

The Silver Lining

And I stood upon the sand of the sea...

July 1995



"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal..."
Revelation 4:6

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Eccles. 3:1

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea..."

"To every thing there is a season...A time to love...A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

The joy, peace and serenity we can find on earth is not to be compared to the beauty awaiting us in Heaven, but we do have much beauty on earth that is God's creation, which we indeed can enjoy.

Brethren have found breathtaking beauty in a beautiful island of Abaco, Bahamas (cover) and in the mountains of Colorado. We find beauty in the clouds 35,000 feet above the earth and we find beauty in God's creation 100 feet below the Caribbean Sea.

We find beauty in the waving fields of wheat in Kansas and the lush green corn fields of the mid-west.

We find beauty in birds, and the animals of the forest and we find beauty in people, if we just try to see that beauty God has created.

As I look at the scene that is so peacefully showing the crystal sea, the sands of the shore, the footprints in the sand, I am reminded of life.

The dear sister who took this picture said that the calm waters of the sea sometimes are rough with great waves that wash upon the shore. As we make our own

footprints in the sands of the shore of life, we are truly witness to the great waves in life that wash up around us. As the waves recede, we can look back on the footprints and find that God has a way of smoothing out our hurt and trials. When the sea is calm again, we renew our journey to yonder shore. How unmistakably wonderful God is to be willing to take care of us as we walk upon the shore of life.

Our hearts are overjoyed when we feel true communion with God, and we will feel that wondrous communion if we are walking in the truth of God's Word. The Lord has instructed us as to how we should walk here on earth and we often come to realize how important it is to follow that instruction.

"And as I stood upon the sand of the sea...". John writes in Revelation 13, he seen great visions of the latter days and God revealed to him many teachings about those times which he recorded for our edification. There is a small list of which pertaineth unto the one hundred and forty-four thousand who will witness to all nations during the great time of God's wrath here on earth; but we can also see importance in having this list be a part of our daily life even though we may not be of the one hundred forty and four thousand.

Those items which can pertain to all of us are:

1. Follow the Lamb witherso-

ever He goeth.

2. Redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

3. In their mouth was found no guile...

As we live in the beauty of God's creation, we can thank Him through obedience, loving the opportunity to do His precious will each day we live.

Can we drift out into the sea so far that we would lose sight of the shore? Can we drift into the worldliness of this life? These are sobering questions which we would want to consider.

There is love from God, there is beauty from God and He wants us to appreciate and enjoy that beauty while we cautiously walk upon the sands of the sea.

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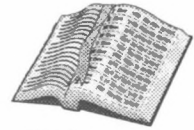
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Roanoke, IL 61561

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

July 1995

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Comfort Ye One Another - II

As we seek to comfort one another, it is important to never underestimate the power of God and His boundless love and mercy. He is able to heal all wounds and to provide comfort and strength in the most difficult situations. In times of deep distress, the grieving soul often becomes so discouraged that it is difficult for them to pray or to read God's Word. The very time when someone least feels like praying and reading God's Word is the time when it is needed the most. If we can encourage them to continue praying and reading—perhaps by praying and reading with them it will help them draw closer to God. We have His promise that "...His mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 136). We can be comforted by the example of the children of Israel when they were in dire straits and "...they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:13 & 15).

Satan will use any method he can to bring grief to the children of God. If he cannot lead us into sin, he may try to make us believe that we have done wrong even when we have been faithful. We need to be careful that we do not become judgmental. If someone is depressed, we dare not assume that they have sinned. Depression can be caused by a variety of conditions which may include long-term illness, significant amounts of stress or other non-spiritual factors. It may be that there is a spiritual problem but if there is, time, prayer and patience will reveal it. If it becomes apparent that there is a spiritual problem that needs attention, encouragement should be given to the troubled individual that they seek spiritual counselling from their Elder or minister. If they are unable to go alone, offer to go with them. It is best not to apply too much pressure, but neither should the

problem be allowed to go on too long. Although the situation is not exactly the same as those described in Matthew 7:1-5 (removing the beam from our own eye so we can see clearly to remove the mote from our brother's eye) or Matthew 18:15-17 (approaching a brother about a trespass), the advice in the Word is certainly applicable as it teaches us how to approach situations in which cleansing and forgiveness are needed.

It is critically important that, rather than heaping guilt upon a distressed soul, they need to be reassured that where there is sincere repentance there is forgiveness. "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow" (II Cor. 2:7). This is not to say that sin should be ignored nor covered but rather that it be dealt with using love, compassion and forgiveness.

We may feel we have so little to offer that we should not even try to help. However, let us not overlook the value of even a small amount of help. When Christ was in the wilderness with the multitude, He didn't provide them with a large supply of food. He only gave them one meal and then He sent them away (Matthew 15:32-35). In the parable of the talents, the master did not require that every servant gain ten pounds. He was satisfied with a small return by those who did the best that they could do with what they had (Matthew 25:23). Christ also reminded us that "...whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42). One talent properly used, one cup of cold water given in love or one meal provided to the hungry will be blessed by the Lord.

Sometimes problems are such that an individual may need professional help. Some situations are very delicate and

require special care and consideration. If we are uncertain about the need for the individual to get professional help, we should seek the advice of someone who has had more experience. Getting involved in problems that are too deep for us to handle could cause additional problems or allow the existing problems to go on longer than is necessary.

Finding the right kind of professional help is very important. Many professional counsellors do not understand the importance of faith and the value it has in the healing process. Counsel from the ungodly can cause serious confusion and could lead to spiritual shipwreck. There are individuals within our brotherhood who have training in these delicate areas and who will give godly advice. Limited counselling is available through a special service that was established for our brotherhood. Initial help in this area is available by calling 1-800-747-9049. Those in the brotherhood who are providing this service will try to put the inquiring individual in contact with someone who can provide the kind of help that is needed. This service is not intended to replace the spiritual counselling of the Elders and ministers. It is designed to be used when there are problems that may not be of a spiritual nature. The world has forsaken godly counsel and has turned to the knowledge of man which sometimes may be harmful instead of helpful. Read Psalm 1.

Satan is cunning and is seeking whom he may devour but God is still in control. Although Satan brings much distress upon the world and even upon God's children, God's people have the privilege and duty of being our brother's keeper and helping those who are in need. By taking the time to be available, by listening with a compassionate heart or by helping someone in distress to find godly counsel we can help comfort one another.



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

Meeting Report

The Mission Committee met on May 2, 1995, and the following items were included in the agenda.

European Building Fund

This fund is used to assist in the building or remodeling of houses of worship in Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Germany. Inasmuch as our fund has a balance of only \$10,512, we have approved giving our brotherhood an opportunity to contribute to it once again. A letter to this effect was mailed early in June.

The greatest need is in the former Yugoslavia where buildings have been somewhat neglected due to the strife of civil war. Our brethren, however, are not directly in the war zone. There are additional needs in Romania and Ukraine, where we hope God will provide a measure of stability so work can progress.

East European Trip

Lord willing, brothers again plan to travel into Europe this September. They hope to visit Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, Ukraine, and Germany. Agendas are being prepared for meetings with elders and others in all these lands. We need to assess the progress of ongoing programs, determine needs for winter, and discuss various other matters.

Romania

The purchase of a building for worship in Caransebes has been finalized. Payment has been made, and the Romanians are remodeling the facility to be suitable for services plus a dwelling for a caretaker.

There was again much discussion on

a self-help plan for our Romanian brethren. It has been proposed that a fund be provided to loan operating capital to Romanians interested in establishing their own businesses. Interest rates are high there, and we hope that this program can be implemented if the way opens for brethren to visit them this fall.

Slovakia

Brethren here have purchased a house to be used for worship services. They have often expressed their thanks to us for help received.

Caribbean Work Teams

The Mission Committee reaffirmed a willingness to provide for the spiritual needs of brethren going to Haiti or Jamaica on work teams and that they should avoid intermingling with others of different doctrinal beliefs. Ministers have been accompanying these teams regularly and hope to continue to do so in the future.

RGMMI

Bro. John Klotzle gave a report on the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. A trip to India is planned for the fall of 1995, and he suggested that a member of the Mission committee who has not been to India would be welcome to accompany them on this trip.

Mexican Project

Since January, 1995, Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heindold have been living in Ixtlan, Mexico, and have started a ministry there. They report to us monthly on their activities.

It was agreed that elders representing the Mission and World Relief Committees should visit Ixtlan as soon as feasible. They will have a

chance to observe the spiritual activities as well as inspect a parcel of land available for purchase. After they have reported back to both Committees and the Elder Body, we anticipate direction for future involvement.

Committee Rotation

Members of the Mission Committee are appointed for an eight year term. They may be appointed for a second term and after that they cannot succeed themselves. The term of Bro. Phil Stettner of Bluffton North, Indiana expires in August, 1995. It will be recommended to the Elder Body that he be reappointed since he has not completed two full terms.

Silver Lining

A financial report from the Silver Lining indicated a slight operating deficit the past few months. Paper costs are increasing dramatically, as some of us are well aware when we buy household and office supplies. This indicates larger deficits in the coming months, and several ideas were considered as to how to deal with this. They included increasing the subscription rate, reducing type size and/or number of pages, and a contribution from the Mission Committee. This will be considered further, but we approved a contribution of \$10,000 at this time to cover present financial needs.

Suggestions Appreciated

The next meeting is scheduled for August 1. Anyone having a matter you would like to have discussed should contact any Mission Committee member or your local elder. Suggestions are always appreciated.



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

Humanitarian Aid Shipment into Ukraine April 1995

by
**Michael Gruber
Breidenbach, Germany**

Translated from the German language.

Note: Last year the furniture for the new church in Breidenbach was purchased and shipped from the USA. Since there was much room in the shipping container, it was filled with clothing and shoes purchased with World Relief funds. This is a report of the journey taking it from Breidenbach, Germany to Korovia, Ukraine.

The semi truck was loaded at our new church in Niederdieten, just a short distance from Breidenbach with 24 metric tons of clothing and shoes on April 22. Shortly after 10:00 PM on April 23, the truck left and we followed later meeting them on April 24 in Hungary at the last filling station before the Romanian border. Here we met Bro. Janos Namenji from Budapest, and his daughter Tündi. Shortly after 9:00 PM, the entire group was together at the Romanian border. We discovered a line of 45 trucks waiting for clearance through the border. We drove past this entire line to the first barrier, where our truck was stopped by a soldier. Hella went with our car to the customs office where she appealed for permission to enter the country. This took only a few minutes.

This was the beginning of our struggle with hostile forces regarding our papers. Bro. Ernst Pfister had been informed by the Romanian officials in Bonn via telephone that the necessary papers to permit transit through Romania could be acquired at the border. Inasmuch as our trailer had not been sealed, the officials viewed it as impossible to grant us

this permission. We went back and forth for about an hour and one half until we asked to speak with the chief customs officer. After a while, he came. Accompanied by another man, and as he approached, he greeted us with the words, "Christ is risen", since it was the Monday after Easter on the Romanian calendar. At that time I sensed that the way would open for us. It was a result of the prayers of the brethren and the entire church. The chief ordered the customs officials to approve our papers. We all thanked our great God.

Inasmuch as our drivers had been underway for more than 24 hours, we

mania from border to border is 325 miles, which we covered in about 12 hours with two or three short stops.

About 2:00 PM we approached the Ukrainian border. Here began the most difficult struggle with the authorities.

(Translator's note: Former shipments have nearly all taken a route leading through Ukraine instead of Romania, crossing into Ukraine from Hungary at Zahony/Chop, where the officials are used to dealing with our people. We have been through that border crossing many times, and it is easier to deal with the officials due to their previous experience in such matters.)



Journey from Breidenbach, Germany to Korovia, Ukraine (32 hours)

stopped after 24 miles for a rest of three hours. April 25, about 3:00 AM, we continued on our way through the lovely mountain country of Romania. The roads are very good in comparison to those in Ukraine. However, we needed to take detours through the larger cities because of the size of our truck. The driver was stopped once because he had not noticed the sign for a detour, and had to pay a fine of about \$9.00. The stretch through Ro-

The problems began with issuance of visas. The officials demanded \$150 per person from us, without looking into the semi trailer. Things went back and forth for about four hours until we resolved things with the help of the Lord. Our patience always seems to run out, but the Lord is faithful, even in our weakness. Here, too, there were men whom we needed for such

(Continued on next page...)

- 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 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
6476 S.R. 111
Antwerp, OH 45813
(419) 258-2197

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	2,740
September 1994 --	2,982	5,722
October 1994 --	2,317	8,039
November 1994 --	3,258	11,297
December 1994 --	3,559	14,856
January 1995 --	2,934	17,780
February 1995 --	3,381	21,161
March 1995 --	2,914	24,475
April 1995 --	2,048	26,523
May 1995 --	3,392	29,915

*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 AUCTION AND SALE

Saturday, August 19, 1995

Timetable of Events


7:30am	Meals
7:30am	Pre-priced Crafts and Bake Sale
8:30am	Gateway Woods Songs and Devotions
9:00am	Quilt Auction
	Craft Auction
	China, Art, and Antique Auction
12:00Noon	Speciality Items Auction

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

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children's Home

PO Box 151, Leo, IN 46765 (219)627-2159

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

**ALTERNATE
HOUSEPARENTS
NEEDED**

Houseparents are the very core of our program for the troubled children. Without these committed workers who come from all walks of life, we really have no program and our children have no one to be their mother and father figures.

Alternate Houseparents are key to making our system flow as they give regular childcare staff much needed relief and coordinate many of our maintenance efforts. It is very common for Alternates to eventually take over their own house as Houseparents. We encourage interested, mature couples to consider this rewarding work with children on a staff team of devoted believers.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information about qualifications, training, salaries, and benefits for these positions.

MANAGEMENT POSITION

Gateway Woods has a Child Care Supervisor position that has been open for quite some time. We are looking for a brother to help fill this need. Qualifications include: bachelor's degree in Social Services with two years experience in child care or a master's degree, excellent leadership, organizational, and interpersonal communication skills. Job responsibilities include recruiting, interviewing, training and supervision of child care and maintenance staff. In addition, this brother would serve on our Management Team. The salary range for this position is in the mid 30's.

Tim Sauder - Adm. Box 151 Leo, IN 46765 219/627-2159 (office) 219/627-2606 (home)	David Bertsch - Elder 11520 Grabill Road Grabill, IN 46741 219/627-2923
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**NOTICE GALILEAN
HOME PROJECT**

Work on the World Relief building project at the Galilean Home in Liberty, KY is now completed. Thanks to the many that participated in this project. Approximately 200 brethren and friends helped with this project. Anyone interested is invited to attend dedication and open house on Saturday, August 26, 1995. More details will follow in the August Silver Lining.

