


The Silver Lining



*The harvest truly is great
but the labourers are few...*

November 1994



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.

John 4:35

And another angel came out of the
temple, crying with a loud voice to him
that sat on the cloud, thrust in thy sickle,
and reap; for the time is come for thee to
reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Revelation 14:15

Harvest Time - Send The Reapers Forth

... Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that He would send forth labourers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)

This year's harvest is nigh to complete and the harvest truly has been great. When we consider the great harvest, and we do consider it God-given, we think of Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims, the farm families and their welfare, the grocery store owners, the car dealers, the teachers and so on. We, of course, think of the spiritual harvest probably most of all.

Why, you might ask, do we think of the grocery store owners, the car dealers, the teachers and others?

Have you ever noticed that we always pray for rain that the "fruit of the earth" might grow and be plenteous, but seldom pray for the car lots to be emptied or that customers would flock to the grocery store or that all the students would respect their teachers?

When God sends the rain, it is a blessing, for sure, but I know beloved brethren at this time who are praying for labor disputes to end. The stubbornness of man makes what could be a fruitful work place, in factories, a terrible dry desert of sorts. Brethren have wept to their mates and wonder why things must go as they do. We sometimes forget them in our prayers as we concentrate on more tangible evidence of God's love and kindness.

Dear ones, we may want to place in the recesses of our mind those beloved ones whose work does not depend on rain, but rather it depends on love, kindness, cooperation, diligence, loyalty, hard work ethics, etc, and utter a prayer for them also.

Harvest time always sends our thoughts to spiritual revelations and we certainly can find many references in the Bible to harvest time. Ruth met Boaz at harvest time, David bought the threshing flour from Araunah the Jebusite, and many other mentions of threshing and harvest are found in the Bible. Like so many things, threshing and harvest time are used by God to explain the events He would have us know about.

In this dark and dreary world laden with sin, there is a precious crop growing. The crop, of course, is His children who will be harvested, as the corn or wheat, and garnered into the Heavens at the time of the rapture of the church. As we look out onto the fields, we truly can agree with the Word when it says, "...for they are white already to harvest." May God send forth the reapers.

Hark the Master calls for reapers
Rich and ripe the harvest see
Idle not but quickly flying
Answer Lord, send me, send me.

Great the harvest, few the toilers
Work is waiting one and 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.

Rich reward is for thee waiting
If but faithful thou wilt prove;
Christ will say, well done, thou faithful
In His kingdom bright above.

But if thou should'st fail in battle,
Proving thus to Him untrue;
Fearful then will be the reckoning
At the judgment waiting you.

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

Spread the gospel invitation
Speak a warning, breathe a prayer.
All around you men are dying
You can find them everywhere

Gospel Hymns #800

As the fields are white unto a spiritual harvest, will you and will I be ready to be called as reapers? Are we a living example of the Gospel message? Or do we say some later day because I see no reason to hurry; the harvest is yet months away and there is time for me to become a living example of the Gospel?

No, loved ones. Today the Lord is calling for us to spread the Gospel message to this dark and sinful world through our living example.

We do not advocate preaching on the streets, but the spirit of inward holiness and outward holiness can emanate from us as we walk upon the streets of the world.

Let us onward go.



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Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

COMPETITION

Competition normally exists either as rivalry between persons or as a driving force within one's self for personal achievement. Few of our ambitions or efforts in life are completely free from exposure to competition. An ideal competitive inclination was expressed by the Apostle Paul when he wrote, "...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13). However, not all competitive ambitions are that pure, and many are detrimental to virtuous conduct.

Our competitive inclinations likely have roots in our early childhood experiences when we were striving to learn to walk, talk and play with other children. Our parents and others who helped us in those challenges taught us that kindness, patience, and reason should control our competitive desires.

In school we were encouraged to be intensely competitive. This benefitted our progress as a student, but along with that striving for achievement, we had rules to guide us in the management of our behavior. Obedience to those rules helped us to build upon the fundamentals of sound social ethics that had begun in us through the exemplary teaching of our parents. A person with a regenerated heart uses that same principle of laying a foundation and then building upon it when he uses God's Word for the rule and God's Spirit for the power to gain control over all of his human desires: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection" (Heb 6:1).

Believers in Christ should be motivated by the Holy Spirit in all their endeavors. This was true for Paul, who when heading for Jerusalem could say, "and now, behold, I go bound in the spirit..." (Acts 20:22). They should live by a higher and more perfect standard than either civil law or social ethics: "all things are lawful for me, but all things

are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not" (1 Cor. 10:23). Adherence to this divine guidance in controlling our competitive desires brings with it a divine promise: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (Jam. 1:25).

Inherent with becoming a believer is to have the devil as an adversary (1 Pet. 5:8). He is a master at promoting competitive indulgences. If Satan has success with this approach it will be manifested in a variety of forms such as strife between brethren (Gal. 5:20); excessive desire to increase personal wealth, prestige or power, "I will pull down my barns and build greater..." (Luke 12:18); and competitive activities for personal entertainment, "ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton [given to enjoyment of the senses]" (Jam. 5:5). To prepare us for this struggle, Christ has provided us with His very own mind by which we can discern between spiritual and carnal motives (1 Cor. 2:16; 3:3).

Competitive striving against others is evidence of pride as "only by pride cometh contention" (Prov. 13:10). Athletic competition generally requires that an opponent be defeated or suffer loss. The prideful motivation of excelling at someone else's expense is sternly warned against in the Word: "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12). To present oneself to others as someone more worthy or more capable than they, reduces our own effectiveness and creates a burden to others. Rather, the Word teaches: "he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (2 Cor. 10:17-18).

For us to humbly, rather than contentiously, make use of our personal abilities to serve Christ and His church is a delight to God: "...what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8).

In occupational pursuits it is often necessary for us to compete in order to get the job, obtain the advancement, sell the product or get the contract, etc. Although this can be acceptable and may be expected in some instances, we must be very careful that it is done within the guidelines in the Word (Eph. 6:5-9). Paul expected Onesimus to be profitable to Philemon (Philmn. 11, 16). He also expressed his confidence to Philemon that he would be fair to Onesimus, not using his leadership role in the church (vs. 1, 7, 21) or his wealth to a competitive advantage aimed at making gain at the expense of Onesimus. Their spiritual relationship as peaceful brethren was greater profit to both of them than anything that could have been gained from their occupational relationship (vs. 16-21).

Competitive entertainment such as athletic contests poses dangers to the believer in several ways besides the wasting of precious time. It promotes revellings, emulations, strife and seditions (divisions) (Gal. 5:20-21), all of which are to be crucified in those who belong to Christ (Gal. 5:24). To indulge ourselves in highly emotional events for fleshly enjoyment creates a filling of the heart with an "evil treasure" (Matt. 6:21; 12:35). If we sow to the flesh, we shall "of the flesh reap corruption" (Gal. 6:8).

Alternatively we should put our efforts into those things that fill our hearts and minds with good treasures, such as love, peace, long-suffering, gentleness and temperance (self-control), which are fruitful (Gal. 5:22). It is the grace of God which teaches us that "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Tit. 2:11-12).



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

Opportunities to Serve

The following work projects have been approved by the World Relief Committee. Anyone interested in volunteering for these or future projects should contact and/or send a volunteer information form (available from local elder) to:

Arnold Gerst
1107 Madonna Dr.-Quincy, IL 62301
217/223-8424 Phone
217/223-0116 Fax

Haiti

Because of the unstable situation, no work projects are scheduled at this time. However, as of this writing, it appears things could improve, and if so, work will resume as circumstances allow. Projects which were interrupted include Apostolic Water Aid, Haiti Vocational School Project, and Agricultural Assistance Project.

Jamaica

Three projects are scheduled at this time as listed below with their coordinators.

1995

Montego Bay Jan. 4 to 8
Bro. Mike Finley - 309/376-7301

Deaf Village Feb. 2 to 10
Bro. Mike Finley - 309/376-7301

Deaf Village May 19 to 27
Bro. Phil Isabel - 219/261-3541

For more specific information on Jamaica, please contact Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. 2nd St., Morton, IL 61550 - Phone: 309/263-2041.

Eastern Europe

Since December 1985, food packaging for the brethren in Eastern Europe have been sent from Bluffton, IN. Anyone interested should contact Bro. Gerald Fiechter - 219/597-7494.



But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. MATTHEW 23:12

Juarez, Mexico

House Building Project

Several two room houses have been built by our work teams along with local people. New owners express thanks for the new shelters built from materials purchased by World Relief funds. Anyone interested in helping in planned future projects please contact Bro. Gerald Fiechter - 219/597-7494.

Medical Work Teams

Twice yearly, teams visit suburbs of Juarez to provide medical and dental treatments coupled with Christian love to needy residents. The clinics used, were built by World Relief teams and funds several years ago. When time permits, field clinics are set up using a van in remote areas. Many participants have considered it a personal blessing to have shared their time, love, and talents with those who had no other access to such care. There are special needs for anyone trained in dental care. If you wish to add a special dimension to your life, please call 309/693-8235 or 309/249-6784 for information on work teams scheduled for 1995.

USA

Hurricane Andrew

This project closed at the end of May, but we have arranged to work with the Salvation Army Disaster Service. This gives an opportunity to work when outdoor projects in the north are limited by winter. Call Bro. Roger Sauder - 305/584-0947.

Georgia Flood

Work teams are needed for cleanup and reconstruction in areas flooded this summer. Anyone interested in this work should contact Bro. Arnold Gerst - 217/223-8424.

San Diego, CA Church

Wiring is in progress, with wrapping of the building, installing of insulation and drywall to follow. The exterior will be finished with stucco. Interior finishing and decorating follows as possible. Call Bro. Victor Jevremov - 619/480-5750.

Leo, IN Church

Exterior complete with need for drywall and finishing help. Contact Bro. Steve Stieglitz - 219/657-3162.

Silverton, OR Church

Framing is completed. Work to continue through the winter. Bro. Orin Rufener is directing the project, with on-site phone - 503/873-8731. Also Bro. Clarence Dietrich - 503/873-2582.

Nashville, TN Church

An existing church building has been purchased, and is being remodeled. Help needed through winter. Contact Bro. Don Sauder - 615/373-8928.

Renovation Projects

Empty Tomb Home, Champaign, IL
Bro. Ben Blunier - 217/586-4474.

Faith, Hope, & Love Center
Peoria, IL. Bro. Lloyd Schumacher - 309/673-6794.



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

New Church Building for Pogany, Hungary

As the year of 1994 draws to a close, many of our brethren in Europe have special reasons to be thankful. The small congregation in Pogany, a village in the southwestern portion of Hungary not far from the Croatian border, will close out the year with services in a new building. Dedication services were held on October 2 for a building begun in March of this year. The old building, replaced by the new church, stood on the same spot as the new edifice for many years.

Many of these brethren, including their elder, Bro. Istvan Szemmelroth, made personal experiences of sacrifice or imprisonment for their faith. The second World War took a heavy toll on them and was followed by years of Russian occupation. However, with the fall of Communism, they enjoy a substantial amount of freedom, and rejoice in being able to worship in a new building.

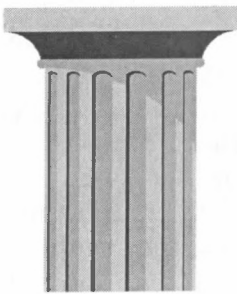
Some excerpts from a letter received from Bro. Szemmelroth follow:

"I am coming to you with love in this brief letter. We thank God for His blessings. The work is done on our new house of prayer and yesterday, October 2, we held the dedication services. We had a very blessed and beautiful day with many guests and the weather was beautiful also. Our thanks and praise and glory to God for this beautiful building. It exceeds our expectations and hopes, for which we are very unworthy. We acknowledge the receipt of funds from the Mission Committee. It came to 1,500,000 forint (\$25,000).

We thank you heartily."

These funds were supplied by your gifts to the Mission Committee to assist our brethren in Europe. Without this support, work such as this could not be completed, and everyone involved, at home and abroad thank you for it.

A Time To Build



A Foundation of Faith

RURAL GOSPEL AND MEDICAL MISSIONS OF INDIA (RGMMI)

Where are all the people on the streets? Everything is so clean! These were the first observations made by Dr. Surendra and Mrs. Damayanti Parkhe upon their arrival for the first time in the United States. Dr. Parkhe is the Director/Administrator of RGMMI in India where his administrative and medical skills are well used. He and his wife had been invited to visit the USA for the purpose of bringing firsthand reports of the India Mission work and for exposure to the Apostolic Christian Church, including attending our annual Brotherhood Conference.

By the grace of God, Dr. Parkhe had experienced a full awakening and conversion in 1993 following the visit to India by four of our Apostolic Christian brothers. He was baptized in India last October. Another of his observations after his first Sunday here was: "You told me about it, but I didn't believe it until I saw it and heard it." He was remarking about our practice of preaching the Word from inspiration without prior preparation. Upon his return to California, having visited more than ten of our churches, his greeting was: "**I am redeemed and I am happy,**" giving evidence of his reaction to our General Conference.

It is felt that their visit was a watershed event

for our involvement in India. Dr. Parkhe observed the witness of our brethren, the unity and consistency among our congregations, the outpouring of love and hospitality, and the caring and concern for others. This furnished evidence of the power of God through His Holy Spirit that should undergird, encourage and enhance the spiritual work in India.

In his talks to our congregations, Dr. Parkhe reported on the present conditions and activities in India and shared the testimony of his conversion. This was a special blessing and opportunity for our churches' awareness of and interest in RGMMI to be heightened.

As their visit drew to a close, the most notable experience of all took place. Dear Damayanti humbled herself before the Lord in repentance. Her remorse was turned to joy as led by the Spirit, she unburdened a heavy heart. They departed our shores with gladness and sadness; with anticipation and courage; with love and esteem; all reflecting the goodness of God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with new courage that we continue to seek God's guidance and direction in our shepherding His work among the believers in India. Your prayers and continued support of RGMMI has brought forth so many blessings!

- 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 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

or

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

HAITI - JAMAICA Work Opportunities

JAMAICA

Three projects are currently planned for the upcoming year. These will utilize 40 volunteers each, and are scheduled for:

- **Montego Bay** **January 4-12, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Mike Finley - (309) 376-7301
- **Deaf Village** **February 2-10, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Mike Finley - (309) 376-7301
- **Deaf Village** **May 19-27, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Phil Isabel - (219) 261-3541

HAITI

The dates are subject to final approval of an evaluation team from the Caribbean Board of World Relief scheduled for early January.

- **School Project #1** **January 27-February 4, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Glen Hackenjoos - (818) 442-4957
- **School Project #2** **February 10-February 18, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Jim Walter - (815) 692-3158
- **School Project #3** **February 10-February 18, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Tim Butikofer - (319) 426-5486
- **School Project #4** **February 24-March 4, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Craig Emch - (216) 939-4591
- **School Project #5** **March 4-March 11, 1995**
Coordinator - Bro. Bill Stoller - (219) 824-4686

Anyone wishing to participate in these projects should contact the Project Coordinator listed above for details.

*For additional information, call:
Bro. Harold Witzig - (309) 266-6263*

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

It has been a wonderful autumn for picnics. We have tried to take advantage of the fine weather, our local takeout restaurants and local parks for some relaxing and enjoyable mealtimes. The bees were our only hindrance. Did you have that problem, too?

A second shift nurse at the Home invited us to their farm to pick some pumpkins from their field. It was a great experience to wander amongst the big squash-type "fruit" and select special pumpkins to take home. We also experienced pigs and cows first hand on their farm.

As always, we have been active in Special Olympics. Currently, we have bowled at the area and regional levels. All gold medal winners from the area met in Peoria and are eligible to compete at the regional level in Rockford.

A local singing group came and spent a portion of the evening leading us in song. It was an uplifting time of praise to our Lord. The choir from Alabama came and shared in song with us also. A group of us were able to spend a day of worship and fellowship with loved ones from the Forrest, IL congregation.

DECEMBER birthdays at ACHH, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Lisa Menold (15), Delores Wieland (15), and Anne Carrescia (30).

The DECEMBER birthday at Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 is Phil Fehr (18). The DECEMBER birthday at 200 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550 is Doug Clauss (23). There are no December birthdays at Linden Estate or the Main Street and Wagler homes.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches
Eleven Years --- August 1983 thru July 1994 --- 286,620

Bibles Distributed --- Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1994 --	2,740	32,617
September 1994 --	2,982	35,599

*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.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**

Tim Sauder

Change is happening all around us whether we know it or not. Time marches on; our children mature; we age; saints die and infants are born. Sunrise---sunset; the ebb and flow of life. Change is always present but not always welcome. Our flesh likes security and predictability but sometimes God brings it about to stretch and refine us. We are awakened from a complacent slumber. We are shaken loose for service. We are plucked like fruit, not to rot on a tree, but to be used and multiply.

There are changes happening in the field of child care like none I've seen in my 15 years of experience. Of course, many of these are the result of a decaying culture on a downward slide, while others are legitimate and reasonable attempts to determine what works and what doesn't in serving and healing the lives of troubled children and families.

The very nature of residential care is being examined and disputed. We are seeing new initiatives such as family preservation efforts including in-home marital and family counseling, parent training and family finance. Specialized treatment foster homes for older children are taking the place of some classic "children's homes". Some homes now serve as day treatment centers and send children back to parents each evening. Everyone is looking for something better, more efficient, and in some cases, "a quick fix".

Also, we are seeing more private families seeking help on their own without the assistance of public agencies or funds. Governments are stretched farther with their dollars and are seeking to shed themselves of previous responsibilities and financial commitments. The

churches and private donors are needed increasingly to support what was supposed to be God's work in the first place; that of helping the poor, broken and fatherless.

