta, and her husband, Eric, who live in Athens, AL.

Three more joyful additions were added to the Bloomington-Normal congregation. Travis Eugene was born June 28 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Karen Kieser. Jason and Melissa are excited to have a new baby brother. Happy grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evelyne Hangartner (Roanoke, IL), and Louis and Jean Kieser.

July 5 was the day Sabin Rose decided to be born. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sarah Brummitt are the happy

parents. Kirsten welcomes a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen and the late Dave and Sis. Karen Brummitt. We are happy to hear that Sabin is doing fine since she was born prematurely.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam Zimmerman are happy to announce the birth of Lydia Joan July 7. Jacob, Alex and Hannah are joyful, along with grandparents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Dick and Betty Lawrence (Fairbury).

We wish to thank the visiting ministers for preaching God's Word to us. They are Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Les and Barb Fehr

The day of grace is still here and God is still calling souls out of this world of sin. Fred Dietz has answered the Lord's call. He is the son of Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell. Our prayers are with Fred as he makes this change in his life.

On July 9 and 10, we spent a blessed weekend hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of Alisa Pyles. We welcome Alisa into the family of God and wish her an abundance of His grace.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

For some time now, print seems too little and too far away, blurred, too. I have a wonderful solution, though: magnifying lenses. (In my case, I use them with my contacts). These lenses bring the print up closer and make it larger and clearer. The kind of light I am in also makes a difference. Natural light is better, but it certainly must be strong. Amazing, isn't it, the parallels? If we magnify Him in our hearts, in praise and spiritual songs, He is ever nearer, His purpose for our lives ever clearer. And

we must have Sonlight, strong and pure. When our spiritual eye is light, our "whole body is full of light." (Matthew 6:22)

Our visitors were truly a blessing to us. Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) ministered to us on a Wednesday evening. Though he shared his weakness, the Lord supplied his needs and all of ours with power. Later in the month, Bros. Tom Schamback (Elgin), and Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) shared Sunday services. More and more we come to know the depth of the submission of these brothers to the Spirit that we might be strengthened. May they ever know His abundant grace and peace.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11) was our verse for the theme, "Dressing for the Battle in God's Army." Vacation Bible School with a theme, compressed into one week, has been a blessing again; thanks first of all to Him who gave us a reason to reflect and to rejoice, but also the commitment and talents of planners and teachers, focused on the week. Dedicated parents also set aside routine and other demands to bring their child(ren). The Bible class and adults enjoyed the preparation of several brothers. Our Bro. Greg Rassi and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann began and ended the week, respectively, with first the battle and finally present and future victory. In between, Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) added their experiences and contributions from the Spirit. Bro. Ted pointed out, in his talk on our enemy, how Satan constantly tries to persuade us that any key will open the door to heaven, when, in reality, Christ alone holds the key. Bro. Kevin spoke about Christ our general and the pressures we face that try to keep us from obeying His orders. Bro. Jim spoke on our equipment for the battle, five pieces for defense and only one piece of equipment for an offense – the sword of the Spirit, His Word. (Ephesians 6:13-17) We were warned yet we were uplifted, "for the battle is the

Lord's." (I Samuel 17:47) He blessed us all mightily.

We just visited the Alamo in San Antonio. I was impressed once more – but differently. There were two major reasons. Each man who died there was commemorated by name. We owe so much to so many in our lives – and do they know? I was just recently in my home church. There are so many there who have left positive spiritual influences on me. I met several of my Sunday school teachers while there. I had wonderful Sunday school teachers, including my father and an aunt. But let me remember Sis. Hanna Koch and what I learned from her. She was an "extra-giver." She worked at the bank, but we in S.S. always thought her real work was us. She agreed. She taught us in spiritual analogies, better known to us as object lessons. Once we had her in S.S., we always knew we would get at least one birthday card and at least one Christmas card. Hanna didn't forget her cards to us even when the signature became trembling ones. She knew what her part of the Lord's mission was. He gave us to her and she remembered.

Who among us have we "been given"? Who can we remember – both constantly and unexpectedly – in prayer, by phone, by visits, in cards and letters and/or gifts? "And who is my neighbor? . . . And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do though likewise." (Luke 10:29, 37)

Secondly, I thought about the battle these men fought. Many were adventurers; however, their battle was for a cause they felt was more important than death. There were two hundred men from numerous states and countries against thousands. Still they felt that even their deaths could be supportive of the cause of Texan independence. When Jim Bowie's mother was told of his death, she said that she didn't suppose there were any wounds in his back.

What about us? Are we adventurers in His cause of salvation for mankind? The war we fight is far more important than the battle for the Alamo or any government's in-

dependence. (Ephesians 6:12) We are battling for our own and others' freedom from the bondage of sin which ends in eternal death. We are to be His Spirit with "skin on." What a tremendous commission! Do we think the odds against us are overwhelming? If we are concentrating on the numbers against us, whose power are we considering; on whose strength are we relying? For us, unlike the Alamo defenders, to live or to die is gain if we are Christ's (Philippians 1:21). When the heat of the battle is severe, let us maintain the positions He has placed us in - never turning our backs nor betraying either His trust or that place in us by others who believe they have seen Him in us. "Not by might, no by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

To myself first, let us go "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Anna Marie Reutter Cyndee Anderson

"Education without God, is like a ship without a compass." When I read this in last month's Silver Lining, I felt there was enough wisdom in it to justify repeating for all of our students who will soon be starting a new year of learning. A ship is a strong vessel capable of doing great things, but without a compass, it is likely to come to shipwreck. Likewise, without the fear and reverence of God in our heart, all we have is empty knowledge, likely to do us more harm than good. We must seek to know God, and to become like Him, for in Colossians 2:3 it tells us that in Him "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

This past month we said "farewell" to Bro. Daren and Sis. Marie Yergler as they have moved to Gridley to be closer to Daren's new job. Their new address is R.R. 1, Box 108, Gridley, IL 61744. We wish them God's blessings in their new home.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder in the birth of their first child, Brittany Rose, June 27. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma Walder (late Bro. Charles) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank (Tremont). As Romans 12:15 tells us to "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep", we want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Charles and Sis. Mary Ann Mann and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp in the death of their sister-in-law, Florence Knapp, wife of Ervin Knapp (Francesville, IN). And also to Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Ann Young in the death of her sister, Mabel Teubel (Walter, Fairbury).

On July 9, Bev Hofbauer (Sis. Ellen) and Jerry Knapp (Eileen and the late Dan, Milford, IN) were married. We wish them the Lord's blessings and direction in their life together.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign). We appreciated their visits!

July 10 was a lovely, mild, summer day for our annual all-church picnic at the park. It's always an enjoyable time for all who attend, old or young.

We are thankful little Jason Rudin (five-year-old son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti) came through hernia surgery and is doing fine. We continue to pray for this family in their on-going concerns for their baby son, Micah.

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom . . ."

Isaiah 40.11

We are thankful the waters have been stirred here at Cissna Park, and that souls are seeking their cleansing. Our prayers are that

many more would turn to our dear Lord Jesus and find the peace for themselves that defies definition and passes all understanding.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

"Precious memories, how they linger," (Gospel Hymns #408). Our Sis. Fannie Schieber peacefully answered God's call to supper time in heaven July 19. Our hearts are saddened with the loss of Fannie, her sweet smile and quiet ways; but we rejoice that she has been released from the discomforts and discouragements of a lingering illness. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. Harvey; and daughter, Bev, who willingly and lovingly cared for her at home. Fannie is also survived by her sister, Sis. Alma Wackerle (Goodfield) and brother, Bro. Arville Zimmerman, and many caring nieces and nephews.

We thank our visiting minister, Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) for his sincere efforts. Bro. Tim Zimmerman and family (Gridley, KS) were also in our midst for the funeral of his aunt, Sis. Fannie Schieber.

We welcome Sis. Andrea Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Annemarie, LaCrosse, IN) to our congregation. She became the God-given bride of our Bro. Jon Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) July 24. May God ever bless their three-fold marital cord.

Submitting to surgery was Sis. Esther Miller. We hope she'll soon be assembling with us again.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

David Schock, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois, and Lori Welch, daughter of Paul and Marge Welch (Sleepy Hollow, IL) were united in marriage June 18. We pray that they will ever look to the Lord for guidance in their future lives. Remaining with us for Sunday, that weekend was Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). How thankful we are that he was once again willing to faithfully serve us and we trust the Lord will bless him for his labors.

"There's a peace in my heart that
the world never gave,
A peace it can not take away
Tho' the trials of life may surround
like a cloud,
I've a peace that has come there to
stay!"

Gospel Hymns #40, vs 1

We rejoice with the angels above
that Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan
and Sis. Norma) confesses to have
found that peace that the world
can not give and now longs to be
baptized and added to the fold of
believers. We encourage Alan, as
well as each one, to press on, re-
membering that even though trials
may surround us, our God is con-
stantly abiding and yet able to help
us overcome.

Two dear sisters and a dear
friend have been hospitalized this
month. May the Lord be near Sis.
Emma Vielliber, Sis. Ella Banwart
and Phyllis Kaptain (Sis. Frances)
and restore them according to His
master plan.

"Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows
thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition, Hears
thy feeblest prayers;
Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him
all thy grief
Cast on Him thy burden, He will
bring relief."

Hymns of Zion #74, vs 1

Several in our congregation have
recently laid loved one to rest. May
the Lord comfort the hearts of Sis-
ters Nancy Schambach (Bro. Ron),
Gertrude and Katherine Kachel-
muss, Ann (Bro. Bill) and Bros.
Frank (Sis. Lois) and Richard (Sis.
Lyla) Schock in the loss of their
dear relatives. We know the Lord
is faithful to comfort those who call
upon Him in time of need.

Loni Schock, daughter of Bro.
Norm and Sis. Virginia, returned
to Pampus, New Guinea in June for
another four-year term. May the
Lord watch over her while she is
separated from us.

Our friend, Sally Schifferer, has
moved from Elgin, her home of
many years, to the home in
Sabetha. Though we will miss see-
ing her, we trust she will soon feel
at home among the brethren there

and enjoy her new surroundings.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

As we walk through the stress
and trials of each day, it is so re-
freshing to take time for a summer
walk through the woods or sit by
the side of a lake. We can hear the
locusts, birds and frogs and watch
the silhouette of an owl high on a
branch. It brings a renewed hope
and strength as we can feel the
presence of the Creator in such a
surrounding.

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Heidi
Schumacher were glad for their
third little boy, Clayton John, who
was born July 8. His two brothers
are Cody and Clint, and grandpar-
ents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene
Schumacher and Bro. George and
Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield).

We appreciated the ministry
and visit of Bro. Floyd and Sis.
Janet Frieden and family from
Elgin, IA.

"Just a little note of thanks and
God bless you all for bringing hap-
piness for my 94th birthday, for
flowers and other gifts, also many
cards and just notes of love and
thoughts of Him.

Our Lord, Sis. Rekie Anliker

"We wish to thank everyone who
remembered us with food, cards,
and gifts of love, during the illness
and death of my father, Morris
Mooberry. Also a special thanks to
those who brought food the day of
the funeral. Words alone can't ex-
press our gratitude. May God bless
each one of you."

In Christian love,
Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht
and family

The summer months pass
quickly and now it is time again for
school. May God give us wisdom
that we may pray for our children
and support them as they learn
and grow. Let us help them to know
that "Thy word is a lamp unto my
feet, and a light unto my path."
(Psalm 119:105)

Have A Great Day In The Lord!

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Thus united And in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.
Zion's Harp #237

On July 10, our congregation
witnessed the joining in holy mat-
rimony of Bro. Matthew Edelman
(Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn, Bern,
KS) and Sis. Helen Fehr (William
and Helen, Forrest). May God's
richest blessings be upon this
couple as they begin life's pathway
together. We appreciated the many
visitors who came for this blessed
occasion, we prayed for a safe jour-
ney for each one.

Visiting ministers this month
were: Elder Bro. John Lehman
(Bern, KS); and Bro. Earl Gerber
(Forrest). May God continue to
bless them for their labors of love.

Our congregation is rejoicing
with Jami Walter (Bro. Jim and
Sis. Juanita) as she has turned to
the Lord in repentance. Our prayer
is that an abundance of God's love
and grace be showered upon her.

We extend our prayers to Bro.
Richard Huber (Sis. Dawn) as he
has the duty as our Sunday school
superintendent.

Bro. Ted Steidinger is our new
Sunday school teacher, as Bro.
Donald Bazzell (Sis. Carol) has com-
pleted his term. We thank these
brothers for teaching God's Word
to our precious children.

On June 26, the engagement of
Bro. Darren Fehr (Bro. Warren and
Sis. Shirley) to Sis. Kendra Ifft
(Warren and Sis. Betty, Forrest)
was announced. May God's bless-
ings be with them as they plan their
future together.

We extend our sympathy to Bro.
Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and
children; Nathan Teubel; Bro.
Norman and Sis. Lola Young and
family in the passing of their
mother and sister, Mabel Teubel,
65, July 6.

"Jesus knows thy sorrow."
Hymns of Zion #74

Hospital patients this month
were: Sis. Ruth Meyer, Sis. Carolyn

Fehr, Ruth Rapp, Leona Goodart and William VanAntwerp. We pray for a speedy recovery for each one.

We are praying for our elder brothers as they are preparing for the annual conference.

As they meet, my God be their unseen guest in every decision and concern that will be met. May we be supportive of their conclusions, that our precious faith will be preserved.

BIBLE

Basic
Information
Before
Leaving
Earth

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due in August for Fairbury.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

"Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee" conveys the feeling of our congregation as we were privileged to partake of holy communion this past month. Helping our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker serve us were Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We appreciate our shepherds for so faithfully caring for our flock.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministering brothers this month. Sharing God's Word with us were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Ben Manz and Don Manz (Junction, OH), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Jim Leman (Roanoke) and Bill Gude-man (Elgin). May God bless them for their willing service.