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria and Hungary containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book) and Zion's Harp Hymnals.

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

"Holy Love" and "Blest Be the Tie" tapes recorded in Hungary, feature orchestra and choral renditions of songs from the Zion's Harp and Long Book, as well as many of their Hungarian hymns.

We have received a great response in the sale of these five tapes and wish to thank everyone for their past support.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

The two tapes, "Holy Love", a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be the Tie", which has both orchestra and singing, are available at \$7.00 for each tape. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 or more tapes, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Hungarian tapes to the person you order from.

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forest View Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUR BRETHREN IN HUNGARY



Beautiful singing of praise to our Lord has been put on 5 tapes by our brethren in Hungary. These new tapes are being offered, with glory and honor given to God, to raise money to publish a new hymn book for worship.

Five 60 min. Tapes Available:

From Hungarian Churches

- 1.) Budapest, Vendegek: Dunavecse, Paks, Nagydorog churches
- 2.) Baja, es Ersckcsanad churches
- 3.) Oroshaza, Vendegek: Bekescsaba, Bekessamson churches
- 4.) Dunavecse Childrens Chorus
- 5.) Szeged, Vendegek: Hodmezovasarhely churches

\$10 Each or \$45/set, includes shipping, American Funds

"These tapes are made only for glory to God. Our wish that sisters and brothers in the States will listen them also for glory to God."

Elder Bro. Pap Janos

This project is being overseen by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman along with the Francesville and Detroit churches.

To order, contact the following individuals:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.) Sis. Doris Kurkowski
3540 Prairie
Berkley, MI 48072
810/544-2707 | 4.) Bro. Dennis Virkler
Rejoice Records
Ringger Ranch Recording
RR 4 Box 217B
Carlock, IL 61725 |
| 2.) Sis. Holly Barton
35502 Woodfield
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
810/489-1164 | 5.) Sis. Peg Schieler
RR 2 Box 50
Roanoke, IL 61561
309/923-7513 |
| 3.) Sis Harriet Orcsik
2670-5 Meadowbrooke Lane
Windsor, ONT, CANADA N8T2Y4
519/945-9964 | |

Send Funds with Order

SPECIAL NEEDS

Silverton, OR Church
Building Project

Due to the rapid completion process concerning our church edifice, we would like to inform anyone who is contemplating assisting in the completion phase to contact us at the job site. Please phone 1-503-873-8731.

For accommodations, phone Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi at 1-503-873-4853.

Bro. Orin Rufener has been directing the project.

Local project manager is Bro. Loren Dettlyer.

The edifice is now ninety percent complete with all brick, painting and trim being complete.

Our sincere thanks to all who have given so generously of their time for this building project.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." (Proverbs 22:1). What is a good name??? Being God's child is a good name. Being a Christian is a good name. Having a name that people recognize as a person having the godly characteristics of honesty, gentleness, kindness, generous, etc. is a good name. The people who live in our homes have another name which often emphasizes the disability or diseases. In our profession, we are encouraged to use "people first" language (saying a person with...or a person who has...) which creates an image of the person, not the disability or disease. As we think of how God addresses us, He uses the "people first" language. God looks at our abilities, not our disabilities. When God asked Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, God did not say to Moses, "the poor in speech person, I want you to lead the Israelites out of Egypt." As God is our Supreme example, we should focus on the Good Name, not on the faults, differences and disabilities of others and we should be deserving of the Good Name. "A good name is better than precious ointment;..." (Eccles. 7:1).

A large group enjoyed the wonderful hospitality, once again, of Floran and Twylla Streitmatter in Brimfield. The weather was beautiful and it was a very special time for all who were there. On June 9, a special music program was held in the multi-purpose room. Oakwood and Linden residents were also invited to attend. On Saturday, June 4, six of our residents went to the Special Olympics State Equestrian competition and brought home some nice medals and ribbons. Also, on Father's Day weekend, ten residents will be taking part in the Track and Field com-

petition at ISU. This event is for the gold medal winners from the area meet held in April.

AUGUST birthdays for all of our facilities are: ACHH - Dan McDonough (2), Robb Mueller (3), Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis and Peggy Full (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), and Barbara Perkins (30). At LINDEN - Steve Holmes (18). There are no August birthdays at the other facilities.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Sandy Leman

Fresh cold watermelon on picnics, hot sunny days or warm summer showers, dazzling fireworks on Independence Day--July has its own special blessings. The blessing of being able to worship as we see fit is one we are especially thankful for. God has been so good to us.

We, at Gateway Woods, are enjoying our time with the children out of school and available to do more together as "families". The first week of June was spent on vacations for each house. The Fiechters went to Washington, D.C., and were treated to a personal interview with our local Congressman, Mark Souder. The Girls' House spent a relaxing week in Florida, because of the generosity of people in the Sarasota congregation. The Schrocks went to see the sights in Chicago, IL. We want to say a special "thank you" to everyone who had a part in giving us the opportunity for such wonderful vacations.

We have a unique program which provides a summer job for those of our children who are too young to have other jobs. It is called "Top Quality: A Landscape Company", and it gives the children a chance to see what it is like to have a real job with regular hours, evaluations,

raises, and a weekly paycheck. At the same time, a few lucky people are getting top quality landscaping for a very reasonable price. Bro. Dave Kieser is coordinating the program with the help from our staff landscape expert, Bro. Trent Schrock.

The children who aren't working, and those who work part-time, also have opportunity to participate in our summer program. This involves field trips, service projects, and a weekly swim in the pools and ponds of some of our generous Leo people. We're glad to have Sis. Dawn Dick from Bluffton, IN helping to coordinate the summer program.

Our campus is, as always, changing as children leave and new children come to stay with us. Jennifer J. and Jeremy S. both left the Schrocks' House at the beginning of June; Jennifer to live with her mother and Jeremy to live with foster parents. Jodi C. left the Girls' House to go live with her mom. Robin E. moved out of the Fiechters' House and into a new home in Iowa to live with her family. The Schrocks welcome Rachel S., who came to live at their house in early June. We are anticipating other children coming to live at Gateway Woods throughout the summer.

We are so thankful for the work of our volunteers. In May we were blessed to have Sisters Lisa Waibel from Bay City, MI; Sara Zehr from Fairbury, IL; and Heather Wohlrab from Bradford, IL; and Brothers Brandon Rinkenberger from Chicago, IL; and Arlan Miller from Gridley, IL. So far in June, Sis. Lisa Kipfer from Bluffton, IN and Bro. Kevin Plattner from Goodfield, IL have spent time here helping us out. We are very thankful to have brothers and sisters who are willing to take time from their own busy lives to come and help with the work here. May God bless each one.

As the summer passes the half-

way mark, preparations for our Gateway Woods Annual Sale begin to increase. This year the sale will be held August 19. We appreciate the efforts of all the people across the country who work so hard to make the sale successful. There is always a need for extra hands to help out the first few weeks of August to get everything ready. We encourage all who would be willing and able to come and help us out, especially the week of August 19. We are also glad for everyone who can attend the sale. See if you can work it into your schedule this year.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Doris Fischer**

The beginning of summer has brought several changes to our preschool. We finished out the school year with graduation, which went very smoothly. This is a time when our students' friends and families can hear the children sing Christian songs and recite Bible verses, which for some is the only exposure they have to Christian teachings. After graduation a number of our students drop, some of whom will be returning in the fall, and some who will be going to public kindergarten. We have added even more students since graduation, so we still keep busy during the summer months!

On June 5, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard became parents of Bethany Joy. We rejoice with them on the arrival of their daughter, but with some sadness because Bethany's birth signals the end of Sis. Joan's working at preschool. She has cared for many children in her years of teaching; now we pray God will also bless her work caring for her children at home. We also want to thank Sis. Joan's mother, Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL), for her hard work at preschool while visit-

ing here.

June 5 also marked the beginning of our summer program. Our theme for the summer is "Miracles of the Bible". It is refreshing to see how readily the children accept the incredible but true happenings of the Bible. Their simple faith reminds us again of Jesus' words in Matthew 18:3, "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

We welcome some new faces among our staff, and some that have been here before. Sis. Marilyn Walder (Cissna Park, IL) has come to teach through the summer, and Sis. Linda Morrison (Mansfield, OH) has come to teach for several weeks. Both of them have taught here before, and we are very thankful to have them back, even if it is for a short time! We also enjoyed having Sis. Debra Blunier, Abbie Blunier (Eureka, IL) and Janelle Fischer (Roanoke, IL) volunteer here. Thank you for giving us your time and for all of your diligent efforts. We are grateful for volunteers to help with extra projects or to allow the regular staff to either take vacations or to catch up on our own projects here. If anyone is interested in volunteering or visiting the preschool, please contact Sis. Doris Fischer at (205) 230-9190.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

Greetings to all in the love of Jesus Christ! We rejoice because of our salvation and the blessings and peace that come with living a life for Jesus. We also rejoice because God has brought another soul to our small congregation. We welcome Bro. Tim Tomic and look forward to further fellowship with him.

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are rejoicing because

God has given them another granddaughter. Natasha Emily was born to Bro. Jay and Sis. Corolla Schlatter (Bay City, MI). May God be with this family as they raise their children.

We always enjoy visitors and invite anyone who is in our area to assemble and fellowship with us. Please contact Bro. Wladimir Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for information and directions.

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

We thoroughly enjoyed Memorial Day weekend. Athens hosted a weekend of singing and fellowship at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Thirty churches were represented, with a total count of 219 present. On Saturday evening, a singing was held in Athens church and again we assembled for church on Sunday in Athens. On Sunday afternoon, we met at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and participated in a day filled with singing praises to God and listening to the inspirational messages. We want to thank each one who attended, and those who lended of themselves to bring forth the inspired Word of God. It was a blessed and uplifting weekend.

Bro. Winifred Kelley and Woodrow Haggemaker have been hospitalized this month.

We appreciate those who take

the time on their vacations to attend Athens church. We hold services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Eccles. 3:1

Sis. Martha DeMille died June 4, 1995. Her visitation and funeral services were held at our Apostolic Christian Church. Sis. Martha had been in a nursing facility for eight years. Many of us gathered with her dear family, Ernie, Roy, Bill and Esther and grandchildren, as Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Bro. Bill Dotterer and Bro. Greg Gramm had the services. The choir singing was beautiful. The Lord blessed Sis. Martha, being an excellent baker. Somehow, you felt a cookie, or piece of coffee cake, just had to be there at her casket. Our sympathy to all of her many relatives.

Vacation Bible School was held June 12-16. Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), along with our home ministers and Sunday School department (VBS) teachers gave many fine teachings on the theme, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Let us keep the LOVE in church, as well as home.

"Where He leads me, I will follow." Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger and daughters, Sis. Fawn, Star, and Brook, have moved to the Pulaski, IA church area.

Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) will be in our Congerville, IL church area.

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank have retired and are returning to the Rittman, OH church.

Our prayers and God's blessings go with our dear ones. May God's love surround you and your adjustments come readily and smoothly.

The Bible Class had a pancake breakfast on June 3. No one can fully appreciate all a parent's work until you do it. The shared love was as good as the food. Our appreciation and God's blessings.

We rejoice with Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum on the birth of Lacey Nicole on June 8. She is also being loved by Brendon, Katie and Hilary, and grandparents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch are grateful for another grandchild. Jacob Andrew Zeltwanger was born on June 16 to Bro. David and Sis. Kelly (Francesville, IN).

Your prayers, along with ours, will be appreciated for Sis. Dorothy Kraft, Sis. Gladys Fisher, Sis. Tillie Gerst, Sis. Josephine Pamer, Sis. Josephine Martin, Gaylord Blunier and Jim Laukhuf. Sis. Clara Banwart's shoulder is better. We've had quite a few folks ill---more proof that we need the prayers of those we love!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Prescott has a new meeting place (Old Fellow and Rebecca Lodge Building). Services are every Sunday now. There is a minister from Tucson or Phoenix in attendance, the first and third Sunday; on other Sundays the message is by a conference call from Phoenix. Sunday services are 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. MST.

Bro. Harvey or Sis. Ethel Smith (520) 445-2164 will give you more details and names of available lodging.

The best way to reach this facility is as follows: From junction of Hwy 69 and US 89 follow Gurley Street

west through downtown Prescott to Gail Gardner Way. Turn right on Gail Gardner Way and continue to the 4-way stop at the fairgrounds. Proceed straight through the stop until you reach Whipple St. (Lamb Chevrolet). Turn right to the Odd Fellow Building at Sunset.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We partook of Communion together on Saturday, June 3. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Loren Knapp served Communion to us and we were again refreshed. We thank Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for making the trip to Tucson.

That same evening, a farewell was held for Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene Bertschi. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene have been a part of the Tucson church as far back as my memory goes. They will certainly be missed by us all. It is a loss for us and it will seem strange not to have them here. We hope they will be a blessing to the people of the Phoenix church in the same way they have blessed our church for so many years. God be with you!

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School next week. I hope the children are half as excited as I am.

Have a wonderfully cool spring; summer is here - 109 degrees today.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

My country, tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.
Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing;

Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

Gospel Hymns #738

Greetings!

As we again take the time this Independence Day to remember the birth of our nation, let us continually thank our Lord for the freedom we have in this land to most of all serve our God freely and to lead quiet and peaceable lives. As we think of the great freedom we have here in America, may our hearts reflect on an even greater freedom we have as children of God---our spiritual freedom from our past sinful lives and from the bonds and chains of Satan. As many men died for the freedom we now have in America, let's also remember that Jesus our Saviour had to die for us to have spiritual freedom. Because of this great freedom we have through Jesus, our hearts are filled with hope, joy and comfort that one day as the Lord promised, we may enter into that rest beyond the Golden Shores if we remain true and faithful to the end. Let us never take for granted both our spiritual and national freedom.

Our dear Bro. Richard Aberle underwent surgery in the second week of June and we are thankful that he is recovering very well. May we keep him in our prayers for his continual recovery.

Remember the Lord in all things and neglect not to worship is our prayer for our three dear graduates as they will be leaving to continue their education in other states. On June 11, we had a reception for them at Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl's home to wish them well. We will miss Shayna Aberle (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy) and Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. Lanae) who will be attending the University of Illinois (Champaign, IL), and Brian Crockett (Bro. Bob

and Sis. Judy) who will be attending Embry-Riddle University (Prescott, AZ). May God's blessings be upon all of them as they continue in their education.