In addition to the changes and pressures in the field, we also are experiencing the cumulative stress of having several staff positions remain open for longer than is healthy. Currently, we have openings for a single sister Houseparent, an Alternate Houseparent couple, an Education Coordinator and a Child Care Supervisor. Over the past six months, we have each faced and absorbed new tasks to fill the gaps and maintain continuity, but even the most resilient rubber band will snap if taken beyond its limits. We are now inspired to prayer and action to petition God and to challenge our fellow believers to sincerely consider the Lord's leading to the Lord's work. Please help us.

In the midst of the dangerous and dynamic circumstances that swirl around us, there is an undercurrent of anxiety and anticipation but also a peace in the eye of the storm because we stand on a rock and that rock is Jesus Christ, "the same yesterday, today and forever". In uncertain times we need (and have) a certain God, a certain Word and a certain future.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL**

**Athens, Alabama
Doris Fischer**

We have jumped right into a new school year, and by now the students have become familiar with our routine. It's so encouraging to see new students who before had not participated or only cried, now singing a "Jesus" song as they play with the other children.

Throughout September we learned about community helpers and family, including a trip to the

fire station and police station. Fall and transportation were our themes for October, and we're working hard to recognize the color orange, too. We were looking forward to a trip to the Pumpkin Patch, a farm (in Tennessee) for families and schools to enjoy activities of fall rather than those of Halloween. Unfortunately, that trip was postponed because of yet another rainy day. Our large group of two through five-year-olds have stayed inside frequently because of rain in the last several weeks.

We said goodbye to Sis. Sheri Leman in late September. "Miss Sheri" moved back home to Bluffton to facilitate planning her wedding. In her absence we are grateful for the help of sisters from the Athens church, but continue to pray for a full-time teacher to fill this vacancy. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who might be, please contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA**

Laura Baxter

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

Galatians 2:20

We remembered the crucifixion of our Lord in August as we partook of Holy Communion. What a joy to know that Christ, the "just", suffered for us, the "unjust". Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) was here that weekend to serve our small congregation.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers and all other visitors that came to fellowship with us. Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) ministered God's Word to us in Septem-

ber and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) was with us in October. We enjoy the sincere Christian fellowship.

Sis. Ingrid and Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher are back from the Yukon. We thank the Lord for their safe return and are happy to have them assemble with us again. Welcome home!

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves:"

I Peter 4:8

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

Athens church joined together for a chartered bus trip to Peoria, IL the last weekend of September. The 46 seats on the bus were filled to capacity, with three little ones also. According to Bro. Ed Meister's records, the last bus trip from Athens to Peoria took place twenty years ago. So many of the faces had changed, and yet so many were the same. We thank God for those new lambs added to the fold, and the older "pillars" of our Faith. We sincerely thank Peoria Church and everyone who participated in carrying out such a special weekend, and above all, we thank God for our safe journey.

We were thankful to have two very familiar faces with us on the first Wednesday night of October. Bro. Jack Blair and Bro. Earl Kilgus were able to share the evening with us at our Wednesday night services. We are always glad to meet and greet with these dear brothers.

Again, we ask your prayers for those hospitalized this past month. Sis. Amanda Glass and Sis. Shirley Haggemaker have both spent time in the hospital, and would covet your prayers for healing and recovery if it would be God's will.

We welcome everyone to visit our Athens congregation. We meet

every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Psalms 19:7,8

We lovingly welcome Bros. Bob Hill and Larry Labudde and Sisters Eleanor Hill, Kathie Labudde, Heather Labudde and Virginia Contrascere into our Apostolic Christian Church after hearing their testimonies on September 23 and 24.

A church supper and singing was enjoyed on September 25. A "well done" thank you to Sis. Sue (Bro. Bill) Sanders and the food committee for their efforts in another delicious family meal.

We heard more tapes from the Conference. We are indeed grateful for our Elders' gentle guidance of our spiritual welfare.

Our thanks goes to visiting Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Nate Leman (Tucson, AZ) for their encouraging sermons.

Congratulations to Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner on their 45th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless you.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch and family on the death of her brother, Bro. Raymond Marty of Rittman, OH. They flew to the funeral. We pray for special comfort for Sis. Irene, as her siblings have all departed this earth. However, there is joy, as her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can

shower her with love.

We have praises for God's love given to Bro. Jim (Sis. Lois) Beres and Quill Barna for surgery. Bro. Glen (Sis. Alice) Baumgartner and Sis. Connie (Bro. Ed) Frautschi had medical procedures done.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons and family on the death of her father, George Miller, who died October 4. Bro. Bill Dotterer had the funeral services at Phoenix Memorial Park and Mortuary. May our dear ones find comfort in Psalm 23.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Romans 5:1

This wonderful peace has come to Scott Klopfenstein and Fawn Esslinger.

The weekend of October 29 and 30 we are looking forward to the testimonies and baptisms of Jeff, Scott and Todd Klopfenstein and Matt Roth.

Koby Ray is the first grandchild for Bro. Dave and Sis. Louann Klopfenstein. Floren and Mary Ella Klopfenstein are his great-grandparents. Koby's parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum of Tucson.

It is good to have Josephine Pamer, Sis. Gerry Beyer, and occasionally Sis. Vera Jivan back in church. Ed (Sis. Susan) Seuver is still very ill after being in the hospital. Erin Metzger (Ed and Jeanne) has two broken arms incurred during a playground accident. Bro. Jerry Emch underwent jaw surgery on October 19.

You can be sure winter is coming when you see the llamas back in their owner's yard after a summer in the mountains.

We wish you a joyous holiday season, and as we read about Jesus' birth and the manger, let us ponder someone in need and share with

someone less fortunate. (What a gift to ourselves!)

The story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:6-22) is well worth reading as you are preparing yourself spiritually for this particular time.

As we write this in October, it is chilly, windy and raining, but praise the Lord that there is a warm, dry bed awaiting us. We give Thee thanks, oh Lord!

Our visiting minister on October 16 was Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO). We surely thank you for coming.

Dennis and Sis. Jenny Hand are parents of Mark Lee born October 17. Jacob and Leigh Anne are delighted, as are grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR) and Harry and Wanda Hand of Texas.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The Tucson church has been blessed with four healthy babies in less than one year. The latest to arrive is Kody Ray Baum. Kody was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum on October 11. First-time grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL). God's blessings to all.

Our Sunday School picnic was held October 9. We enjoyed beautiful weather; a bit windy but so much better than our summer heat. The food and fellowship were as refreshing as the weather.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

I Cor. 12:18

Greetings to all!

I'm humbled to have been offered the duty as correspondent of the Silver Lining in the Altadena congregation. Sis. Carol Graf has done a wonderful job in the past, and I hope I can follow in her footsteps. My desire is that all that goes in this column will be to the praise and glory of our Heavenly Father. I ask for your prayers as I begin this duty in the body of Christ.

We're happy to have June Ringger (Bluffton, IN) here with us for the next couple of months. Her employment brings her to the West Coast and we will enjoy having her in our congregation for the time she is out here.

Our Bro. Nathan Moser suffered a major heart attack and is in great need of our prayers. May the Lord "The Great Physician" heal and restore him as is according to His will. We miss him in our congregation.

Our sympathy and prayers are with our retired Elder Bro. Carl and Sis. Margaret Kinsinger in the passing of Carl's brother, Bro. Otto Kinsinger (Peoria, IL). Bro. Otto has resided in the Peoria Home for a number of years. May the comfort of our Heavenly Father rest upon them.

We've finished listening the Conference tapes this past month and have been wonderfully reminded and exhorted to look to Jesus for everything. May we always walk a holy life for Him, so that one day we can look at Jesus face to face in His heavenly kingdom. May the Lord bless the brothers in the Elder body, who are diligently preserving the faith for us, so that we can preserve it for the following generations.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetter

Our Lord and Saviour has so richly blessed us this past year. With Thanksgiving approaching, may each of us thank God for our health, strength, religious freedom

and our many earthly blessings. We are so richly blessed to have a church being built for us to worship in. Such a wonderful blessing. We can never be thankful enough.

Ministering brothers visiting us this month were: Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bros. Richard Aberle and Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us and may His love and grace keep you encouraged. Also, thank you for all our visitors. God bless you! Come back soon.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Rory Strahm, as he recently had surgery. He is improving and was able to be in church on Sunday. May God grant him continued health and strength.

Sis. Joanne Varga recently returned from a visit to her family. Welcome back, Joanne. We missed you.

Bro. Mike Howell, who recently was discharged from the Navy, has gone to his home in Bay City, MI for a couple of months and then plans to return here for his residence. A farewell singing was held. We will miss him and look forward to his return.

COLORADO, DENVER

Jamie Grant

Greetings from the church in Denver!

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

II Thessalonians 1:3

Is Thanksgiving something we celebrate one day out of the calendar year, or is Thanksgiving an attitude of heart that is content, and even joyful every day of our lives? Do I envy my neighbor's new vehi-

cle, or am I "thankful" for my aging vehicle that is still dependable? Am I always checking out the latest fashionwear, or am I "thankful" to be adorned with a meek and quiet spirit? Am I anxious for a better paying job, or am I "thankful" for the one that is providing for my needs? Do I wish for two more hours in a day, or am I "thankful" I gave two hours of my time to someone else?

You know, last month we got a nice little snowfall here in Denver... about three inches of heavy, wet snow flocked our blooming rosebushes, ripened tomato plants and leafy green trees for a whole day, and as the snow accumulated, the tomatoes fell, the rose petals danced to the ground, and the tree branches bowed til they touched the blanketed earth, and some eventually broke beneath the weight of the snow.

When I lived in Illinois, I don't believe I ever remember getting snow in mid-August or early September. But, year after year, I do remember savoring the orange and red colors of the fall leaves for as long as they could possibly cling to their brown limbs. Never once did it occur to me why the leaves died and made their yearly descent back to the ground. However, God, the one who created the earth and you and me, knew that some classes of trees are more fragile than others and are not strong enough to bear the weight of their leaves and the snow both during the winter season, and thus provided a beautiful way to release some of the stressors from their branches. From this life-giving analogy, several verses from God's Word came to mind:

"He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

Proverbs 11:28

"To every thing there is a season,

and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Eccles. 3:1

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28,30

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life..., shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38,39

"There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

I Corinthians 10:13

Yes, I watched a sermon unfold point by point in the winter wonderland of my very own backyard. This Thanksgiving, I am "thankful" that the One who controls the very seasons has directed me to a faith where the truth is spoken, grace to repent, and has as much care for my life as He does for the snow-flocked branches.

This month we are also "thankful" for the addition of two couples to our church. We warmly welcome Bro. Al and Sis. Kari Haney from Bloomington, IL as well as Bro. Joe and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin from Roanoke, IL. May this transition be smooth as you submit to God's will and depend on Him in faith.

God bless each of you and may traveling mercies be bestowed upon you and yours throughout the holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

"But when they believed Philip

preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women."

Acts 8:12

Four souls were taken into the fold on the weekend of September 24: Sisters Betsy Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Suzanne Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Alice Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan) and Linda Lanz (Greg). We wish them much continued grace in their new walk of life.

Visiting in our congregation this past month were: Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Loren Knapp (Tuscon, AZ). May God bless them for their willingness to bring us His Word.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Matthew Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Heidi Moser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan) have found faith to unite in Holy Matrimony. Their engagement was announced on September 18.

We are thankful that our hospital patients, Sis. Joanne Elleiott (Rich) and Sis. Joyce Schneider (Bro. Roy), are improving. May God speed your recoveries.

Our deep sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Delvene Starks who passed away after being ill for some time. She leaves a daughter, Marge Spielman (Roy, Sr.); sisters, Leona DeCarli (Peter), Sis. Florence Kloter (Bro. Wilbur), Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl, Sis. Eloise Webb, Sis. Alma Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed); and brothers, Howard Lanz (Nancy), Elmer Lanz (Clare), and Bro. Dick Lanz (Sis. Frieda). She also leaves grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Rose Zahner went to her rest on October 4. She leaves three brothers, Bro. Manny Zahner (Sis.

Clara), Bro. Ed Zahner (Sis. Lora) and Ben Zahner (Laura). She leaves many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all her loved ones.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

As I write this, we are enjoying beautiful Fall weather. The leaves are starting to turn. My daily commute is not a concrete jungle, but a very scenic drive, so I enjoy watching the ever-changing colors.

So far this fall we have not had much of a decrease in the number of visitors. This month our visitors were from Eureka, Forrest and Morton, IL; Rockville, CT; and Oakville, IA. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Walt Steffen (Milford, IN), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH). We thank the Lord for sending these brothers and their wives to minister unto us.

Sunday, October 9 was not our regular Sunday to meet, but since Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and his wife were in the area, we met at Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jill Aeschleman's.

Our prayers are with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jill as he enters the hospital today for another round of treatments. The last time they kept him an extra day, but released him in time so they could attend afternoon services.

Meeting in a hotel we sometimes have interesting guests. We were pleased to meet Dany Luc who has been living in Florida and was hoping to return to Haiti. Our prayers are with him.

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 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Mary Ann Klaus

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Elder Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein and their family in the death of his mother, Sis. Helen Eisenmann. She is also survived by her daughter, Marceil (Don) Zeltwanger, eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. A few days after her death, her sole surviving sister, Sis. Frances Bertsch, passed away. No matter how long we are privileged to enjoy a loved one's company, the final parting brings heartache and tears. We pray that fond memories of days gone by will sustain these loved ones in their time of sorrow.

We are thankful for the ministers who came to visit and worship with us. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Remington, IN) with us this month.

Our list of hospital patients and shut-ins is long this month. Sis. Joyce Banwart had surgery, went home, had to return to the hospital, and is now at home doing well. Bro. Roy (Sis. Delores) Van Norman also underwent surgery and is improving at home. Two of our loved ones fell and hurt themselves. Mrs. Josephine Gudeman fell again this month and broke her arm and two more ribs. Sis. Florence Grandinetti also fell and hit the back of her head. They are both at home and

improving daily. We will be thankful when they all can worship with us again; in the meantime our prayers are that the great Physician will speed their recovery.

Many from our congregation traveled to Brooksville, FL to join those from Sarasota, North Ft. Myers, and Atlanta, GA for the weekend of October 14-16. While there, they enjoyed hearing the Word proclaimed, singing songs of praise to God's name and fellowshiping with kindred minds. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), accompanied by Sis. Dixie, was the guest speaker. It was a very uplifting weekend.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thess. 4:16-18

When we grow weary at times in the midst of our earthly struggles, and when we from time to time lose loved ones here on earth, it is truly a comfort to read the preceding verses from the precious Word.

Our condolences go out to our dear Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Billie, in the passing of his mother, Sis. Helen Eisenmann, of Bremen, IN.

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers on one Sunday. We thank Bros. Doug Sabo and Ron Koehl and their wives for traveling from Sarasota to share God's Word. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

Many of us from our churches across the country attended our annual Sunday School trip to Lakewood Retreat just twenty minutes outside Tampa. The weekend of October 15 was a "little taste of what will be". It was just a blessed wonderful weekend full of singing praises, being encouraged and challenged by the Word of God, fellowshiping with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We gained insight and hope for raising our children in this increasingly secular world. We just want to thank all those involved that made this weekend possible. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and his wife, Dixie, for traveling all the way down to share the Word with us. Bro. Earl was one of six ministers in attendance, and he was used heavily by the Spirit. We just thank every brother and sister that played any part in the making of a wonderfully refreshing weekend. It was hard to leave this peaceful place for the trenches from which we will all carry on the battle with that enemy of our souls, but we came away better equipped to carry on the fight.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Jeff and Gloria Fischer

"And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while:..."

Mark 6:31

Many from the Florida and Georgia churches gathered at a campground north of Tampa and feasted on the Word. We were exhorted to worship God as a family as Daniel and Joseph's parents have done. These young lads were carried away as mere teenagers into strange lands. The faith of their parents was rooted deeply enough to prosper their souls, even in the presence of wicked pagan societies.

How would our children fare under similar circumstances if their parental influence was suddenly cut off?

Sis. Minnie Neust wishes to express her gratitude to each person who helped her through her troubling times. She appreciated all of the calls, cards and prayerful support. Her recovery was truly a miracle.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Bro. Curt Sauder, as we learned that his wife, Sis. Edna, passed on. Her uplifting spirit and cheerful expressions will be sadly missed by her church in Florida. Our prayers are sent that her husband, children and grandchildren find comfort in this difficult time. May God bless them.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We thank Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) for visiting us and bringing forth God's Holy Word. It's an encouragement to our little church to have visitors and we know Bro. Dean appreciates the support of visiting ministers as he often stands alone.

Brent and Michelle Knobloch also visited us. We were happy to see their new son, Austin. They used to assemble with us before moving near Bradford, IL. We miss them. May God bless and guide them.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

Our congregation rejoiced as two lambs were brought into the fold. On September 17 we heard the testimonies of David Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma) and Heidi Inoue (Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathy), and on September 18 we greeted

them as brother and sister after their baptismal ceremony. We feel unspeakable joy as we see these two young people dedicate their lives to serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Our visiting ministers present for this weekend were Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). These dear ministering brothers were the source of additional blessings as we heard their messages and had the privilege of fellowshiping with them. We appreciate their sacrificial attitude.

First Love, a trio from Morton, IL was featured at our monthly hymn singing on the evening of September 18. We felt very blessed after sharing in this evening of praise.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalms 145:3

On September 28 Bro. Ron Heiniger led a special Bible study centering on the topic of the Church. We saw that the Bible uses several pictures to illustrate the relationship between the believers making up the Church and Christ. These are the "Bride of Christ", the "Body of Christ" and the "Building built upon the Firm Foundation". Also addressed was the relationship between believers within the church.

Our yearly Day of Devotion was held on October 15. Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) led the study which focused on conquering the "giants" of the "Goliaths" in our lives. We saw that the five "stones" needed to conquer our difficulties are belief in God, placement of our trust and confidence in God, prayer, memorization and meditation on scripture, and last of all worship. The Chicago Choir also attended and sang

some beautiful selections as part of the program. We were again privileged to hear them on Sunday the 16th at our monthly hymn sing held immediately after the afternoon service. It was with much reluctance that we said farewell after a weekend filled with their beautiful songs of praise.