Believing it is God's will to become husband and wife, the engagement of Sis. Kendra Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley, Fairbury) was announced. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

Several of our congregation have spent time in the hospital. Needing our prayers have been Jamie Ricketts (Bro. Alan and Sis. Alisa), Sis. Jean Ricketts, Sis. Jan

Bachtold, Bro. Rich Rieger, Sis. Nettie Kyburz, Kevin Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Aldine Wackerle.

Services were held at the funeral home June 30 for George Hack. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Mae, and children: Deborah Palmore, Connie and Jon (Forrest), and James (Evans, CO).

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Laura Kachelmuss. Yet we rejoice that she has been relieved of her suffering and believe that she has gone to be with the Lord. We sorrow with her husband, Bro. Clarence; children, Carol Robbins (Normal), Nancy Martin (Snoqualmie, WA), Shirley Herman (Denton, TX), and James (Bloomington); her sister, Sis. Kathryn Schneider and brother, Bro. Sid Leman of our congregation. We will miss her kind nature but are grateful for good example she set for us.

There have been others in our congregation who have recently lost loved ones. We sympathize with Tom and Sis. Earlene Hamilton and family in the loss of his father, Sam Hamilton (Cherryvale, KS); Sis. Marie Hohulin whose step-son Bro. Alph Hohulin (Tremont) passed away; Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel and family in the loss of his mother, Mabel Teubel (Fairbury). May God be near these loved ones during their time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3

What confidence these words instill in the hearts of believers. "Perfect peace" is ours for merely staying our minds on the Lord and trusting in His good will to lead and direct our lives. Focusing our minds to "stay on" the Lord is sometimes harder than others, but let us all continue to strive for the "perfect peace" that comes from allowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to become our mind's and our life's focus, to receive that "per-

fect peace" not only in this life, but in our heavenly lives too. Rejoice in your journey, heaven awaits!

Our Goodfield congregation felt the "perfect peace" of our Lord abundantly in the past month. Six new converts were blessed with the "perfect peace" of the Father and were baptized into a new life with Jesus Christ as our new brothers and sisters-in-faith. We are always humbled to witness their conversion and appreciate their willingness to share these experiences and the power of God's love in their new lives with us. We heartily welcome Bro. Don and Sis. Ginny Bauman, Sis. Jill Zimmerman (Dean and Sis. Inge), Sis. Kristen Hohulin (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Kim Getz into our church family. My God bless you new beginnings. We also want to express our thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) for sharing the responsibilities of these blessed baptisms with our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp.

New beginnings were abundant in Goodfield this month. We are extremely happy to welcome three of God's most precious blessings into our fold. Gabriel Michael Swords was born June 1 to Kris and Heather Swords. Gabriel's grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner, and Dennis Swords. Kalla Nichole Gold was born June 23 and is the brand new daughter of Bob and Holly Gold, and the granddaughter of Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp, and Bob and Jan Gold. Our latest arrival is Alexis Kristine Bauman, born July 18, to Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman. Alexis's happy grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) May the Lord bless these young souls with his "perfect peace" as they grow in His love.

The union of our dear Sis. Heather Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern) to our Bro. Ross Hohulin (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean) was announced this month. May your life together be filled with God's richest mercies.

We are thankful that our hospital patients, Gwen Kloter (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janelle) and Bro. Roy Wyss are improving. God speed your recoveries and grant you safe returns home.

Many thanks are offered to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Bob Pfelderer (Morton) and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) for their efforts in leading our Bible school studies. Your time spent preparing and delivering the messages of God's love are greatly appreciated.

We also extend our thanks to those visiting ministers and their wives whose love and support was so welcomed. Thank you Bro. Steph and Sis. Donnalou Baner (Gridley), Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufman (Bloomington) for your willingness to share in the Lord's service with us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

On Wednesday evening, July 6, our congregation was privileged to take holy communion. Because for a brief time we now have two elders, Bros. Edwin and Earl Ringger served us. Interestingly, it was the first time this father and son duo served the Lord's supper together. This occasion was the first time for Bro. Earl, and very likely the last time Bro. Edwin serves it here in Gridley.

What a wonderful blessing it is when we, as individuals, can take a few weeks to especially inventory our hearts, and to prove inwardly to ourselves that we are free of willful sin, and that we are at peace with God and man.

And then what a joy it is to stand shoulder to shoulder with the brethren to receive this holy supper. It is the year's zenith of gravity and sobriety as we stand and wait our turn, and our hearts take an emotional turn toward Calvary as we hear the elders softly whisper the deeds of Jesus as He went to the Cross to fulfill that sacred and fateful act of salvation for us.

Indeed a hush falls over the congregation as God's children complete the communion liturgy by tak-

ing the bread and wine — those vivid reminders of the Lord's broken body and flowing blood. We are most unworthy of this great act of atonement when the dear Lord bled and died. Oh, that many, even multitudes, would repent for their sins and seek eternal life.

Taylor Douglas Wettstein was born June 26. He is the first child of Bro. Doug and Sis. Sarah Wettstein. We rejoice with them in this gift from heaven. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein (Gridley) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller (of the Forrest congregation).

We are glad to welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein, who moved here from Belvidere. They reside on a farm near Flanagan. Likewise, a special welcome is extended to Bro. Daren and Sis. Marie Yergler, who moved from Cissna Park. They reside at RR 1, Gridley.

Sis. Rosemary Gramm was hospitalized this month.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visiting minister in July.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

We have two deaths of loved ones to report this month. John Barth's funeral was held June 23. May God comfort and bless his four sisters, Sis. Anna Springer, Sis. Sarah Frank, Lydia Johnson and Madeline McCartney, all of Morton, and his many other relatives and friends.

Sis. Marie Schock was called to her eternal reward July 17. May God fully comfort her husband, Bro. Levi Schock; her daughters, Glenda Kruse and Sherry Bliss; her brothers, Bro. Vernon Kaiser, Bro. Orman Kaiser and Bro. Harold Kaiser; her sisters, Elina Rinkenherger, Beulah Muehling and Anna Sommer; her four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

July 5 found us rejoicing with Sis. Geana Roeschley (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Curt Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) as they exchanged their wedding vows. May God continue to reign in their lives and may their

home radiate Godly love and hospitality.

Our congregation enjoyed the annual Sunday school picnic July 10 as young and old gathered together for food and fellowship.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers and their families that were among us this month. May God richly bless the efforts of Elder Bros. John Leman (Sabetha, Ka), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bros. Marvin Steiglitz (Leo, IN) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Once again we are thrilled that four more young souls have repented of their sins and are experiencing the wonderful peace of God. On July 10 we witnessed the baptism of Ryan Hoerr (Bro. Carl II and Sis. Debby; Rachael Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen) and Matt and Mark Triplett (Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley). On Sunday a bird got into the sanctuary and occasionally flew back and forth above our heads. Although distracting at times, it was reminiscent of John 1:32 . . . "And John bare record saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him." It was a special day, one we won't likely forget.

A precious baby, Caleb James, was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Marsha Stickling April 26. Caleb was welcomed at home by Julia, Joel and Nathan. His grandparents are Ben Stickling (Peoria), Sharon Wykoff (Bloomington) and Russ and Sis. Roma Rumbold (Princeville).

We were saddened by the passing away of Bro. Rudy Hoerr. We extend our sympathy to his son, Bro. Don, and daughter, Marjorie Powers (both of Peoria), and their families.

We want to take this opportunity to say thanks to the ministers who have visited Peoria this past month. They are Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, (Gridley, IL), Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). May God bless each of you.

Hospitalized recently have been Bro. Leland Swadley, Sis. Marian

Reutter, Sis. Norma Rieker, Sis. Shirley Klaus, Bro. George Koehl and Gene Ivie. We pray for God's healing hand upon all of them.

As we close another year of Sunday school, we want to thank all of those teachers who gave of their time and talents to teach our precious children. May you be richly blessed.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are always grateful for visiting ministers willing to share God's Word. This month they were Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Greg Stoller (Forrest) and Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA). We pray that God will richly reward them.

Two families have been blessed with precious bundles from heaven. Amber Nicole Ehnle born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Barbara Ehnle, welcoming her home are brothers, David and Andrew, and sister, Ashley. Thankful grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter. Brian and Renee Wieland are first-time parents of Ethan Riley born June 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland and Norman and Pat Stahl. We are thankful Brian and Renee have chosen to walk the pathway that leads to heaven. May the dear parents always feel God's presence as they guide and nurture this precious gift He has given them.

Hospital patients and shut-ins this month were Bro. Reuben Feucht (Sis. Nathalie) hip surgery, Bro. Herman Baer (Sis. Mary) heart, Bro. Brian Elsasser (Sis. MaryBeth) back surgery, Sis. Cathy Stahl (Bro. Rod) and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter (Bro. Floren). May God comfort our loved in their time of need and grant His healing hand.

We are all busy each in our own way but let us not forget those who are shut-in, sick in their home, hospitalized or in nursing homes. We wish them God's nearness.

God never closes one door without opening another.

Prayer can change things.

These two items have been left at the fellowship hall: Misty Harbor raincoat with hood, green with plaid lining, size XL and a wooden picnic basket. Phone (309) 385-4872, Noah Herrmann.

HELP WHERE YOU CAN

Did we give him a lift? He is brother of man.
And bearing about all the burden he can.

Did we give him a smile? He was downcast and blue.

And the smile may have helped him, to battle it through,

Did we lend him a hand? He was slipping down hill.

And the world so I fancy, was using him ill.

Did we give him a word? Did we show him the road?

Or did we just let him go on with the load?

Do we know what it means, to be loosing the fight?

When a lift just in time, might set everything aright.

Do we know what it means, just a clasp of our hand?

When one has borne about all that he can.

Did we ask what it was? Why the quivering lips?

And the glistening tears down the pale cheeks did slip.

Were we brother of his when the time came to be?

Did we offer to help him or didn't we see?

Don't we know it's the duty of brother of man?

To find what the grief is, and help where we can.

Author Unknown

I found this in some of my aunt's papers.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held June 26, which was an enjoyable event for all. The kids especially had fun playing in the surprise pop-up rainstorm.

We rejoice with Lisa Leman and her parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Col-

leen, as she has found grace to begin her walk with the Saviour.

Matthew Byrd and Marlise Michel have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd (Roanoke) and Paul and Helen Michel (Tremont). Their wedding is planned for August 20.

A November wedding is planned for Beth Blunier and Jim Johnson. Their parents are Bro. Herb Blunier (Roanoke), Bryan and Joyce Smith (Sparta) and Howard and Susan Johnson (West Frankfort). We wish both couples a long and happy future together.

Bro. Jim Stoller (Eureka) and Bro. Jerry Banwart (Congerville) were here June 17 to present a seminar on the topic of "Giving". They are an attorney and accountant respectively.

We welcome Bro. Joe and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin who have moved back "home" to Roanoke after several years in Denver, CO.

Way back on April 26 (our apologies for missing this one!), Jeremy Matthew Weber was born to Kevin and Heidi Weber (Bartlett). Jeremy's grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Steffen (Roanoke) and Clyde and Lucille Weber (Twin Lakes, WI).

Tyler Michael, son of Brian and Kammy Blunier, arrived June 26. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Judy Blunier, Greg and Toni Funk, and Gene and Peg Amigoni (all of Roanoke).

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy Sauder, who reside in Jacksonville, FL, welcomed their baby girl July 13. Her name is Stephanie Lynn, and her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder and Mark and Ruth Ann Martino (all of Roanoke).

A double funeral was held July 7 for Bro. Lee Scherer and his wife, Sis. Emma Scherer. Sis. Em passed away the preceding Tuesday, and two days later Bro. Lee passed away at the nursing home. We're thankful that they lived into their nineties and until recently had been able to remain together in their own home. Among their survivors are a son, Robert (Dalhart, TX); a daughter, Sis. Wilma Simpson (Urbana); seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

We also extend sympathies to the family of Bro. Melvin Hohulin in the passing his brother, Alf Hohulin (Tremont).

A number of hospital patients to report this month: Sis. Jackie Martin and Bros. Ray Luginbuhl, Lloyd Aeshleman, Willis Hodel, Melvin Mangold and Howard Sauder.

July 7 was a day of celebration for the family of Sis. Marie Blunier, as she turned 100 years old. Sis. Marie has 16 children, 60 grandchildren, 101 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Sis. Marie was born a Sutter on a farm near Elgin, IA. She was the middle child in a family of five. At the age of 14, her mother pulled her out of school to care for a sick aunt, and then around the age of 20, she moved to the Roanoke area as a hired girl for a Legel family. It was at Roanoke that she met her husband, Elmer Blunier, and they were married Feb. 9, 1916.

Shortly after their marriage they repented and were baptized together September 24, 1916.

They had 18 children, two which died in infancy, including one from their only set of twins. After 28 years of marriage, Elmer passed away in 1944, their youngest child only seven years old. As a family they managed to raise crops, garden vegetables, milk, eggs, and meat, and still Marie found time to enjoy sewing clothes for the children and crocheting.

Marie's children testify that her priority was family and she had a special way of making each child feel extra special.

Seven years ago Marie fell and broke her hip, which prompted her move to the nursing home where she now resides. It was about that time, May of 1988, at the age of 93, that Marie was awarded her 8th grade diploma! She had always regretted that she left school two weeks short of earning her diploma, so after a little investigative work, her daughter was able to get her records reviewed and the diploma was presented to her.

After 100 years of life, Marie gives this advice, "Work hard, do what's right, and just let God help you in whatever you do."