We want to commend all those who will be traveling during the summer months into God's hands and pray that His traveling mercies be upon them. May each one receive many blessings as they visit various places. We're thankful for those who have already returned safely back to us.

Reminder: July is collection month for the Silver Lining dues in Altadena. The current rate is \$9.00.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA).

We heard many wonderful teachings. It was read how Jacob wrestled with the angel for a blessing and the need of prayer. How powerful prayer really is. God blessed Jacob in his time of trials. He was uncertain of what lay ahead when he met Esau.

We also have uncertainty in our lives. It could be in our schooling, where we work or even where we live. The Lord is always close by. We were richly blessed. Thank you for coming and for your labors of love. May God richly bless you. Also, thanks to all our many visitors. Come visit us soon!

Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop and their children have gone to visit their families in Hungary. We will miss them and pray they will have a blessed stay and safe return to us.

Our congratulations to the following three graduates: Thomas Bozzay (Bro. Tibor and Sis. Pearl) graduated from high school and plans to join the Navy in September and enter the medical field. Sis. Camille Vogt graduated from UCSD with a Masters in Bioengineering. Lela Holbert (Bill and Barb) has successfully completed eighth grade.

Bro. Bill Minger has been hospitalized. He suffered a stroke and is not doing too well. May God be with him during this difficult time.

COLORADO, DENVER

Joleen Elder

Greetings!!

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Ephesians 5:31-33

Trusting the Lord has directed their lives, the wedding engagement of Sis. Naomi Braun (Sis. Sharon Braun, Denver, and Herman Braun, Marengo, IL) to Bro. Charles Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand, Eureka, IL) was recently announced. The wedding date has been set for July 23, 1995. May God be with them as they join hand and heart and walk as one down the pathway of life.

We thank you loving teachers too,
For all your love and care.
You teach us of the heav'nly home,
How we may enter there.

Hymns of Zion #73

Thank you, Sis. Mindy Keifer (Bro. Mark), for your dedication

and love in bringing forth God's teachings to the Sunday School children and may God be near you, Sis. Naomi Braun, as you now take on the responsibility of teaching the young children in Sunday School.

We also recently voted on a Kitchen Committee. This responsibility lies with Sis. Lorraine Hohulin (Bro. Joe), Sis. Marcel Huber (Bro. Eric) and Sis. Cindy Schmidt (Bro. Rodney). May God be with each one who has been voted in to take on new responsibilities within the church.

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

May 16 was a joyous day for Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne Beutel, with the birth of their son, Evan Jay. His brother, David, and sister, Heidi, welcome him. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber.

Two new souls were added to the fold on June 4. Bro. Paul Hany (Bro. Peter and Sis. Jeannie) and Bro. Nathan Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) gave their testimonies on June 3 and were baptized the following day. We wish them much grace to walk this new path of life.

Assisting Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan with the testimonies was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We also had ministering Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) visiting with us this month. We want to wish them the Lord's blessings for their labors of love.

Sis. Frieda Hoffman went to her rest on May 20. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

We are thankful for our recovering hospital patients: Sis. Michelle Virkler (Bro. Wayne), Sis. Elsie Lanz, Bro. Lester Heintz (Sis. Helen), and Sis. Christine Virkler (Bro. Kenneth). May God be with them and grant them a speedy re-

covery.

We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to all of our high school graduates: Philip Schamback (Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen), Derek Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay), Shawn Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie), Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna), Chris Willis (Bro. Ken and Sis. Nancy), Jennifer Mangold (Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry), Jon Luginbuhl (Dale and Kathy), Steven LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Nathan Hoffman (Mike and Luann), Joy Hany (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy), Adam Beyer (Bro. James and Sis. Linda), and Bro. Stephen Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer** **Bonnie Rocke**

Summer is here. In this area it means lots of tourists, and hopefully more visitors in church. This area provides a wide variety of activities for all ages and interests.

Many have recently completed their education and are looking for employment. We urge you to prayerfully consider the Washington, DC area. The employment section in a recent Sunday paper was over 50 pages. Employment is not just in the city of Washington, but the whole metropolitan area.

In May, the Washington church had the opportunity to reach out to the Haitians. One of the downtown hospitals asked us to help pack medical supplies to send to the Port-au-Prince Hospital. With all the help that came, we made a day of packing over 190 boxes. We know our efforts and our outreach will be much appreciated.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). Other visitors this month were

from Rockville, CT; Congerville, IL; Akron, OH; and Croghan, NY.

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. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. Some from the area gather for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.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. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE **Mary Ann Klaus**

On May 28, many from Sunday School and Kingdom Kids spent the weekend in northern Florida. On Saturday they went to Busch Gardens and then attended Sunday School and church in Sarasota, FL on Sunday. Part of the cost of the trip was defrayed by some of the money making projects they had throughout the year. A special thanks to the adults who accompanied them and to the Sarasota congregation for the warm welcome.

Our annual elections were held on June 4. The results are: trustee - Bro. Rod Gress; Sunday School teachers - Bro. Ryan Huber and Sis. Caroline Hejja; hospitality - Sis. Claudia Green; sound system - Bro. Matt Graff; usher - Bro. Seth Sauder; Bro. Richard Sutter - a continuing five-year term as treasurer; and Sis. Doris Huber - a continuing five-year term as secretary. Thanks to all who served this past year; may the Lord bless you for your efforts.

We certainly want to thank Bro. Ron (Sis. Kayleen) Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) for their visit on June 11. His inspiring messages were an inspiration to all of us and made us want to have a closer walk with Him.

We also enjoyed having these

visitors from Haiti: Chavannes Jeune, Robert Maensou, Pelege Pierre, and Jean Cherie. They explained the conditions in Haiti and some of the projects being carried on there through the efforts of World Relief. Hearing about such things makes us all thankful for the blessings we enjoy here in the States. May we ever be aware of the needs of the less fortunate.

We are happy to report that Bro. Harry Sutter's surgery was a success and he is recuperating nicely. It is so good to have him back in church worshipping with us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, gifts, and especially for the prayers during my surgery and my 80th birthday.

Bro. Harry Sutter

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

II Corinthians 6:17

As man's laws and the practices of our society veer further from God's laws almost daily, the effect it can have on our children is dangerous. It becomes so crucial that we parents constantly examine and adjust our walk to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22). Our very perceptive children are "watching our walk". Let's be careful!

We, at North Ft. Myers, will not be having Wednesday evening services for July and August. So many of our already small group are going to be away. An announcement will come out here when we will resume services.

Our building addition has been started. Hopefully, all will be com-

pleted by the time our winter residents make their way down here.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Vera and Mary Martin

As summertime draws near, we start our plans for vacation. This time of year is when many of our congregation travel north for family gatherings and relaxation. However, as Christians we are not to let our armour down. Matthew 24:32-33 tells us, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near even at the doors." To the unbelievers, this time of year should be a reminder that the time of the Lord's returning may be very near. To the Child of God, the Bible says in Mark 13:35-37, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh... Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

We have had several mishaps this month. Sis. Paulette Cochran and Sis. Maria Bartoni are recovering from broken arms.

Memorial Day weekend we had a group from Ft. Lauderdale visiting us on Sunday and we want to thank Bro. Richard Sutter for lending himself for the ministry. We also want to thank Bro. Andy Moser for sharing God's Word with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

Our thanks go out to the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us. They are Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ). Also, Bro. Arnold Gerst and his wife, Sis. Marge (Taylor, MO), have spent several weekends here in Atlanta ministering to

us, as our Bro. Jeff Streitmatter and his wife were not able to be here. May the Lord bless these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

Tamara and Rochell McClain were blessed with the arrival of a baby boy, Justin William. He is welcomed home by a brother and sister, Julian and Paige. We are thankful that Tamara's mother, Sis. Liz Grimm (Oakville, IA), was able to come and help care for the children, as Tamara experienced some complications following the birth.

We meet for services every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. If you are planning on being in the area, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395, or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Millie Jepson

Congratulations to our high school graduate, Angela Mueller, and our eighth grade graduates, Katie Schifferer, Andrea McCoy and Tristan Mueller! May God bless them as they continue on with their education.

During the summertime our thoughts turn to vacations and family reunions and if your plans call for Wisconsin or places north, we hope it will include the Belvidere church. Also, Rockford is about 20 minutes from our church and it has a number of good motels. We always look forward to seeing visitors.

We are so grateful for all the visitors, young and old, and the ministers who visit us from time to time. We thank Bro. Richard Plattner and Sis. Mary Anne (Peoria, IL) for ministering to us the first Sunday in June. Bro. Richard's conclusion

to all that had been taught us that Lord's day was "Jesus makes the difference."

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest
frame,

But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Hymns of Zion #99

When visiting us in Belvidere, you can almost count on singing this song with our Sunday School children. It is one of their favorite songs and they sing it with all their hearts. Of our congregation of about 50, we are blessed with about 35 children, toddler age through high school age. With this blessing comes the awesome responsibility of teaching that "Jesus makes the difference". Newly elected Sunday School teachers are Sis. Sheila McCoy, Bro. Art Mueller, and Bro. Bill Schifferer, the adult Bible Class teacher.

Bro. Dave Jepson is the newly elected treasurer and Bro. Larry Gramm was elected the new trustee. Bro. Larry also headed up our Vacation Bible School this year for our Sunday School children and the neighborhood children. Their theme was "Kids Under Construction" and the theme verse was Colossians 3:20. On the last evening of VBS, Bro. Stephen Baner from Gridley taught the Adult Bible class. We appreciated his ministry very much.

On Saturday evening, June 17, after the busy, bustling week of VBS, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Ron Schambach served the members Communion. What a peace and quietness as we gathered together to partake of the Lord's table and remember Him until He comes. Truly, Jesus has made the

difference in our lives and we never can thank Him enough for suffering the rejection of men and shedding His precious blood for our sins. We dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock we stand -- all other ground is sinking sand!

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied**

The first weekend in this reporting period was a busy one for our church. On May 20, we had an opportunity to honor our mothers at the annual Spring Luncheon with the theme of "Sowing Seeds of Love". The program consisted of songs revolving around this theme and a light-hearted look at sowing these "seeds" by Sis. Eloise Howell (Gridley, IL). On May 21, we honored our graduating senior high school students at our annual Senior Breakfast. Bro. Mark Streitmatter presented each senior while summarizing their accomplishments, and then he and Bro. Dale Strassheim gave short inspirational messages. The senior students honored were Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Jill Bauer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marcia), Sis. Sara Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma), Sis. Jenny Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary), and Andrew Walter (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret). We challenge each of these students to make Christ the center of their lives and depend upon Him to light their path through consistent study of His Word. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105). On the evening of May 21, we enjoyed an all-church potluck and hymn sing. We treasure these opportunities for fellowship and praise.

June 5-9 brought us VBS which revolved around the theme, "Seeking the Shepherd's Heart". Our vis-

iting ministers were Bro. Nate Lehman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). Each evening one of these brothers would take an assigned part of Psalm 23, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, present a message to the Bible Class and adults on that section. It was also a privilege to hear the guest singing groups each evening. These included: Boundless Joy (Gridley, IL), Brothers in Faith (Peoria, IL), Quartet (Indianapolis, IN), and our own Young Men's Group. Truly, this is one of the greatest sources of blessing in our Christian lives, to hear His name lifted up and praised through such perfect harmony. The last evening of VBS, our three-year-olds through seventh graders raised their voices in song for the Bible Class and adults. We then were able to inspect their crafts that they had worked on throughout this week of learning more about God's Word and Christ's role in our lives as the "Good Shepherd". The charity project for which school supplies and money were collected was the Jamaican Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. These collected items were taken in person to this center by our Bible Class and their adult sponsors when they left June 8 to spend a week there working on a construction project. The students and their families worked hard to raise the funds to send them on this work team project throughout the past year. Their main undertakings were constructing a wall being built around the school and forming a driveway. It was reported that much was accomplished through their sacrificial labor despite the 100+ temperatures and high humidity.

We were saddened by the passing of Bro. Lyle Stoller on June 15 and our prayers and sympathy are with

Sis. Lois and her children, Kathy Kaupp, Timothy, Paul, and Philip, as well as his sisters, Sis. Roberta Stoller, Sis. Emily Stoller and Sis. Evelyn Hackenjos. Bro. Lyle's health had been failing for some time and he just recently had moved to the Eureka Home. We will miss his presence as part of our church family.

Note of Thanks:

Our family would like to express our thanks and deep appreciation to everyone for their love and prayers during Lyle's illness and passing. May God bless you all.

The Lyle Stoller family

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

We have recently celebrated the 218th birthday of our country. It would be wise to reflect upon the blessings God has been so good to grant us and our country. Since the Civil War, a war has not been fought on our soil. We have the freedom to choose not to bear arms and not to swear in court. We can worship as we please, without fear of interference from the government. We have many material blessings, and the list goes on. Sometimes it's hard to remember where these blessings come from when we have it so nice. But our hope is that the Lord will remind each of us often of our purpose here on earth, and He will find us ready and watching when He returns.

One of His "reminders" was the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Herb and Sis. Diana Rumbold in Bradford on June 10 and 11. We were reminded of God's mercy for us as He called us out of sin and His Son's unselfish death for us on the cross. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless Bro. Herb and Sis. Diana in their new walk with Him and lead them safely to Heaven's shore. We also would like to thank Elder

Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for coming to be with us and to share in the duties of the weekend with our Elder Bro. Marvin.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL). We want to thank him for lending himself for our edification.

Our prayers are with our graduates as they begin another step in their lives. High school graduates: Jeff Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta), Shane Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky), Sis. Donna Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma), Jenny Tanner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn) and Katie Slutz (Richard and Marilyn).

Eighth grade graduates: Kevin Klumpp (Bro. David and Sis. Barb), Lucas Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa), and Amber Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

Recently high school and junior high school students have completed their courses of study and have graduated. Our high school graduates are Tom Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) and Scott Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl). Our junior high graduates are Dona Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) and Jason Moser (Jim and Ginger). We wish each of them God's blessings, guidance and protection as they meet new challenges in the various paths that they will take.

We were sad to say farewell to Bro. Dean and Sis. Amy Kaisner as they left for Colorado where Bro. Dean will begin a new job. Another farewell was said to Bro. Matt Ackerman who will begin his career after being a student and semi-permanent part of our congregation for over six years. We wish the Kaisners and Bro. Matt God's protection, guidance and richest blessings in their new endeavors.