As previously reported, a number of our church families were part of the work team sent to Jamaica to help with the building of the community being constructed for the deaf population there. The following poem/song has been a real inspiration to them.

HALLELUJAH SQUARE

I saw a blind man tapping along,
Losing his way as he passed
through the throng.
Tears filled my eyes, I said
"Friend, you can't see?"
With a smile on his face, he
replied to me.

"I'll see all my friends in
Hallelujah Square.
What a wonderful time we'll all
have up there.
We'll sing and praise Jesus, His
glory to share,
And we'll not see one blind man
in Hallelujah Square."

Now I saw a cripple dragging his
feet.
He couldn't walk like we do down
the street.
I said "My friend, I feel sorry for
you."
But he said "Up in heaven I'm
gonna walk just like you."

"I'll see all my friends in
Hallelujah Square.
What a wonderful time we'll all
have up there.
We'll sing and praise Jesus, His
glory to share,
And we'll not see one cripple in
Hallelujah Square."

Now I saw an old man, he was
gasping for breath.
Soon he'll be gone as his eyes
close in death.
He looked at me and said, "Boy,
don't look so blue.
I'm going up to heaven, brother,
how about you?"

"I'll see all my friends in
Hallelujah Square.
What a wonderful time we'll all
have up there.
We'll sing and praise Jesus, His
glory to share,
And we'll all live forever in
Hallelujah Square."
Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...I say unto you, there is joy in
the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner that repenteth."
Luke 15:10

We also rejoice with the angels
that Herb and Diana Rumbold have
chosen to renounce the things of
this world and start upon the road
of repentance. Our prayers will be
with them as they take this impor-
tant step in their lives.

We always appreciate our visit-
ing ministers each time they would
come to exhort us. We are thankful
that we have such a faith that al-
lows the Holy Spirit to be our
teacher each time the pulpit is oc-
cupied. We are also grateful that
our ministers are willing to be used
of the Lord for our benefit. Our
visiting ministers this month were
Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloom-
ington, IL), Bros. Bruce Leman
(Roanoke, IL), Greg Stoller (For-
rest, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury,
IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and
Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Margie Heintz

Recently the engagement of Sis.
Bonnie Young to Bro. Duane Rocke
of Minneapolis, MN was an-
nounced. They have felt and
heeded God's direction in their lives
and we pray and trust that they will
continue to walk close to the Lord
in their new life together. Bonnie
has lived and worked in the C-U
area for several years, and we will
miss her smiling and supportive
presence when she leaves.

Early in October the annual Sun-
day School wiener roast and hay-
rack ride was hosted by Bro. Dennie
and Sis. Cheryl Mangers. Many
Sunday School students and their
families and college students at-
tended. This event always provides
a welcome opportunity for the fami-
lies of former Sunday School stu-
dents to return for an informal
reunion. As usual, a large number
of out-of-town families attended
and, in spite of the rain, an evening
of fellowship and songs was shared
and enjoyed by all.

"To the saints and faithful breth-
ren in Christ...We give thanks to
God...praying always for you."
Colossians 1:2,3

Visiting ministers during the
month were Bros. Gary Brown and
Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL),
Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and
Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH).
Our thanks goes to them and to
their families for their faithful serv-
ice.

Note: Several coats have been
left in the women's coat area of the
church:

- 1) short cotton jacket, aqua,
"Lifestyles" brand, size S
- 2) long trench coat with hood,
London Fog, with brown zip-out lin-
ing, size reg. 10
- 3) windbreaker with hood, white,
"Limited Jeans Worldwide" insig-

nia on back, size 16

If you want to claim your property, please contact someone in the Champaign church. If these items are not claimed by January, they will be donated to World Relief.

The following information was inadvertently not published in the August issue:

It was our privilege to hear how the Lord has worked in the hearts of Sis. Gretchen Hanson (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Kara Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen) during their testimonies and baptisms. We welcome them into God's family and pray that they will know the nearness of the Spirit as they walk with the Lord. We extend a warm thanks to all the visiting ministers who shared in the weekend, including: Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Virgil Metzger and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

We think we are in charge of centering our lives in Christ, but the typewriter has taught me differently. When I hit "Center", it goes to the center and waits for my "message" and then types it, centered perfectly. Since I don't know all of the surrounding ramifications in my life, I could never do that for myself. God, on the other hand, is all-knowing AND all-powerful. He can center me---when I ask Him to use His centering on my life.

Weddings make me cry and pray. We rejoiced with the Febus (Chicago) and Bozzay families as their daughter, Migdalia Febus, married Tibor Bozzay on October 8; Tibor's 28th birthday. We were blessed by

the return of Bro. Tibor and Sis. Peal Bozzay and their family from San Diego to celebrate this wedding. We pray that the Lord before whom Tibor and Migdalia made their vows will bless them and keep them, giving them delight in each other and in His will.

Dan Plattner (originally from Roanoke, IL) has found that life really is worth living. The Lord would not let him rest until he acknowledged his need to be reconciled with his God, and now he has repented and confessed Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life. We pray that he might build on Christ's solid foundation, enriching our fellowship and reflecting Christ within him to those he meets.

The Lord has given faith to Sis. Kim Braker and Bro. Jim Bucher (Indianapolis, IN) to trust Him for a helpmate and He has led them to each other. We rejoice with them and pray for them as they prepare for the threefold cord of Christian marriage.

At a recent discussion, a sister mentioned what she does when she doesn't know what to say to someone else. We know the occasions: the visitation or funeral, the hospital room, the invalid's bedside, any time a friend, brother or sister shares grief or deep concerns. We care so much and we want to say the right thing. She suggested a touch, maybe on the shoulder (or a hug), and saying, "I love you". Always the Lord has work for us that we CAN do.

"But whoso has this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

I John 3:17,18

At a family get-together recently, we were playing a game. It involves

alternate concentration on the part of the players and distraction from the leader and other players (those not so well placed). One player who had developed an admirable position was so tensely focused on the game that the leader finally challenged #15 with the admonition, "This is temporal." Of course, we all laughed at that because the obvious motivation was to distract #15's singlemindedness. However, often we are just as rigidly focused on transient concerns and events, forgetting what we should always remember: there is no true joy and no peace in dedicated concentration solely to the earthly aspects of life. Maybe we/I need to put the phrase on my mirror as a daily reminder, "This is temporal", so we/I keep in mind what He has in mind---the eternal.

I am so very human that I often long for Heaven for this reason:

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Cyndee Anderson Anna Marie Reutter

There is a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea.
There is a kindness in His justice
Which is more than liberty.

There is a welcome for the sinner
And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour
There is healing in His blood.

Hymns of Zion #6

This wideness of God's mercy is being experienced by a number of souls at this time in our congrega-

tion, and we rejoice with those who are coming in repentance.

On September 18, our Bible Class teachers and their students journeyed to Princeville, IL for ACYF. These young people are our future church and may God enrich each brother and sister who give of their time and effort to teach and be an example to our youth. Our prayer is that our youth would be receptive to God's Word as they come to the knowledge of the truth.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

Marriage plans for Bro. Rick Meyer (Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Sis. Rachel Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) are being made, as their engagement was made known on September 25. We rejoice with these families. May the Lord further direct their path.

We extend our thanks to our visiting ministers and their families for their labors in our behalf. They were Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Each one is a special messenger.

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

Psalms 127:3

Jerry and Sis. Ila June Hari happily welcome their new granddaughter, Gina Nicole, born on October 2. Parents are Dominic and Connie Sanfilippo of Berwyn. Siblings are Josie, Sandy, and Dominic Jr.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Knapp are also joyful over a new granddaughter, Amy Jo, born on October 5. Parents are Bob and

Julie Knapp. Amy has a brother, Joshua.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp are a special couple who love children and were moved by the Lord to give of themselves and make a home for three new foster children, along with 11-year-old Jacob who has been with them six years. They are Toby, 16; Dustin, 11; and two-year-old Micah. We know they will be blessed for giving these children loving care and parental and spiritual guidance.

These are those who need special prayers, healing and encouragement: Sis. Helen Lackey and five-year-old Jason Rudin (Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti) each met with accident. Those who underwent surgery are Sis. Marguerite Bauer (Bro. Aaron), Sis. Bonnie Young (Bro. Harry), and Sis. Ernie Eisenmann (Bro. Alph). Sis. Kathy Stock (Bro. Gib) and Bro. Alph Eisenmann have spent some time in the hospital for tests and observation. At this writing, some are assembling again in God's house and others are much improved.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

Psalms 34:19

On October 17 we learned of the passing away of our Bro. Jacob Funk, 97, who had resided of late at the Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury, IL. We will miss this dear, respected Brother, who was so steadfast in attending church as long as he was able. He lost his wife, Sis. Sophie, in 1985, but had three loving daughters to care for him. We want to extend our sympathy to them: Sis. Melba Steffen (Bro. Eldon) of our congregation, and Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Melvin) and Sis. Iva Jean Stoller (Bro. Darl) of Latty, OH.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Beth Steffen - Arlene Banwart

We appreciated the ministry and visit of Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA) this past month.

Hospitalized for surgery were Bro. Allen Schrock and Bro. Carl Schieber. Medical patients were Sis. Alice Schieber and Sis. Naomi Schrock. Sis. Naomi Schrock is recuperating at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. We're thankful Bro. Emil Stahl is assembling with us again.

Grant Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) and Brian Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) have peace with God, and we look forward to hearing their testimonies of faith.

On September 28, Sis. Jeanette Knapp (Bro. Glenn) was involved in a very serious auto accident. She's had many surgeries. At this writing, we're thankful we can report she's improving. May the words in Hymns of Zion #138 be a comfort: "God will take care of you, Thru ev'ry day, O'er all the way; He will take care of you."

Amongst my papers I found the story behind that hymn, "God Will Take Care of You". Who can comprehend the faith and wisdom of a child? And how many lives are enriched because a young heart dares to express the voice of God as he hears it?

The occasion was a familiar one--illness in the family. The father, a Baptist minister by the name of W. Stillman Martin, was perplexed. He had accepted an invitation to speak at a certain church in New York City. His wife, however, was too ill to accompany him and he was thinking of canceling his speaking engagement. Sensing his father's concern, their nine-year-old son asked kindly, "Daddy, don't you think that if God wants you to preach today, He will take care of Mother while you are away?"

The father thought a moment and replied, "Yes, son, He will." He kissed his son and wife goodbye and hurried off to minister the Word of God.

When he returned sometime later, he was happy to find his wife greatly improved. She handed him a poem which she had written in his absence---a poem of comfort inspired by their son's beautiful faith.

The father placed the poem on the organ and under the glow of inspiration, he composed a melody which suited his wife's words perfectly.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Renee Anliker
Debbie Sauder**

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Col. 3:15

We serve an Almighty God who has done so much for us, and yet we oftentimes take so much for granted. It is not only necessary during this Thanksgiving season, but every day of our lives, that we be thankful to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. We do not always receive exactly what we ask for, but even in this, let us each thank God that He has given what is best for us. May we ever thank Him for all gifts, but especially the peace He has placed in our hearts and the body of believers we have been called to be a part of. Let us daily strive to keep the precious faith He has so graciously given unto us.

We are thankful Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and family could recently assemble with us. May Bro. Dean ever be encouraged to speak the true Word, both in and out of season, as he serves the small flock in Belvidere.

May the Lord comfort the heart

of Sis. Ann (Bro. Bill) Reber in the passing away of her brother. Let us each be faithful in our willingness to weep with those that weep as well as rejoice with those that rejoice.

Our annual hog roast was held October 15. A blessed evening of fellowship and singing praises to God was enjoyed by all. May God reward those that make this event possible.

Several dear ones in our congregation have recently been hospitalized: Bro. Bill (Sis. Marge) Wewetzer, Sis. Edna Bolliger, Sis. Lee (Bro. Charles) Schambach and Bro. Don (Sis. Leann) Schambach. It is our fervent petition that the Lord will restore that fair measure of health to these loved ones as He would see fit. We are often reminded that when our time comes to suffer, it is at that time that we begin to realize just how good the Lord has been to us. May we not need to have things taken from us before we learn that appreciation of blessings that we each should possess. Let us continually thank God for all the rich blessings we have been freely given.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

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

1 Thess. 5:18

We often forget to give thanks for the blessings of each ordinary day. However, it is easier to remember to be thankful for the extra special things that happen in our lives, but to give thanks in everything is a challenge to our spiritual lives.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein were blessed with the birth of their first daughter, Jeni Lyn. Jeni was born on September 21 and has a brother, Joshua.

Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke, all of Eureka.

We had a very encouraging and uplifting weekend when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Holly Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) and Brent and Darla Cottrell (Bill, Sis. Judy, and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann of Forrest, IL). We were all brought closer to God as we heard how He worked in each of their lives. We were thankful for our visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL).

Visiting us the next Sunday and ministering to us were Bros. Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Cherry Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Jerry Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine) of Latty, OH announced their engagement on October 2. We rejoice with them and pray that God's spirit will continue with them as they plan their wedding and as Sis. Cherry makes plans to move.

Our prayers were with Nathan Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne) who had an accident and spent time in the hospital.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to family, relatives, and friends for the love and support given to me during John's illness and since his passing. The love, prayers, and all other acts of kindness were sincerely appreciated. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Naomi Peters

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for

He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 107:1

Autumn is almost over. The brilliant leaves have come tumbling down. The bountiful harvest has been gathered. Thanksgiving Day is near...a day set aside as a national day of thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessings. We, "the redeemed of the Lord", should be especially thankful for "he hath redeemed [us] from the hand of the enemy" of our soul. (Psalm 107:2)

In the Fairbury congregation, we have so many reasons to be thankful this month.

We are thankful, most of all, that God has called another young soul to Him. Timothy Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) is giving his heart and life to the Lord. We pray that he may take this step in his life seriously and lay a good foundation in Christ.

As always, we are very grateful for visiting brothers who ministered to us this month: Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL). May God bless you and your families for your labors in His vineyard.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

We are thankful to see evidence that God is working and that, by faith, there are two new engagements in our congregation. The engagement of Sis. Stephanie Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Dave Wieland of Peoria, IL (Norman and Evie Wieland, Visalia, CA) was announced to us on October 2. They

are planning a January 1 wedding.

On October 16, the engagement of Sis. Wendy Slagel (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys) to Bro. Alan Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn, Bern, KS) was announced.

We wish God's richest blessings for both these couples as they plan for their lives together and pray that they might always be thankful for each other.

May the Spirit of thankfulness and peace also rest upon the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Marie Stork who were married in Silverton, OR on September 25. A reception was held in Fairbury on October 2. Their parents are John and Eunice Stork and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi of Silverton, OR.

Bro. Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen have been blessed with a baby girl, Tami Patricia, born October 2. She has a sister, Tiffany Elizabeth. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Sally Schieler, Sis. Luella Sohn, Bro. Melvin Hartman, Dick Koehl (Esther) and Brockton Wiegand (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy). May God grant you the grace to be thankful in the midst of your physical affliction.

I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn to humbly obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might

enjoy life;

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for--- but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am among all men most richly blessed.

Author Unknown

When you feel that your prayers are not being answered and you are "getting nothing that you asked for", consider WHAT you are asking for. Is it really what God wants for you? Then praise Him, for even if you can't see it, He is answering all your prayers in His own mysterious ways.

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

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter

Mary Bachtold

On September 25 many of the residents from The Home for the Handicapped visited our congregation. We always enjoy having them worship with us.

Also visiting us this month were ministering Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Three young couples have recently announced their engagements. We rejoice with Bro. Kent Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Bethany Steffen (Bro. Rich and Sis. Lou Ida) as their engagement was announced October 2.

Dutch Pruitt (Jim Pruitt, UT, and Ron and Vicki Schaffer) and Kelli Quinley (Dennis and Jennifer, Gibson City, IL) are planning a No-

ember 5 wedding.

Damon Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne) and Amanda Tull (Carl and Diana, Fairbury, IL) have chosen April 22 for their wedding day. May God lead and guide them as they make plans to take this important step.

A new bundle of love, Matthew John, has arrived in the home of Brian, Nancy, and Bradley Bolliger. Matthew is a grandson of Sis. Alma and the late Bro. John Bolliger.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Alisa Ricketts, Aaron Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Kyle Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Luella Sohn. May God grant His healing power to these loved ones.

We extend our love and sympathy to Maurice and Carol Koehl and family in the loss of her mother, Verna Schenck, of Chenoa, IL. May the Lord comfort and care for them during this time of sorrow.

Two sisters from our congregation have recently found the need to move to Fairview Haven. May Sis. Kathryn Schneider and Sis. Eldora Walter feel God's nearness as they adjust to their new home.

Feeling God's direction, our congregation has elected Bro. Kevin Kilgus to begin a ten-year term teaching our youth in Sunday School. May God grant him much wisdom and understanding to teach our children of His love and of the plan of salvation. May God bless Bro. Ray Steidinger, as he has completed his ten years of willing service.

Notes of Thanks:

Sis. Marie Hohulin wishes to thank all her church family and friends for so kindly remembering her in prayer and for all the beautiful cards, gifts, food and visits. May each one be blessed in abundance.

Sis. Alma Bolliger and family

wish to express their thanks for all the cards, gifts, prayers and love shown during their bereavement. May God bless each and every one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

""For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Psalm 18:28-30

Wasn't it a wonderful feeling when our spiritual darkness was enlightened, when we first realized we could live free of fear and had the ability to call on God's grace at any time knowing that it would be abundantly given? How amazing is this life of ours in the Lord, who lights our candles, and is able to lead us through the troops and over the walls that daily confront us as we walk this earth in our mortal bodies. Rejoice and give thanks that He shares with us his promise of eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!