She also wishes to share this note of thanks: "Thanks be to God, I was able to enjoy my 100th birthday. To each and every one of you who remembered me with you prayers, visits, gifts and the many, many beautiful cards and kind words, I am truly grateful and send my sincere thanks. May God bless each one of you always!"

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Barbara Kaeb

Sis. Ella Schweigert was hospitalized this month and is now residing at Restmor. We wish her God's comforting and healing Spirit.

We welcome Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier and children to our church family, as they are now living in our area.

I wish to thank all my relatives and friends, who made my 90th birthday so special by your visits, cards, gifts, food and love. It was all greatly appreciated; and may God bless you all.

Sis. Rose Knapp

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the gospel message with us this month. They were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). May God bless these brothers for serving us.

On June 2, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Jill Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie) to Bro. Chris Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn. Sabetha, KS). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin a new life together.

"Glory be to God in Heaven, praise to Christ our Saviour great!" (Zion's Harp #34) Our congregation has had much rejoicing as we welcomed three more souls into the body of Christ. Bro. Don Engst (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Rachelle Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Kathy Engst) and Sis. Stephanie Andrews gave

the testimonies and were baptized the weekend of July 2.

We continue to rejoice as two more souls have chosen to follow Christ, Tom Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy) and Chad Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon).

Aren't we thankful that God doesn't take a vacation? May He watch over us during this busy summer and protect those who are traveling.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Feichter

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo Neuenschwander became new parents June 28. They named their daughter, Catherine Jo, and her grandparents are Sis. Sarah Steffen and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander.

On July 1, Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber welcomed the arrival of Anna Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber and Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovics of Ersekcsanad, Hungary.

Zachery Raymond was born to Jim and Pam Agler July 7. His grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and Dewayne and Diana Agler.

On July 8, Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner welcomed a new addition to their family. Little Drew Robert joins Brooke, Clark and Andrea at home. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Irene Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter were blessed with a new son. Benjamin Lynn was born July 19 and is welcomed by Vince, April, Troy and Darin, and grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter.

June 25 was the wedding day of Deon Steffen (Bro. Bill and Sis. Donna) and Amy Clifton (Robert and Sue).

Sis. Rochelle Geisel and Bro. Rodney Gerber exchanged vows July 3. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber.

Sis. Katie Reinhard (Bro. Steve

and Sis. Renee) and Bro. Greg Isch (Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy) have announced their engagement. They are looking forward to a September wedding. We wish God's richest blessings on each of these couples as they begin their lives together.

July 9 and 10 was a busy and blessed weekend as our Sunday school hosted Christian Endeavor. The visiting ministers were Bro. Steve Ringger and Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr., both from Bluffton North. Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) also came to share the Word with us this month. We are grateful to each one for their teachings.

Spending time in the hospital this month have been Bro. John Frank (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Paul Schladenhauffen (Sis. Mildred). Our prayers are for quick recoveries to them. God's Word says in Psalm 6:2, "Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed."

Erin Kipfer, daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda, has recently accepted God's gift of salvation. We wish her grace to walk the path of life in His will.

"As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged everyone of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

I Thessalonians 2:11, 12

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

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

Genesis 2:18

On July 10, Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Graig, to Sis. Corinne Hari, daughter of Daryle and June Hari (Phoenix, AZ), and the late Sis. Janet Hari. May they seek God's direction as they make future plans for this important step in life.

Sis. Rochelle Geisel and Bro.

Rodney Gerber were joined together in marriage July 3. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. We wish them God's richest blessing on their union.

We are thankful to God who has sent another bundle of joy into the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner. Kyanne, Kellan, Kelby, Klayton and Kinsey welcome their little sister, Korinn Marie, born June 26. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber and Robert and Barbara Kershner.

Little Kedric Lynn joined the family of Jeff, Jenni and a sister, Megan, Milholland July 23. Happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Earl Frauhiger who passed away July 15. May God give grace to his dear wife, Sis. Anna; three sons, Dale, Bro. Doyle and Bro. Charles Frauhiger; a daughter, Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Dwain); two brothers, Bro. Ivan and Bro. Melvin; three sisters, Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bro. Melvin), Sis. Irene Steffen and Sis. Bernice Feichter (Bro. Alvin); 18 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

We are thankful for Bro. Earl, a dear pillar of the church, who has gained his reward and can be reunited with his son, the late Chauncy Frauhiger) in heaven.

We pray for God's healing touch and His grace and strength to Sis. Ann Gerber (Bro. Brent) who was in the hospital and is now recuperating at home. Also, we are grateful that John Aschliman (wife, Nilah, son-in-law of Agnes Schaefer) is improving from a serious auto accident. Our prayers are with him and his family. May they feel God's healing hand.

Pray for a faith that will not shrink when washed in the waters of affliction. "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Matthew 17:20)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Stefanie Wuethrich

A special thanks to all the teachers who were involved with Vaca-

tion Bible School. We especially want to thank the ministers who took a lot of time to study in the Word, concentrating on these end times and the rapture. It reminded us all of the brevity of life and to be ready and waiting for the Lord's return. Bringing these messages were Bro. Curtis Heimer (Alto, MI), Bro. Merril Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). Also during this past month, we were privileged to have Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) minister God's Word to our congregation.

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

I Corinthians 12:25, 26

Our hearts do mourn with Bro. David and Sis. Kelly Zeltwanger over the sudden loss of their precious little son, Nathan, whose life was taken to be with our Lord Jesus Christ July 16. Six-year-old Nathan was in a four-wheeler accident. We especially want to comfort and remember in earnest prayers, his two younger brothers, Ryan and Joshua, and grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger (Valparaiso) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch (Phoenix, AZ). Great-grandparents are Sis. Ida Schmidt (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch (Phoenix, AZ).

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

II Corinthians 1:3, 4

As it says in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." It is assuring to know

that God has perfect timing. Two precious boys were born into our congregation. Logan Rockwell was first to arrive July 5, to Tim and Sis. Sally Wuethrich. Grace and Timmy are thrilled to have a brother. Grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich and Les and Rosie Pfladderer. Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna Putt and big sister, Erica, were blessed with David Michael July 8. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt and Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." (Proverbs 18:22) On July 17, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Chris Nuest (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Jennifer Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam).

We are privileged to have Bro. Philip and Sis. Anna Sauder (Cissna Park, IL) now residing at Park View Haven since June 16.

July is Silver Lining collection month as a reminder to those who need to pay. Thanks.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Melissa Baumgartner
Sandy Lichtle

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

Matthew 3:2

We are rejoicing with the angels as another dear soul, Dan Schafer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta), has given his heart to the Lord. May God grant our new convert His abundant grace and wisdom.

We were blessed this month to have with us ministering Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). We appreciate their willingness to travel and to teach us precious truths from the Book of Life. May God richly bless all of our ministers and their wives for the continuing labors of love.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Judy Gudeman

"Likewise, I say unto you, there

is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10). Our dear friend, Paul Heiniger (Karen), having repented of his sins and professed peace with God and man, was baptized in his parent's home this past month. All of his family was in attendance.

We are thankful that retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank (Sis. Lea), Bro. Ralph Levy (Sis. Carolyn), Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art) and Mindy Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) are able to again assemble with us following their respective surgeries. Dave Norberg (Michele) is also recuperating well after hospitalization following a moving vehicle accident. Bro. Paul and Karen Heiniger are both resting at home following hospitalizations. Our prayers continue with the Heiniger family as Bro. Paul's condition continues to worsen.

We wish the Lord's blessings on Bro. Lucas Frank, who has accepted summer employment in the Iowa City area. We have the same wishes for our many summer travellers -- several of whom are going to Europe. We will be glad to have them all home again!

A note of thanks is written to our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Mike Rinkemberger (Congerville, IN).

Message seen outside of a church in Hebron, IN: "A lot of kneeling keeps you in good standing with God!"

INDIANA, LEO
Judy Gehring

We were blessed with five visiting ministers, Bros. Jim Plattner, Randy Gasser and Ron Messner. Bro. Jim's son is here this summer at Gateway Woods as our volunteer coordinator. Bro. Randy is the son-in-law of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz. Bro. Ron is a son-in-law of Sis. Lucile Frank.

Wednesday evening before the sale, Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) ministered unto us. The fellowship hall was filled with homefolks and so very many volunteers.

Sunday we were blessed by Bro.

Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). His daughter, Sis. Deb Graf and husband, Bro. Ed, are the alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods.

Gateway Woods' 18th annual auction was held August 13. It was a blessed day for fellowship, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. A potluck was held Sunday afternoon.

Sunday evening was our fellowship singing hosted by Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Rachel Fessenden. We had such a nice crowd. More chairs had to be put up and we were blessed by a special group from Bluffton, called "The Cornerstones." Thanks you, dear ones, for all your efforts singing as unto our Lord and Savior.

Our church building project is coming along nicely. The brick is now laid on the outside of the church. We have had many volunteers for which we have been truly thankful. May God bless each and every one of you.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Judy Longcor
Marguerite Hoerr

Sis. Kathryn Emch has recuperated from a fall experienced during a trip with family members in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. We're thankful to God she's enjoying freedom from the intense pain she suffered for a period of time, and can pursue her full activities again.

Sis. Esther Getz has had successful cataract surgery. She is looking forward to having Bro. Willis and her niece, Sis. Lois Ehnle, visit her later this month.

Sis. Kate Price has been undergoing medical treatment again recently during a hospital stay. We're thankful she was able to worship with us Sunday, and we remember her in our prayers. In speaking with her we were lifted up in our faith by her expression of feeling full submission to the will of the Lord. It could be seen in her countenance as she spoke of the peace she felt.

The Rich Schlipf family has welcomed a little boy, Ryan Lynn. Bro. Rich, Sis. Kathy, Rob, Katy, Kristi and Ben are rejoicing over his ar-

rival. We join them with our welcome and our congratulations. May God bless their family.

Our hearts and sympathy go out to Sis. Carol Haab, and her family, on the death of her mother, Erma Chambers. Erma was a much loved, and respected, member of our community and will be missed by her many friends. Her family, Sis. Carol, Bro. Alvin, Matt and Kelly; and Carol's brother, Mark, and his family, can feel fortunate for her influence in their lives. We ask God to bring comfort to them and to bless them with happy memories.

It was just one year ago, that I faced the difficult task of reporting my own mother's journey to the heavenly kingdom. As the year has passed, our family has faced many "first times" without her. Each time we could feel her presence and we would be blessed with happy memories of the many years we had her with us.

Our friend, Bob Vice, will be entering the hospital again for surgery. Our prayers go with him.

It's vacation time for many families in our church community. We ask for traveling mercies for everyone who has taken time from their busy lives to treat their children to a trip before school and responsibilities start again.

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North) while spending a weekend at Lake Wawasee with his family, shared his ministry with us this past month.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"For this God is our God forever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death."

Psalm 48:14

How thankful we can be for the many comforting and encouraging promises in the Bible.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Willard Schieler (Sue, Milford, IN) and all their family from various places visit us. It seems such a short time ago that Bro. Willard was growing up here at Remington. I hope, Bro. Willard, you felt a warm

welcome. God used you that day to revive us.

On Sunday, June 26, we enjoyed what we call our Sunday school picnic. However, it is an "all church" annual picnic.

The next Sunday, July 3, Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) came at noon and was our minister in the afternoon. He said this was the first time since he was in the ministry that he had occupied another pulpit. We were glad to have you "practice" on us, Bro. Brian. You are always welcome. I'm sure it is a big step for a young minister to go to another church the first time. They need our prayers and encouragement.

By the time you read this many of the school bells will be ringing. My, how fast the time goes from graduation until the new first graders get to start to school next fall.

Do you remember time didn't use to go that fast from one Christmas to the next when we were kids.

While we're remembering, let's reminisce a little: Remember threshing days and those big threshing dinners? How many teenagers today will some day say, remember combining. And more, how many of us remember waking up early one winter morning and hear the wagons and teams of horses coming down the gravel road? All those helping neighbors coming to help on corn shelling day!

Then, we shouldn't forget butchering day. No sausage today tastes as good as it did then! It always fell to me to stay home from school and help my mother that day. My job? Wash those greasy butchering dishes and pans, of course! In those days we didn't have Dawn to "take the grease out of the way".

I for one am thankful for all those memories of the "good ole days". However, aren't we thankful for the advancements that have been made?

Closing thought: "The secret of happiness is not in doing what one likes, but in liking what one does." (James M. Barrie)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer Greetings in the name of our

Lord! We were blessed, and are thankful for the many visitors this past month. We are especially thankful that Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Sis. Sharon could worship with us. They are very special to our congregation, and we always appreciate Bro. Walt's willingness to share God's Word.

Wednesday, June 22 was the evening for our adult Vacation Bible School. Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) spoke on the topic of "Vigilance". He brought the story of Gideon to life, and painted a vivid picture of a watchful soldier of the Lord. It was a wonderful time of teaching and fellowship, and we thank Bro. Jon and Sis. Christine for making the long trip on a week night to be with us.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held June 29. We arrived at church to a very stormy morning. As the thunder rolled, and the lightning disrupted the sound system, we wondered just what kind of a day we would have. The rain stopped after church, however, and the Lord provided a lovely evening. The children rode horses, swam, played volleyball and generally had a great time. Special thanks to Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer for lovingly opening their home to us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

With love and a joy that only comes from on high, we greet you all. Not that we haven't had our trials in this past month, but with our great God's type of joy we can rejoice no matter what that crafty one may throw at us. And isn't it wonderful to have that peace that surpasses all understanding. For this we truly thank the Lord.

We thank all who were involved in making Vacation Bible School a blessed week. Also, we thank all who came and labored for us whether it be in song, word, or prayer. It was a special blessing that we had four Bible classes come and sing for us. They really seemed happy to be a part of it. The following Sunday after church we had some wonderful fellowship at our

annual Sunday school picnic along with a VBS program.

Visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Ken Wuetherich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). The Lord bless you all for your love and willingness to serve.

Pam Schwartz (Gene) and her three children were involved in an accident and are recovering. Merit Morrow (Sis. Sherry) is also home recovering after being in the hospital. Shut in this month was Dorothy Claussen. We pray God will put His healing touch on all of you and bring you back to us soon.

Our hearts and prayers are with the Zeltwanger family at the loss of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn's little grandson. Often times we just don't understand why these things have to be. May God grant you all His tender mercies and grace to help you cope with this situation. Know this, that we will certainly do all we can to help you.

To end this writing on the positive side, we are happy to announce that Janet Walker (Darel) has made it known that she wants to serve Jesus Christ and has decided to repent. The Lord give you wisdom and grace to follow this through.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sheri Bahler

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

Isaiah 59:1

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Leroy Farney. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his wife, Fran, and family. May God comfort each of them.

Trusting that God is leading their paths, we heard the engagement of Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) to Bro. Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenna Jean, Westbend, IA).

On Tuesday, July 12, we spent a blessed day enjoying God's beauty

at Turkey Run State Park. Days such as this can really be refreshing to the soul.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Lorna Knapp
Monica Eisenmann

Once again we have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers, who have stood to proclaim the Word of God in its truth and its power. We would like to thank Bro. John Steiner (Oakville), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for lending themselves. May God richly bless them for being willing servants.

Our prayers are with Bro. Marvin Woodward and Bro. Paul Eisenmann, who have spent time in the hospital this past month. May the Lord give the doctors the knowledge to help these two dear brothers, and all others in the hospital.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

In this life, it seems, there is always some event that we anticipate happening in the future. Many are now making plans to attend the annual brotherhood conference. We are certainly a blessed people who have so many loving and caring elders overlooking the flocks. May God's Spirit ever abide with them and direct them.

As we near the end of August, we find our children again preparing to return to another year of schooling. Along with "reading, writing, arithmetic" so much extra curricular is offered to our youth today. Sometimes it truly seems to be the work of Satan to keep them away from home. May God grant us, as parents, much wisdom and grace to guide our children according to His will and may we be ever mindful of their need of our prayers. Another event coming upon the calendar is Labor Day. No doubt, many will be taking advantage of this three-day weekend to do some traveling. As we make our plans, let's be sure to plan to be in God's house and with God's people on the Sab-

bath. It is such a blessing to be able to travel many miles and find the same love and faith as we embrace at home. Though it may be a first visit to one of our churches, we can feel the love flow as we greet one another with the holy kiss and then introduce ourselves. We feel "right-at-home" as we sing from the same hymnals and feel God's presence as one of God's servants comes to the pulpit unprepared (except fervent prayer) and reads from the King James Version of the Holy Bible and expands upon the scripture as the spirit directs. May we be thankful for this blessed heritage.

Another event coming up, but not found on the calendar is the return of our Lord and Saviour. May we not be so busy enjoying the blessings of this life that we fail to prepare for Christ's return. No quick last minute time will be granted so let's use our time wisely now.

THE DAY BEFORE

Some time some ordinary day will come,
A busy day, like this, filled to the brim
With ordinary tasks – perhaps so full
That we have little care or thought for Him.

And there will be no hint from silent skies,
No sign, no clash of cymbals, roll of drums –
And yet that ordinary day will be
The very day before our Lord returns!

The day before we lay our burdens down,
And learn instead the strange feel of a crown!
The day before all grieving will be past,
And all our tears be wiped away at last!

O child of God, awake and work and pray!
That ordinary day might be – today!
Make ready all thine house – tomorrow's sun

May dawn upon the Kingdom of
God's Son.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk - Dawn Moser

Once again we have been the recipients of God's blessings. Rain has been showered upon us at timely intervals with plenty of sunshine. Our crops look beautiful.

God has blessed us again with visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) were with us June 26 to serve communion. Before I took communion I wondered if I was looking deeply into my heart or just at the surface. Realizing God knows what is deep in our hearts I just prayed the Lord would reveal the deep things to me.

Other visiting ministers include Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We want to thank each minister and his wife and all other visitors for worshipping with us.

Another blessing we have received from our Heavenly Father is the addition of Bro. Wayne and Becky Snodgrass and their five children from Lexington, KY. What a wonderful addition to our small flock.

We started a week of VBS today. How excited the children are to hear the stories.

The summer has flown by so fast. School will be starting in just a few short weeks. May the teachers be given the wisdom and understanding to teach these children.

FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL

The little fellow trooped down the
road
As excited as could be,
Down to the corner to catch the
bus,
With a kiss and a wave went he.

And all my heart went with him,
As I smiled to see him go,
For oh! it's a whole new world
he'll find,
And its pitfalls are many, I know.

May the angels of every boy's
father

Guard him all his life's way,
Keep him conscience true and
tender,

From this his first school day!
Almeta Hilty Good

May the angels guard each and every student whether they are boy or girl, first day of school or last year of school. We pray the angels will guard them against the many pitfalls of this wicked sin-filled world.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A special, heartfelt thank you to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN).

We bid farewell to Bro. Jay and Sis. Lorri Wiegand, as they move to begin their new jobs in the Kansas City area.

Sis. Heidi Fehr has completed her floriculture program and will be returning to West Bend, IA, where she has found employment in the area.

Sis. Carrie Wuthrich has finished her ten-week nursing internship and will be returning to the Burlington, IA, area for the remainder of her education.

Bro. Lucas Frank will be terminating his summer employment here and will be returning to LaCrosse, IN, prior to beginning college in Indiana this fall.

We have enjoyed having each of them in our congregation, and wish them God's blessings as they begin new chapters in their lives.

As others move on, we welcome several new students to the Iowa City area. Sis. Jennifer Anliker and Sis. Melissa Larson have relocated from Oakville, IA, to Cedar Rapids, IA, for employment and schooling that begins this fall. Dana and Nathan Honson have moved to North Liberty to enable Nathan to pursue studies at the University of Iowa. We welcome each of them, and look forward to their assembling with us whenever they can.

May we all entrust our decisions and plans for the future into God's hands. How comforting to know our very Creator has His best planned

for us in we will submit our will to His!

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

A blessed weekend was shared July 9 and 10 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Chalea Knobloch, and Sis. Linda Klostergaard (Brad). Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr assisted our home elders.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). We pray that God will bless our faithful servants and their families.

On June 23, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois Mogler were blessed with a daughter, Lynelle Loree. Lynelle was lovingly welcomed home by brothers Mark, Devin, Ross and Tory, Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler, and Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith Knobloch.

Ladelle and Shelley Kellenberger's son, Tate Kenneth, was born July 10. Tate has a helpful big sister, Ashley. Grandmother is Sis. Elaine Kellenberger.

On June 21, a farewell singing was held for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill Steiner and Andrew, who have moved to Morris, MN. We miss them, but know that they will be an asset to the Morris congregation. May God be near them.

We are thankful that Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) is home and recovering nicely from surgery. Our prayers are with all who suffer afflictions.

"The family of John DeHaan wishes to express their deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, flowers, visits, and acts of love given during John's hospital stay and at the passing of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Your kindness will always be remembered. May God bestow His blessings on everyone."

Sis. Ione DeHaan,

Susan and Arlyn
VanDerWoude & family,
Sharon and Erne Gerber
and family,
Bro. Tim and Lois DeHaan
and family,
Sis. Shirlee DeHaan.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Doris and Bro. Leon Kuntz in the passing of her mother, Sis. Marie Moser (Bro. Ben Morton). May the Lord be their strength at this time of bereavement.

Big brothers, Lane, Grant and Chase, are happy to welcome another little brother as a playmate. Also thankful for the safe arrival of Bennett Josiah are his parents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Bev Moser and his grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward (Burlington) and Bro. Rod Moser (Taylor, MO) and the late Sis. Naomi Moser.

Rejoicing with their first little bundle from heaven are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois Massner. They welcome into their hearts little Stephanie Lyn. Also rejoicing are her grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Karla Eberhardt are the blessed parents of little Jacob David. Also welcoming him to this world are big sister, Emily, and his grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington) and Bro. Jodi and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Burlington).

These dear couples are in our thoughts and prayers as they strive to raise their little ones in this cruel and wicked world.

We extend our prayers and sympathies to Sis. Gladys Vierling and Bro. Herb Kupferschmid (Sis. Virginia) in the passing of their sister, Florence Davidson. May they feel much love and support at this time of great loss.

Our high school graduates this year were Sharla Wiegand, Sis. Jennifer Anliker, Kirk Wagenbach, Nick DeJaynes, Doran Massner, Kori Grimm, Laura Siegle, Tricia Metzger and Kariann Kuntz. May

the Lord be near these dear ones as they prepare for their futures.

Just a reminder to the Oakville congregation: Dues for Silver Lining are due in September.

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Junction, OH) recently spent a weekend with our congregation. We've been able to share fellowship with many guests this summer. It's always a pleasant surprise to see former families return to renew ties and memories.

Several of our young children were able to enjoy Vacation Bible School for a week.

Dennis Teubel was hospitalized once again. We continue to pray for his comfort and the uplifting strength for his wife Carolyn and children Eric and Holly.

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

Romans 10:3

Have we become servants to our selfish gain and justifications or are we truly children of God's righteousness?

The engagement of Monte Wuthrich and Amy Lauson was happily announced by Bro. Bill and Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich and DeWayne and Cheryl Lauson (Bloomfield, IA).

"Guard within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire with meanness; how to replace in your heart, by the happiness of those you love, the happiness that may be wanting to yourself."

George Sand

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

God sent many ministering brothers to our congregation this past month. We thank them for their labors of love and wish them the Lord's blessings. Those visiting

were: Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We rejoice and thank God that three dear souls have surrendered their loves to the Lord and have been announced as having peace in their hearts that only God can impart. May God grant them the needed grace, faith, and guidance along life's way. We look forward to hearing what God has done for: Nick Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) and Kent and Robin Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen).

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Paul and Martha Demiter and family at the tragic death of Martha's mother, Marie Bunnell (Ohio). The family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and expressed kind words of love and sympathy at this time of sorrow.

Our best wishes go to Denton and Rose Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch, Lester and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg) on their recent marriage. May they feel the Lord's blessings as they begin life as one. We welcome them into our West Bend assembly.

We likewise welcome Joel and Wendy Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy), who have been making their home in Atlanta. We hope they will feel welcome and at home among us.

Sis. Edna Banwart (Mrs. Levi) is a surgical patient at this writing. Also three-year-old Melinda Bruellman (John and Cindy) was in the hospital requiring stitches because of an injury from a dog. We pray God's healing touch on both of these dear ones.

God has direct the lives of our Bro. Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene) and Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley, Wolcott) together. We wish them the Lord's blessings and nearness as they plan their life as one in Him.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

JAPAN, TOKYO**Andrew and Jana Klaus**

We got off to a hot, humid summer earlier than usual as this year's rainy season, which usually lasts until the end of July, was one of the shortest we've had in many years. But though we have been short on rain, we haven't been short on visitors.

Sis. Terri Gramm (Gridley, IL) is visiting the churches here for about a month until early August, after being gone for two years. She is providing fellowship and planning and helping out the church activities. We appreciate her desire to be of service for the Lord.

Also visiting this month was Bro. Merle Rokey (Eureka, IL), again here on business.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder and family are here for several weeks after being gone for a year. We again thank Bro. Frank for his service in ministering to our churches.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda was hospitalized for surgery for a couple of weeks. All has gone well so far, and we continue to pray for her fast healing and recovery.

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki has begun receiving treatment for a heart condition, and we pray also that nothing serious will develop.

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

On June 22 we added another lamb into the fold. We welcome Sis. Anna Edelman (Leonard) as a sister-in-faith. We wish her God's grace as she begins her walk with Him. We thank Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) for assisting Elder Bro. John Lehman. We also appreciate and extend thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They are Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL).

Our hospital patients were Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Ella Hartter (Bro. Lester). We are thankful to have Sis. Lila assembling with us again. Sis. Ella Hartter is now residing at our rest

home. We know the Lord will be near her wherever she dwells.

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

June 26 was the wedding of Bro. Chris Hartter and Sis. Jill Wagenbach in Washington, IL. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington). On July 16 there was a reception held for them at the fellowship hall.

July 10 was the wedding of Bro. Matthew Edelman and Sis. Helen Fehr at Fairbury, IL. Parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman and William and Helen Fehr (Fairbury). We wish both of these couples God's blessings as they establish their home.

We are happy for two new babies born this month. Born to Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey, June 25, was a son, Jordan Joseph. Jordan is welcomed home by big brothers, Aaron and Jason, and a sister, Rebekah. Happy grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha, KS). A little girl, Laura Ann, was welcomed into the home of Tom and Becky Rokey, July 5. She has two sisters, Erin and Gina. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Plattner and Loree Rokey and Bob Rokey.

It was a beautiful afternoon, July 17, for the many that attended the open house of the Apostolic Christian Home Retirement Village. Forty-one units were completed this spring bringing the total number of apartments to ninety-three.

In the past month's news, I failed to report three of our high school graduates. My sincere apology to Bro. Ryan Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn), John Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat) and Nick Moser (James and Ann). We wish them God's blessings and success in their future plans.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**Joleen Sinn**

We were blessed with a full

church July 3 as some stopped by after a family reunion. Among our visitors were ministering brothers Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend). We thank everyone, especially Bros. Andy, Wayne and their families, for coming and giving us a wonderful weekend. May God richly bless you and please come again.

Then on the weekend of July 10, we had another special weekend as Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller visited us. Bro. Wayne served in the ministry here for 35 years, retiring a year ago and moving to Sabetha to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Dave and Sheryl Byrne were also here. We truly enjoyed visiting with all of them, but once again, it was hard to see them leave.