Many of us gathered together to ask God's blessings upon Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda Kupferschmid in their new home. We are thankful to have them as part of our congregation and appreciate their love and support.

Sis. Kathy (Schieler) Clarkson (Steve) has recently undergone surgery and is recovering at home. We pray that she will feel the healing power of God.

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."

Psalms 73:28

Vacation Bible School was held on June 12-16 and was attended enthusiastically by our regular C-U Sunday School students and some old friends as well. The general theme was Creation, with Bible memory verses, songs, activities and crafts centering around the wondrous handiwork of our Creator God. We pray that the seeds of God's life-changing Word can be planted and watered in the hearts of the children who attended.

"O Lord, how great are thy works!..."

Psalms 92:5

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

A friend of mine, in a very serious moment, said, "I thought as I got older I would understand the purpose of life more. Instead, I see less and less purpose." What could I say? I answered, "You know, I believe you're looking in the wrong places."

Besides letting people know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we need to show and to tell that He has become our Purpose for living. May we be the Lord's instruments to point others to Christ and

the Word of God that they may know life is worth living---for Him!

Last Wednesday evening we were granted a special privilege. Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Janos Sarok (Budapest, Hungary) shared the service. We heard Elder Bro. Janos in translation, though some in our audience understood his words twice. We were made aware once again how our bond in Christ goes far beyond the earthly limitations of where we were born and what language(s) we speak. Given this communication of the Spirit through such experiences from the Lord, we savor these foretastes of Heaven's joys.

Our building project has begun. We are grateful, first to the Lord, and for our building contractor and building committee who have tried to accommodate us while making progress. We also need to remain flexible through the next months as we juggle the effects of construction in the various areas of our church. May we support and alleviate adjustments for one another as much as possible, looking forward to that which the Lord is building through us.

A cousin and his family came to visit us, but before he arrived, because of the difficulties he had finding our house, he felt the Lord must have needed to teach him some lessons. I have been similarly reminded of my need for learning quite recently. No one likes pain, whether it is in body, mind, or spirit. My niece didn't have an operation because it was easy. Rather, she had it because the doctors felt it was important to her growth and health. Thus, the Lord deals with us. Every experience is in His hand. Even when we think we finally understand, when we say, "Oh, because of this I felt, I did, I became..." we have limited sight. Computer boards of the most complex level are *still* humanly fathomable (though not by me). Yet in

Heaven, we will see thousands of the smallest and most intricate connections between circumstances, events, and relationships, as we affected others and they affected us. May we remember who we are and why we are as we are USED in His hand and MOLDED by His hand.

After fifteen minutes of TV news in a hospital waiting room, I decided that my perspective could be shaken by such constant bombardment. One of our Sunday School brothers spoke on II Thessalonians 2:3: "Let no man deceive you by any means..." He used several examples. There was the outrageous odds of the lottery (only one of it-seems-millions of advertising messages tempting us in as many directions), the candy free aisles available in some stores so that mothers with children can avoid temptation, and a personal experience symbolized by seashells. As he explained it, even April visitors from the Midwest visit the beach in California, despite the extreme coldness of the water. He was walking along close to the tide, but avoiding it--fairly successfully--yet not entirely. He had felt the unbearable coldness of the water. He became more careful, so he thought, but, oh, here's a unique shell--and in that moment of distraction, the whole wave broke over him, soaking him, numbing him, so that he ended up staying in the water. Can we not see in that cold ocean water an analogy to sin? If we are walking on the sandy beach without a foundation and playing with the edges of the sin-tide, we are in danger. If we put ourselves close to sin situations, we don't have control over our point of numbness. Let us cling to the Rock of our Lord Jesus Christ and the light of His Word, the warmth of His love--where we remain attached by our continued obedience.

Prayers from inmost depth of

heart

Find the Master's favor,
And the Christian's highest art
Is to please the Saviour,
So should we Watchful be,
Waiting, hoping, longing
For His second coming.

Zion's Harp #174

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer

Anna Marie Reutter

I know of no greater joy than to walk with my Lord. To know He is always there in sorrow or joy, and that He cares for me and He cares for you.

Our high school graduates are: Thad Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol), Lee Hoffman (Sis. Elsie), Anthony Kaufmann (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy), and Sis. Rebecca Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally). We trust the Lord will direct the lives of all our young people as they make decisions in life. God has a purpose and place for each one.

We rejoice with Bro. David Maul (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) as he has felt the moving of God's Spirit and sought our Sis. Vickie Kaufmann (Bro. Sis and Sis. Sandy) to be his helpmate. Plans are for an August wedding.

The last weekend in May we experienced the blessings and joy of three souls who were born into our church family: Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria), Sis. Christina Martin (Bro. Randy and Sis. Patti), and Sis. Danel Stock (Bro. Gib and Sis. Kathy). These souls have left the ways of the world and completed the salvation plan by a true conversion; that of repentance, baptism, and the prayer of consecration by our Elders. May God direct their paths as they grow in the Spirit.

Also on this Sunday our little preschool children through second grade, along with their teachers,

brightened the day of our residents at Heartland Health Care with a plate of fruit and flowers. This is a work of love.

On May 24, Evan William was born to Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb. He has a sister, Leah, and a brother, Ryan. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Kaufmann. We rejoice with these families as they experience the blessings of children and grandchildren.

Visiting Elder brethren who labored in our behalf this past month are: Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Other ministering brethren were Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We appreciate the efforts of each one.

Little three-year-old Elizabeth Rudin (Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti) was hospitalized due to pneumonia and a virus. Sis. Joyce Bauer had a short stay in the hospital. Both of these people have recovered and we are always thankful for God's healing power.

On Sunday, June 11, marriage vows were promised as Sis. Susan Walder (Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles) was united in marriage to Bro. Dale Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol). May God direct this dear couple and each couple who take this step in life.

Our ministers were in charge of funeral services for 91-year-old Viola Hauz Hari Chupp, who passed away on May 16. Her first husband was Bro. Fred Hari who passed away in 1963. She is survived by a daughter, a sister, and three broth-

ers.

After a period of illness, Amos Steiner, husband of Sis. Esther Steiner, was set free from his earthly shell. Surviving children are Stanley, Elaine, and Carol, along with grandchildren.

Then, too, our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harry and Sis. Bonnie Young, whose brother, Dan, was laid to rest on June 14. His parents were the late Bro. Emil and Sis. Rose Young.

On June 16, services were held for 95-year-old Sis. Anna Hari who has resided at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN for the past 12 years. Bro. Elmer was her late husband. They reared a family near Rankin, IL. May God be near to each one of these families who have laid loved ones to rest. We are thankful for the legacy each one has left behind.

On June 4, the ACYF young people, along with teachers, met at the Bone center in Normal for a time of fellowship, learning and singing. The combined choir of over 400 voices from our area churches surely was pleasing to God.

This week will complete two weeks of Bible School for our Sunday School and Bible Class students. Our ministers, teachers and helpers have given much of their time and effort in behalf of our youth. Coming for the evening classes were Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We trust the blessings and rewards will follow.

This month we celebrate Independence Day. Through the two hundred and more years, America has experienced many things. Today we live in one of history's most difficult periods. The Prophet Hosea put it this way in Chapter 6, verse 1: "Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and

he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up."

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart - Beth Steffen

God Cares

In every leafy tree of green,
In every budding rose,
In every ray of sunshine,
In every breeze that blows.
If you'll look and if you'll listen,
You will find God's presence there;
A beautiful reminder
Of His constant love and care!

We apologize that we forgot to list Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) as our visiting minister in the recent months. We also thank Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for ministering to us.

Vacation Bible School was well attended. One of the Bible verses for the three and four-year-old class was "I will be with thee." Exodus 3:12, a blessing to remember.

Sis. Natalie Stoller has moved back to Indiana and will worship at LaCrosse again. We miss her presence and work at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

Bro. Brent Walder has graduated from U of I with an actuarial science degree and plans to accept employment in the Rockville, CT area. Dan Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn) acquired an agronomy degree from U of I. Receiving a degree in math from ISU was Sis. Andrea Knapp (Bro. Jon). May all use their talents to glorify God.

Our sympathy is extended to Art and Lena Miller on the death of their son-in-law, Jerry (Carolyn) Carter, of Texas.

Submitting to surgery again was Jim (Elda Mae) Craig. We pray for him as he recovers at home and also for Sis. Andrea Knapp who is confined to bedrest.

Joined in Holy Matrimony on

June 4 were Chris Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis) and Michelle Gastman (John and Sis. Barb). We wish them God's blessings and appreciate their worshipping with us.

Our high school students and eighth grade graduates participated with young people from 22 area churches in ACYF Day at Normal on June 4. The theme verse was: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (I Corinthians 2:9)

Our Sis. Wilma Sauder met her death quickly in a car accident on June 5. As was said in her funeral service, "It was in God's time - His allowing - that in that exact portion of a second she would be where she was. As much as one-fourth of a second could have made a difference. It's a necessity to be ready when God calls us out of this life." Sympathy is extended to her brother, Bill, of Arizona; and sisters, Sis. Verna (Bro. Stan) Hodel, and Sis. Jean (Bro. Charles) Kupferschmid of Roanoke; Sis. Maryann (Bro. Cap) Beer of Milford, IN; and Sis. Lois (Bro. Duane) Steffen of Congerville; and many nieces and nephews.

A heartfelt welcome is extended to Sis. Nancy Dotterer who moved from Phoenix, AZ. We hope she will enjoy worshipping with us and pray we can help each other on our journey to Heaven.

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich on the birth of their first daughter, Jessica Lin, on June 15. Brother, Tyler, welcomes her along with grandparents Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri Dietrich and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

In true repentance, die to sin,

In Jesus' name believing!
Baptized into His death with Him,
Full pardon be receiving!

Who dies with Christ will with
Him rise,
A new life's way before him lies,
The road of life with Jesus.

Zion's Harp #106

We rejoice that two dear souls have died to sin, received full pardon and now entertain the hope of rising with Christ. Karen and Janice Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) gave their testimony of faith and were added to the fold of believers the weekend of June 10 and 11. May our new sisters in faith, as well as each of us, find grace to follow Jesus every step of the way along the road of life that they may be with Him, eternally. We are thankful Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) could be with us for this blessed time and were willing to be used to perform the Lord's work.

Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) also has died to sin and found peace in her heart. We rejoice with her and anxiously await the hearing of her testimony, trusting God will always grant His nearness to her.

Bro. Keith (Sis. Ida) Kellenberger was recently hospitalized. We are thankful it was not more serious and he is once again able to assemble with us.

"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."

Psalms 23:4

Sis. Emma (Bro. Lester) Heiniger was suddenly called from time into eternity on June 11. How thankful we are that our God walks with us each step of the way, even through the valley of death, so there

indeed is no need to fear. May God comfort her loved ones left behind; her dear husband, Bro. Lester; sons, Dale and Bro. Don (Sis. Peg); grandsons, Scott, Brian and Chad; sisters, Sis. Rose Reber and Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Ralph) Levy (La-Crosse, IN); and brothers, Bro. Bill (Sis. Ann) Reber, Ernest (Mary) Reber (Peoria, IL), and Fred (Mildred) Reber. May we all be prepared to walk the valley as Sis. Emma did, without the presence of fear.

We were recently informed that Sherri (Schock) Vanagas (Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny) graduated from Aurora University with a Master's Degree in social work. God bless Sherri in her future endeavors.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

We just finished an inspiring two weeks of Vacation Bible School. The memory work that each child does as they go through each class will benefit them their whole lives. As we get older, there are some stories and teachings that we don't remember learning; they just seem to have always been in our hearts and minds.

Baptized into Thy name most
holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and
lowly,
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead
to sin;
Thy spirit now shall live within.

Zion's Harp #41

We were thankful to witness the baptism of Nathan Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) on May 21. We rejoice with Nathan and may God's Spirit always be with him.

On June 11, the engagement of Bro. Chuck Wiegand and Sis. Naomi Braun of the Denver, CO

congregation was announced. Bro. Chuck moved to Denver from the Eureka area. Their parents are Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand of Eureka, and Herman Braun of Elgin and Sis. Sharon Braun of Denver. We wish them the fullness of God's love and blessings.

Our prayers have been with recent hospital patients, Tracy Le-man (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis) and Maury Crawford (Sis. Joyce).

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid. They had a little girl, Rebecca Rae, on June 12. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL).

We will miss Bro. Melvin and Sis. Leona Weyeneth as they have moved to Roanoke and will be worshipping with the Roanoke brethren.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathryn Schumacher and Sis. Lorine Stoller who lost a son and brother, Stanley Schumacher, of East Peoria. He died on June 6. We also remember in prayer the family of Bro. Lyle Stoller (Bloomington, IL) who also passed away recently. He is the son-in-law to Sis. Anna Wettstein and brother-in-law to Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand.

We appreciated the ministry of Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) as they recently spent Sundays with us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Now it is accomplished!
I now become free;
From sin and transgression
Redeemed I shall be;
The prince of this world,
He enslaveth his own,
A Christian thro' Christ

Has his liberty won.

Zion's Harp #209

This month we celebrate Independence Day...a special day when we are thankful for the freedom and liberty of our nation. But how much more every day we should rejoice in, and be thankful for, our freedom from sin and liberty from the bondage of Satan!

Two more souls are learning of this blessed freedom in Christ. We are so thankful for Janelle Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Shay Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) as they begin on the pathway of repentance. May God grant them His abundant grace.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

St. John 8:36

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 threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

This threefold cord now binds the hearts and lives of Bro. John Fehr (William and Helen, Forrest) and Sis. Jennifer Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley, Forrest). Many of us were witnesses as they took their marriage vows at Forrest on June 18. We welcome Sis. Jennifer to our congregation and wish them the Lord's rich blessings.

Also on June 18, the engagement of Bro. Todd Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) to Sis. Cynthia Edelman of Bern, KS (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn) was announced. May they continue to feel the Spirit's guidance as they plan for their future together.

Two daughters of Bro. Eldon and

Sis. Darlene Steidinger are undertaking Holy Matrimony. Dawn Steidinger was united in marriage to Sam Finch of Mahomet (Wayne and Mary Jeanette) on May 13. A July 22 wedding is being planned by Vicki Steidinger and Ron Mueller, Jr. (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida, Forrest). We wish both of these couples God's guidance as they begin their lives together.