We had much to rejoice this month in Goodfield. As four new souls turned their lives over to Jesus Christ, we witnessed through their testimonies and baptisms more candles being lighted for the Lord. We welcome our new sisters and brother-in-faith: Sis. Anna Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene), Sis. Janelle Blunier (Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Lynda and Bro. Rod Hinrichsen (Bill and Jan Hinrichsen, Goodfield, and Bro. Alan and Sis. Carol Schrock, Congerville). We wish you all God's blessings as you start this new life in "His perfect way".

We are pleased to report the announcements of two engagements

this month. Bro. Joe Wiegand and Sis. Myra Steffen of Congerville, and Bro. John Ott and Sis. Amy Wiegand have accepted the Lord's will that their lives be united and we are looking forward to their marriage ceremonies with great anticipation.

Our only hospital patient this month, Sis. Phyllis Rokey, is recovering very well from her surgery and we thank God that His enduring love is the buckle that ties our lives and hearts to His will.

To our dear Sis. Jean and Bro. Stan Hohulin and their daughter, Sis. Kristen, we send our thoughts and prayers for their successful transition from our congregation here in Goodfield to their new home in Knoxville, Tennessee. It's been several months since they've been gone and they are sorely missed and remembered fondly. God bless this new beginning in your lives.

Many thanks are extended to the visiting ministers and their families that shared their time and efforts in the Lord with us. Thank you, Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Fred and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) for your fellowship and ministry. They were very much appreciated.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to each one who remembered us with prayers, cards, and many acts of kindness after our daughter Gwen's accident. Everyone's love has meant so much.

Kent and Janell Kloter

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

This month I received some interesting historical data resulting from someone cleaning out their attic. It was fascinating to me as one who takes a great interest in his

tory. It contained two documents. They were statistics pertaining to two General Conferences of our church brethren held in Gridley in 1959 and 1972.

The growth of the Conference during the span of 13 years was both surprising and encouraging. At the 1959 Gridley, IL General Conference a total of 270 brothers were present, including 22 Elders, 106 ministers, and 142 lay brethren from 52 churches in 12 states. Several churches sent only one representative. There were no sisters listed as present; at least in the written statistical report.

The totals from the 1972 Conference were strikingly larger. The total reached 916 plus the Gridley brethren, which likely would have put the total close to 1,000. This included 38 Elders, 135 ministers, 163 sisters, and 580 lay brethren from 66 churches in 14 states and Japan.

The annual Church Conference is a wonderful blessing and a unifying force among the brethren. May God continue to bless these annual efforts, and may our love and unity glorify God.

Jeff and Kathleen Stoller are the parents of a baby boy born on September 6. He was named Connor Joseph. He has two brothers, Scott (9) and Cole (3). Grandparents are Art Stoller, Bloomington, IL, and Ruth Dunn, Gridley, IL; and Donald and Ethel Doyle, Virginia, IL.

Bodee Ryan Schlipf is the first child born to Ryan and Sherri Schlipf. He was born September 28. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf; and Bob Stiles, Mahomet, IL, and Carol Stiles, El Paso, IL.

Our recent visiting ministers were Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL).

Sis. Viola Hany was hospitalized with a heart condition, but is back

home.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

Once again this month we had several loved ones from our congregation pass away. It reminds us all that our earthly life is fleeting and behooves us to remain focused on what is of eternal importance.

Bro. Eric Koehl was called Home on September 15. May our Heavenly Father fill the void for Bro. Eric's wife, Sis. Mildred; his two daughters, Sis. Jeannie Dicks and Debbie Joos; his two brothers, Bro. Fred and Bro. George; his two sisters, Sis. Aldeine Witzig and Sis. Matilda Kaiser; his five grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; and his many other relatives and friends.

Richard Frank passed away on September 30. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Doris; his two daughters, Mrs. Jerry (Peggy) Sauder and Mrs. Allen (Dotty) Harinck; his sister, Irene Kadesky; his six grandchildren; his six great-grandchildren; and his other relatives and friends.

Verna Kaiser passed away on October 1. Our prayers for comfort are with her sisters, Elda Kaiser and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser; her three brothers, Bro. Harlan, Bro. Lloyd, and Bro. Melvin Kaiser; her nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

On October 8 we gathered to hear the testimony of Will and Dannelle Zeller. It was indeed a blessed evening to hear how God worked in each of their lives. On Sunday, October 9, we witnessed their baptisms. We pray God will continue to guide them in their daily walk and as they rear their children.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones on the birth of their son, Zachary Donald, on October 13. Also welcoming him home are

big brothers, Bobby and Caleb. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Sis. Sherrill Jones, all of Morton.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for visiting our congregation and for bringing the Word to us.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

The weekend of September 24th was special for Peoria, as we were able to host a group from Athens, AL. We enjoyed Bro. Tom Schrenk and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore as they brought us the Word of God. We were also blessed by the songs sung by the Alabama choir. We thank them for coming and sharing with us.

On Wednesday evening, October 5, Linda Stewart had the opportunity to share her testimony that she has turned from sin and given her heart to the Lord. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was there to help Bro. Chuck with the testimony and subsequent baptism. We welcome Sis. Linda to the Peoria congregation as a sister-in-faith and ask God's richest blessings upon her. Our thanks to Bro. Joe for his assistance.

We rejoice with Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill Gutwein following the birth of Margaret "Maggie" Elise on September 1. Maggie has one older sister, Calen, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller and Mary B. Gutwein of Francesville, IN.

We also want to offer our condolences to Bro. Frank Gutwein and his family following the recent death of his father, Edwin, of Francesville, IN.

We were also saddened at the death of Bro. Otto Kinsinger, a resident at our Peoria Home. We extend condolences to his family.

Bro. Marshall Heinold (Wash-

ington, IL) was the speaker at our October "Family Night". We thank Bro. Marshall for coming and for his timely message about witnessing.

Our hospitalized patients this month were Sis. Millie Hoerr and Sis. Viola Leman. We pray that they may feel God's healing hand upon them.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are thankful for the ministers who came to share the Word of God with us this month. May God richly bless Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) for their labor of love.

Princeville was host to ACYF on September 18 and 25. These were enjoyable evenings listening to our youth sing, which we hope to be our future church.

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

In youthful days His blessing
seek,
With heart that's tender true and
meek,
And while the years draw on a
pace,
You'll praise Him for His love and
grace.
And while the years draw on a
pace,
You'll praise Him for His love and
grace.

Hymns of Zion #135

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye
repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
Luke 13:5

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance. Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) and Clint Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann) have answered the call and are seeking Him in repentance. May they feel God's nearness and His grace and may it be sufficient for every trial and temptation.

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

Psalms 127:3

First-time parents of Kyle Ray Wagenbach who was born October 3 are Dennis and Jennifer. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Noah Herrmann (Sis. Evelyn), heart; Bro. Roy Mueller, surgery; Marian Riley (Kenny), Sis. Anna Stahl and Sis. Diane Gerst (Bro. Jim) broke a bone in her hand. We pray for God's healing hand upon these loved ones.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. John Grassi (Sis. Cheryl) in the sudden death of his brother-in-law from New York. He lost a brother real sudden in April of 1994. May God provide comfort at this time of sorrow.

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.

Jesus knows thy conflict, Hears
thy burdened sigh;
When thy heart is wounded,
Hears thy plaintive cry;
He thy soul will strengthen,
Overcome thy fears;
He will send thee comfort, Wipe
away thy tears.

Hymns of Zion #74

In this Thanksgiving season, may we be mindful of the Giver of all things and thank Him not only now but every day of our lives. We have been especially blessed with a bountiful harvest this year and may we remember who the true Giver of our blessings is.

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

Oh, may this bounteous God
Thro' all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
His full redemption send,
And free us from all ills,
Sustain us to the end.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore,
Who is and shall survive,
Now and forevermore.

Zion's Harp #236

A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy, reaps friendship; and he who plants kindness, gathers love.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all our family, friends and the church for all the prayers, gifts, food, telephone calls, visits and the many cards and any other act of kindness shown to Reuben and I in our illness. A special "thank you" to the HOPE and ABC sisters for every deed of kindness. Thank you and may God bless you

all!

Rueben and Nettie Feucht

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

We rejoice with Sis. Kim Braker and Bro. Jim Bucher (Indianapolis, IN) on their engagement and upcoming marriage. Their parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). A February 5th wedding is being planned. May God bless all of these loved ones as He brings these families closer together.

Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) was with us for our Bible Study on October 14. We appreciate his timely topic on current events as they lead up to the end times. May we all be watchful and prayerful as we wait for the Lord's return.

Our other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN). May God bless all of these brothers for their love and service to the brotherhood.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to our many friends who remembered us with many prayers, cards, food, gifts of love and flowers during the death of our dear Cheri. May God bless each one of you.

Dan Maher family

Ervin Kempf family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,

Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On October 8 and 9 we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Carole Barnard. It was uplifting to hear what the Lord has done for her and how He has converted her life to walk with Him daily and do His will. It is comforting to know the Lord is still calling people to His kingdom. Our continual prayer goes out for the unconverted.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi are happy to welcome little Caleb Joseph into their family circle. Sharing in this happiness are siblings, John, Michael, Philip, Jason, Nicolas, and Mary. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi and Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser rejoice with the birth of their second son, Jesse Daniel, born October 6. He was welcomed home by his brother, Levi, and grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner.

Steve and Diane Kauzlarich were blessed with a baby boy, Nicholas Chase, born September 30. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Ernie and Dorothy Kauzlarich.

Those spending time in the hospital have been Della Schweigert (Willard), Bro. John Griener (Sis. Emma), Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), and Bro. Chris Pflederer (Sis. Ruth). Our thoughts and prayers are with these loved ones.

Sis. Sophia Sauder and Sis. Marie Schmid have recently moved to Apostolic Christian Restmor in Morton. We hope and pray that they will be comfortable and happy in their new home.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Melvin Kaiser in the passing away of his sister, Verna Kaiser (Morton,

IL). May God be with him and his family during this time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Romans 8:24,25

Do you ever remember tugging on your mother's dress and whining "Let's go home, Mommy. Why does it take so long? I don't want to wait any more! Is it going to take a thousand years?" Perhaps we do the same thing today, bombarding God with impertinent and unimportant questions. All throughout the Scriptures we are exhorted to practice patience.

God has our best interest at heart and orders our lives in the way He sees best. Though we do not always understand the purpose of difficult times, and do not feel that we can patiently wait for strength to endure, God wants us to learn patience. He also wants us to trust Him in all circumstances. There are many examples of the benefit of patiently waiting in the Bible. Look at the struggles of Joseph in those long years of imprisonment! Jesus also patiently endured the jeers of men and the anguish of the cross to bring us salvation.

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."

Psalms 40:1

Dave and Sis. Linda (Steffen) Fehr are the proud parents of a daughter, Kristin Leigh Fehr. She was welcomed home by brothers, Shayne and Drew, and by sister,

Katelyn. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Kathryn Steffen (Elgin, IL).

We are so thankful to have Sis. Elizabeth (Putt) Herbst back in fellowship with us. We missed her smiling face and sense of humor. We pray that God continues to heal and restore her strength.

We were privileged to have three guest ministers in our midst. Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) lent themselves. It is such a joy to know that the Word will be spoken in its truth and purity by those in our own congregation as well as by those who visit us from elsewhere.

Apple River Canyon State Park was once again the setting for a pleasant day in God's beautiful creation on Sunday, October 16. Two services were held nearby and then an afternoon of hiking, singing and eating roasted hot dogs was enjoyed. How good it is to fellowship with our brothers and sisters!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel are the grandparents of Jordan Troy born on August 31 to Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonnie Reimschisel (Indianapolis, IN).

Isaiah Stephen is the new grandson of Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay Gerber. Isaiah was born to Brad and Shawn Gerber on September 3.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch became grandparents on September 17 when Bret Benjamin was born. His parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer (Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Shane and Sis. Kathy Houser welcomed Conner Shane into their lives on September 21. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner and Larry and Barbara Houser.

Seth Daniel joined Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter's family on September 23. He is welcomed by Klint, Quinn, Stacy, Jamy and grandparents, Bro. Lester and Sis. Rosemary Gerber and Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter.

On September 18, Sis. Mabel Kipfer went to her eternal rest. She is survived by her children, Mrs. Edson (Evelyn) Ivins and Bro. John Kipfer.

On September 27, Bro. Chester Baumgartner went to be with the Lord. He is missed by his wife, Sis. Betty, and children, Mrs. Ted (Sis. Deb) Neuenschwander, Bro. Bill, Bro. Keith, and Mrs. Robert (Starla) Steckbeck. Our prayers are with these loved ones at this time of sorrow.

On the weekend of October 2, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three new brothers-in-faith. They are Bro. Nathan Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Christy), and Bro. Luke Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne). We were thankful to have with us ministering Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

"Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."

Psalm 86:11

Philip Stoller, son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan, has recently accepted God's gift of salvation. We wish him much grace to walk the narrow pathway in His will.

"Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess."

Deuteronomy 5:33

On September 25, Sis. Katie Reinhard and Bro. Greg Isch were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch.

We pray the Lord will grant each one hospitalized this month an extra measure of grace. They are Bro. Don Reinhard (Sis. Sarah), Sis. Justine Baumgartner (Bro. Paul), Bro. Wilmer Steffen (Sis. Ida), Sis. Evelyn Ely, Bro. Ralph Steffen (Sis. Lucinda) and Sue Lehman.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and their families. This month we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) share the gospel message with us.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

St. Luke 15:10

We enjoyed an uplifting weekend on October 8 and 9 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Amy Smeckens (Mike and Sis. Melissa), Sis. Mona Graham (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber), Bro. Rob Cupp (Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Dave Roberts (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn). We wish them God's blessings as they begin this new walk and we pray that many more of our friends can realize that there is still "room at the cross".

Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci Gerber were blessed with a new daughter, Heather Lynn, on September 13. Her grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger.

Max Garrett was born to Dave

and Andrea (Hohulin) Petty on September 14. He is welcomed by a brother, Thye. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber, Chuck Petty and Jane Petty.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer are first-time parents of a son, Bret Benjamin, born on September 17. His grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch and Bro. Phillip and Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN). We wish these parents God's blessings and guidance in raising their children.

We again want to remember those who have spent time in the hospital. Sis. Wanda Gerber (Bro. Wendell) and Bro. Alvin Fiechter both underwent recent surgery. We are thankful that all went well and they are on the road to recovery. We think also of Sis. Evelyn Ely who has been in the hospital and needs our thoughts and prayers.

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

Hymns of Zion #109

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

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

Hebrews 13:15

The time of reflection is upon us as we as a nation, a church and individuals commemorate Thanksgiving. God wants us to be thankful in all things, and daily we must make sure that we are giving Him the glory for all that happens in our lives. It has been said that if we are thankful, then we are worthy. God can bless and use those who give Him the honor and glory for the tangible and the intangible bless-

ings. Our alters must always be burning as we offer Him our lives, our praise and our thanks.

On October 1, God in His great wisdom called our dear Edwin C. Gutwein home. He will be sadly missed by all who have known and loved him. Our prayers are extended to his wife, Mary, and his five children. They are: Loren Gutwein, Charlotte Gutwein, Bro. Frank Gutwein (Sis. Jill), Sis. Carolyn Leman (Bro. Mitch) and Bro. Stanely Gutwein. May God's grace and strength be upon this dear family and all those who have recently lost a dear loved one. Let's keep praying for them, as many new adjustments have to be made.

With joy in their hearts and praise on their lips, Bro. Ben Cook (Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Sandra Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice) gave testimony of their love for and need of a Saviour. On October 15 and 16 we witnessed the testimony and baptism of these two dear souls. We believe that they will continue to grow in Christ and shine as lights in this dark world. We trust that as the call goes out, many more will turn to the Saviour and be born again. We are thankful for those who have made beginnings in this new way of life. We trust that Bro. Ben and Sis. Sandra have been an encouragement to them, as they, too, look forward to the time of public declaration of their need of Jesus as Lord and Saviour in their individual lives.

We extend our thanks to the many ministers who faithfully shared the Word with us and helped in the work of the Lord. Special appreciation goes to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle

Melissa Baumgartner

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Jim Bucher to Sis. Kim Braker (Chicago, IL). Bro. Jim's parents are Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois of Valparaiso, IN and Sis. Kim's parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker of Roanoke, IL.

On October 8, Alan Schafer and Katy LeSage exchanged wedding vows. Alan's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer and Katy's parents are Patrick and Margaret LeSage of Minn. We wish much happiness for both of these couples, with many of God's blessings.

Also, October 8 was a special weekend for the Indianapolis church as several ministers and a number of young people attended what is referred to as an Outreach Weekend. This year, there were representatives from the National World Relief and Missionary Committee and brethren who have been and are involved in Mexico, Haiti, and various other church projects to explain the ongoing efforts of assistance and spiritual work that are opportunities for us all. On Saturday afternoon many went to nursing homes and places where help and encouragement can be given, as well as to convey by song and praise the story of the Saviour's love. We want to thank the ministers and representatives for their efforts. May the Lord richly bless each one.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

The first Thanksgiving was actually celebrated in July of 1623 by the colonists in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were thankful to the Lord for His mercy in sparing them from the hardships of their first New England winters, as well as for the increase in their crops.

Thanksgiving was finally declared a National Holiday by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, and was set in November to commemorate the end of the harvest season and to give thanks to God for another year. May we never forget all that we have to be thankful for! May we each also be encouraged to work in the Lord's harvest.

Hark! the Master calls for reapers;
Rich and ripe the harvest see.
Idle not, but quickly flying,
Answer, "Lord send me, send me.

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

Chorus: Spread the gospel
invitation:

Speak a warning; breathe a
prayer.

All around you men are dying;
You can find them ev'rywhere.

Gospel Hymns #800

Our appreciation is extended to two laborers in the Lord's harvest for visiting and ministering to us this past month: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL).