As the annual conference draws near we pray fervently for our elder brothers. Their responsibilities are tremendous, with prayer and submission let us make their load a little lighter.

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

You are the One, Who leads the way,
The shining truth that lights my day,
You are the peace that fills my soul,
That comforts me, that makes me whole.

I am the one, who follows you,
With thankful heart in all I do,
O precious Saviour, I rejoice,
That I have heard Thy loving voice.

When life is done, and I in death,
Shall draw one last, reluctant breath,
You are the One, whose face I'll see,
My blessed Lord, who died for me.
Julie E. Jones

What a precious heritage is ours, that God should take knowledge of us and love us though we are so prone to do wrong. If only we could keep in mind that the world around

us is here for only a short span, but "eternity is forever", and could daily take up our cross with our eyes only on our Lord. How many problems we would never have to face, because "He" would handle it for us as the Scripture states in Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are called according to His purpose."

Sis. Laverne Roth underwent surgery on her foot this past month, but we are thankful she is recuperating at home now. Sis. Helen Murrow fell recently, and though she didn't break any bones, is on crutches. We were thankful to have her with us in church again this past Sunday. We don't always know each person who is afflicted with illness, but God does, and when we pray, if we hold our loved ones up, He knows who needs our prayers.

It was our appointed time to hold services at the Manor Sunday, and a very special event took place. As we were singing, the little Canary they have there just thrilled and warbled right along with us. It was so pretty, and just added to our joy in singing praises to God.

School is about to begin again, and as parents, our concerns are very great! So let's keep their home life secure and happy in the Lord, and pray them through their hours at school, then let God do the rest. They are precious to Him too.

KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) for spending a Sunday with us and bringing us the Word of God.

Brent Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan) has moved to Spearman, TX, where he has taken a job with Cargill. It is our prayer that God will go with him as he steps into the future.

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

August is collection month for the Lamont Silver Lining dues.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Sharon Strahm

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held June 24. This is always a special time for the youth and families to be together.

It's always uplifting to have visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Alpha Strahm, Jr. and Galen Rokey (both of Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for their labors in His service.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Louise Wreath in the passing of her husband, Edward Wreath, June 25. Services were held for him in Kansas City.

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Thirza Thompson (Kansas City, MO). Her father, Ellsworth Dobson, passed away July 6.

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer they foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalm 121

May God be with Bro. Loren Edelman and Bro. Joe Steiner (Sis. Clara) who have been in the hospital.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Our congregation was blessed Wednesday evening, June 29, when Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Junction, OH) assembled with us. Bro. Ben brought the Word to us and we are thankful for brothers who will spend themselves in our behalf.

On July 3, Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) ministered to us. It was good to have Bro. Howard, Sis. Kristen, and their family come

home to spend some time in Wichita. We were privileged to have them in our midst the following Wednesday night, also.

We have been blessed with another privilege. Bro. Phil Bowers has been able to come to church recently. God be praised that He has provided caregivers for Bro. Phil.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

The Lexington congregation was blessed with many visitors this past month from Morton, Roanoke, Washington and Goodfield, IL, Junction, Latty and Sardis, OH, Morris, MN, and Rockville, CT. We appreciate all those who visit us and encourage everyone to fellowship with us if you're in the Bluegrass region.

A special thank you to Bro. Doug Harmon and his wife, Sis. Lanna (Toledo, OH) and also Bro. Jim Byrd and his wife, Sis. Leota (Roanoke, IL), who shared the Word with us June 26. We enjoyed a potluck at church the evening before and also said farewell to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass who have moved to Garden Grove, IA. We wish them God's richest blessings and care as they make a new home for their young family.

In addition, a special thank you to Bro. Walt Steffen and his wife, Sis. Dorothy (Milford, IN) and Bro. Dean Steffen and his wife, Sis. Carol, (Belvidere, IL) as these families and others shared the weekend of July 3. A special thank you for sharing the Word of Life to us; and for "carrying in" a potluck for the church the Saturday evening before. The weekend was capped off with a beautiful singing after dinner.

We also wish God's healing powers for Mike Huber with, Suzanne, as she spent several days in the hospital this past month. Our thoughts are also with Sis. Gwendolyn Huber as her brother, Willis (Francesville, IN), was injured in a farm accident and is in a Chicago hospital.

For those planning to be in our area, our Sunday morning service begins at 10:00 a.m. and afternoon

at 12:15. Wednesday evening services are at 7 p.m. E.S.T.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Jane Grawburg

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Curt Heimer (Sis. Sue) for arranging for our father/son campout, and to all those who participated again this year. There is always a special blessing when we are able to fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

Sis. Pat Schlatter (Bro. Ott) was in the hospital. She's back to church but our prayers are still with her as she recuperates from surgery.

Our prayers that God will provide are with several loved ones as they have moved from the Alto congregation. Sis. Renee Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) moved to the Mansfield, OH area; Sis. Doreen Gudeman to the Philadelphia, PA area; and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer and Seth, Levi, Casey and Brock have moved to Taylor, MO. We want to thank Bro. Curt for his many labors of love during his family's stay here at Alto. He and his family, Sis. Renee and Sis. Doreen, will truly be missed.

Visiting us this month were Bro. Will Scheiler (Milford, IN) who joined us for Vacation Bible School, and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). We thank these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

On June 20, Bro. Elmer Schrenk began his eternal rest on the other shore. In addition to many other loved ones, he passes on before his wife, Sis. Delila; three sons, Dick (New Haven, IN), Bro. Tom (Athens, AL) and Bro. Duane (Lake Odessa, MI); one daughter, Linda Koehl (Grand Rapids, MI); thirteen grandchildren; twenty-three great-grandchildren; one brother, Bro. John Schrenk (Elgin, IL); and two sisters, Sis. Frances Schrenk (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Martha Grivet (Chicago, IL). May these precious souls always feel God's nearness as they continue on life's pathway.

For your kindness and sympathy when times are hard to bear, the family of Bro. Elmer Schrenk wishes to thank you for the com-

fort that comes from those who care. Many thanks to Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for his comforting and uplifting words, to the ministering brethren from Alto, and to everyone else for your cards and continued prayer, and for the special love you've shared.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher

We were blessed once again to have two souls come into our flock as brother and sister-in-faith. Bro. Gary and Sis. Marilyn Meylan are our two new lambs of our flock. They have two sons, Gary and Wade Meylan, and parents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Helen Meylan.

We were blessed to have with us for the testimonies and baptisms Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and also they stayed and we were blessed to hear Bro. John give the first message of our Vacation Bible School week.

The Lord has shown us this month that we have to be ever watchful and prayerful for we never know what He has in store for us or if we will be on this earth in the next hour or minute.

Sis. Lisa Waibel (parents Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) was in a car accident. She was very fortunate. She was not hurt real bad but her car was totaled.

Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bro. Jim) was also in a car accident. She was hurt but is getting around and her car was totaled.

Bro. Elias Schlatter (Sis. Ella) is not doing well. Sis. Martha Rezmer has had a heart attack but is doing some better.

We need to pray for these, our loves ones who are ill and have had accidents. God is trying to tell us that we need the prayers of those we love.

Ministers that also blessed us with their presence were Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeanine Masters (Mansfield, OH); Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN); and Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We wish them all our Lord's grace and blessings.

Vacation Bible School was held

at Bay City June 20 thru June 24. The theme was "More Holiness Give Me" Preschool thru eighth grade held classes everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Evening were high school thru to anyone that wanted to attend. Monday -- "More Holiness In Our Marriage" by Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Our song was "Our Love Shall Not Diminish"; Tuesday's theme was "More Holiness In Our Family" by Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). Our song was "The Christian Home"; Wednesday's theme was "More Holiness In Our Schools" by Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Song was "Youth"; Thursday's theme was "More Holiness With Those Outside Our Families" by Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI). Song was "Golden Harvest"; Friday's theme was "More Holiness In Our Church Family" by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). Song was "Unity".

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

II Peter 3:18

We rejoice that souls in our congregation are indeed growing in grace and knowledge in their various stages of the heavenly walk. Alan and Pam Gleichman (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. John and Sis. Martha) are beginning the Christian journey, and we wish them much encouragement and grace.

Having started to follow the Lord some time ago, Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) and Scott Reardon (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) both feel that the Lord has replaced their guilt and sins with His peace. Lord willing, we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms the weekend of Aug. 20 and 21.

Before I was converted, I thought that baptism more or less ended a convert's growth period and thought that at that point he or she had "arrived." It wasn't until much later that I realized that bap-

tism, through certainly important and special in each believer's life, was only one more stepping stone to building a relationship with God. We keep dying to self and learning from the Holy Spirit each day! Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche) has reached this stepping stone, having given his testimony and been baptized June 26. We rejoice with Ben and encourage him to always keep striving towards the goal! Ben summarized his conversion experience by saying that "whatever happens now, I know my way is in His hands." We wish this assurance for each of our converts, as well as for any who may be struggling with doubt or worry.

Two young couples have been joined in marriage recently. Ed Orcsik and Susanna Bencsik were married June 25. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik and Magdalena and Joseph Bencsik. Also pledging their lives and love to each other June 25 were Annette Peterson (Diane) and Jeff Johnson. We pray for God's wisdom and blessings in the lives of these couples.

We welcome Kerry Kirkland to our area and congregation. She has moved here from Akron, OH, and is engaged to Karl Moilanen (Tom and Kay).

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. JoAnn Gudeman (Bro. Keith) on the death of her grandfather. May God also be with Sis. Gayla Wieland (Bro. Marvin), who broke her arm, and Josh Schmidt (Bill and Sis. Trudy), who underwent major surgery on his jaw.

Congratulations to Tiffany Wieland (Mark and Joy) on her high school graduation. She plans to attend Schoolcraft College in the fall.

We were able recently to view the World Relief slides at Woodhaven. Though not the same, I'm sure, as being able to see these sights in person, nevertheless it was sobering and thought-provoking to see the great needs present in the world. Who are we that God has showered us with so many material blessings and freedoms? I can think of two reasons that He has done so - to thank and glorify Him and to help those who do not have what we have. May the Lord show

each of us the best way to do so.

Our next monthly service at Woodhaven is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to having a minister from Alto, MI, with us for the evening.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

We are always thankful for loved ones who worship with us. I'm sorry I neglected to write of visiting minister Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) last month. May God richly bless him for his labors.

The Sunday school students ended classes for the summer June 26. They enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the park playing games and having a picnic. Classes will resume September 11.

In our recent Sunday school voting, Sis. Sue Messner (Bro. Doug) was elected to replace Sis. Carol Virkler (Bro. Perry) and Bro. Damon Knobloch and Sis. Kelly Schmidt (Ted) as substitutes.

We are thankful that God has restored health and strength to Sis. Esther Lienemann (Linus). She was in the hospital but is able to assemble with us again.

We enjoyed having Bro. Matt Ackerman (Morton, IL) worship with us when he was here on an internship for three weeks.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth . . ." (St. Luke 15:7) We also rejoice that Sam Moser (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce, Morris) has found the need for Christ in his life.

We will certainly miss Valerie Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Cherly, Lester, IA) as she has moved to Phoenix, AZ. We pray that God will continue to bless her there.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Linda Schmidgall
Maxine Sauder

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three . . ."

I Corinthians 13:13

What vital ingredients these gifts are in Christian living!

Taking a step in faith, grounded in our Lord Jesus, Terry Timmerman has surrendered his heart to God in repentance. Terry is the son of Don and Marsha Timmerman. We entreat the heart of God to extend His guiding hand as Terry embarks on this new pathway.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast . . ." (Hebrews 6:19) We were blessed with visiting ministering brothers who reminded us of the glorious hope that can give courage to fainting hearts, when we place our trust in God. Among our visitors were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). May they be blessed for sharing God's Word.

Professing their love for each other Lori Luthi and Mark Mattson were united in marriage on July 9th. Their parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi; and Roger and Pattie Mattson. May they truly know charity as the greatest gift and their marriage be one that brings honor to God.

Tristan D. Feuchtenberger has introduced a new sense of "love" to the home of Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger. We rejoice with them in the birth of their new son. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger; and Bro. Edward and Sis. Lois Koehl. May God bless their little family.

Our prayers go out to those who have been hospitalized this past month. They include Bro. Gottlieb Joos, Bro. Earl Kussatz, Ruby Luthi, Sis. Anna Nohl (Bro. Henry), and Eli Nohl. May God's healing hand be upon them.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Jan Messner - Joleen Messner

Greetings!

THE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

Should praise of man be more to me

Than God's most blessed favor?
And though man might reject His
Word,

The Truth remains forever;
Unchanging, sure, it does impart
A comfort to the poor in heart."

Zion's Harp #113, vs. 2

We were blessed to have visiting ministers with us to share God's unchanging truths. May God ever impart His wisdom to those that stand up and bring forth God's precious Word. May God bless Bro. Ron Messner and Sis. Pam (Washington, IL) and Bro. Kent Mogler and Sis. Mary (Minneapolis, MN) and their families.

On Saturday evening, we had the privilege of hearing Bro. Ron Messner speak to us about depression. The Minneapolis congregation joined us for this most enlightening evening.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Derrick and Ruth Schmidt and their daughter, Faith, welcome another baby girl, Mercedes Anastasia, to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Darrell and Darlene Schmidt and William and Dorothy Ehlke. Lisa and Jay Kent are first-time parents to a precious little girl, Bailey Ann. Grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner and the late Bro. Dennis Messner and Donna and Travis Kent.

Our high school and college graduates are Nicole Miller (Tom and Maggie) and Amy Messner (Sis. Carol Ann). Amy graduated from the college of dental hygiene.