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Les and Sis. Sally Fehr and Marcus welcomed a new little bundle, Tanner Lloyd, on April 29. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

The home of Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami Bahler has been blessed with a little girl. Ashley Lyn was born on June 5. Her brothers, Mark and Eric, and grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler, welcome her home.

Again, we were richly blessed to have visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us. We thank Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and their families for coming to be with us. May God bless your efforts.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ray Slagel (Sis. Gladys), Sis. Elsie Bachtold (Bro. Willis) and John Gaston (Joan).

We extend deepest sympathy to Sis. Barb and Bro. Marion Meiss in the loss of her brother, James Douglas Pratt, 58, of Possum Kingdom Lake, TX.

Here the dearest of ties we must sever,
Tears of sorrow are seen ev'ry day;
But no sickness, no sighing forever
When I've gone the last mile of the way.

*Gospel Hymns #819***ILLINOIS, FORREST****Marlene Walter****Mary Bachtold**

We are always thankful for ministering brothers who share the Word of Life with us. Visiting us were Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), John Stoller (Leo, IN), and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). Also, we thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) for lending themselves on our Bible Class students' behalf during Vacation Bible School. May God richly bless them for being willing servants.

June 14 marked the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette. A reception was hosted by their children, Curtis (Congerville, IL), Kay Davis (Forrest), Vicki Bellis (Racine, WI), Kevin (Towanda, IL), and Julie Shambrook (Roberts, IL). They have also been blessed with ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. May God continue to bless them as they walk this path of life together.

We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Kristi Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA). May God bless them as they take this step in faith to join their lives together.

Bro. Leroy Koehl spent time in the hospital this month. We pray that he will feel God's healing touch and soon be able to assemble with us again.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz and family in the death of her brother,

Earl Staedeli (Tucson, AZ). May God comfort them during this time of sorrow.

A son, Daniel Ray, was welcomed into the home of Tom and Barb Schlatter. His brother and sisters are Craig, Abby and Karen. Grandparents are George and Ann Elwood (Hancock, NY) and Bro. Dan Schlatter.

"Thus united and in concord Let us walk the path of life...". June 18 was the wedding day of Sis. Jennifer Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. John Fehr, Fairbury (William and Helen). May the Lord always be present as an unseen Guest as they establish their home together.

Notes of Thanks:

As God has so tenderly touched our lives, by calling our precious Gabriel home to Him, we want to thank each one for your prayers on our behalf. We can say without a doubt that we have felt the prayers of the brotherhood. God has been so good to us in granting such a peace and comfort and we are truly humbled. May we each one be encouraged, as we stand on Jordan's stormy banks, to cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land where our possessions lie.

Humbly, Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Leman and family

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered us with cards, flowers and monetary gifts for our 55th anniversary, especially to our children who hosted a nice dinner for us. We appreciated everything. God bless each one.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Louise Honegger

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Barb Brim**

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will

rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

We were so blessed this month in Goodfield to experience all of these promises of the Lord in rich measure; with overflowing cups we praise His holy name.

We rejoiced with Bro. Dana Plattner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne) as his engagement to Sis. Kim Meister (Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat) of Peoria, IL was announced.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalms 37:4

We wish you God's love in abundance as you walk together in His will.

We also rejoiced with our dear friend, Gretchen Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene), and Brent Kupferschmid (Lonnie) as they celebrated the union of their lives in marriage. May your hearts grow together in God's grace and love.

God's grace and lovingkindness were very evident in the testimonies and baptisms of our church family's two newest members, Bro. Greg and Sis. Jenny Wiegand. It is always an inspiration and blessing to witness the way our Lord's love changes the hearts of men. God bless you both as you share together in His goodness.

Our Vacation Bible School "Stages of the Christian Life" was certainly an uplifting experience, the messages timely and educational for all. We wish to thank Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), and Bro. John Stoller (Sis. Pat, Leo, IN) for the time and effort spent in preparation and presentation. We truly appreciate your willingness to

further the Lord's work in our lives. Many thanks are also extended to the three singing groups who performed so beautifully the praises of God's love. Thanks to the Gridley Quartet, Four His Glory, and the Mortonaires; your melodies were spiritually uplifting and very much enjoyed.

Our beloved Bro. Willis Wiegand is home and recovering well from heart surgery. We are all thankful of God's mercies and grace not only toward Bro. Willis, but in our lives as well. Rejoice!

Thanks are extended to the visiting ministers who shared so unselfishly with us this month. Thank you, Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), and Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol), and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie) of Oakville, IA and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) for your devotion to our Lord's service. We appreciate your efforts.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger delivered his last sermon on Sunday morning, June 11. A special potluck supper in the fellowship center was held later in the afternoon to commemorate his retirement from all duties.

Bro. Edwin was installed as a minister on February 2, 1960. On August 27, 1972, he was instated into the Eldership. He exercised his gifts and talents with diligence. He always had a "ready mind" for the things of the Lord. May God be his rewarder, both now and in the life to come.

Bro. Robert Gramm had surgery a second time, and is recovering. After a lengthy hospital stay, he is now at home and doing well.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein observed their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception on June 4. It was hosted by

their children and grandchildren. They are the parents of seven children: Gloria Volk, Bloomington; Bro. Cleve Klopfenstein, Peoria; Marty Klopfenstein, Gridley; Sis. Judy Knobloch, Normal; Stan Klopfenstein, Heyworth; David Klopfenstein, Downs; and Sis. Cathy Hohulin, Roanoke.

Bro. Justin Meece and Sis. Heather Martin were united in marriage on May 27. We wish them the Lord's blessings in this lifetime commitment. She is the daughter of Byron and Sis. Katie Martin. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece, Goodfield.

A first child was born to Bro. John and Sis. Joan Yoder. She was named Alexis Lanae. Grandparents are Sis. Lavielle Yoder, Gridley, and Devon Yoder, Rutland; and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerry Schrock, Congerville.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanette Lavalier were blessed with the birth of their second child, a son, on June 1. He was named Joseph James. He has a sister, Jenae Rose, 19 1/2 months. His grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Gridley; and Irene Lavallier, Che-
noa.

During the week of June 12-16, our congregation held Vacation Bible School. While our grade schoolers were in session in the Sunday School, the high school students and adults met in the sanctuary each evening for presentations centering on the theme "Our Ship of Faith". Speakers were: Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger who filled in for a speaker unable to attend. It was a blessed week, and we appeal to God to add the increase to all the teaching efforts.

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Our dear Sis. Florence Schmidgall, who by God's grace, reached the age of 100, was called Home on May 28. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless her three sons, Bro. Bruce, Paul and George; her three daughters, Virginia Michael, Sis. Eleanor Uhlman, and Sylvia Schmidgall; her sister, Sis. Evelina Sinn; her 30 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

We are thankful that there are loved ones who are willing to be used of our Lord in teaching His precious Word and planting the seed of life into the hearts of our young people and children. We are prayerful for our newly elected Sunday School teachers: Sisters Carol Schick and Barbara Zimmerman and Brothers Jeff Kieser and Doug Kruse. May we continue in prayer for all who teach Sunday School.

Our church is rejoicing with two dear couples who God has drawn together. The announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. April Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry) to Bro. Brad Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris) of Roanoke, IL. Also, Bro. Melvin Baum and Sis. Linda Stewart (Peoria, IL) were announced to be married. May God continue to bless and guide these couples as they plan their weddings and continue to walk this road of life together.

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 5-9. It was a blessed week as every age group met from 2-year-olds through adults. The following visiting ministers had lessons throughout the week for the high school age students: Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Nate Lehman (Tucson, AZ). The theme for the adult Vacation Bible School was

ILLINOIS, MORTON

"Knowing God as Our Father". Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), and Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) brought us messages on this topic. We wish to express our thanks and gratitude for all those that traveled to bring us God's Word during this special week.

Note of Thanks:

The Pflederer families wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for the prayers and love shown at the time of the sudden loss of our sister, Lorana Pflederer.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Many shared in the joy of Bro. Matt Triplett and Sis. Kristi Rieker as they were united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, June 11. We wish them the blessings of the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett and Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker, all of Peoria.

We rejoice with several other couples who will be married in the next few months. On May 28, Bro. Dana Plattner of Goodfield, IL (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne) was announced to marry Sis. Kim Meister (Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat). December 31 is their special day.

Sis. Linda Stewart is engaged to Bro. Melvin Baum of Morton, IL. They will be married July 16.

Also, Sis. Shannon Elsasser was announced to Bro. Jeremy Zimmer of Bluffton, IN. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl of Bluffton and Bro. Jim and Sis. Vickie Elsasser. They are planning an October 8 wedding.

Sis. Marie Kipfer and Sis. Esther Welk, both residents at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home, went Home to be with the Lord recently. We extend our condolences to their families.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Dennis Binkele following his recent death. He is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Gladys Binkele and a brother to Sis. Jo Anne Hoerr. May God comfort your hearts.

Peoria just recently held Vacation Bible School. We want to thank all those who so willingly gave of their time to make this a special week. We especially want to thank our visiting ministers. They were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL).

Pauline Hermann and Don Geef were both hospitalized recently. We pray that they may feel God's presence during their recovery.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

I Timothy 2:1-2

May we be especially prayerful for the leaders of our land this month as our nation celebrates its independence. Let us also be prayerful for those who "watch over our souls", that God would prepare their hearts and grant them wisdom in the upcoming Elder Conference in August.

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

On May 21, Bro. Perry Kieser and Sis. Krista Scholl were united in Holy Matrimony. Bro. Perry is the son of Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne Kieser of Bradford. Sis.

Krista is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Scholl.

Our prayers go with our recent graduates as they leave high school and enter a new chapter of their life. Our graduates are Kerry and Sis. Wanda Baer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Janna Lou), Holly Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen), Mary Ehle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), B.J. Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette), Scott Eberle (Marvin and Sharon), Naomi Streitmatter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn), and Jim Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray).

We had Vacation Bible School from June 12-16. A lot of prayer, time and effort goes into this week for all to go well. A special thank you to all who helped. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for speaking to the Bible Class during this week.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Doris (Bro. Walter) Christ at the passing of her brother, Bro. Richard (Sis. Wilma) Teubel, of the Pulaski, IA congregation.

Reminder: Princeville Silver Lining dues are due this month.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

"...Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

St. John 20:29

We are thankful that there were three more souls added to the fold this month: Vi Hinthorne (Bud) was baptized May 24. She is the mother of our Sis. Janet Knepp. Jim and Connie Hodel were baptized May 28. May God bless these new babes in Christ and grant them the grace to support the traditions and doctrines of our church body so that we can preserve the faith that

our forefathers worked so hard to keep for us.

Our congregation has also been blessed with several new births this month. Hannah Marie Sauder was born May 26 to Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy. Hannah has three older brothers who welcomed her home: Jonathan, Steven, and Jesse. Grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder.

Grant William Leman was born on May 27. Grant is the first child of Bro. Dave and Sis. Stacy Leman. Grant's grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Helen Leman. Grant was born on the anniversary of his Grandpa Leman's (Bro. Bill) death who was taken from us in an accident on May 27, 1992.

Elisabeth June Leman was born June 1 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen. Joseph, Mary, Frederick and Daniel welcomed their new little sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman.

Bro. Brad Hartter and Sis. April Kruse have announced their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse (Morton, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter. We wish them God's blessings as they seek His will together in their lives.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Verna Hodel and Sis. Jean Kupferschmid. Their sister, Sis. Wilma Sauder, was taken suddenly in an auto accident on June 5. May God fill the void in their hearts and lives. Sis. Wilma (Congerville, IL) touched so many lives.

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN).

"...narrow is the way...which leadeth unto life" (Matthew 7:14).

This was the theme for our adult Bible School. We thank our ministering Bros. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for their willingness to give of their time to speak to us on "Our Pilgrim Journey".

Samantha Harris (Bro. Todd and Sis. Andrea) had to return to Springfield Burn Unit for some skin grafting. Sis. Wilma Sauder (Elder Bro. Don) was also in the hospital for a short time. We are thankful that God has again answered prayer and they were able to return home again.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT **Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
Proverbs 3:6

We wish the best to our high school graduates. Our prayer is that they will acknowledge the Lord and follow His direction in all the decisions that they make in life. Our graduates include: Jamie and Joel Koch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy), Michael Meister (Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy), Melissa Pulfer (Kathleen), Eric Rocke (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Kathleen), Christy Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice), Bro. Kevin Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann), Jim Schweigert (Dan and Connie), and Daniel Wagenbach (Bro. Simon and Sis. Laverne).

Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel were blessed with a precious little girl, Katy Sue, born May 16. She was welcomed home by her two sisters, Stephanie and Sheila, and her two brothers, Greg and Tim. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Eunice Beutel and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach.

The only visiting minister this month was Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). We thank him for his willingness to serve us.

Jerry Hangartner (Sis. Melba), Margaret Staker (Daniel), and Roberta Schweigert (Cliff) all spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that God will restore good health to each one.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Beverly Staker in the passing of her husband, Lester Staker, and his children, Rodney of Morton and Rickey of Groveland, and grandchildren.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Beth Stuber in the passing of her brother, William Emich (Akron, OH).

May God comfort the hearts of all who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON **Susan Ruppert** **Denise Romersberger**

How do we grow through trials? How do we maintain our hope during distress, or our joy in the time of sorrow? The answer to these questions is that we become overcomers. While this sounds simple, it is difficult to practice. Becoming an overcomer is part of life. It often occurs in the time of trials, temptations and testing.

Overcomers learn never to ask "Why me?". Instead they ask "How can I grow stronger?" To be an overcomer you have to make sense of your pain or struggle and commit yourself to the battle. God promises to be there to help us be overcomers. We need to ask for His guidance and tell Him our trials.

Christ Jesus is an overcomer. He died and rose again, overcoming death and Satan. He has been through life and knows from experience about the ups and downs and struggles of life. We have the power to overcome any situation in life

through Christ. We may not be able to change the pain or the struggle, but with the right attitude we can overcome any situation.

People notice those who overcome because they can see a difference in how struggles are handled. We know that that difference is the power of Jesus Christ in our lives. Thank you, Jesus, for being always there to help us overcome.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed Teubel and his family on the loss of his brother, Bro. Richard. May Bro. Richard's family feel the prayers of those around them.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL) who spoke at our monthly Bible Study. Thank you for your labors of love.

We have one high school graduate this year. Congratulations to Phil Wagenbach, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Marie. May God go with you as you head out into life.