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

We rejoiced at the good turnout for our bi-monthly "family singing" on October 9.

We miss Sis. Judy Gehring in our congregation, as she has moved back to Burlington, IA to be near her mother. We wish her the Lord's blessings in this move.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the families of three of our Sisters in the Lord.

Sis. Julia Simon, 95, passed away September 29. A daughter, Eleanor Walters; three sons, Alex,

John, and Frank; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive.

On October 9, Sis. Helen Klopfenstein-Eisenmann passed away in Bremen Health Care Center at the age of 88. Surviving are a daughter, Marceil Zeltwanger of Bremen; a son, Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein of Plantation, FL; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and a great-great grandchild.

Sis. Frances Bertsch, 85, passed away October 17, following surgery on her hip which was broken in a fall about a week earlier. She and Helen Eisenmann were sisters. her husband, Bro. Otto; a son, Richard; three daughters, Carole Witte, Donna Stuckey, Jane Hetrick; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren survive. Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) conducted the service, assisted by Elder Bro. David Bertsch.

All three funeral services were held at the McComb Funeral Home in Fort Wayne, IN, as the church building is still under construction. At this writing, we are depending on volunteer help to finish the installation of dry wall, painting and varnishing. The landscaping has been completed.

Sis. Sandi Stoller and Bro. Nathan Koch were united in marriage October 23 at the Bluffton country church. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo) and Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch (Tremont, IL). We will miss Sandi; she is greatly loved. We have come to love Nate, too, and wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their new life together. Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. John Stoller conducted the marriage ceremony. Visiting ministers were Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). The following poem was given at the reception:

This is the day we vowed our love
Before our friends and God above.
In years to come as we recall,
Again we'll thank you, one and all.
All you who came from far and
near,
We're grateful for your presence
here.
And may God bless you, this we
pray,
As He has us this wedding day.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Judy Longcor

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalms 23

Our prayers have been with Bro. Robert Hoerr (Sis. Marguerite) who has returned home from the hospital after having heart surgery. We are thankful he is recuperating nicely and hopes to assemble again with us in the near future.

Chad Beer, son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy, has been hospitalized at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis and now in Goshen Hospital. Our prayers are truly with Chad, his parents and brother, Marc, that God's will be done.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

Sunday, October 2, was a beautiful autumn day; the kind any bride could wish for. That was the day chosen by our Sis. Lisa Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) and Bro. John Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma) of Champaign, IL to become husband and wife. Our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler was here to carry out the taking of their vows. Among the host of wedding guests were Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Ken Weertz (Cissna Park, IL). We will miss Sis. Lisa, but our loss will be the Champaign church's gain.

My husband, Bro. Albert Schini, spent six days in the hospital with pneumonia. He has recovered nicely for which we are all very thankful.

Bro. Gene Lehman very ably conducted our Topical Bible Study on Church History.

The farmers are very busy with a bountiful harvest. Our lovely autumn has made their work enjoyable.

Thought for the Day: Go often to the house of thy friend, for weeds choke the unused path.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

September 17 and 18 was our annual fellowship weekend. We were blessed with many who came to visit and worship with us, and we would especially like to thank Bros. Sis Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL)

and John Stoller (Leo, IN) for ministering God's Word to us.

Our Bible Class enjoyed a special day of fellowship at Camp Mack on September 25. Many timely teachings were given, and we are thankful to all those who put forth much effort to make it a blessed day.

The LaCrosse young group recently spent a weekend with us. We so appreciated their youthful zeal and energy, and we hope they will worship with us again soon.

Many thanks to Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe for hosting a church singing and wiener roast at their home. It was a crisp fall evening, but the beautiful hymns and fellowship warmed us all.

We mourn the loss of our Sis. Helen Eisenmann who went to be with the Lord on October 8. She taught us much about gentle dignity as she struggled to cope with her ailing body. Our heartfelt sympathy to her family. The following poem was submitted as a tribute to Sis. Helen:

BITS AND PIECES by Barbara Thayer

She sits by her window alone and
confused;

Trying to remember but her mind
has refused.

Bits and pieces of life drift slowly
by

And sometimes she smiles and
sometimes she cries.

Frustration and anguish are often
there too.

Oh, why can't she think straight;
what must she do?

The fog that engulfs her mind
often rises

Only to fall again in painful
surprises.

As she wanders the halls in the
endless night

Suspensions grow wildly leading to
fright.

The shadows and darkness feel
like a maze,
As she stumbles and wanders as
though in a daze.

She knows something's wrong in
her own quiet way
As the light of remembrance
grows dimmer each day.
But the pain she is feeling cannot
be compared
To the suffering and loss which
her family has shared.

Each day we have watched her
slip slowly away
As our arms ache to hold her and
beg her to stay.
The "Beholder's Disease" it has
been rightly named,
For the hearts it has broken and
the lives it has maimed.

Some day she'll depart and leave
us behind,
And the mind that was empty,
confusing and blind.
She will step on the sands of that
beautiful shore
Where God will give rest and her
mind He'll restore.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to everyone. We hope this finds you all well blessed and fighting that good fight of faith; knowing what our hope is (Jesus Christ) and how fortunate a people we are. Thanks be to our loving Father who has seen fit to save us all if we but heed the call.

The Lord has blessed us richly in this past month. Our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) came and supped with our Sunday School teachers and encouraged us afterward by sharing God's Word and examples, with ideas on how and what to teach. We appreciate Bro. Dale very much at Valparaiso, as he seeks to let the Holy Spirit have free course in everything.

This can only result in much harmony and love. Bro. Dale, we thank God for you and the many others who shepherd our churches. God bless you all.

Having outpatient surgery this past month were Sis. Jo (Bro. ROLLIE) Meiss and Sis. Claudia (Bro. Mike) Thomas. We are happy they are in church with us and pray the healing process is going well. Also, Bro. Roy Frieden is back in church and looking real well after recovering from a light stroke.

It's strange when something like this happens and then we realize just how important older brothers and sisters are in our church. Bro. Roy, as many others, has been a very important pillar in our church, and the love of God just flows on and on through him. Without you older brothers and sisters, life in our churches would really be as if we were missing a big part of our body. We have a special love for you all and are encouraged by you. No matter where we are in life, God can still use us much in His church. May God continue to bless us all.

We had the privilege to listen to the Conference tapes in this past month. Those exhortations had many blessings and encouragements for us all. Thank you, dear shepherds, for all that you do for us.

What a blessed weekend we had as Sis. Janet (Darel) Walker gave her testimony as to how she was led to repent and how she desired to be one of God's daughters. The eyes of our children then watched as the old Janet was buried and the new Sis. Janet arose out of the baptismal waters. May God continually bless you and your family as you begin this new walk in life. Thanks to Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for letting the Lord use them in these works.

Other visiting ministers during this time were Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Arnie Gerst

(Taylor, MO). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us. May our loving Father also continue to bless your ministries and your families as you carry on.

We are thankful for all who are helping with the new Silver Lining. It is a fresh look that continues to show the love and respect that we have for God and our church family. May the Lord keep blessing this publication and may His spirit dwell heavily in all of us.

May God grant you all a happy Thanksgiving. There are no doubt many opportunities in our own families to be a good example and witness to our loved ones who are searching out life's answers.

Come and be with us if you happen to be in the area.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sheri Bahler

We appreciated learning about our church history in our recent topical Bible Study. Bro. Gene Lehman spoke to us of the numerous persecutions that the church has endured in able for it to stand today. We must not take for granted the faith of our fathers, but we also need to remember what the Heavenly Father has sacrificed.

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

Hebrews 12:9

Kevin and Peg Balducci were blessed with a healthy girl, Michaela, born October 7. Michaela has an older brother, Shane. Grandparents are Art and Trudy Balducci of Corral Springs, FL and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

Our thoughts continue to be with those who have been hospitalized.

Bro. Glenn Blume (Sis. Norma) has spent some time in the hospital, but is now well on his way to recuperation. Also, A.J. Waibel (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marcia) recently had surgery on his back. They are both doing well, but our prayers should never cease.

We were grateful to have Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) with us on Sunday, October 16. May the Lord bless him for sharing the Holy Word.

IOWA, AMES

Luann Schmidgall

We were blessed to have with us ministering Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) on September 25 and Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) on October 9. May God bless them for their labors.

On September 17, Jared David was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann Schmidgall. After being hospitalized for one week, we are thankful he is at home and doing very well. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester, IA).

We welcome visitors to worship with us at our next service on November 13.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Lorna Knapp

Our hearts were uplifted by the message of truth brought forth by three visiting ministers this month. May God abundantly bless Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Dale Frank and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for being willing servants.

Larry and Inga Simms have been blessed with a precious new son. Laurence Arthur John will be a great playmate for Patrick. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster. We pray they will look to God for direction in raising these

dear children and that God will grant them many hours of joy together.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings,
See what God has done.

Hymns of Zion #116

As we approach another Thanksgiving Day, may we take time to think upon our many blessings. As children of God, our salvation is at the top of the list. The inspired Word of God, as we read it from the King James Version, which has been preserved down through the ages for our benefit today; faithful brothers and sisters who have gone on before as well as those with us today; and the list goes on and on. May we truly give God thanks as we think upon our many blessings.

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). May God richly bless them as they submit to His will.

"God's love is unmeasurable" quotes our oldest member, Sis. Eleanor Butikofer. Many of you will remember reading her Silver Lining articles, as she was the reporter for Elgin, IA for many years. Sis. Eleanor was born on a farm east of Elgin on November 14, 1901, to Bro. Fred and Sis. Elizabeth (Gehring) Schneider.

Having lost her husband, Bro. George, in 1985 and her son, James, in 1990, she is acquainted with grief and trials but is not one to murmur or complain. When asked if she had a favorite Bible verse, she answered without hesitation, "Romans 8:28 and Philippians 4:8."

Sis. Eleanor is a lover of nature

and continues to enjoy being in her garden. She says "One is never nearer to God than when in the garden." She lives alone and enjoys caring for her many houseplants and providing nourishment for a variety of birds that come to her feeder outside her window.

In closing, she would like to share this thought with us: "As we go along life's way, it is nice to remember what Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser - Laura Funk

"Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people."

Psalms 96:3

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have been here this past month. They were Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL).

As we read further in Psalm 96 it says:

"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."

Psalms 96:11-13

This Thanksgiving let us rejoice, even as creation does constantly, in the glories of God our Creator for all that He has given us: salvation and abundance.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We again thank our visitors this month for making the effort to travel varying distances to worship with us. We appreciate your support.

We bid fond farewell to Bro. Jake and Sis. Wanda Hoerr and their family as they relocate to the Phoenix, AZ area. Our prayers go with them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May our shared memories keep us close though many miles separate us.

School and new employment has brought several people to the Iowa City area this fall. We welcome Rick Banwart, Gwen Bruellman, and Jenny Kellenberger from West Bend, IA; Amy Butikofer and Jim Butikofer from Elgin, IA; and Kirk Wagenbach from Oakville, IA.

We give our prayerful support to those assuming their new duties after our annual meeting. May they look to God for guidance in all decisions. May God bless those who have faithfully completed their terms.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold

Harvest season is in full production in this area. As our bountiful harvest is gathered in, so may many more souls be gathered into the fold of Jesus Christ. "...Oh what shall the harvest be?" *Gospel Hymns #662*

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner had the funeral service for Sis. Freda (Moser) Giesel, 87, who died September 30 after a brief illness. She is survived by her daughter, Pat (Roger) Myrlie, three grandsons and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, John, preceded her in death three years ago. Her ever-present smile is but a memory to us now, but we trust she is safe in the arms of Jesus and free from all cares.

Our sympathy is extended to

Earl and Barb Meyer and their three children with the sudden passing of Barb's father, John Boer, on October 10. May the Lord comfort these loved ones at this difficult time.

We wish to remember those who underwent hospitalization and surgery recently. Hospitalized were Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky), Tedd Larson (Sis. Diane), Carmen (John) Popkes, and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry). Sis. Emma Gerber (Bro. Ted), Anna Knobloch (Otto) and Lydia Moser are all known surgical patients and are recovering from their afflictions.

Note of Thanks:

In tears we watched you suffer
We watched you fade away
Our hearts were almost broken
You fought so hard to stay.

But when we saw you sleeping
So peaceful - free from pain
We could not wish you back
To suffer that again.

Lord, keep your arms around him
And in your loving care
Make up for all he suffered
And all that seemed unfair.

The family of Jack Wysong wishes to express their deep appreciation for all the prayers, visits, cards, flowers, food and acts of love shown during the recent illness and passing of their beloved husband, father and grandpa. May God bless everyone for your thoughtfulness and kindnesses.

Janet Wysong, Shelley and Leroy Van Wyhe and family, Nick and Jean Wysong and family, Lex and Dietrich Knobloch and family, Jackie and Denis Knobloch and family, Kouri and Blake Wysong.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner

Debbie Wagenbach

Jared David Schmidgall announced his arrival into the hearts and home of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann. Currently, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann and baby Jared are living in Ames, as Aaron is completing his college education. Also, thankful for his safe arrival are first-time grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall. Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester, IA) are Jared's maternal grandparents.

Gavin Issac is the second son of Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker and is the baby brother of Grant. Sis. Jan Stoecker (Washington, IL) and Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger are happy to have a new baby join their family circle.

Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL) have recently visited our congregation. May God bless them for their labors of love in His service.

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich

Dennis Teubel spent a few days in the hospital and nursing home. He is at home once again. We continue to pray for sustenance for Dennis and his family as he battles against his bodily afflictions.

By the time you read this, the beauty of the many different colors of reds, yellows and golds of the fall foliage will be gone, but we still see the trunk solidly rooted preparing itself for next spring's beauty. Is our heart solid in Jesus Christ like the tree in the ground so we can in our own colors and ways bring forth the beauty of salvation in our daily life?

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

We have enjoyed the extended visit of Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO). We appreciate his

willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the sick and injured. Our dear Sis. Florence Banwart was quite ill and spent some time in the hospital recently. She has returned to Tomkins Medical Center, Fort Dodge, where she resides. Our prayers are that she might feel the love and presence of our Heavenly Father.

At this writing, Bro. Lawrence Schneider is seriously ill in the hospital following surgery. We pray for his recovery and may our Heavenly Father be near and bless him and his dear wife, Sis. Ella, who so faithfully cares for him.

Other hospital patients this past month were Sis. Berniece Banwart, Agnes Anliker, and McKayla Metzger, baby daughter of Wendal and Nichole Metzger. Bro. Silas Metzger underwent eye surgery. Those who have sustained injuries from accidents are: Tanya Schmidt (Jamie and Linda Schmidt), broken arm; Melinda Bruellman (John and Cindy Bruellman), head injury; Sis. Verda Bruellman (Bro. Don), knee injury. We understand Agnes is improving but remains hospitalized at this time, while we are thankful to report that the others mentioned here are recovering at home. May God continue to bless and heal each one.

We extend sympathy to Pearl and Eli Gerber on the death of her sister Ruby's husband, Mervin Jenz. We likewise extend sympathy to Esther and Keith Slagle and family on the death of their infant granddaughter, Darian Ann; daughter of Greg and Stephany Slagle. Also, our sympathy to Louis and Joni Schneider and family, as Joni's grandmother, Lillian Mauck (Estherville), has passed away. May God comfort each of these loved ones as the trials of life press upon them.

The Thanksgiving season will

soon be here. Let us join the Psalmist as he says:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

I recently heard about a Japanese man who first went to China in 1985. During that trip he met a Chinese Christian who implored him to visit his hometown many miles away to preach to his group of 50 believers. But because of the distance and small number, he declined to go and said maybe next time if the Lord wills.

The next year he met the same Chinese man who again begged him to come and said his group was now numbered over a hundred. But again, he politely declined and said maybe some other time.

Well, he visited China last year again and found that small group he had looked down upon had blossomed to over 20,000 believers! We praise God for the work He is doing in that land. The quantity of Bibles brought into China has never been large enough to quench the thirst for God's Word in recent years. Nothing like this story would be heard in today's newspapers---all we hear about China is things like their poor human rights record; but God has been using severe persecution in that land to His glory.

In our congregations here in Ja-

pan we just thank God for allowing believers to be faithful through the years, but also pray that we can experience growth.

We were able to unite in fellowship and share Holy Communion on October 16, as Elder Bro. Willis Eh-nle reminded us of Jesus being wounded for our transgressions and being bruised for our iniquities. We cannot be thankful enough for the great price Jesus paid for each person all over the world.

A quote for thought: Our weakness and inabilities break not the bond of our duties.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb

Donna Edelman

Congratulations to Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell on their 40th wedding anniversary. May God's blessings continue in the years ahead.

Bro. Bradley and Sis. Michelle Strahm are happy first-time parents of Joshua Scott born on October 8. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm.

Visiting ministers who were used on our behalf include: Elder Bros. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). May our Lord richly bless them.

On October 16 we heard the engagement of Bro. Alan Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn) and Sis. Wendy Slagel (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys, Fairbury, IL). We pray God will draw them closer to Him and to each other as they plan their life together.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Roy Rokey (Sis. Lucy) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Sis. Pearl). Sis. Ella Hartter (retired Elder Bro. Lester) remains a resident of our

Home. May we remember her in our prayers as well as all our loved ones who may be suffering.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

On September 18, Kansas City invited Fort Scott for a picnic. It is nice to see the young children start friendships that can last a lifetime and for the rest of us to fellowship with those we don't see too often.

Two of our loved ones had surgery this month. Sis. Lucille Schurter and Breona Sinn (Bro. David and Sis. Joleen). We are thankful that our merciful Father guided the surgeon's hands and that they are both assembling with us again.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalm 95:2

When is there a better time to count our blessings than in this season of Thanksgiving! When we are busy counting our blessings, we are less likely to focus on our trials.