Our hospital patient was Sis. Geraldine Messner (Bro. Harold). We pray that God will provide her strength as she deals with her bodily affliction.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On June 9, Darrin, Gayle and Dylan McAfee welcomed Creighton Erin into their hearts and home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille Schmidt (West Bend, IA).

Many thanks to Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) for

ministering to us on June 19. May God bless your labors.

Graveside services were held June 25 for Matthew Scott Miller, infant son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. April Miller. May God comfort them in the loss of their little one.

We extend our sympathy to Mike and Carolyn Geran and family on the loss of their father and grandfather, Ed Wreath (Sabetha, KS). We likewise extend our sympathy to Sis. Thirza Thompson and family on the death of her father, Ellsworth Dobson (Sabetha, KS). May God comfort these loved ones in their losses.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart - Becky Marti

"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." (Ecclesiastes 12:1) We rejoice with Carol and Sarah Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) as they seek the Lord in repentance in the days of their youth.

We appreciate the many visitors we have had this past month. We especially want to thank Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Andy Virkler (Crogan-Naumburg, NY) for willingly serving us in the ministry. May the Lord bless them.

Note of Thanks: Dear beloved brethren and friends, Words cannot express our deep and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many deeds of love and kindness, your prayers, and overwhelming support during the illness and passing of our dear wife and mother. May God richly bless each and every one.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Ray Luthi and family

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We have been blessed with many visitors this summer. The ministering brothers who have served us so lovingly are Greg Rassi

(Chicago, IL), Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We thank each one for joining us in worship, praise and fellowship. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene had car trouble before they reached St. Louis, and now have precious memories of some helpful, loving people who stopped and went out of their way to assist them.

We had so many inspiring, encouraging and practical teachings. We were reminded that prayer can change the heart of God. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

We were told to remember that, in all the strife of this world, the whole battle is between our ears.

Beginning in July, we are having Wednesday evening services once a month. The schedule for the rest of 1994 is as follows: August 24, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 7. All start at 8:00 p.m. Anyone who can join us is welcome.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

As our country celebrated Father's Day, June 17th and 18th was a weekend of camping. There was much food, fun and fellowship, as many there shared their joys and experiences in life. Most of all we were encouraged to know that some of us may not have an earthly father, but all of us have a heavenly Father that loves us very much.

June 26 was a special day as we enjoyed our annual Sunday school picnic. After our dinner, a program was given by our Sunday school youth. What a joy it is to listen to our youth praise and honor our Lord Jesus Christ through song.

Our prayers are with Carol Bezler, who had surgery this past month and is recuperating well at her parent's home. Also, our prayers are with Verine Scott,

mother of Sis. Dianne Sutter, who is recuperating from surgery. May God grant each of them a full and healthy recovery.

We were encouraged with visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Lenny Meyer and Bro. Gregg Rassi (Chicago, IL). May God bless each of them for their willingness to bring us His Word.

By now the annual conference has already been concluded. We just wanted to take the time to thank each of our ministering brethren for their willingness to be used by God to spread the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we all encourage and hold our elder brethren up to the Lord in prayer, as they have the oversight of our most precious faith.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Isaiah 51:11

We thank Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) for bringing us God's Word. We thank the brothers who drive many miles to be with us each month. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. Services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. For more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846, Bro. Bob Feller (201) 680-8619 or Bro. Craig Schafer (908) 248-6616.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

The Sunday school children and many others enjoyed the annual

weiner roast held at Whitaker Park June 27, despite the rainy night.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of John Widrick who was taken from this life in Philadelphia, PA, July 4. He leaves his parents, Gilbert and Betty Widrick; grandmother, Sis. Berdena Widrick; brothers, Gary (Rockville, MD), Stephen (Beaver Falls), William (Turin), Mark (Syracuse), Scott (Owego); and sisters, Deborah Boliver (Earl, Lowville) and Mary Benton (Brian, Marietta, GA); grandmother, Laura Reed (Merritt, Lowville) and nieces and nephews. May they each be comforted by God's Word and guidance.

Two families have welcomed new babies into their homes. Bradley, Jr. and Joyce Herzig are parents of Hannah Lynn born June 29. Her playmates will be Erin, Jacob and Joshua. Grandparents are Bradley, Sr. and Sis. Regina Herzig, and Dick and Aileen Robbins. Michael and Barbara Virkler are first-time parents with the birth of Bridget Catherine July 12. Her grandparents are Nat and Sheila Virkler and Catherine and the late Joseph Cawley. Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler is the great-grandmother of these new babies. May each family look to God for guidance in raising their little ones.

Our hearts are happy as Anna Mellnitz has turned her heart over to the Lord for His direction in repentance. May He give her the needed grace in this important step in her life.

On the weekend of July 17 our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We were blessed to have them minister unto us and thank them and the families for being with us.

We enjoyed the fellowship of many loved ones on the weekends of July 4, and July 17 when family reunions were held in our area.

OHIO, AKRON

Diane Jarrett - Joyce Gasser
Bro. and Sis. Bryon Palitto have a new baby, Katie Lynn. The new little girl is also welcomed by a sister, Brianna. Grandparents are

our minister, Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto, and Boyd and Barbara Acker (Rittman).

John and Cindy Kulton have a new baby boy, Tyler Mitchell, and he is also welcomed by a brother, Jonathan. Grandparents are Hank and Sis. Marjorie Collins.

Sis. Helen Burr is home from the hospital recuperating from a leg infection.

We appreciated visiting ministers, Bro. Roy Ehnlé (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

Holy communion was served to us by Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) Saturday, July 16. What a blessing to gather together as a precious faith in solemn remembrance of the Lord's sacrificial death and shed blood. We were reminded of our spiritual union with Christ and His body, the holy church.

Other ministering brothers visiting our congregation include Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). God's blessing extended to each one who shared the precious Word with us.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (St. Matthew 11:29) We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God grant her grace as she begins this new walk of life.

Bro. Andy Hunyady has safely returned from a World Relief trip to Eastern Europe for which we are thankful to God for His protection.

It has been a blessing to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assembling with us Wednesday nights. They are spending six weeks in Columbus while Bro. Bob is attending some classes at Ohio State University.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Sandra Manz**

On July 17 we welcomed Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) as our visiting ministers. We thank them for sharing their thoughts with us as the Spirit moved their hearts.

Most of our junior high and high school age children are looking forward to spending next Sunday with youth from other churches at Mansfield Youth Day. May God bless all those who have unselfishly given their time and effort to make this day of fellowship and learning possible.

As of this writing, Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) is spending some time in the hospital with pneumonia. May his faith sustain him through this setback.

OHIO, LATTY**Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn**

"Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today, For a soul returning from the wild; See! the Father meets him out upon the way, Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child." (Tabernacle Hymns #202) Thankfully the Lord's call has been answered by three more souls in our congregation. They are Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita), Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and Amanda Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen). May these three souls and we all remember that "ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9)

Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Ruth) has had surgery during the past month. May the Lord add His healing touch for Bro. Ralph. Sis. Mary Eisenmann (Bro. Lee) has been hospitalized during the past month. May she feel God's healing hand throughout the days to come.

Ministering Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and his family gathered with us during the month. May he ever feel the prayers of the congregation to preach the truth of God's Word.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain) and her family for the death of her dad, Bro. Earl Frauhiger. May they feel God's presence during this time.

The wedding engagement of Duane Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) to Carrie McClure (Earl and Allison) has been made known. May they seek the Lord's guidance in planning their lives together.

As the end of summer draws near, we will soon begin a new school year. As your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews go off to school, please pray that they will learn and remember only the needful things. Please pray for the teachers as they also begin a new school year.

The Labor Day holiday is also soon approaching. As we remember those who have labored on our behalf, let us ever strive to labor for the Lord. "Labor on! Keep the bright reward in view; For the Master has said, He will strength renew; Labor on till the close of day!" (Gospel Hymns #328)

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Cari Mann**

One Sunday something unusual happened in our church. We only had one minister on the pulpit to serve us for both services. By the end of the second service, the dear brother was visibly tired. I had to think of how human we are and how easily we become weary. How thankful we can be that we have a God who never grows weary and is always there for us no matter what time of day or night or where we may be.

He leadeth me! O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort
fraught!

What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth
me.

Hymns of Zion #162, vs 1

Believing that the Lord has led her here, we welcome Sis. Renee' Steffan (Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) with open hearts. She has accepted a position in our area and is living with her grand-

mother and uncle, Sis. Leora and Bro. Larry Bocka. May she feel the Lord's blessings upon her as she changes jobs.

Shall we meet beyond the river,
Where the surges cease to roll?
Where in all the bright forever,
Sorrow ne'er shall press the soul?

Hymns of Zion #217, vs 1

This was the month for unusual happenings. On Monday, July 4, two of Bro. Clair Keever's grandfathers, Henry Keever and Howard Sprang, passed away. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev and their family in their double loss.

When our loved ones are hospitalized, it always causes concern. This month two of our congregation spent time in the hospital. We rejoice because the Great Physician has touched them and they are both recovering at home. There also have been several who have been ill at home this month and we are thankful to hear that they are on the road to recovery.

On July 20, the Lord sent another blessing to the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy Sauder when He sent them Alexander Paul. Ben, Adam, Andrew and Allison are all looking forward to having a new playmate. Also rejoicing with them are happy grandparents, Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder and Colleen Morganstern.

The window I sit under at work is a dormer window, therefore it is sort of back in a tunnel. One morning I glanced out the window to see one blue spot surrounded by clouds. My first thought was "this is how I want to be when Christ returns - looking up through a tunnel at Him." Then I was reminded of the following verse "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30) The next thought was ". . . Surely I come quickly . . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20) Will you be looking up when the Bridegroom comes?

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Linda Ramsier
Marsha Rufener**

Bob and Traci Zollinger welcome their first-born son, Justin Robert. He was born June 18. Grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Dick and Kay Bowman. May the Lord bless their home.

Our prayers are with Matthew Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) as he begins his repentance. May he feel the prayers of the brothers and sisters as he begins this most important step in life.

Bro. David Stoller and Sis. Jan Miller were united in holy matrimony June 26. Parents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller. We pray the Lord will abide in their home as they begin their walk together.

July 4th weekend was truly uplifting for our congregation. As we think about our country's freedom, how much more important is our spiritual freedom from sin. Five souls gave their testimony of faith and were baptized into the brotherhood. We rejoice with Sis. Kim Hanzie (Tim), Sis. Betty Bachman (Zane), Bro. Milan Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Bro. Nathan Schar (Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie).

Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of Don Garrison after his sudden death. We are reminded how quickly our life can be taken from us.

Our congregation has been blessed with many visiting ministering brethren. We appreciate the labors put forth for us: Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Dave Graf (Akron), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron), Bro. Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville).

Several from our area have been ill or in the hospital. Our prayers are with Sis. Margaret Calame (John), Bro. Tom Jenkins (Sis. Deb), Sis. Erma Marty (Bro. Fred), Sis. Vicki Schar (Bro. Gary) and Joel Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail).

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

The annual New Martinsville, WV church service was again held the last Sunday in June. With us were ministering Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH).

It was a special time as we gathered together with our church family for communion services. We deeply appreciate the willingness of Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) to direct us.

We have enjoyed many visitors during the month of July. Among them were the families of ministering Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

Sis. Laura Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) has completed four years at Ohio State University Eastern Campus and has earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Congratulations, Laura, and may God continue to bless you.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller - Kim Stoller

It is a joy to report that four souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. We wish God's grace and mercy on Paul Moore, Susie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Jessica Riggerbach (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou) and Dawn Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois).

We pray for God's healing on Bro. Herb Bauman as he was hospitalized. He is now recovering at home.

Each week the Lord blesses our assembly in His house with His Word brought forth through His ministers. Visiting ministers this month are Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Doug Harman (Toledo) and Ron Steiner (Rittman).

Then shall this vale of tears
On earth become an Eden
When joined in spirit we
In prayer look up to heaven,
Then bear we joyfully
This earthly toil and care;
We put our trust in God

And all complaints forbear.

Zion's Harp #79, vs. 2
"The Union of Hearts"

Married this month were Marcia Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Adam Martin. On July 17, Sis. Gwen Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) and Bro. Jason Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail) were married. May God's presence abide in their homes.

—————
OHIO, TOLEDO
Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"Ah now it is done!
Now I live unto Thee;
My Light and my Life,
Oh, abide Thou with me!
To follow Thee ever
Shall be my sole aim
Thro' shade or thro' sunshine,
Thro' honor or shame."

Zion's Harp #209, vs. 7

We had the privilege to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Joel Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) the weekend of June 18 and 19. May he continue to follow the Lord's will in his life and may the Lord richly bless him. We are very happy to have him as part of our beloved church family. Also on this day, we were blessed with the visit of two of our ministering brethren, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield). May God reward them for their efforts.

We rejoice with our friend, Rebecca Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geryl), who has found peace with her God and man. Our prayers are with her as she awaits baptism and we wish her the Lord's richest blessings.

We apologize for not reporting in a prior issue the marriage of Kelly Sanclaint (Dave and Sis. Connie) to Richard Chamberlain April 23 in Tampa, FL. We wish them God's richest blessing as they make their journey through this life together.

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ONTARIO, KITCHENER Laura Baxter

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul."

Psalm 103:21

Our congregation was recently blessed to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg) minister to us. We are thankful for him and all of those that came with him as we always enjoy the fellowship of our brethren and friends in Christ.

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 100:3

The Lord has made two more dear souls. Walter and Margaret Fortenbacher are the happy grandparents of Nathan Daniel Graf. Nathan's thankful parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Roseann Graf (Akron). Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter are the thankful parents of Hannah Leigh. She is welcomed home by big brother, Andrew, and grandparents, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal (Princeville, IL). May God grant wisdom and His divine help to these young parents in raising their precious children according to His Word.

We welcome and encourage anyone to visit us here in Kitchener. Please contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 if you plan to visit.