Vacation Bible School was held last week. The youngsters and the teachers enjoyed learning about The Armor of God, as found in Ephesians 6. A collection was taken for the Sunday School in Mexico, where Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold are ministering to others. Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler brought back snapshots of the children there, as well as pictures drawn by the Mexican children. This really made it very real to the children here. We have been glad to have Sis. Jan back with us for several weeks. We continue to wish them the best God has to offer in their endeavors.

We here at Washington have been gratified to see God's Spirit direct us in the process of voting on a brother to be Elder for our congregation. Bro. Ron Messner, Sis. Pam, and their children have our prayers and our support. The results of this vote will be taken to the Elder Body in August.

50th Anniversary for Eugene and Kathryn Funk

An open reception from 2 to 4 p.m., August 13, at Roanoke Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall, will celebrate the golden anniversary of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Funk of Washington. Their children and grandchildren will host the event.

Eugene Funk and Kathryn Knapp were married on September 16, 1945. They are the parents of Sis. Leila Witzig of Peoria, and Bro. Keith Funk of Roanoke. There are five grandchildren.

Bro. Eugene is retired from farming and Sis. Kathryn is retired from teaching in the Gridley school system.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:10-11

These verses will be familiar to anyone who was involved in our Vacation Bible School this year. We have finished a blessed two weeks with 454 students. Thanks to many for their prayers, efforts and willing hearts.

We want to welcome Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber to our congregation. We hope their family will soon feel at home here in Bluffton.

We recently had four pastors from Haiti visit us for Wednesday evening church service and Thursday morning Bible School program practice. They expressed their gratefulness for the help and finances that the Apostolic Church sent them to help build schools, churches and to drill wells.

We have had many loved ones hospitalized this month. They were Bro. Dick Yergler (Sis. Lil), Sis. Sylvia Bertch (Bro. Oscar), Sis. Lu Moser (Bro. Ervin), Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner (Bro. Tom), and Bro. Tom Pfister (Sis. Barb). We wish them much grace and strength each day.

We were saddened by the passing of Bro. Ralph Gerber on May 31. We pray that God will comfort and encourage his wife, Sis. Devona; their children, Jan Ringger (Kent), Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bro. Ron), Sis. Susan Byerly, and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee), and the grandchildren.

Our hearts were touched with sympathy for Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett and their family, when we learned of the death of Bro. Dick's father, Richard Everett.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

On May 31, Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie Tonner were blessed with the arrival of Brockton Lee. He joins Trevor and Clayton at home. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

Allen and Carla Steffen were blessed with a new son on May 13, Tyler Allen. His grandmother is Sis. Irene Steffen.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen welcome a new grandson, Alex Wayne. He was born on May 18 to Brent and Sharlene Byerly.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Gladys Gerber celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 27. We rejoice with them and ask God to bless them with more happy years together. We wish the same to two newly wed couples:

On June 10, Melinda Steffen and

Michael Mosser were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen and Rod and Jane Mosser.

June 17 was the wedding day of Genevieve Barger and John Gordan. Genevieve's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon Barger.

Two souls have begun walking with Christ in repentance. They are Julie Swisher and Rachel Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth). May God's grace be with them.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Hymns of Zion #106

We rejoice with Leslie Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) for she has turned away from the world and has chosen to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. May God feel her personal battle and provide the strength and grace to overcome life's obstacles.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest." On June 11 we were happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Shannon Elsesser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Vicki) from Peoria, IL. We wish them God's blessings.

June 11 was the wedding day of Brian Pugh and Shelane Neuenschwander. We wish this couple the Lord's blessings and guidance as they became as one. Their parents are Larry and Cindy Pugh and Bro. Ted and Sis. Deb Neuenschwander.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami Kaehr welcomed Natalie Kristine into their family on May 21. Big brother and sister, Preston and Cecily, will be on hand to help with her care. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber and Bro. Richard

and Sis. Karen Kaehr.

Bro. John and Sis. Laura Beeks rejoiced on May 30 as Sawyer Robert arrived and made them parents. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Dubach and Tom and Paula Beeks.

On June 3, Dave and Kim Bertsch added another little girl to their family. Rachel is home with two sisters and two brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman and Sis. Frances Bertsch. May God direct their lives as they raise their families.

We want to send out an extra prayer for all of our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital this month. They are Daniel Schorb (Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Goldie (Bro. Art) Kipfer, Sis. Lillian Levy and Bro. Carroll (Sis. Louise) Gerber. May we spend a few extra minutes to send a special prayer for the healing of these dear souls.

Bible School was a blessing to all who attended this year (teachers and students) as our theme was "Be Strong In The Lord". We need to teach our children to be strong and put on the good armor, the helmet of Salvation, the breastplate of Righteousness, the belt of Truth, hold up the shield of Faith, and the sword of the Spirit. With our armor, we shall be strong in the Lord.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

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

Over 200 years ago our country was granted freedom from a tyrant "mother" country. Freedom is a blessing because it gives us choices. Spiritually, we need freedom from our sin nature and praise God that the battle has been won by our Lord Jesus Christ. Now our duty is to

remain faithful to Him who has freed us. Once again, we are thankful for those brothers who have the freedom to come and go as they please in this land of America. Bros. Doyle Frauhiger and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Victor Beer (Sarasota, FL) all visited us this past month and shared the good Word with us.

May 21 was the wedding day of our Bro. Earl Johns (Donald and Roberta) and our Sis. Stephanie Gutwein (Bro. Rod and Sis. Donna). We want to wish God's richest blessings on their marriage and we look forward to having them serve the Lord Jesus Christ as "one" in our church.

We are glad that Bro. Keith and Sis. Joann Gudeman have recently moved to our area and are now attending church here in Francesville. They have three children: Jacob, Jonathan, and Allison. We know they will be missed in Detroit, but we are happy to welcome them here and we wish them God's blessings as Bro. Keith has taken new employment.

Bro. Eugene Huber (Sis. Mildred) and Sis. Valera Culp (Bro. Walter) have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that God's healing mercy will be upon them and that His strength will encourage them in the way.

Bro. David and Sis. Kelly Zeltwanger are thankful for their new bundle of love; Jacob Andrew was born on June 15. Also welcoming him home are big brothers, Ryan and Joshua. Jacob's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger (Valparaiso, IN).

Simeon Jeffery was born on April 22 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz. Simeon has three brothers, Jordan, Obed, and Ezra, and two sisters, Cheree and Mahlia. Grandparents are Bro. Nate Gutwein and Bro. Harold and Sis.

Sherry Fritz (Minneapolis, MN). Simeon has one great-grandmother, Sis. Ruth Heinold (La-Crosse, IN). We wish them God's love and direction as they bring this bundle from Heaven up in the "nurture and fear of the Lord".

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Sandy Lichtle

Lauretta Schafer

On June 3-4, our church had the privilege to host an Outreach Weekend. Our thanks goes out to those who came to help us show deeds of kindness and lend helping hands to ones in need. May God be glorified as we daily look for opportunities to show His love.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Do you begrudge the transportation time needed to get your children to their activities? Don't. Consider it an opportune time to share with them the values you hold so dear. Share examples of how God helped you through difficult (or joyful) situations. Share memories of loving family members. Share the many blessings of living in an independent country such as the United States. You will enthusiastically think of many more things you want to share with your children as you ask God to reveal more ideas to you. In your mind add this phrase to the above verse, "and when thou drivest in the car." Your change of attitude will quickly change a lemon into delicious lemonade.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

Congratulations to our second high school graduate this year! Sarah McClanahan (Drue and Diane) is finished with high school.

Special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month, all of whom came for Vacation Bible School: Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) spoke on the topic "Fear, Good and Bad"; Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) covered "My Parents' Values are Different. Why?"; and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) spoke on "Foreign Spirits at Large: Beware!". Thanks also to their wives and family members for coming along. We enjoyed our Sunday School students' program following the week of VBS!

May we each offer thanks for the many freedoms we have been blessed with in our country. There are so many individuals in other countries which can only dream of such freedom. We are reminded each year at Independence Day of the many lives that were lost to buy us this freedom. It is important also to remember the one Life that was given which bought eternal freedom for the entire world!

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

It was mentioned last month that I was traveling. It is good to be home again. I am grateful for the Lord's care and blessings during my travel and visiting. Three weeks of the time I was away were spent in Papua New Guinea among tribal people. They have little material goods but love the Lord Jesus and are very enthusiastic. In the village where my nephew, Tim, ministers (actually is translating the scripture), they have services every night. They have no electricity, so they meet with lantern light. It was very muddy there this time of

year, and the first Sunday we attended church (barefoot), one brother brought a bucket of water so we could wash our feet before going into the building. I thought of the Bible times, when Jesus was here on earth. May our Lord bless each of you as you travel this summer.

A surprise "thank you" fellowship dinner was held May 27 at the Fellowship Center for Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier in honor of their many years of service. He retired from the ministry on Christmas Day, 1993, but is still serving in many other ways.

Our new church building was open to the community on Sunday, May 28, from 2-4 p.m. Many from the area also attended the services that day.

Bro. George Zimmer passed on to his eternal reward on June 1. He was 87 and had been in failing health for several years. The last time I talked with him, he said, "Pray the Lord will be gracious." Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Helen; their daughter, Diane Souder (Fort Wayne, IN); and son, Dennis (Clinton Park, NY); and five grandchildren. Also surviving is a sister, Sis. Emma Lou Gerber (Mishawaka, IN). Services were held June 4 at Leo Apostolic Christian Church.

On the evening of June 10, an open house was held at our new church building for Elder Bro. David Bertsch and his family, in honor of his service as Elder. Many memories were recalled as the dinner and evening progressed. There was also special singing.

On June 11, dedication of our new church building was conducted by visiting Elder Bros. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). Elder Bro. David Bertsch reviewed the history of the church and thanked those who had put in many

hours of volunteer labor. It was a blessed service and we appreciated the many visitors that shared our joy. There were tours through the building following a fellowship dinner.

On June 18, we welcomed Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH) and were blessed by Bro. Paul's service for the Lord. His morning message was interrupted when Bro. Jack Bollier suddenly and unexpectedly became violently ill. He could not leave the assembly room on his own power, but at the hospital they could not find any major problem. They are still taking tests.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. David Bertsch was able to assemble with us after going through some tests last week; also, Bro. Levi Pfister and Sis. Minerva Stoller, who had both missed several Sundays due to medical problems.

Sis. Emma Levy, residing at The Cedars, was relieved of her suffering, as the Lord called her Home on June 19. Our prayers are for her only sister, Sis. Mayme Getz, and her family who lovingly cared for Sis. Emma until her care exceeded their strength. We sympathize with surviving brothers, Bro. Ralph Levy (LaCrosse, IN), Walter Levy (Bremen, IN) and their families.

As we remember Independence Day, July 4, may we thank our God for the "land of the free and brave" where we have the opportunity to freely worship Him.

AMUSEMENTS

Amusement is a theme quite strange,
What could one's motive be
To set in verse this modern word,
Which charms society.

Amusement is a fleeting joy,
Attracts the modern mind;
Such transient joys allure the soul,
But leave it cold and blind.

Amusement - vain and fleeting
art!

If we are not aware,
Will crowd the noble virtues out,
And leave us groping there.

Amusement, made and framed by
man,
Is Satan's cunning snare;
For some will say I see no harm,
Such simple joys to share.

My soul, take heed, be on thy
guard!
How can our Saviour go
With us if we would crave such
joys,
And still His grace bestow?

If mere amusement, transient
joys,
Take up our leisure time,
Then much is lost. -- How can we
gain
The things which are divine?

The time we spend is not our own;
Then squander not His days!
And may our time, and what we
do,
Redound unto His Praise.

Bro. Henry Beer

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Judy Longcor

We are thankful for our visiting ministers who came and spoke the true Word of God to us. These brothers were Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). May God richly bless them for their labors.

Our graduates this year are: Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat), Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby), Bethany Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue), Sis. Monica Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen) and Verena Zimmer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor). We want to wish

each of these students God's nearness and guidance in their future lives and plans.

We are so thankful there are souls who are heeding the call unto repentance: Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat), and Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby). Our sincere prayers are with them as they each build a firm foundation with their Lord and Saviour.

The group of brothers, sisters and friends which traveled to Juarez, Mexico for a work project the first of March held a reunion here in Milford on June 11. The tie of Christian friendships are so precious. May each of these never forget the special times they had together.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Bro. Carlton) in the recent death of her sister, Sis. Wilma Sauder, of Congerville, IL. We pray God will comfort Sis. Mary Ann at this time.

This past week we held our Vacation Bible Sunday School with the theme of "Lessons in Song". Each evening there was a different hymn which we had our lesson on. These hymns were used in relationship to our walk of life. The week was such a blessing for us all. Our guest ministers were Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). May God bless each of these brothers for coming on our behalf.

We are all rejoicing with Bro. Lee, Sis. Sandy and Marc Beer as they recently adopted a baby boy, Drew Alan, who was born on April 25. May God bless their home with love and joy.

As the summer begins and vacations are planned, may God watch over us all as we travel the highways.

**INDIANA
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Heather Steffen**

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Philippians 4:13

The past school year showed our Purdue group exactly what Paul meant. Through Bible distribution, our mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to bring salvation to all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues. It has been very exciting getting numerous calls from people around campus wanting Bibles in various languages. We ask for your prayers as our mission continues next year. For your interest, we give out 39% of English Bibles to 61% of foreign Bibles in 34 different languages. Our top five foreign Bible requests are for Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French, and German. We praise God for giving us this incredible opportunity and thank you for your prayers in the past and for the future.

Purdue hosted College Weekend this past fall. From various speakers and through discussion groups, we learned more about the Holy Spirit.

Over Spring Break, some brothers and friends traveled to Haiti on a World Relief project. They were able to provide many Haitians with the Bible written in their own language of Creole.

Congratulations to 1995 graduates of Purdue University! They are: Tony Bucher (Indianapolis), Matt Dubach (Bluffton North), Clay Frank (South Bend), Bro. Cory Gerber (Bluffton North), Bro. Rob Honegger (Bluffton North), Bro. Mike Klopfenstein (Leo), Derek Leman (Francesville) and Bro. Brandon Moser (Valparaiso). We wish them all the Lord's blessings as they follow His will while beginning their careers.

We want to thank all of the ministers who came to Purdue's Thursday night services. We appreciated your obvious love for us and your willingness to study the Bible with us. A special thank you also goes to Bro. Neal Widmer, our resident minister, and to Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, our counseling Elder, for all of your dedication to our Purdue group.

Have a great summer!

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini**

"O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep."