One of our blessings this month was having two visiting ministers with us. Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) ministered to us from God's precious Word. May God bless them and their wives as they strive to do the Lord's will.

Sis. Alice Tanner was hospitalized this month. She was released and is now able to assemble with us again. Sis. Marie Schurter broke a bone in her hand and is at home now. Sis. Kathryn Miller has been moved to Share Rest Home at Alva, OK to recuperate from her broken leg. May each of them feel God's loving presence as they travel this earthly journey.

KANSAS, LAMONT**Jane Isch**

Our single group from Lamont and Gridley hosted the Kansas single groups, Lamar, and Garden Grove on September 24 and 25 for a weekend of fellowship which brought many visitors to our church. Among them were Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

October was invited couples weekend and we were thankful Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) was here to share God's Word with us. We sincerely thank all of our visitors for traveling to worship and fellowship with us. We cherish the "Christian Friendship" that we can share among our brethren in our precious faith.

Matt Schrader (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy) and Amy Parker from Stafford, KS are making wedding plans. May God's presence and blessings be a part of their lives as they plan for their future together.

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

Zion's Harp #236

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

KANSAS, SABETHA**Mary Kay Wenger****Sharon Strahm**

The weekend of September 17-18 we enjoyed the privilege of hearing the testimonies and welcoming Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Plattner and

Bro. David Eisenbise (Sis. Shari) into our most precious faith. It is always a time of thankfulness and an inspiration. We appreciated Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisting with this.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS) brought us many good teachings. We thank them for their love and efforts.

Our prayers are with Don Strahm as he is hospitalized at this time. May God provide for him.

We want to welcome Oliver and Marie Weiss and Bro. Calvin and Sis. Dena Weiss to our Sabetha church. They moved to our Retirement Village from Elgin, IL. We trust they can feel our love and appreciation as they assemble with us.

We said farewell to Rachel Abeler (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) as she is now in Germany to continue her studies for this school term. We trust God will keep her in His care.

He this day with grace has blest
us,
Praise be to His holy name;
Lifted burdens that oppressed us,
And in love unto us came.
Therefore, thank we Thee, dear
Father,
That Thou art with us each day;
For Thy good and blessed counsel,
And Thy help upon our way.

Zion's Harp #49

Note of Thanks:

Humble appreciation to all for your endless deeds of kindness and interest for my father's well-being throughout the past few years. The genuine love and concern shown by our brethren left such an impact on my parents. It was a joy for them to share and partake as friends of the church. Our richest treasure is shown in the love we have for one another.

Sis. Thirza Thompson

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

We were saddened to learn of the death of Richard Gleichman, 60, of Oklahoma City. Richard was a brother to Sis. Kathleen Gallatin of our congregation and the son of the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Carrie Gleichman.

Floyd and Eva Beyer observed their 50th wedding anniversary September 24. While Eva is confined to a care home, Floyd faithfully attends to her needs. His witness as one who honors his marriage vows is as a candle set in a candlestick rather than hidden under the bushel basket. See Mark 4:21-22.

Sis. Becky Hohulin (Lamar, MO) has been on a job assignment in the Wichita area this fall. We have enjoyed having her assemble with us for Wednesday night Bible Study.

Elder Bro. John Lehman also was in Wichita October 12 for a work related mission. He told us that the good part of his day was to put his work aside for the time while he assembled with us.

Philip Bowers, our paraplegic brother-in-faith, continues to need our prayers for him and his caregivers. In order to facilitate his care, he and his parents, Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian, have moved to an apartment in the home of his twin sister, Ruth Long; her husband, Jonathon; and their children. With this arrangement, Ruth, a registered nurse, is better able to use her skills for Phil's care. Again, we are shown that as problems face us, the Lord also provides solutions.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Doug and Rebecca Germann**

Along the River of time we glide
Along the River, Along the River
Our Saviour only our bark can

guide
Our Saviour only, Our Saviour
only
But with Him we secure may be
No fear, no doubt, but joy to be
Floating, Floating, out on the Sea
of Eternity.

Gospel Hymns #264

This beautiful hymn and others were sung as our congregation enjoyed our Fall Family Night on the Kentucky Riverboat, the "Dixie Belle". A special thanks to all who helped make the meal and singing a memorable time. That same weekend, Bro. Andy Hunyady and his wife, Sis. Theresa, and others from Columbus and Eureka were with us and we enjoyed slides from Eastern Europe. Bro. Andy shared with our group the work that is being done and of these brethren's steadfast faith.

Other visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Byron Stoller and his wife, Sis. Carol (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda (Sardis, OH). A special thank you to these families and all who came to be with us!

We would also like to express a warm welcome to Mike Wulf from Morris, MN who is working on a cattle farm north of Lexington.

One day our neighbors said that we seem to have a lot of company for being new in this community. It would seem strange to the people around us because the art of hospitality is not practiced much in today's world of microwave meals and the fast pace in which we live. Fellowship is so important and enjoyed by our precious faith. Our children also need to be a part of this spiritual fellowship. I remember a particular incident when we had recently moved to Lexington from the Rittman/Smithville area. There it was not uncommon to see several cars on weekends parked along the driveway for an evening

of singing. One day while driving along a street here in Lexington, our five-year-old son said, "Look, Dad, those people are having a singing!" I can't say for sure that they weren't, but the lesson learned for me was that our little boy associated a gathering of people to be a singing. How many children in our world today would say that? Or, would they be more likely to say an evening of cards or other entertainment? May we strive to keep alive those times of fellowship that will even touch the hearts of our children.

We welcome all travelers who will be making plans to go to Florida to include Lexington on their way south! We always appreciate those who stop by to visit and fellowship with us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

We were encouraged while listening to the tapes of the General Conference to look to Jesus in every facet of our lives. He will be there for us if we just simply look to Him.

Many from Bay City and Detroit joined us for your youth fellowship weekend. This is always a blessed event for our young people. We want to thank those who helped make it possible.

Congratulations to Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Baumgartner as they have been blessed with a son, Brendon John. Brendon has an older brother, Blane, at home with him. Brendon's grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen and Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner of Bluffton North, IN.

We want to thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough for having our Sunday School picnic at their home again this year. The day was perfect. Everyone had a great time.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI) joined us for the Sunday School weekend. We especially

want to thank Bro. Bill for his labors of love.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Jack and Sis. Laurie Pardo are in our prayers because of the loss of their father and grandfather, Max Bennett, on October 11. May God be with them during this difficult time.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

The blessings of our Lord have been with a fine couple who have been joined in marriage for 50 years; Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marian Knochel. They have been blessed with nine children: Gary, Judy, Janice, Sis. Maureen, Sis. Yvonne, LouAnn, Joyce, Bro. Tom and Brenda. God bless them and their family.

Bro. Jerry Wieland (Sis. Lois) has been taken to the University of Michigan Hospital for further treatment of his heart. We wish Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois and their family God's grace and blessings.

We also wish God's grace to Sis. Marie Waibel and her family and hope that her daughter-in-law, Linda, and son, Mark, will be kept in our Lord's care in their illnesses.

We were so blessed under our Lord's guidance to hold Holy Communion with our beloved congregation. We also were blessed to have with us Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter in our very solemn time in remembrance of our Lord and Saviour's death on the cross. We were also pleased to have with us our nine new brothers and sisters for their first time to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Beth Kent have been blessed with a new baby boy, Michael Bradley. He has Matthew and Alyssa to love and help take care of him at home.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton Marlene Reinhard

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

I Timothy 3:1,2

Recently our congregation was under much meditation and supplication unto God in seeking His will as we faced the decision of supporting a new Elder. Willingly, Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) took time out of their busy schedules and interviewed the congregation to see if there was unity in the hearts of each member regarding this decision. By the grace of God, Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr were found worthy of this Heavenly calling to carry on with this service. We pray for Bro. Mark and his family that they can feel the love and support of the church and we are thankful for their willing hearts to accept the Master's will during this time. We were reminded that we all must humbly do the service the Lord places upon us.

There were several in our congregation who were ill, hospitalized, or experienced a broken bone. They were Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz (Ed), Sis. Perseda Wieland (Bro. Floyd), Bro. Joe Szilagyi (Sis. Martha), Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben), Sis. Cindy Hitz (Bro. Tom), Bro. Ben Belsey (Sis. Lois) and Bro. George Popp. May God strengthen the weak, heal the bodily injuries, and restore health upon each one according to His perfect will.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. John and Sis. Marty Gleichman and their family, Alan and Pam Gleichman, in the sudden death of Bro. John's brother, Rich-

ard Gleichman, from Oklahoma City.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser and their family in the passing away of Bro. Randy's grandfather, Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace, Rittman, OH). We know that God's timing is not always our timing, so may we ever be watchful and ready to meet the Bridegroom when He returns.

We were thankful to have the Beverly Hills church conduct the monthly Tuesday evening worship service this month at Woodhaven. On December 6, our brethren from Bay City are scheduled to host this service. May we praise God for the freedom and ministry we can enjoy today and we are thankful to have willing brethren to share God's Word to the young and the old.

We also want to thank each and every one who spent time in contributing towards the organizing, planning and the volunteer work spent on behalf of the annual White Elephant and Bake Sale at Woodhaven. May you each one be blessed a thousandfold for your willingness to help.

Several in our beloved congregation will soon be heading South to warmer weather for the winter season. We wish them all safe traveling and may they be as much of a blessing into their "winter" congregation as they are in their "summer" congregation. We also want to send our prayers with Sis. Brenda Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) as she will be making a new home in Budepest, Hungry during the next several months. We are sad to have her gone from us during the next year, but we know that God is everywhere and knows all things. May she experience many new blessings and much spiritual growth among the brethren across the ocean. Even though Sis. Brenda is just leaving, we look forward to her safe return.

As the beautiful fall season unfolds, we realize how much of an awesome God we truly have. Let us be extra thankful this Thanksgiving season for the many joys we are able to experience and may we spiritually grow from the trials and temptations placed before us as we seek that unfailing way of escape to a victorious reward in the end.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

This school term has brought new students to the area. Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Lester, IA) is attending college and Sis. Kristie Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley, Lester, IA) is here for a three-month internship.

God's healing power was again revealed to us when Bro. Noah Miller sustained a hip injury, had surgery, and was able to return to his residence.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

We are happy to report two weddings. On September 22, Karla Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine) and Paul Landry exchanged marriage vows. Alan Schaer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Loretta, Indianapolis, IN) and Katie LeSage (Patrick and Margaret) were united in marriage on October 1. We wish both couples God's blessings.

We appreciate the many visitors that worship with us. Among them were ministering Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). We thank them for their labors.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Steve and Deb Joos on the death of Deb's father, Bro. Eric

Koehl.

For those coming to church from the west, the Mendota Bridge (Hwy 55) is now open. Cross the bridge and follow the signs for Hwy 110 and take a left at the first stoplight. Follow the Frontage Rd. west.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Maxine Sauder
Linda Schmidgall**

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

I Thessalonians 5:18

May we always remember to thank God for the blessings He bestows on us, not only on Thanksgiving Day but every day of the year.

Our prayers are with Bro. Harvey Joos (Sis. Debra) as he suffers bodily pain from a recent fall. May God grant him much strength as he has many weeks of recuperation ahead of him. May God also grant strength to Bro. Ernest Koehl (Sis. Gladys), Ruby Luthi, and Bro. Alvin Nohl (Sis. Minnie) who were

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill Steiner and their son, Andrew (Lester, IA) and Sis. Paula Kellenberger (Lester, IA) who have found employment in our area.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Jan Messner - Joleen Messner
Greetings!

"And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat."

Exodus 16:15

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, how thankful we are for God's rich blessings. Let us re-

member what God has given during this time and also give Him praise and thanks each day throughout the year.

My native country, Thee,
Land of the noble free.
Thy name I love...

Gospel Hymns #738

May God watch over Travis Redmann (Darrel and Jane) as he enters the armed forces.

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

II Corinthians 4:16,17

Our hospital and surgical patients were Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy), Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Geraldine) and Sis. Pearl Lienemann. May God bring renewed health and strength to each one.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Our students are back in Sunday School after their month break. Among the new faces are Sis. Sheri Braker and Bro. Joe Fehr. May God bless them for their willingness to teach our youth. Also, on the first Sunday we had our annual Sunday School Picnic. We enjoyed those that came from Ft. Scott for our picnic.

This past month we were privileged to have three visiting ministers. Many thanks to Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) for their labors of love.

Saturday, October 15, was the wedding day of Andrea Rokey (Bro. Gary and Marty Rokey) and David

Kellgren. May God bless their lives together.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Carolyn Banwart
Becky Marti**

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Darwin Luthi, Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Marie Marti. May God continue to heal and strengthen them.

In sorrow and pain, Thy trust do retain

In Jesus, the Merciful Saviour.

Zion's Harp #46

Maxine Schlupp, 82, passed away on September 30 after receiving injuries in a car accident in August. She is survived by a daughter, Margaret Compton, of Lamar. We will miss her friendly smile in our congregation.

Only God Knows Why:

We really appreciated the love, prayers, and acts of kindness shown us from far and wide during the death of our beloved son, Stan Marti. God bless you.

*Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti
His wife, Linda, and children*

His brothers and sisters: Wayne, Ken, Lu, Connie and their families

His in-laws, Harry and Lucilla Abbiatti

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We are rejoicing along with the angels in Heaven because another soul has answered the call of the Lord and has said those most important, and oh, so difficult, words, "I want to repent". Peter Schrenk has made a beginning in his new life in Christ. May we all remember to pray for the tender young souls who seek the Lord in their youth.

The following ministers and their wives visited St. Louis this past month: Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). We thank each of you and the many other visitors who came to worship with us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

Fall is upon us in its full beauty. Many of the trees have their beautiful colors and the air seems fresh and clean each day. As we can see the beauty around us, what a small reminder it is of what our Heavenly home might be like.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Jeremy Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) as he has decided to turn his back on the world and follow our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May he find much comfort and strength in God's Word for the steps he will be taking to gain that eternal home in Heaven.

September 25 was an afternoon of travel, singing and fellowship for our youth who went to A.C.Y.F. at Princeville, IL. We were thankful they returned home safely and that they enjoyed the time spent with other Apostolic Christian youth.

Doug and Amy Hoerr were blessed with a new baby boy, Mackinley Douglas, on September 26. He will be welcomed home by his older sister, Jessica. Happy grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr and Mark and Peggy Entrup (Quincy, IL).

Special thanks goes to Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for bring-

ing us God's Word on Wednesday evening, September 28. We really appreciate the efforts of all our ministering brethren and we extend a hearty welcome to all who would like to come and visit us here in Taylor.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Elsie Knapp and her husband, Bro. Ben. Also, Mary Beth Sutton was in St. Louis Children's Hospital for continuing chemotherapy treatments. May God strengthen and comfort all those who have physical afflictions.

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

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

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
Who is and shall survive,
Now and forevermore.

Zion's Harp #236

At the Thanksgiving time of the year we are reminded of all the provisions our great God has given us in this life. How thankful we are to have been so bountifully blessed from our mother's arms until this very time. May we each remember to thank the One who has made all of these blessings possible --- the One who is our God today, tomorrow and forever.

We express our thanks to God and to the brothers and sisters who have visited us in this beautiful fall

time of the year.

Our visiting minister on September 25 was Bro. Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL). On the weekend of October 1st and 2nd, the following brothers brought us the Word of God: Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Loren Knapp (Tuscon, AZ), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN). We are thankful for each of the messages given to us through the inspiration of God.

We are thankful that Mary Schulz (Norman) was able to assemble with us again following major surgery in Syracuse. May God continue to strengthen her each day.

John and Michelle Nortz welcomed Emily Kate into their home and lives on October 8. Jacob is excited to have a new little playmate. Grandparents are Jack and Barbara Nortz and Richard and Linda Bush. Great-grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Edna Sturtze. May God bless Roy and Edna with many more years of good health, as they have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. May God also be near this young family as they bring up the children He has entrusted to them.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser
Diane Jarrett

Love and warm greetings from Akron. The engagement of Sis. Gyongyi (Ginger) Bako (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy) to Bro. Sandor Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Elenka) of the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church of Hungary was recently announced. May God be with them as they plan their wedding.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Amy Palitto were blessed with a son, Corey Michael. An older sister, Micah, and

grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnell Palitto, and Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery (Rittman, OH) welcome Corey.

We are thankful for God's healing. Bro. John Graf was hospitalized earlier this month but can again assemble with us.

Ben Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) has begun to work out his soul's salvation. We rejoice with Ben and pray that he will feel God's guidance.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

Seeing the leaves in their brilliance of colors here in central Ohio puts us in awe. Once again, we are reminded of the touch of our Master's hand.

The past month has brought us many visitors, including ministering Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and their families. We also enjoyed a weekend with a group of single members who attend the University of Illinois. The Christian love and fellowship we experience certainly is a precious privilege.

A beautiful evening was enjoyed together as we gathered at the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks for the Sunday School fall outing. The weather was perfect for a wiener roast and hayride/singing.

We recognize the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father to provide for our physical, and above all, our spiritual needs. This Thanksgiving may we each one be filled with appreciative hearts as we think upon the manifold blessings given unto us.

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

"Enter into his gates with

thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalm 100:4

I remember many years ago when my sister and several other very young classmates memorized the entire 100th Psalm and recited it over the school P.A. system in honor of Thanksgiving Day. Even though we may not have grasped the beauty of this Psalm in its entirety, it left a lasting impression. May we each find time to reflect on the many God-given blessings in our life at this time especially set aside for Thanksgiving.

Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) was our only visiting minister this past month. Our hearts were warmed as we sat and listened to the Scriptures being expounded. May God richly bless him and his family.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for the many cards, gifts, prayers of support, and concern in our behalf during the last year and through the course of our bone marrow transplant. We cannot express adequately with words how much all of this has meant to us in lifting us up and giving grace for the needs of the day. We, of course, have learned that we have only today and we cannot presume into the future, but doctors believe at this point Roger's body is free of leukemia. We gladly honor and praise God for the manifestation of His power in our lives, and for giving us His people to sustain us.