OREGON, SILVERTON

We experienced a very blessed Fourth of July weekend. Our single group hosted visitors from Morris, MN, Congerville, Goodfield and Eureka, IL, Iowa City, IA, Sabetha and Bern, KS, Phoenix, AZ, Altadena, CA and Rockville, CT. Christian fellowship is so encouraging. Adding to the blessings of the weekend was the privilege of listening to the testimonies of our new sisters-in-faith, Jaimie Bigelow

(Susan), Jodie and Jackie Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) and new brother-in-faith, Andy Angstrom (Nancy). Present to bring forth these testimonies were our own Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and our deacon, Bro. Clarence Dietrich. Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Sis. Ethel, Gridley, IL). May the Lord richly bless them all for their labor on our behalf.

Our sympathy and prayers are with our Sis. Elsie Sinn (Bro. Mark) with the passing of her mother, Mabel Teubel (Walter, Fairbury, IL). May the beckoning hands of our loved ones in heaven help us to keep our gaze on the things above and not on the things of this earth.

We rejoice with Gary and Sis. Tami Dettwyler in the birth of their new daughter, Morgan Lee, July 1. Dustin, Shannon, Garrett and Gavin love her dearly.

We are thankful to report construction on our new edifice has begun. This past week we were able to pour the footings. We pray the Lord's blessings upon all those who have given of their time and talent.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;

But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #158

The weekend of June 17, 18 and 19 showed our small congregation the meaning of Christian love and fellowship. We are fortunate to have a faith in which we have a common tie that binds us together. How thankful we are that Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for us. Without Jesus where would we be? We thank the brothers, sisters and friends from Rockville, CT, Eureka, IL, and Akron, Junction, Rittman, Sardis and Smithville, OH, who came and helped install a new roof on our church. The work was completed on two of the hottest days of the year. A church supper was held Friday and Saturday evenings along with a singing after supper Saturday evening. We thank those who participated not only for the work done but for their fellowship. May God bless all who were with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jill Aeschleman as Bro. Matthew struggles with his illness. May God be near them both.

Bro. Edwin Lanz (Sis. Marilyn) has received surgery for a spinal disc problem. Bro. Edwin will be receiving further treatments and we pray that God's healing power will be upon him.

On July 5, God blessed the home of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leann Gerber with daughter, Joanne Lee. Welcoming their little sister are Philip, Sarah and Leah. Proud grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf (Morris, MN).

We welcome Jeff Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Garden Grove, IA) and David Roberts (Bro. Dave and Sis. Caroline, Bluffton, IN). Both you men will work this summer for John and Sis. Kathy Clough. We look forward to having them worship with us.

We thank Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

As Labor Day approaches, how thankful and encouraged we can be from verses such as the one above. No matter what occupation or station in life God has placed us, we can be assured that our work for Him will never be in vain.

Labor also continues in our church remodeling project. This month, the air conditioning/heating was installed, the drywall in the assembly room was finished, and one of the restrooms were partially finished. Hopefully soon we can begin to meet for services in this new building the Lord has blest us with. We do, however, still have much work to do in the areas of painting, carpentry, concrete work, and eventually brick laying. If anyone is interested in helping us in these areas or others, please contact one of the numbers listed below. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

This month, we were blest to have three visiting ministers July 10 and 17 - Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). Thanks to all of you for being willing to share God's Word with us. We also thank our other visitors from Washington and Peoria, IL; Athens, AL; and Mansfield, OH for coming and taking the time to worship with us.

We encourage anyone traveling in the Nashville area to contact us. We would welcome the opportunity to fellowship and share the sights of the city. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

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TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser
Kimberly Kaiser

Many thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). They, along with our many guests, filled our Sunday with blessed fellowship and God's Word.

We rejoice with Brian and Terri Kaisner (Austin, TX). Their first child, Bradley Leon, was born June 15. Bradley's grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner and Ron and Sis. Janet Blumenshine (Peoria, IL). May God bless and keep little Bradley and his parents. We look forward to seeing them soon at our Dallas services.

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 p.m. 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

I wish to die in my dear Jesus,
When light and life from me He
takes,

When from my lips the color
fadeth,

And when my heart in death does
break.

In Jesus I will trust always;
In Him I live and pass away.

Zion's Harp #247

Retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) was called to his heavenly home from his home in Michigan. Bro. Elmer and his wife, Delila, have spent about five months every winter in Zapata for many years. Bro. Elmer was listed as a minister when we had the dedication of the Zapata church February 19, 1978; he held a special place in our hearts. We want his wife and family to know they have our sympathy.

SILVER THREADS

ARE YOU DRIFTING AWAY?

Beloved fellow pilgrims all,
Who walk this way and heed His
call:

What's your relationship with God
Now that you've some time this
way trod?

Is it still as when first you came,
Fell at His feet, worshipped His
name?

Do you still have that first real
love
For Jesus Christ our Lord above?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do worldly thoughts creep in your
mind?

— visitors lodge —

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of God, it does not sway,
Remains the same since dawn of
day.
It is what will our judgment
speak.
Let's not an easier way seek.

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

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

Beloved ones who took the time
To read the questions in this
rhyme:

Let's think about how it will be
When Jesus face to face we see.

Of thousand questions on That
Day
We none will answer, nothing say.

But, now we live, in grace abound.
Let's do the best with what we've
found!

Bro. Bill Schmidgall

GOD'S FAMILY

I once was lost and lonely, until I
found my Lord,
Adopted by His family, with God
in one accord;
We share our blessings freely, we're
bound by love's strong cord,
No longer lost and lonely, we hope
to meet our Lord!

I am my brother's keeper, my
sister's lot I share,
We care about each other, this
family knit by pray'r;
We're on this path together, that
leads to heaven fair,
Someday we'll be up yonder, its
joys forever share!

Now when the ways seemed
doubtful, when troubles cloud
our day,
God's family in pray'rful, His Word
they will obey;
For if we are not careful, from
heaven's path we stray,
'Tis then our Lord is faithful, He'll
lead us on our way!

No matter who is seeking, there's
always room and space,
Within God's family dwelling, to
share His love and grace;
We're in God's care and keeping,
our trust in Him we place,
Someday with joyful singing, we'll
see Him face to face!

United as a family, together hand
in hand,
With spirit pure and holy, our goal
is heaven's land;
God's love is given freely, so with
Christ take your stand,
Come join God's happy family,
we're bound for gloryland!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS

The times in which we live in can
be very trying ones,

Especially for families when all
around we see;
Distractions that would take us
from our daughters and our
sons,
From wife or husband that we
love, how careful we must be!

It seems today that we must have
careers that have esteem,
Or occupations that pay well to
satisfy our needs;
We are so busy we forget the
smile and gleam,
Our children have when we are
near to share in all their deeds!

Before we know it, time flies by,
and then the children go,
We realize that all too soon our
work for them is done;
O Lord, we pray that on that day
that they will surely know,
The joy and peace that only comes
from Jesus Christ, God's Son!

The joy and laughter of each day a
family will have,
Is sweeter still when Jesus is a
part of everything;
Especially when things go wrong,
His grace is like a salve,
To soothe our ev'ry fear or doubt,
new hope is what He'll bring!

O Lord, we pray that we will be a
faithful parent now,
For son or daughter, wife or
husband, ev'ry day anew;
And by Thy grace we can be true
and keep our sacred vow,
A three-fold cord not lightly rent,
no evil can undo!

The family that prays together,
stays together too,
They have the blessings of the
Lord in all that they may do;
Each day, O Lord, please help us
pray and read the Bible too,
And as a family, work or play, to
live in Christ anew!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

BEFORE THY THRONE

Before Thy throne of grace, O Lord,
I come on bended knee;
Just as I am, please search me,
Lord,

More perfect I would be!
 If there be anything, O Lord,
 Of sin I do not see;
 Then cleanse me with Thy blood,
 dear Lord,
 I want to live for Thee!

Lord, help me do my part each day,
 Found in God's master plan;
 To magnify His kingdom I
 Will do the best I can!
 No matter whether small or great,
 My part does have its place;
 To glorify His name, I can,
 With His amazing grace!

Now in my daily walk of life,
 I need Thee ev'ry hour;
 Yes, by Thy grace, I have new
 strength,
 No evil can o'er pow'r!
 'Tis marvelous and wonderful,
 That Jesus is my King;
 I am a new creation now,
 His praises I will sing!

Bro. Rodney Stoller



Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

In this great land in which we have been privileged by the Almighty to have been born to have lived, it seems we have things so easy. Sometimes the easiness of things tends to pull us away from the price our redemption has cost us. We go about our duties unhindered by a government . . . most of us enjoy fairly good health . . . we have comfortable homes . . . we have wives and families and all the blessings God could ever give us. But sometimes these things tend to let us forget from whence all these blessings come. So hope that everyday, brothers and sisters and friends, too, we consider what God has done for us.

One song writer who was evidently a strong believer in Christ,

uttered these famous words in the brown books, "I Stand Amazed . . ."

I stand amazed in the presence
 Of Jesus the Nazarene
 And wonder how He could (ever)
 love me,
 A sinner condemned, unclean.

How could He have done it? You and I were at one time sinners, brethren. We were condemned. We were unclean. We were filthy. But He saw us and when we cried out to Him from the need of our soul's bosom, "Help, for mercy and forgiveness!", He heard us. Then the song writer goes on to say:

For me it was in the garden
 He prayed; Not my will, but Thine.
 He had no tears for His own griefs
 (because He was sinless)
 But (He shed) sweat drops of blood
 for mine.

He did this for you, brothers and sisters, and for me, and for you, friends. He did this for you . . . that you and I could escape the damnation of hell. Then the song writer goes on to say:

He took my sins and my sorrows
 (burdens),
 He made them His very own;
 He bore the burden to Calvary
 And suffered and died alone.

Forsaken even by His Father, when He hung on the cross and darkness engulfed the earth, He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34) Even the Son of God presented the question to the Father, "Why?" "Why did this calamity have to befall Me?" But He bore it. I think at that moment, He was indeed forsaken of God.

When He bore the sins, He became sin in our stead.

Sin and God have diametrically opposed since the beginning of time. They will forever be opposed to each other. But Christ became sin though He knew no sin in the eyes of a righteous God. That's when He bore the weight and the burden.

The Scripture does not mention very much about Christ's physical anguish when He suffered on the

cross. But it was the anguish of His soul, that is outstanding. The old prophet Isaiah caught the beauty and the lamentableness of that dramatic sight when he said, "The Father saw the travail of His soul, and He was satisfied."

When God saw His Son and heard His cry of anguish, "Why hast thou forsaken me?", God was then satisfied that here was the price that He could accept for the sins of mankind. The Father's heart was moved with compassion when he saw His Son crying out, "My God, My God." (Mark 15:34)

After this lamentable, pathetic sight, then Jesus, when He recognized He had completed the Father's will, addressed Him again as "Father." He said, "Father, into thy hands, I commend my Spirit." (Luke 23:46) "It is finished . . . and (He) gave up the ghost." (John 19:30)

What a glorious way for the Son of Man to leave this world in the eyes of mortal man. But in the eyes of God, it was the victory! It was the victory!

Then the Roman soldiers came along and broke the legs of the two malefactors to be sure they were dead on the Sabbath day. But when they came to Christ to break His bones, He was dead already, so instead of breaking His bones that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "A bone of Him shall not be broken," John 19:36, they pierced His side with the sword. From that side, flowed the blood – the atoning blood whereby your sins and my sins could be blotted out.

The water of which Christ Himself spoke when He lived, "Within you there shall spring up a well of water, springing up to life eternal." That water flowed from His rib and side after He had paid the price for sins; but not before.

There is a lovely parallel here, brethren and friends, the blood of Christ avails us after we have repented and brought our sins to light. Then the blood of Christ washes them away; but not before. The sinner who lives in sins is not the recipient of the blood of Christ washing away yours sins until such time as he has brought his sins to light . . . confess them that they

could be wrought in God, then God sees that blood of His beloved Son.

He hears the cry of anguish from His Son, "Father, forgive them; for they now not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Then the procedure and the process of forgiveness and conversion begins to enact itself in hearts of penitent men and penitent women. Then after our sins have been forgiven, brothers and sisters, then our great God issues to us that tremendous message: "Peace be unto thee. Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

What could be worse than living in sin? Evidently to have been converted and then to go back to the wallowing mire is even worse than to have been born in sin and not to have been relieved of that sin in the first place.

So we have a precious pearl to guard, brothers and sisters, but we can by His grace be overcomers. God would not have allowed His beloved Son to perish if He was not going to, with that means, provide the grace for us to endure faithful until life's end. It is possible, if we look to Him always in faith believing, that He will see us through.

The Word tells us so emphatically: ". . . he that cometh to God must (first of all) believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently see (after) him." (Hebrews 11:6) Brothers and sisters, you and I have gone through that frame of mind and when we were under conviction of our sins and saw the repercussion of sin, we believed there was a God. And we cried out, not for justice but for mercy!

We knew we were guilty of death. "The wages of sin is death," (Romans 6:23), and that has never been annulled. That conviction has never been lifted and we knew we were guilty. We deserved death but we cried for mercy. When our great God saw this plea coming from our soul's deep need, He was moved. You and I, brothers and sisters, moved the heart of God.

To the unconverted in our midst, if there be any, you, too, through a repentance, as a result of the conviction of your sin and your removedness from God, can move the Father heart of God to the point

that He will reach out and grasp your unclean hand; and remove from you your sins when you bring them to light and belch them out to get rid of them because you sense they are separating you from God.

He will eventually lead you to the green Gospel pastures and by the still water of life and will convert you from a child of the devil to a child of His. Dost thou believe this, beloved friends, that this is true?