Psalms 92:5

Brian and Shelly Schneider are first-time parents of Bryana Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and Mr. and Mrs. Rick Siela.

My husband, Bro. Albert Schini, had hernia surgery on May 31. He did very well. It is amazing how the field of surgery has changed.

Our Vacation Bible School was the week of June 5 through June 9. It was a week of blessings. Since we and Wolcott share this week and it was their turn this year, I will not repeat what they may be writing. Good work was done in the planning.

We welcome Bro. Alan Schambach from Elgin, IL to our church. He has found employment in our area.

Yesterday we learned of the engagement of Rochelle Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda) and John Ward (John and Rosa) of the Wolcott area. We are happy for them and wish them God's blessings. John has been coming to church quite a long time. Those of us who have learned to know him think he is a fine young man.

My closing thought: Be kindly

affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer**

As Father's Day is commemorated in the month of June, we set aside time to thank "fathers" for their tireless efforts and dedication. The lessons of valuable insight taught through the example they live is very greatly appreciated.

We joyously extend our congratulations and God's blessings to Bro. Jeff Dotterer and Sis. Lynn Martin on their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

A precious baby girl, Amber Nichole, was born to Bro. John and Stephanie Schlatter on June 13. Amber is welcomed home by a sister, Victoria, and grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI).

Sunday, June 11, services were conducted by visiting Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). Their uplifting messages were truly an inspiration to our assembly.

Recently, too, we were fortunate to have Bro. John Klotzle from the Altadena, CA church for Wednesday evening services. Bro. John and Sis. Lois have several children living in the Midwest. Their son, Joe, remains with us in the South Bend area until he completes a consulting assignment for his employer in Torrance, CA.

We continue to enjoy the presence of visitors traveling through this area. Our church is easily reached by exiting the 331 Bremen exit off the new U.S. Highway 20 by-pass.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf**

In the name of Jesus Christ, dear

ones, we greet you all and hope this last month has been a blessed one for you.

It's been a blessed month for us as we just had the privilege of having Communion and the installation of Bro. Garry Bucher as our deacon. We pray for God's continual guidance to lead him in this new position. Our special thanks to Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for their labors on this spirit-filled weekend. Also, to their wives and families for sharing their husbands with us.

Also coming and sharing God's Word with us this month was Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). The Lord continue to bless all your ministries.

Our prayers remain with Bro. Roy Frieden (Sis. Aldene) as he continues rehabilitation and is slowly improving. We love and are encouraged by you, Bro. Roy.

Until next month (the Lord willing), we bid you all farewell and keep up the good fight of faith.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

What glorious state to be a lamb
of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's
loving grace.
In all the earth there is no higher
standing
Than this--to follow in the
Saviour's ways.
What all the world could never
give,
A lamb of Jesus from its
Shepherd will receive.
Zion's Harp #16

May 20 and 21 was a special weekend, as three dear souls were taken into the Family of God. Bobbi Ann Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), Brian Blume and

Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) gave their testimonies and were baptized. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) here to assist Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in this joyful occasion. Also visiting were ministering Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We also appreciate their service unto us.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Kara Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine) have forsaken Satan and the world, and have chosen to walk the straight and narrow path that leads to Heaven. May God grant them grace to overcome the evils of this world.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Marybeth Lehman were blessed with a new baby daughter. Little Adrienne Jo arrived safely on May 26, and was welcomed home by Kimberly, Maria, and David. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Mae Lehman and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA).

Also blessed with a healthy baby boy were Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab. Weston James was born on May 27. Big sisters and brother are Stefanie, Marissa, and Marcus. Weston's grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab and Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May God provide for these two couples as they strive to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Our high school graduates this past month were Bro. Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Kelli Waibel (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marcia). Also graduating from nursing school was Sis. Sharon Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita). We wish God's blessings and direction on each of our graduates as they pursue further schooling and careers.

May 31 was another blessed eve-

ning, as Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) brought forth a message on "Grace" at our evening Bible Topic service. We so very much appreciate his efforts to share the Holy Word with us.

The week of June 5-9 was a busy one at Wolcott, as we hosted Vacation Bible School. Our theme for the week was "Who Owns You?" Topics discussed were Friends, Family, Career, Satan and Jesus Christ. We were thankful to have the following visiting ministers give of their time and efforts throughout the week. They were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN).

June 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA). We wish them God's blessings as they establish a Christian home. We welcome them as a new couple to our Wolcott congregation.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) ministered the Word to us on Father's Day. May we each take time to appreciate our many blessings from our Heavenly Father, as well as remembering the love and guidance of our earthly fathers.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Lorna Knapp

Two dear souls have been released from earth's trials and have gone to their reward. After spending his latter years in the Peoria Nursing Home, Bro. Jesse Eisenmann was brought home and laid to rest on May 18. Also, the funeral of Bro. Walter Stoller (Oakville) was held in Burlington on June 9. We pray their families may find comfort near to the heart of God.

Even as these earthly bodies have been buried in the bosom of the earth, an old sinful life has been buried in the waters of baptism. We rejoice with our new Brother in Christ, Darin Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail), and wish him much grace on this pathway to Heaven.

These special services have afforded us the added blessing of several visiting ministers. With us at various times throughout the past month have been Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), John Steiner and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God grant a double portion of His Spirit to all His willing servants.

Several loved ones have spent time in the hospital recently. Our prayers have been with Bro. Blaine and Sis. Margaret Applegarth, Bro. Ken Scheitlin (Sis. Charity), and Ken Massner (Rose).

Our children enjoyed a week of learning at Vacation Bible School at the Fellowship Center along with the Oakville children. We thank the many mothers and teachers for giving of their time and talents. May the Lord bless their labors to bring forth much fruit in due time.

We all enjoyed much food and fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic. These times create many warm and pleasant memories for our children and draw us together as a family of God.

Bro. Dennis Massner (Sis. Gail) and Sis. Monica Eisenmann (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine) have our prayerful support in assuming the duties of Sunday School teachers. We appreciate the efforts of both outgoing and incoming teachers as they look to God for wisdom in guiding young souls.

On Independence Day, we traditionally honor our forefathers for

the price that they paid for the freedoms which we now enjoy. This is good. Yet how much more should we honor the One who paid the price that we might have freedom from sin!

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you for the many cards, gifts, prayers, and other deeds of kindness since the passing of our father and grandfather, Bro. Jesse Eisenmann. May God bless you all.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann

Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann

Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann

Virgil and Elizabeth Eisenmann and Families

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden**

Israel could not enter Canaan because of their unbelief. There is many a promised land from which we are excluded for the same reason. For instance, how many of us enjoy the "perfect peace" which is the privilege of the true believer? How many of us have gotten beyond "hoping" we are saved and "trusting" we are forgiven? They which have believed "do enter into rest". But this Canaan is denied to the only half believer. He is like a foolish child lingering on a cold, wintry tempestuous night out in the snow and the wind, while all is warm and tranquil at the fireside within -- the supper spread for him, and a vacant seat placed at the table ready for him -- because he cannot bring himself fully to believe that if he lifted the latch he would receive instant and joyful welcome. (Leaves of Gold)

Bro. Bert Butikofer (Sis. Beulah) had the misfortune of spraining his ankle. We have missed him at the pulpit and are glad to have him

back. Sis. Kathy Butikofer (Bro. Tim) recently broke her leg. These sprains and fractures happen so quickly but healing time requires much patience. May God provide.

Two of the blessings we share in our faith is traveling to one of our other churches and having guests come to visit us. We were recently thrilled to have Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Plattner (Zapata, TX) with us for midweek services. We appreciate Bro. Lee's willingness to serve us from God's Word. We are thankful for all our ministering brothers who are faithful to their calling that our souls may be edified and nourished.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk**

We have appreciated having visiting ministers this past month which include Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). May God's blessings rest upon those who come and serve us so willingly.

As summer is upon us, the children are out of school and many activities are planned: Vacation Bible school, family vacations, field work, baling hay and many other summer activities. We pray the Lord will watch over and guide each of us as we go about our daily lives.

If you are in our area, we invite you to come worship with us. We have singing every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Church services are at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. every Sunday. All are welcome.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We are again thankful for all of our visitors this month. Especially in the summer, our gathering sometimes gets very small as travel plans take us out of the area over the weekend. If anyone will be traveling to or through

our vicinity on your summer travels, please call us---we enjoy visitors!

The first Sunday in June was our Sunday School picnic and election for teachers for the following year. We thank those who gave of themselves this past year and pray God will direct those who will instruct our children beginning this fall. May the stories of Jesus be written in their hearts so that when He calls them, they will recognize Him and welcome Him into their hearts as a gentle Friend, a loving Saviour, and an all-wise Lord.

Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus
Sang as they welcomed His birth.
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore,
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Tell of the cross where they nailed
Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid
Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender
Clearer than ever I see;
Lord, may I always remember
Love paid the ransom for me.

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Hymns for the Family of God
#215

Summertime has also taken some of our students elsewhere for a few months. We pray God will be with you and look forward to having you assemble again with us in the fall.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

We have had many reasons for rejoicing this past month in our congregation.

We're so thankful that Tina Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) has heeded the call to repentance. Our prayers are with her as she seeks to build on the firm foundation.

The engagement of Bro. Brad Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla) to Sis. Trinda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) was made known. Bro. Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) is engaged to Sis. Kristi Ifft (Congerville, IL). Sis. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley of Forrest, IL. We pray for God's blessings on both couples as they plan for a marriage in Him.

On June 6, John and Karmin Popkes were blessed with a daughter, Shayna Leigh. Grandparents are Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR). Bro. Dan and Sis. Re-Jean Knobloch, Nate, Josie, and Sadie welcomed Ned Robert into their family circle on the same day. Grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger. Little Kayla Marie was born to Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger on June 14. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Metzger and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). May God bless these families and help us all to be an example to our precious children.

We appreciate our ministers who

faithfully share with us the Word of Life. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi, and Bros. Rex Frieden and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

We also have those in our midst who have suffered sorrow or bodily affliction. We extend sympathy to Bro. Dave Teubel and family on the death of his brother, Bro. Richard Teubel (Pulaski, IA). We also share sorrow with Bro. Wilbert and Bro. Earl Knobloch, Lydia Moser, Sis. Emma, Sis. Paulina, and Sis. Violet Knobloch on the death of their brother, Ernst Knobloch. May God comfort those who sorrow.

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Wilhelm (Sis. Elizabeth) Nester and Bro. Edward (Sis. Amelia) Roemen. Randy Ludwig is at home recovering from a heart condition. Our thoughts and prayers are also with our dear Bro. August Feucht who is grievously ill at home. We pray for God's nearness and healing where it is His will.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we have had in our midst, including Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May the Lord bless all of them and their families for allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit.

May the Lord bless two dear couples who recently have been joined

in Holy Matrimony. They are Bro. Ted Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha) to Sis. Carrie Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley, Pulaski, IA); and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald, Sr. and Sis. Bonnie) to Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley, Wolcott, IN). Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they now take the second most important step with the Lord by their sides.

We are thankful for five dear souls who have turned their back on the world, repented, found peace and have been baptized. We welcome each one of them into our fellowship as new brothers and sisters in faith. They include: Bros. Jeff Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol) and Chad Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra), and Sisters Natalie Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy), Tricia Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. MaryJo) and Erica Kuntz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Beverly). It was a blessing to all of us to hear their testimonies.

Our sympathy is with those who have lost loved ones in our congregation. May the Lord comfort Bro. Ernie Frank in the loss of his brother, Bill Frank. Our thoughts are also with Bill's wife, Lucile, and his daughter, Ruth, as they were unable to attend the funeral because they were involved in an accident on the way to church. We just pray the Lord can heal them physically as well as comfort them.

Our prayers are with Sis. LeAnn Siegle (Bro. Bob) and their children in the loss of their father and grandfather, Arnold Anderson (Ames). He often enjoyed visiting with many from our area.

We also miss our dear Bro. Walter Stoller. Our thoughts are with his sons, Paul and Dean, and their families. We know they thought alot of their father and grandfather. Also, a special prayer for Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and their boys as they had become very close

to Bro. Walter since he moved to Mediapolis. Bro. Walter appreciated their care, concern and time spent with him very much.

We recently had our Sunday School election. We're thankful for the efforts put forth by those brothers and sisters whose terms are over. Those elected to serve new terms are: Bros. Chris Grimm, Marc Wagenbach, Monte Lanz and Sisters Carol Schmidgall and Charlene Wagenbach. May they ever feel the Lord's guidance as they instruct these young lives.

Another little bundle from Heaven has entered the hearts and home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach. Jordon Jay is welcomed by big brother, Jaydon, and big sisters, Brittny and Lindsay. Also thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington, IA).

IOWA, PULASKI

Carol Wettstein

We read in II Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight:". We have experienced a very wet and cool Spring, and how easy it is to complain about our crops, gardens and dreary weather. May we all have that simple faith as believers that God is in control and will surely provide for our future.

Bro. Richard Teubel (Sis. Wilma) was certainly an example to all of us as one who had portrayed a deep faith and a love for the Lord. He was called to his eternal rest after a long battle with cancer, and leaves to mourn his dear wife; two sons, Bros. Paul and Kenneth (Pulaski); and four daughters, Janice Johnson (Bloomfield), Sis. Donna Manz (Junction, OH), Nancy Teubel (Bethesda, MD), and Sally Santi (Astoria, NY). Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) were with us for

the funeral service.

Bro. Albert Wuthrich spent some time in the hospital, but we're thankful he is improving.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Bringing God's message to us on Memorial Day weekend were visiting ministers, Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). It was a special Sunday for our graduates and they were given encouragement and a kindly invitation to seek the Saviour before they get caught up in the wickedness of the world.

On June 10 and 11, West Bend hosted the Youth Fellowship weekend. Churches included in this special weekend were Morris, Winthrop, Minneapolis, MN; Lester, Elgin, and Iowa City, IA. Among the host of children were Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA). Bro. Charles spoke to the group on Saturday evening. He gave them such timely advice and spoke to them of the many choices that they must make in this life. Encouragement was given not to put off the most important step that they do need to make, because sometimes God does call us out of this life in what we would call an untimely death, but He has a reason for all things.

We rejoice with the angels above as Nicole Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) has peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism in the near future.

Our sympathy goes to John and Cindy Bruellman and family on the death of Cindy's mother, Margaret Harms (Algona, IA). May our dear Lord, who knows all our cares and sorrows, comfort the hearts of this dear family.