The family of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Lane Stoller

We certainly have much to be thankful for this month. First,

there is the beauty of the autumn season all around us. The colorful leaves, the warm days, and the cool evenings are all blessings sent from our Heavenly Father. Then there are the blessings from inside the household of faith.

We have two new babies in our Latty congregation. Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest are the proud parents of Adam Gene. Welcoming home their baby brother are Andrea, Aaron and Alyssa. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn welcome Tanya Niccole into their family. Tanya will receive much love from older siblings: Thad, Calvin, Marla and Nolan. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn.

Two of our converts believe that they are at peace with God and man. Our prayers are that Sandra Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) and Amanda Steffen (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen) will continue to feel God's nearness as they walk life's pathway.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) visit our congregation and speak the inspired Word of God. We thank Bro. Ed for his labors of love.

On October 2 the engagement of Bro. Jerry Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine) to Sis. Cherry Rocke from Eureka, IL (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev) was announced. We pray that God's Holy spirit will guide them as they plan their life together.

Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) had a short hospital stay following a house cleaning accident that left her with a broken arm. We pray that Jesus will mend her arm, and that Heather will be able to help clean again.

We are so very thankful that two more dear souls have felt the need

of a Saviour in their lives. Bob and Sheila Sinn have answered the call of the Lord and have turned to Him in repentance. May God be ever near to them.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

I Thess. 5:12,13

Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) shared this entire chapter with us when he and Sis. Sue and their family visited us this month. One of the comments he made about this chapter is worthy of a lot of thought and consideration. If we would busy ourselves just trying to fulfill everything in this chapter, we would be busy all day long.

On September 30, Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. An open house had previously been held for them when it was most convenient for their family to be here. The day after their anniversary, they welcomed their fifth great-grandchild into the world. Joshua Brant was born to Brant and Amy Enderle. Happy grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Darlene Enderle.

This month brought us the opportunity to welcome a new brother and sister-in-faith. May Bro. Bill and Sis. Sophie Sabo feel a warm welcome as they are now assembling with us. However, by the time this goes to print, they will be assembling with the Phoenix, AZ brethren for the winter. May God be with them until we meet again.

We are thankful that Bro. Ron Rufener has felt the healing touch

of the Mighty Physician as he continues to improve from his recent surgery. Whenever any of us are "under the weather" for any reason, may we always remember to thank the only One who can truly heal us as we return to health.

All around us trees are changing, the weather is turning cooler and everything in nature is getting ready to sleep for a season. As we enter into the "sleepy" season of the year, let us all reflect on whether we are sleeping in our duties for Christ or if we are ever at the ready. The following verses come to mind:

"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Mark 13:35-37

OHIO, RITTMAN

Linda Ramsier

Marsha Rufener

As the harvest season is here and the fruits of the earth are gathered, we are reminded of the spiritual harvest of God. Our dear Bro. Raymond Marty was gathered by the arms of God and taken to his final resting place on October 1. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Grace, and children; Sis. Carolyn Marty, Sis. Kathryn Bachman (Bro. Eugene), Robert Marty (Loretta), Galon Marty (Nancy), Bro. Dean Marty (Sis. Martha Lou, Smithville), Roger Marty (Madge), Leo Marty (Joyce), Sis. Doris Gasser, Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Robert, Smithville) and Sis. Joyce Stoller (Bro. Fred). May the Lord be near each one.

We want to thank Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for bringing forth the Word to us. We appreciate the labors of our ministering brethren.

Our prayers are with those who

were hospitalized. Our thoughts are with Bro. Charles Zollinger and Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth).

Kendra Mae, firstborn daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Hartzler was born September 20. Happy grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Brent and Alicia Widmer welcomed a son, Brendon Timothy, on September 30. Sister, Makala, and grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer, also welcome Brendon.

Kelly and Katie Ramsier have a new sister, Heidi Lyn. Heidi was born October 3 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Inez Ramsier and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We were privileged to have three visiting ministers on Wednesday night. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Tom Troxel (Lacrosse, IN) shared the Word with us. Thank you for giving our week an extra lift.

October 1 was a very special day, as Bro. Ken Indermuhle was ordained Elder of the Sardis Apostolic Christian Church of America. Several Elders so kindly offered encouragement to Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda as the service was conducted. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) outlined the duties and responsibilities of an Elder. Each member of the church also has work to do to ensure a united and peaceful congregation as covered by Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). The formal ordination vows were given by Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH). Our faithful shepherd, Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), mod-

erated the service and had the closing prayer. The efforts of Bro. Gene and Sis. Eleanor over the past several years as they have been willing to travel to be with us and offer counsel are such that only God can truly reward. We thank each Elder for taking part in this important work that was spiritually strengthening for all of us.

Bro. Ron Palito (Akron, OH) ministered to us during a recent visit. Thank you, Bro. Ron, for "charging our batteries" for another week.

We have had the opportunity to listen to the Conference tapes and surely all have been encouraged to look with more fervency to Jesus the Rock and away from this ever changing world.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Margaret Blough
Edith Miller**

Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus
Whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace,
By thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus,
This is rest.

Hymns of Zion #26

We are thankful Adam Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn) has been granted this peace and awaits baptism.

Ministers visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless them for sharing the Word with us.

We welcome two new babies to our congregation. Claudia Marie was born to Andy and Elizabeth Fetzer on June 28. She was also welcomed by Katie, Andrew, Peter and Susan.

On October 5, Bro. Ron and Sis.

Carrie Gray become first-time parents to Jessica Nicole. Grandparents of Jessica are Sis. Janette Blough and Ron and Marie Gray. May God's blessings be felt in both of these homes.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dean Marty (Sis. Martha Lou) and Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Bob) in the death of their father, Bro. Raymond Marty (Rittman, OH).

Two couples have begun married life this month. Bonita Beery (Art and Eileen) and Tony Bowman (Larry and Glenda) were married on October 1. On October 8, Heather Carter (Sidney and Lynne) and Curt Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie) spoke their marriage vows. We trust God will be invited as the Unseen Guest in both newly established homes.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Edie Fetter

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
Acts 2:38

We rejoiced to see this commandment fulfilled in the life of our new Sis. Rebecca Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN) as she gave her testimony and was baptized July 23 and 24. Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was with us for this joyful occasion.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
Mark 10:9

Joined in marriage on August 15 were Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Sis. Joy Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee). With us for this special day were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Ken In-

dermuhle, Bill Brake and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We appreciated their service as well as sharing in our happiness on this day.

We enjoyed a special time of fellowship when our annual college family weekend was held. Among our new and returning students and their families, we appreciated the visit of Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) who ministered the Word to us. We also welcomed the visit of Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and his family a few weekends later.

We extend our sympathy to Bob and Dorothy Stevens on the death of Bob's sister, Thelma Haler. May God comfort all who have lost those dear to them.

Bro. Eugene Fetter (Sis. Marilyn) was a recent hospital patient. We are grateful that we can look to God for healing of the body as well as healing of the spirit.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Lori Martin - Mary Berg

We were so blessed this past month to have Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) here to serve us Holy Communion. Bro. Dave reminded us that this should be a solemn, but joyous occasion. And what a joy it is to know we have forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord who shed His blood and died for us that we may have peace in our hearts and the hope for everlasting life! Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) assisted Bro. Dave.

Our prayers are with Sis. Golda Ditch as she once again is experiencing physical afflictions. We pray that she can experience some relief from her pain soon. We continue to pray for Bro. Paul Rumbold and Sis. Margaret Banwart and their bodily pains, as well as newborn Kody Jones (Tim and Sandy) who seems to be getting stronger every day but is still hospitalized.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Greetings to one and all! We experienced a blessed weekend as Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) assisted Bro. Clarence Dietrich in serving us Holy Communion. May the Lord richly bless him for giving of himself on our behalf.

Our congregation has grown once again. Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn were blessed on October 5 with the arrival of Erin Ruth. Kenton, Brianna, Laura, Darwin, Trenton, Nelson and Troy all adore their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn and Bro. Dan and the late Wilma Edelman of Bern, KS.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri Kuenzi became first-time parents of Annaleise Marie on September 25. Her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger of Lester, IA welcome her into their families.

We rejoice with our friends, Adam Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Ludmilla Koev (Dmitriy and Raisa) as they have, through repentance, found peace with their Lord. We wish them much grace as they continue to walk in obedience to His Word.

We rejoiced with Sis. Marie Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Michael Stork (John and Eunice, Fairbury, IL) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on September 25. Our Elder Bro. Leo Moser was present to officiate this union. We truly will miss Sis. Marie, but know the Lord will bless her as she follows His will for her life.

We cannot but praise our Lord for blessing the efforts of many volunteers as they work upon our new edifice. In the past few days the trusses have been put in place and work on the roof is progressing rap-

idly. May the Lord richly bless all those who have put forth the effort to help us in this large undertaking.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalm 29:11

Our sympathy goes out to David and Pella Naffin in the loss of David's father, Guss, who is survived by his wife, Mildred. May God be with them during this time of sorrow.

We rejoice with Kevin Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) as he has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. We wish him God's grace.

We also rejoice with David Eric Roberts (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn) as he was baptized into the family of God on October 9 in Bluffton, IN. May he always feel God's nearness.

This past month has brought many visiting ministers. We thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and David Graf (Akron, OH) for bringing us God's precious Word. May God richly reward these dear brothers for their labors.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, thanks be to God for all of the wonderful gifts he has bestowed upon us and especially for sending us His Son making possible the way and plan of salvation.

This month we rejoice with Trista Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) and Dave Miller (Ron and Sandy Miller) as they have an-

nounced their engagement and plans for forthcoming marriage on December 30, 1994. May God's blessings be on both of you as you take this very important step in your lives.

We also thank our visiting minister, Bro. Mark Steiner, his family, and approximately nine others who traveled from the Smithville and Rittman, OH area to worship and fellowship with us on October 2. Services were also held on October 16, with many visitors attending from Junction and Latty, OH. May God richly bless all of you.

We are also very, very thankful to God for our assembly room remodeling project which is now nearing completion. Only a few finishing touches remain as the carpeting was laid on September 23 and the benches brought from Mansfield, OH in early October. Special thanks to Bros. Jack Bollier and Bill Klopfenstein from Leo, IN for volunteering their time and assistance in bringing them to us. Hopefully, soon we will be able to begin remodeling the kitchen area, sidewalks, and outside of the building.

Upcoming services are scheduled for October 30, December 4 and January 8. Holidays are wonderful times to come visit Nashville. Let us know if you plan to be in the area. The Lord has recently answered our prayers for growth and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you for services and fellowship. Also, if anyone is interested in moving to Nashville, we would welcome any interest and encourage you to contact one of the phone numbers below. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

TEXAS, DALLAS
Christine Kaiser

Kimberly Kaiser

Visiting and ministering at our services in October were: Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. JoAnn Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Steven and Sis. Mary Sauder (Tremont, IL). We appreciate the time they spent away from family and harvest. We also sincerely thank the song leaders that accompanied the ministers. What a blessing they are to the hymn singing of our small gatherings! Our humble thanks to everyone who worshipped with us. God bless you.

We extend a special invitation to anyone traveling in the Dallas area to come worship with us. Our services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service

times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074; Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for additional information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and daughter, Julie Nohl, are still sharing their home with seven foster children. Two of their foster children, three-year-old Kevin and sixteen-month-old Erica, are no longer with them. As we learn to know and love these children, it is a concern to all of us what the future holds for them. We can include them in our

prayers.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplication, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;"

I Timothy 2:1

This week as I was walking by one of our cacti, I saw a beautiful pure white bloom. This was special to me because I had seen flowers on this cactus before but I had never seen one that perfect. The flowers on this plant do not stay open very long at a time.

Several days this month Bro. Lloyd Nohl was a surgical patient in the hospital at McAllen, TX. We are thankful he is back home again.



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.

"ACHIEVE ETERNAL LIFE"

Sermon By Bro. Bruce R. Hohulin Of Goodfield, IL

Luke 10:17-42

As we started reading in verse 17, the very first part of this reading says, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:17,18.

As we would look at that very first verse that we read, we would see, beloved, that these disciples that returned to Jesus were amazed at the power that He had. I would liken that, brothers, sisters and friends, as to us. Oftentimes we doubt the power that Jesus Christ and our Lord holds.

As we go through our daily walk of life and as we would travel to and fro here on earth and try to accomplish things, we in our weak humanness, would try to do things on our own. We would possibly believe that we would have faith, but as we look deep within our soul, we realize how weak we are and how much we lack trusting in our Saviour.

As we think about that and each one individually realizes how weak we are, we should take courage. We should understand that we are simply like the disciples and when we realize that we lack faith, we should think of our Lord and think of those many years ago when He walked here on this earth. Then we can understand, brothers, sisters and friends, that Jesus Christ realizes that we as humans are very, very weak, and

that we are nothing.

As He understands that, He shows His mercy to us. As we walk this life and as we falter, He is there to pick us up and to show us His love again if we will again trust Him.

We think of repentance and as we brothers and sisters look back, we realize that we were weak and failed to trust in God. Friends of the truth, as you think of yourself and think about the difficulties that Satan would put before you in finding your repentance, you should realize that even in those days, that as this verse says, the disciples found that they had disbelief. They were amazed at the power of Jesus Christ!

As you look at it, friends of the truth, you must realize that it takes faith. You must throw yourself literally at the foot of the cross. You must allow Jesus, our dear Lord and Saviour, to take over your life.

We brothers and sisters, even today and you can see the failings of many of us that oftentimes we will falter and we will fail, but the love of God is there to pick us up, to carry us through, and to lead us to our Heavenly Kingdom.

It says here in the following verse (and I read it already), "I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven." Then it says, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any

means hurt you." Luke 10:18,19. What a powerful verse, brothers, sisters and friends; what a powerful saying that Jesus Christ said! Let's think about that and discuss that for just a moment. It says that those many, many years ago, Jesus Christ gave the disciples power over Satan.

I submit to you that those disciples of years ago were our brothers. Jesus Christ today is giving us that very same power. The responsibility that He gives us to walk the way of a Christian is an awesome responsibility. But He does not give that responsibility without giving us the tools to accomplish that. That is what He is saying here in the Word; that He gives us power to tread upon scorpions and serpents. He gives us power over the Devil!

I have to think about that for just a moment and think of the power that the Devil has and think of the many times that he has entered into my heart personally. That is how weak I became when I lacked faith. We all know, brothers and sisters, that He can carry us through---through faith and through His grace. He will allow us to enter His Heavenly Kingdom.

We have this Word before us and I think often of myself and how sometimes I do not read as I should. I do not follow the Word of God as I should and I have a tendency to take a look at myself sometimes. Something

will happen, as I know it happens to you, that will quickly draw you back to Jesus Christ.

We think of our trials and we think of the trials that others have and we know that those trials are for a reason. They are to strengthen us. They are to help someone else see what God can do. There are many reasons for them and we know not what they are. The Lord knows only. I know that in your congregation, as in Goodfield, and as in every congregation that I have ever been familiar with, you have those who are going through these trials that we talk about. I know that you look to them for strength in your own hearts.

Dear friends of the truth, there is nothing like this Word of God to strengthen you. There is nothing like Jesus Christ and His love to carry you through. There are hills and valleys for us also but the Lord is there to smooth the way. He is there to take out the bumps and He will do that as He did here for the disciples and for the loved ones in those days.

It says, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." Luke 10:21. Another powerful verse here! Let us look at what it says. It is saying to us as we would come to the Lord in repentance, as we would try to understand the way that we should go, that these things of salvation and that these things of eternal life are hidden from the wise and pru-

dent, and are revealed unto babes.

I think in this morning hour of something that happened in our family this week. I don't know why it has come to me, but as we think of our children and as we as parents tell them things that they should or should not do, they trust us fully. As they grow older and older, they trust us less and less, and they must have proof. The Word of God is like that...the Word of God is exactly like that!

As we grow in earthly knowledge, brothers, sisters and friends, we rely on ourselves more and more and that is contrary to what God would have us do. God expects us to rely on Him. He wants us to rely on this Word of God.

Often, as you take your children swimming, especially when they are small and you are trying to teach them, you will stand in the water and ask them to jump in your arms. They will easily and eagerly do it because they know you will catch them. As they become older and you ask them to do these things, they hesitate. That is what this verse is talking about when it says that things are revealed to babes.

Dearly beloved, we must become as a babe in Christ. Then, brothers and sisters, as we look at our spiritual life as our spiritual soul, we must examine ourselves and we must wonder within our hearts, "Are we still a babe? Are we still a babe in Christ?" That is a question that Jesus has asked here and Jesus is bringing forth unto us. Have we, brothers and sisters in faith,

remained as babes?

Let us examine ourselves in this day. Are we still at the same point as we were the evening when we gave our testimony here in the front bench? Are we still in that state as we look at ourselves and ponder that question? We must realize that is the point that we have to be at to enter the Heavenly Kingdom.

There are many who have gone on before us whom we loved very much and that we would like to see in that Heavenly Kingdom. As we think about them and the humbleness that they had, we must be that way ourselves. We must have the faith to understand and the faith to love our Lord enough to totally trust Him. That is what He is talking about when we talk about babes.

I know our small children totally trust us. But as I said, as they grow in earthly knowledge, they seem to change. But one way or another, we will all become babes. We will all face that opportunity of turning to the Lord, or turning to Satan. To accept Jesus Christ, we must be as a babe.

As He talks here in verse 23, He is talking to the disciples, and He said, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: for I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." Luke 10:23,24.

Again, brothers, sisters and friends of the truth, there is only
Sermon continued next page

Sermon continued

one way to enter the Heavenly Kingdom. There is only one door to the sheepfold.

As it says here, it talks about kings and prophets and them desiring to have the things that we have, and to have the opportunity that we have here in this day. It says that they desired to see the things that we see. As we think about that, we wonder why they are unable to see the things we see.