Jesus died for all mankind. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on him (on His beloved Son) the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) "And when the stripes (and by His bruises) we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

So dear friend, if Satan is beguiling you with the thoughts, "You can't repent," he is a liar. If you want to be deceived by a liar, that is up to you; but you will reap the reward a liar has to give in eternity too. Why not deal with :

. . . a God who is truthful.

. . . A God who is faithful.

. . . A God who gave you the breath of life.

. . . A God whose will it is that no soul should perish?

Why not repent and believe the Gospel?

Jesus Christ said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) That hasn't changed. I hope, brothers and sisters, you and I are thankful that a goodly number of our youth have been exposed to this doctrine, where we recognize that we were sinners. But finally the Word of God reminded us what the fate of the sinner was; and we feared the repercussions.

Oh, King Solomon said it so wisely, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10) I am so thankful that in my younger days I was exposed to the preaching of the gospel of salvation by faithful brothers who were no great orators; but who were men of God of whom it could be said, "They loved the Lord."

They loved the Lord. If we love the Lord, brothers and sisters, I am convinced God can and will use us if we love Him with all our heart,

with all our soul, with all our mind, with all that is with us is. That means exactly what it says. We must put Him first in our lives. We can if we have been forgiven of our sins. We are so grateful.

We will want to, out of a pure heart that has been cleansed and sanctified, obey His Word. Then God adds the blessings to our every endeavor. What a lovely thought! We do nothing. He does it all! We merely humbly believe and obey His Word and then God does the rest.

So we find at the wedding (while Jesus lived), He turned the water into wine. A very simple task for Jesus to do. But I think He wanted to reveal to these people that He had all power on earth and in heaven. These were merely physical witnesses of His greater power. Even Jesus' own people – the Jewish people in particular; for He would elevate Himself to the kingship while He yet lived and would establish Israel as a dominating government in the world circles but He didn't do that.

He said, "My kingdom is not of this world; I didn't come for that purpose. I did not come to elevate people in this world; but I came to make them candidates for the kingdom of God." He turned the tables on His own people. He allowed Himself the cruel excruciating death on the cross for their sakes and for your sakes and for my sake. This proves to us the human inability of mankind to grasp the depth and the unsearchable riches of the love of God.

Because He died and paid the price for sin, you and I are here this morning. If we would not be a converted people, we'd be doing something else this morning. I don't know. I shun to think what I'd be doing. But because He purchased us with His blood and gave us a desire to fellowship with the saints . . . to assemble around His Word . . . to be "made (to) sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus," (Ephesians 2:6), we find ourselves relaxing (that is, all except me). I trust you are enjoying the bountiful blessings of God that He has for His sons and His daughters and the blessings He has in store for

the friends of the truth who gather from Sunday to Sunday.

We know that there is a desire in your heart to become a son or a daughter of God. We know the power that withholds you from coming to God. It is the power of the devil: self-pride and self-ego. All these things are not attributes; they are hindrances. But they can be defeated. They can be defeated.

The ruler of the wedding tasted the wine that was served at the latter end of the wedding feast. He said, "This is unusual. We generally serve the best wine first; but you saved the best until the last." I believe that's the way God and His time schedule have reserved time for you and me. He saved the best to the last.

He finally sent His beloved Son. In the olden times "he spoke to the people by the prophets and now He sent His beloved Son. We have the record . . . His having been here . . . of His having lived . . . of His having died . . . of His having been resurrected . . . of His having been rejoined with the Father again in heaven. This is really what life is all about.

We will be victorious over death and over the grave. That's the hope that guides and instills in the hearts of His beloved daughters and His beloved sons. Without that hope, life is vain, life is bored, life is nothing, friends, if you have not this hope. What is life? If you have to look forward to nothing but a separation from God and from everything that is beautiful, that is a tormenting thought. But that is exactly the fear and the psychological domain the unconverted man lives in.

After life then what? That's the fear that Christ came to take away. He came to implant in the hearts of men and women the hope that after this life there is a life eternal. A house not made by human hands but eternal in the heavens indoctrinated, instituted and preserved by God Himself for that man and that woman who loves Him with all that is within him is.

We can't love Him, friends, until we know Him. We can't know Him until we feel the wrath of God upon our former sinful way. We

can't rejoice in something we've never tasted. I couldn't rejoice in the fellowship of the Forrest, IL, brethren until I had been here and knew what it was. I had been here before and I knew it was good, but now I can go back and encourage the brethren, "It's still there. God's people still dwell at Forrest; I can sense it."

So it is, friends, with the gift of salvation. Until you taste it, you cannot know. This is one of the great intricacies of the wisdom of God to have reserved this experience on an individual basis. There have never been mass conversions. That's an individual matter betwixt you and betwixt the Creator.

What could be more delightful, more joy and peace created, than when we to God our Father, our lives we do concentrate?

Men drive for thousands of miles to be in the company of kings and statesmen of nations. Why, you and I can be sons and daughters of God in the privacy of our own homes. We can have the Spirit of God indwell us and direct us.

What does this do to us, brothers? It makes us not boast; it humbles us when we think that the God of heaven, the God of earth, would condescend from His majestic throne of glory and find a place in the cleansed and purified hearts to dwell.

If God and His beloved Son be dwelling in our hearts, then comes into parley the saying, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) If He is dwelling in our heart, He will drive out the evil thoughts that sometimes engulf our minds. He will forestall the evil spirits that try to make inroads in the believer's life. We will say with the song writer: "Though sorrows engulf me, though sea billows roll; I say to myself, 'My Father, it is well with my soul.'"

Someday that soul will either be rejoined with God in eternity or separated from Him in eternity. One of these two destinies. God gave us that soul, He gave us (it seems to me) the insight to make the determination as to whether or not He is indeed God and whether we want to respect and reverence His high and holy name. Or

whether we want to say, "Well, I'm getting along quite well; I've been given a fair amount of intelligence, a good job, a nice home; I'm doing a fine job."

That's a lamentable state when man makes that admission. He almost falls in the category which the Psalmist wrote: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psalm 14:1) What a lamentable state! But it seems to me the unconverted man who rejects the council of God, is saying that. The Word calls that man a fool. That's a pretty sad title, isn't it, when God labels the man who forgets God as a "fool"?

We can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but we can't ever fool God. It can't be done . . . His eyes are all searching . . . His ears are all hearing . . . His arms have not been shortened . . . His love has not diminished. Beloved friends, God loves you!

Jesus Christ put it this way: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:32) If there would have been one righteous person in the world, Christ would not have had to die; but there wasn't any. There was not a righteous person in the world. God said this in the Old Testament history: "The thoughts of his heart (the mind of man) was only evil continually!" (Genesis 6:5) What a lamentable sight as God beheld His creatures - our ancestors!

You and I, before we are converted, have only evil thoughts continually. God could have said, "Away with them!", but He didn't do it. Why didn't He? Because within the bosom of your soul and my soul, He breathed a counterpart of Himself and He could not stand the thought of seeing that part of Him being cast out into outer darkness even though we deserved it because our forefathers rejected the council. They disobeyed. They believed the devil who said, "You won't die if you eat the fruit of that forbidden tree; you won't die." Well, they did die spiritually and later they died physically because they just didn't believe.

That is the great sin of unbelief

that keeps men from the kingdom of God. So I hope, brothers and sisters, that you and I by the grace of God, who have attained to the status of sons and daughters of God, will appreciate what He has done for us . . . that we will be thankful . . . that we will keep ourselves, by His grace, unspotted from the world.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." (James 1:27) How many times we fail! To keep himself unspotted from the world, that is pure religion. That is the definition that God gives in His Word and we fall short, brothers. That's why we have to cry for mercy, for forgiveness and for help.

It's not child's play being a child of God. It takes the grace of God coupled with our best effort; and the balance is heavy on the grace of God. We have very little to contribute but we do have to exert the effort.

I think of the little man Zacchaeus. He heard the Christ was coming his way and, because he was such a little fellow in stature, he just couldn't get close to Christ. The thronging mob prevented him. So what does Zacchaeus do? He was a rich man, too. Zacchaeus climbed a tree preceding the throng that was following Christ because he wanted to see Jesus. This must have looked a little silly to me. To see a common man of Forrester, let's say, climb upon a tree to see a prominent man come along because he couldn't see him because he was little. But Zacchaeus wasn't concerned about what people thought. He wanted to see Christ.

Friends, once you reach the point you don't care what people think and you cry out to God, things will happen in your lives. If you have some reservations, you are not going to get any place. Christ made no reservations when He died on the cross. He didn't say, "Well, I won't die for that fellow out there . . . he is a little bit too bad." He didn't say that.

He just said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) He pleaded for the world - past, present and fu-

ture! That is the sinner who yet remains and they don't know what they are doing.

That's why God can wink at the sins of the unconverted man when he comes in penitence because he really didn't know what he was doing. He didn't really recognize how much he was rebelling against the will of God. But when he allows the impact of the love of God to weigh down into his bosom, and he senses that because of his sin, he is separated from God Almighty. This is a fearful thing. The Word puts it this way: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31) "For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29)

How thankful we are, brethren, the Word did this for you and for me. It brought us under conviction and condemnation. After the condemnation through an upright spirit - the crying out to Him, repenting, bringing our deeds to light, confession of our sins, making restitution where we had wronged our brother, or our sister, our friend, our mom, our dad, and our God - we were flooded with His peace. But only God can give a peace that passeth human understanding. Let's maintain, by the grace of God, that peace that we can go our way. As the song writer says:

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross,
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss;
From victory unto victory,
His army shall He lead,
'Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed."

That is what He will do for us, brothers and sisters, if we allow Him to lead us. Friends, we plead with you: "Today (when) you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Hebrews 4:7) This world has nothing to offer you in this life or in the world to come. You are eating the husks and not the corn . . . you're chewing the cob and not the sweet kernel, as long as you serve the god of this world. He has nothing for you but lies, deceit, heart break and sorrow.

Then in the world to come, a home with him where the beast

and the false prophet will be . . . "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched . . ." (Mark 9:44) . . . where "there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:12) Do you want to look forward to that, friends? I trust you don't.

I trust God will speak to your hearts today and remind you that, "The wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

I hope, brothers and sisters, that as our friends behold us, they will see in us the countenance of Jesus Christ our Saviour. I hope they will see in us: compassion, mercy, forgiveness, tenderheartedness, the love of God, the Light Divine! I hope our lights will bring forth the fruits that will lead them to repentance!

In the final analysis, it is the goodness of God, friends, that leadeth thee to repentance. It was the goodness of God, brothers and sisters, that led you and I to repentance. It was the goodness of God. That was the means of God Divine whereby mankind could be reconciled to Him. So long as we draw breath, at least on my part, I cannot comprehend the depth nor the magnitude of the Love of God! To think that He reached out and revealed to wretched me and to wretched you, brothers and sisters, our lost condition! When in that status of life, we beheld as it were the end.

We heard last night, Bro. Merrill read from Psalms 73, where the Psalmist said he beheld ungodly men and he almost became covetous of their status. They were rich . . . things were going good . . . they didn't even seem to worry about death. He was almost envious of them, but then he said that he went to the sanctuary and there God revealed to him the end of the ungodly men. And he praised God for that revelation.

So we trust this morning that as we have come to the sanctuary, God is revealing to us the end of the ungodly; and also the end of the righteous man. May His name be praised forever and ever world without end.

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SERMON BY DECEASED BRO. URIEL C. GEHRING OF LEO, IN

John 2:1-22

We find, beloved, that the Son of God was exposed to marriages, to deaths, to births, to happiness, to sorrow, to joy, to grief, to remorse. The same things you and I are exposed to. God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to allow His Son to carry flesh and blood . . . to be tempted in every way like as you and I, and yet to be without sin. Then to use His Son as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

This brother is beyond human comprehension of the love of God whereby He saw His creation basking themselves in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, but still could see that if there were some means of salvaging them from the ruination of sin, He was going to provide that means. And He did; through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

But before His Son paid the supreme sacrifice, He dwelt among men. He walked with them . . . He talked with them . . . He exposed Himself, and, by the grace of God, we believe, He was victorious in every situation.

In this particular episode in the life of Christ, we find there was a marriage in Cana; and Jesus was invited to the marriage. Marriages

have always been beautiful if undertaken in the fear of God. This, I believe, was a type of marriage that Jesus was invited to.

They served wine, the lovely fruit of the vine, at the marriage feast. When they wanted wine, it says, the mother of Jesus said to Jesus, "They have no wine." (John 2:3) Jesus said to her, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come." (John 2:4)

Here, I believe, Jesus gently reminded his earthly mother that it was no longer her duty to give Him advice. He was now doing the will of His Father. He had a higher mission. He still respected His beloved mother, Mary, I'm sure, but He wanted her to know that he was now under the auspices of the will of God. His will was now to obey His Father and do those things His Father would have Him do.

This seems to me it would alleviate the unfortunate individuals who pray to Mary. She was the virgin whom God chose to bear forth His beloved Son. These very few words would indicated to me, I think to all of us, that when He said, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come." John 2:4, that man is advised not to pray to Mary; but to

pray to God, the Father through Jesus Christ, His beloved Son.

Oh, the error of the wisdom of man in supposedly searching out the wisdom of God. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12) That is so true, brethren. Praise be to God that we, by grace through faith, have been enlightened to the proper method and mode of receiving the forgiveness of our sins through repenting and believing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now we find ourselves, brethren and sisters, if we stand in grace, uncondemned and free from the blight of sin . . . free from the grief of sorrow and the wages of sin, which is eternal death.

We find our selves, brethren, in the most lovely position in a relationship with the Almighty, all because that Jesus, the Son of God, became willing to become sin in our stead, though "He knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21) I hope we never forget that, brothers and sisters. It does something to our inner bosom when we consider what He has done for us! The price He paid!

(Continued on Page 36)