It is the same reason that we must become babes. As we think of a king (or at least as I think of a king), we think of someone who is on a pedestal who is high and mighty, and who has the power over many things. They trust in themselves.

That is what the Word says that those who trust in themselves cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. Now you and I, brothers, sisters and friends, must realize that the Lord does not want us to be in control. He is in control and has the power!

We read on further here and it talks about a lawyer. This lawyer was tempting Jesus Christ and he said here, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke 10:25. Today is the day to truly, friends of the truth, read this and ask ourselves, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

The Word of God is dovetailing itself in this morning hour. We knew not what we would read when we came here, but it says here very clearly that we must become as babes. Here this lawyer who was doubting Jesus Christ and did not have the faith to believe was tempting Jesus

and asking Him what he must do to find eternal life.

You and I, brothers, sisters and friends, have this Word of God before us. Oh, it is such a wonderful thing to pick up the Word and read it and understand bits and pieces of the Word and understand what God would have for us. Let us read how the Lord answered him.

It says, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27. It is very definite what we should do. Jesus Christ quickly answered the question to the lawyer and in one short sentence He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...". Luke 10:27.

Let us look at ourselves. Do we love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength and with all our mind? How do we fare today? Can we answer "yes" to all of these questions? Are we able to look within our heart and say all of our heart is for the Lord? Or must we look and say, "I'm holding out just a little bit for myself?"

The Lord knows. The Lord can see within our heart and He understands this very moment where we stand. The Lord and us know. The Lord and we individually know what is in our heart. No one else does, only we individually. Our Elder or our ministering brother, no one knows what is in our heart but us and God.

I tell you, brothers, sisters and friends, as that final day comes

and we stand before our God, there will be nothing hid that will not be revealed. Let us think about that. I know this morning my wife said, "Do you have your seat belts buckled, kids? Your dad is driving fast." I think about that and as we are driving down the road, friends of the truth, think about this; as you are driving down the road, you are about two or three feet away from eternity. I submit to you, as you drive your car today, tomorrow or the next day, and every time you pass a car, do you think about your salvation? Do you think that somebody is coming the other way and you could be immediately face to face with eternity?

We hear of accidents and we hear of terrible accidents where people lose their life. The first thing we wonder is, "Were they ready to meet the Lord?" It says here, and it is very clear here, friends of the truth, that that can only be answered by you and God. But I guarantee you that it will be answered when you face your Lord. None of us know. I also guarantee that none of us know when our personal eternity is coming.

This week I traveled alone with my job. I flew but I don't fly that much. As you fly (I know many of you are the same), but as you fly, you think about that more than maybe when you are driving a car. But as you are driving your car, statistics tell us it is more dangerous. Have you thought recently as you drove your car, "How far away am I from eternity?"

Friends of the truth, if you have not thought about that, it

s time that you do. It is time that you understand where you stand with your God. That does not go just for the friends of the truth; we all who are within this church in this day must know every moment of our life what our lot will be if our eternity comes.

To believe in Him and that we are doing the very best we can. We are all given many, many different talents. That is why we have the body of Christ so that our talents can dovetail one with another. But we are each one accountable for those talents that we have. God knows what those talents are and we must use them.

As we talk about those talents, it brings me here to the end of our reading. It talks about Mary and Martha. Martha was troubled because her sister was not preparing food or something here. It says, "Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?" Luke 10:40. Martha was concerned and felt like she was doing it all. As we consider our talents, I know that you (as I have) have

sometimes felt in life that the burdens of the earth are on us and somebody else is getting away scot free.

That is kind of how Martha felt here, I believe. It is not that way at all. We all have our burdens to bear. Friends of the truth, you look at brothers and sisters in faith and you see and believe that many of them are getting off scot free or have had it made, or do not have the temptations that you do. Just like Martha and Mary here, that is wrong.

Each of us have our own special burden to bear. Martha's and Mary's were different. But it says here that Jesus Christ said back to Martha, "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42. I would guess the message from that sentence is very clear.

What part have we chosen today? Where do we stand with our God? Have we chosen God or have we chosen Satan?

I have said this many times before and many of you have heard it and others have said it. My daughter was at an ACYF day and came home and told me

that here at Normal it was said, "How much of your heart does God want?" Everybody answered, "God wants all of your heart." Then it was also said, "How much of your heart does Satan want?" Everybody said, "All of your heart." I don't know who it was, maybe it was one of these brothers but that brother that led that class said, "No, you are wrong; Satan only wants one percent of your heart, because if he has that, God doesn't want you."

So we all here today have to look at ourselves and see where we stand with our God and if we are totally pure. See if we are like Mary and have chosen the part that will not be taken away from us that will last for in eternity. If we have not chosen that part totally, today, not tomorrow, but today is the day that we should choose that part, that we should all renew ourselves, that we should all understand and realize and be happy that if we would stand before our Lord today---if our eternity would come today---that we would be ready to enter that Heavenly Kingdom.



Silver Threads

The God of Comfort

*I have been through the valley of weeping,
The valley of sorrow and pain;
But the God of all comfort was with me,
At hand to uphold and sustain.*

*As the earth needs the clouds and the sunshine
Our souls need both sorrow and joy,
So He places us oft in the furnace,
The dross from the gold to destroy.*

*When He leads thru some valley of trouble
His omnipotent hand we can trace;
For the trials and sorrows He sends us
Are part of His lessons of Grace.*

*Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,
Forgetting the husbandman knows
That the deeper the cutting and paring
The richer the cluster that grows.*

*Well He knows that affliction is needed,
He has a wise purpose in view;
And in the dark valley He whispers,
Hereafter thou shalt know what I do.*

*As we travel through life's shadowed valley,
Fresh springs of His love ever rise,
And we learn that our sorrow and losses
Are blessings just sent in disguise.*

*So we'll follow wherever He leads us,
Let the path be dreary or bright,
For we've proved that our God can give comfort,
Our God can give songs in the night.*

Author Unknown

If I Should Die

A Message To The Beloved Church --

- Keep the unity of the true Spirit.*
- Forsake not the assembling together.*
- Ministers, continue to preach the word.*
- Be not deceived - hold fast to the faith.*
- Be a living example of God's Word.*
- Labor together in Godly harmony.*
- As your humble servant and shepherd, what I have done right, give God the honor; and where I have erred, charge that to my account.*

By Elder Bro. Eugene Bertschi

Shortly before Elder Bro. Eugene Bertschi went to the hospital, he wrote a heartfelt note to the Apostolic Christian Church. His love and devotion to the brethren, as a shepherd, was filled with emotion as seen in this note, which upon his passing away, was read to the Roanoke church.

As a hart for water panteth

So my soul cries Lord to Thee!

Lord, that which can bring me comfort

Can I find alone in Thee.

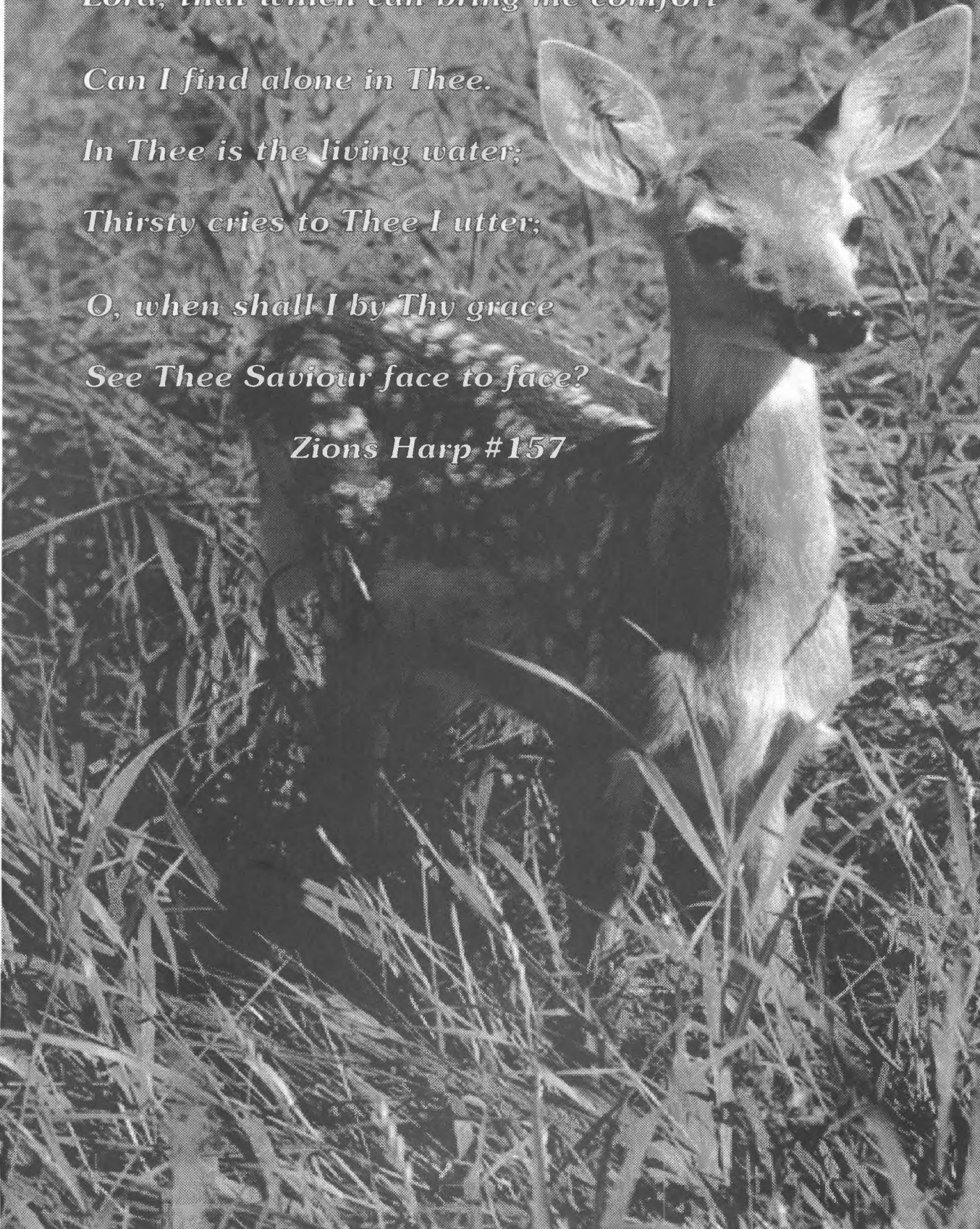
In Thee is the living water;

Thirsty cries to Thee I utter;

O, when shall I by Thy grace

See Thee Saviour face to face?

Zions Harp #157



*There is a calm beyond life's fitful fever,
A deep repose, an everlasting rest;
Where white-robed angels welcome the believer
Among the blest, among the blest.
There is a Home, where all the soul's deep yearnings,
And silent pray'rs shall be at last fulfilled;
Where strife and sorrow, murmurings and heart burnings
At last are stilled, at last are stilled.*

Gospel Hymns 383



Silver Threads

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

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

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

At a church conference in the early 1970's an Elder once spoke with great conviction about retaining a loyalty to our brotherhood as it exists with Christ as the Head. He urged his listeners to teach their offspring about the strengths of our church as it seeks to center all its beliefs on the Word of God.

He relayed that his wish was that his children, his grandchildren, and his general posterity would embrace the richness of our faith. He told of once driving past our Apostolic Christian Church in his locality on a weekday and telling his little grandson, "There's our church." He then pondered when his grandson grows up and drives past our church, will he say, "That's my church," or "That's grandpa's church."

This story is reflective of the deep appreciation that exists for our faith in Christ as understood and lived out in the Apostolic Christian Church. Positive stories and a legacy of appreciation for the brotherhood, and positive attitudes toward its benefits abound across the churches.

From this, we can ask the following questions: How did it all begin? How did a church such as

ours find an origin? How did our church come to be?

Any accurate historical source in this realm must be rooted in the events associated with the Lord Jesus' short three-year ministry, his subsequent suffering, shed blood and death at Calvary. From this marvelous act of atonement for sin, a new church was initiated by his apostles. The gospel of Christ, and the writings of the apostles constitute the root and foundation for all that we as a church believe and practice today. We rely on the Old and New Testaments for Godly direction and recognize the Authorized King James Bible as the final rule for faith and life; and as a people we have not fallen prey to the tendency to let rationalism and an elitist theology undermine the Bible's intent. In this, it is God's grace that has preserved our literal beliefs found in God's infallible Word.

Over the many centuries since the time of Christ, a true church has existed, although it was never one of great numbers or stately power. A remnant of faithfulness found a presence in the catacombs, in the caves, and often in the hills and mountains.

Larger, monolithic church organizations did indeed come to exist, but many of their beliefs and practices failed to coordinate with Scriptures.

Tendencies of unfaithfulness resulted in much spiritual unrest in the 16th century in Europe. The writings of Erasmus helped pave the way for those who later opposed the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1517, a priest, Martin Luther, posted his "Ninety-Five Thesis" of criticism against the church. This "revolt" lodged a protest against the monolithic church and a "protestant" Lutheran church was born in Germany. A protestant church in Switzerland was formed by theologian Ulrich Zwingli in 1519.

Yet, both of these reformers, while initiating improvements compared to the Catholic Church, were still lacking in a total return to the Word. For instance, infant baptism still remained, and the new church continued implementing the sword in warfare. In fact, religious wars were common.

It was not until 1525 that a group of dedicated people broke

REMEMBERING continued next page

REMEMBERING continued
away from Zwingli's group of "reformers" and adopted the Bible's doctrine of adult baptism based on a profession of faith in Christ, conversion, and winning the victory over sin. They became known as "Anabaptists", which means to re-baptize. Their opponents mockingly referred to them in this manner because their baptism (based on their faith and conversion) actually resulted in a re-baptism---since they had previously been baptized as infants.

The Anabaptists advocated an unconditional return to the Scriptures. They were the first group of that era to believe in the separation of church and state. They were brutally persecuted for their adherence to the Bible's directives. But, by God's grace, they were willing to suffer for Christ as they endured beheadings, drownings, and having their tongues ripped out, etc. Yet, their numbers grew and a Spirit-led fervency prevailed.

The Anabaptists's principles centered around an attitude of "sola Scriptura", a Latin phrase meaning "Scriptures alone". The Word of God, not man's reasoning or experiences, or the power of the state, was the final

rule of faith and life. They stressed self-surrender which was personified in the German word, "Gelassenheit", which means annihilation of self. Thus, the Bible's themes of humility, submissiveness, and yieldedness were central in life-style.

For the next three centuries, various categories of Anabaptists existed across Europe; particularly in central and eastern Europe. Groups with Anabaptist beliefs came to be known as Mennonites, Amish and Hutterites; all, incidently, named after important leaders: Menno Simons, Jakob Ammann, and Jakob Hutter.

As time wore on, and the decades and centuries passed, the initial zeal and fervent spirit---and the conversion process---began to wane among Anabaptist-related groups. A renewed spiritual thirst for the true Word of God, and the unadulterated Gospel, arose in much of central Europe by the 19th century. In time, Brother Samuel Froehlich of Switzerland established a new church based solely on the Word. Next month's "Remembering" will focus on this beginning.

In this historical description,

we refer to the Anabaptists because their early biblical beliefs and church structure were very similar to our church today. It is a historical fact that our early brethren were influenced by the Anabaptist movement. Indeed the seven articles of the Schleitheim Confession (drawn up by Anabaptists in 1527) which helped to define certain portions of their beliefs, are articles that are treasured in the Apostolic Christian Church. They were listed in *Marching to Zion*: (1) Baptism, (2) the ban, (3) holy communion, (4) separation from the world, (5) duties of Elders, (6) non-resistance, and (7) oath-taking.

By the early 1800's, Europe was ripe for a revival of faith. A way was opening up whereby God would soon raise up a young man, along with zealous followers, and a church would be established based totally on the Word of God. Repentance and conversion would again be preached with fervor. God would be honored by fidelity to the Scriptures.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next issue: The Froehlich Family



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"LIFT OFF"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

As a young believer, I once told a friend, "I'm never going to die. I'm just going to move." I was enthused by the prospect that death is only an adventure of moving from one place to another, and for those who are ready to meet God, to a better place at that.

Where are we now? Each of us might respond, "I am in a human body." II Corinthians 5:1 reads, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." I believe that "our earthly house of this tabernacle" refers to our physical bodies. They wear out and are dissolved. What about the "house not made with hands"? That must refer to a new, spiritual body, which is an excellent place to live.

The Lord Jesus Christ said to the thief on the cross, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise." Paradise is where God is, a very lovely place indeed. We

probably will not get to live in our new bodies, "an house not made with hands", until the resurrection, but we will surely have a nice place to wait for it.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23, "Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Recently, thinking about death, I decided it is a departure; like starting on a journey. However, it is not an ordinary departure like by car, train, bus, or even an airplane. It is more like a departure by helicopter which can go straight up. Acts 1:8 tells us, speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ's ascension, "He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."

Now if this departure is to be straight up, vertical in relation to the surface of the earth, I thrill at the thought of it; especially since we will be free from the power of gravity, and also free forever from the power of the devil. The countdown has begun. When it reaches "one", it

will be "LIFT OFF", and we'll be on our way.

During this Thanksgiving Day season, families will be gathering together to give thanks for the harvest. It also behooves us to give thanks to the living God for the fact that we are free from fear, free from the condemnation of sin, free from guilt, and out from under the oppressing thumb of the devil, while walking in the liberty of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are many intangible benefits from expressing gratitude, not only to the person receiving the thanks but perhaps even more so to the person giving the thanks. Therefore, at this time in the year, 1994, let us include something like this in our prayers, "We thank thee dear God, that through the Lord Jesus Christ, the sting of death has been removed, and we thank thee for the blissful anticipation of "Lift Off"."

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