Our prayerful thoughts go to those who are ill or in the hospital. Those hospitalized during the past month were Bro. Bert Thomann, Andy Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie), Bro. Rick Kellenberger (Sis. Karen), and baby Elijah Banwart (Steve and Kris). All have been released from the hospital and we pray the Lord will bless each one with good health again.

Our annual Sunday School election was held on June 6. In our preschool, Sis. Heidi Fehr replaces Sis. Carole Fehr; Sis. Lonnie Metzger replaces Sis. Karen Kellenberger in the third grade; Bro. Cameron Knobloch replaces Bro. Ken Dahlhauser in the fifth grade; and Bro. John Schmidt replaces seventh grade teacher, Bro. Mike Wirtz. Our prayers are with these sisters and brothers in their new duties, and we want to thank the sisters and brothers who have filled their six-year terms. May God bless them for all their extra time given to our youth.

A number of first-time parents have welcomed precious little ones into their lives and homes recently. On May 24, Robert James came to live with Larry and Beth Banwart (Bonita Springs, FL). His grandparents are Bob and Kay Banwart and Calvin and Virginia Husman (Quimby, IA).

Stephen and Kris Banwart welcomed Elijah Stephen into their home on May 26. Grandmothers are Sis. Patricia Banwart and Joan Wichtendahl (Minneapolis). Bro. Art and Madeline Banwart are Elijah's great-grandparents.

Heather Rose came to live with Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Fehr on June 3. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler are her grandparents. Great-grandparents are Sis. Tillie Mogler, Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger, and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr

became the parents of Ashton James on June 6. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. James and Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Great-grandparents are Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz and Sis. Nima Fehr.

May God bless all these precious new lives, and grant their parents and extended families much grace and Godly wisdom as they strive to bring them up in God's ways.

Special thoughts are with all our fathers as Father's Day draws near. Our thanks to them for their diligence in providing for their families, but much more for their prayers and spiritual guidance through this life. May God richly bless them as they continue to look to Him for grace and strength in their responsibilities. Also, the fathers who have passed on before us are remembered with love and appreciation.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Toru and Junko Saigusa

June is a rainy season here in Japan. We usually have rain two or three times a week. Most people don't like a rainy day, but it is not bad to stay at home reading books, listening to music, and talking with family or friends on such a day. Depending on the way of our thinking, we can feel more comfortable under the bad situation.

We have had awful experiences since the beginning of this year. In January, a very big earthquake attacked Kobe area, which was bigger than San Francisco quakes in 1989. We felt sad to know a lot of people were killed and lost their houses by the earthquake.

Another awful news made us tremble soon after that. A series of terrible happenings were caused by Oumu Shinrikyou, a crazy religious group. They made sarin gas five times, one of the most terrible gases

that we human beings have ever had. Needless to say, most of us didn't know of this gas before that. And as an experiment, they first sprayed that gas in Matumoto, Nagano prefecture next to our prefecture last June. And next time they put several plastic bags with sarin in them in the subways of Tokyo on March 16. Many people were killed and injured.

On the very day I happened to get on the same line of the subway the direction of which was just opposite about at the time. I trembled to think of it afterward.

Because of Oumu matters, people began to think that religion is a very suspicious thing. They have tended to have suspicious eyes toward religion. I hope they will tell Christianity from crazy cult.

In a sense, it was the greatest shock that a lot of young people with high intelligence were attracted to Oumu and joined as believers. What made such young people walk toward the cult? What attracted them? Many of those young believers seemed to be seeking for the meaning of their lives and the place their hearts and minds could rest in.

The importance is that they could not find an answer for their seeking among traditional religions including Christianity. We should think what we can do for such seeking persons. If our church is not attractive enough to make their eyes gaze at our Lord Jesus, what is our church for? And for whom is our church?

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Why didn't this voice reach people? We want to listen to the Lord's voice and reflect ourselves. "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."

We pray the Lord will guide us and help us with our powerlessness and helplessness in our days.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We are now entered into our annual rainy season, which will last until the end of July, and which gives us many cool, wet days. It can be very tiring to see day after day of rain, but at least it keeps back the hot days of summer for a while.

Recently I've had the opportunity to spend several evenings at a neighbor's home. Sitting down at a meal with them always starts out very interesting as I start with a prayer. To those of us who have grown up in Christian homes, there is nothing unusual about doing that; however, the Japanese have no concept of biblical prayer including prayer for blessing food. Meals in this land are started by everyone saying "Itadaki-masu" ("We will now partake") and are ended with the phrase "Gochisou-sama-desu" ("We've been treated to a feast"). However, such phrases have no spiritual meaning and are not in any way directed toward God.

Not only is prayer for meals at home unheard of, prayer out loud is even more of a peculiarity. I have never heard a Japanese utter a prayer out loud for everyone to hear except the Christians I know. When non-Christians pray here, it is usually a few claps before an idol, a bow of the head, and a short, silent prayer. Those prayers are usually for the well-being of ancestors, or for blessing of future endeavors.

So when I prayed I felt a little like the Apostle Paul must have felt blessing the food before heathens on the ship to Rome. These people around me surely don't understand who I'm praying to or why I'm praying. After some explaining, though, they were able to grasp somewhat the fundamentals of Christian

prayer and thanks before a meal.

Let us be glad of our Christian heritage! There are so many things we take for granted, and sometimes we don't stop to think of the meaning of our Christian traditions. God bless you all in your Christian walk and in your prayer life.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman Lori Baumgartner

Our long cool rainy spell came to an abrupt end as hot dry winds moved in. As I daily tended to my garden, I was amazed at how quickly my row of peas, heavy with developing pods, began to look stressed. Immediately, I began to water them, knowing that without sufficient moisture they could not fill out their pods properly. How quickly they responded to the watering and seemed to revive overnight. I had to think how much we as Christians are like those garden peas. When the hot, dry winds come into our lives, we MUST take time to water ourselves from God's Word or our developing fruits will wither and die. Then we will not bear the fruit that our Lord desires us to.

We rejoice as we have three souls seeking the Lord in repentance: Clint Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), Rhoda Meyer (Earl and Darlene), and Darlene Meyer (Earl).

On May 20, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) here to assist Elder Bro. John Lehman in serving Holy Communion. We are so thankful for that feeling of unity that flows from heart to heart after partaking of the Lord's Supper together. Other visiting ministers that assembled with us were Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

We rejoice with Doug and Lana Parton on the birth of their daughter, Kyla Jo, born May 30. Her older sister, Heather, and grandparents, Bro. Morris and Sis. Marge Edelman and Sue Parton (Elwood, KS) welcome her.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner as their two-month-old son, Mitchell, contacted a respiratory virus that developed into pneumonia. We are thankful that his hospitalization is over, and that he is continuing to recover.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

On June 4, Bro. Alan Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne) was united in marriage to Sis. Colleen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene, Sabetha). We welcome Sis. Colleen into our congregation at Bern.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Sis. Cynthia Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn) to Bro. Todd Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) of Fairbury, IL. May they feel the Lord's nearness as they begin to plan for a lifetime together.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

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

Proverbs 18:22

June 9 was the wedding date of Daniel Williams (Ron Williams and Linda Wheeler) and Taira Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb).

The week of June 12 was our Summer Bible School. As always, it was an uplifting time for all who attended. Then on Sunday the 18th

we had our program and picnic. It is such a joy to hear the young ones recite the Bible verses they learned and sing a few songs. May the seeds planted in their hearts continue to be nurtured at home that they may bear fruit at harvest time.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). May God bless him for sharing the Word with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."
Mark 10:14

Our responsibility is great concerning our youth. We must nurture these tender young souls and be examples for them. Thanks to the many who helped with Bible School and the Sunday School picnic this month. We also give a special thanks to the Wichita congregation for inviting us to attend their Bible School. The seeds are being planted; we pray that God will give the increase.

Our prayers are with several here this month. Sis. Betsy Diel remains in the hospital at this time. We are thankful that Sis. Kathryn Miller was able to come home after her extended hospital stay. Arlene Bice had a broken bone in her foot. She is now off crutches, but her foot remains in a cast. May each one feel the Lord's comforting hand.

We have several loved ones in the Friendship Manor. We want to thank everyone for their support of our services at the Manor this month.

As we celebrate our Independence Day this 4th of July, let's praise God for the freedom to worship Him and the freedom to tell others about our loving Saviour.

May the Lord bless you all with

a safe harvest!

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

The young and tender voice of Tonya Edelman proclaimed "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus; There is room in my heart for thee." Sis. Tonya gave her testimony and was baptized on June 4. There was much rejoicing! This was our very first baptism that took place in our new Lamont-Gridley church. We hope and pray these same words can cross the lips of many more dear souls in our little congregation. A large number of the Edelman family were able to attend, as they also celebrated another special event in their family. Tonya's father, Bro. Albert (Sis. Jeanie), was surprised with a celebration for his 50th birthday! Praise God for our fellowship with other believers.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Al Langhofer and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). What a privilege we have to receive such comfort and strength through God's Word, brought to us by each one of our visiting ministers. We appreciate each and every one.

Our loving congratulations to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger on their new grandson, Skyler Zane Fetter. Skyler is the firstborn son of their daughter, Sis. Wendy, and Bro. Matthew Fetter of Washington, D.C. Another new life to dedicate and nurture in loving the Lord!

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger

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

Dan Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta) and Cheryl McClain (Phil and Alice, Goff, KS) have an-

nounced their engagement. We pray they will seek God's guidance as they plan their wedding.

Sis. Colleen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Alan Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne, Bern, KS) took their marriage vows on June 4. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) were with us for this special occasion. We have also been blessed to have Bro. Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS) worship with us.

Keith Benjamin Wysong was welcomed by his parents, Benj and Pam Wysong, and Erika, on June 4, along with his grandparents and great-grandmother, Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong and Sis. Evelyn Wysong.

On June 11, many from our congregation traveled to Detroit, MI to witness the wedding of Bro. Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Alisa Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev). We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Bro. Frank Hertzell (Sis. Ruth) was hospitalized. May the Lord heal and restore.

Thy supporting spirit send us;
Thy sweet peace and love bestow;
Sanctify our heart and spirit,
And Thy Spirit's impulse show.

Let Thy love our hearts inspire
That we love Thee fervently;
Let Thy cov'nant bind us nigher;
Lead our conflict valiantly.

Ev'ry day, O Lord, we pray Thee,
Let Thy blessing on us flow;
May our hearts with peace and gladness
Ever by Thy radiance glow.

Zion's Harp #48

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Visiting ministers for the week-

end of May 27-28 were Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). We appreciate the efforts of these brothers and families, for we know it is a sacrifice of personal time in our behalf. We were especially blessed that weekend as Derek Funk (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally) was baptized.

Saturday, June 3, we held a one day Bible School at the church. Our theme was the Twenty Third Psalm. The students' participation was a blessing as they compared their lives and actions as sheep to the Good Shepherd. We were able to incorporate songs from the Zion's Harp and Hymns of Zion into the lessons. We also used the familiar children's song, "If I Were a Butterfly", for the youngest group. Then the older class composed a verse to fit the tune, as follows:

If I were a shepherd boy
I'd thank you, Lord, for all my
sheep.

If I were a little lamb,
I'd thank you, Lord, for my
shepherd man.

If I were a little lost lamb
I'd thank you, Lord, for your
guiding hand.

The day was a blessing because many hands cooperated to plan lessons, crafts, games and food. It was concluded with a program of songs for the parents.

We miss Sis. Jennifer Reimischel who has taken summer employment in Peoria. We are grateful for her opportunity for work and fellowship and look forward to her return.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimischel are grateful grandparents to twin granddaughters, Abigail Grace and Brianna Elizabeth, born June 3 to their son, Mark, and his wife, Lynette.

Note: August is Silver Lining collection month for Wichita. Please mail your \$9.00 subscription check made out to "Silver Lining" to me by August 9.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope
and our fond expectation
Hark to the voice that is calling in
kind invitation!
That hand obey, Which oft has
pointed the way
To the dear Saviour's salvation!
Zion's Harp #168

We extend our congratulations to our high school graduate this year: Joel Huber, son of Ben and June Huber of Winchester. May God richly bless Joel in his future endeavors.

We also want to thank Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) who shared the Word of God with us this month. He has been working at the Galilean Home near Liberty, KY. May God bless your efforts there also, Bro. Wally.

In addition, the Bluffton, IN freshman Sunday School class chose to spend the weekend with us and we enjoyed the fellowship as we had pizza on Saturday evening and then the Lord's Day together on Sunday. A special thanks to Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard who came with the group and Bro. John shared the Word with us.

We appreciate all our many visitors and hope you will include us as a part of your next vacation or outing.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

Alto has been blessed with many visitors. In May, Bro. Dan Stoller of Rockville, CT was with us for mid-week services early in the

month. Later on, a bus load of 46 brothers and sisters traveled from Mansfield and Rittman, OH to see the tulips in Holland, MI and then came over from there to join us for services on Mother's Day. Among them were ministering Bros. Mark Masters and Fred Domka. We thank all of our visitors for being with us and especially our ministering brothers for their labors of love.

Nathan and Susan Steffen, children of Ron and Kay Jenkins of Plainwell, MI and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen, have made their peace with God and are awaiting baptism. May they be granted the richest of blessings now, and in the years to come. Our prayers are with them.

Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy) is recuperating from surgery and, Lord willing, will be back to church soon. Our prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy in the days ahead.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen, children of Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest of LaCrosse, IN and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen, are happy parents of their third precious daughter, Nicole Terese. Nicole's sisters are Tasha and Heather.

Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat Schlatter have become grandparents to Amber Nicole, daughter of John and Stephanie Schlatter of South Bend, IN. Amber's sister is Victoria Rose.

Congratulations to our graduates: Loren Kaeb, son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb; Steve Schutte, son of Steve and Sis. Sandi Schutte; and Carmen Jackson, daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Margaret Jackson. We pray that God's blessings will be with them in their future endeavors.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Marlene Mosher Rhonda Knochel

A joyful bundle from our Lord has come to the home of Bro. Jay

and Sis. Carola Schlatter, Nicholas and Andreas; a new baby girl, Natasha Emily.

We have Sis. Joanne Stange in our prayers constantly in her time of illness. We wish Sis. Joanne the Lord's blessings and grace in whatever He has in store. He knows best.

Sis. Alice Eisenman had a run-in with the neighbor's dog and was hurt and shaken quite badly. We wish Sis. Alice our prayers and our Lord's grace through this bad time.

Sis. Maryann Ramseyer has gone to the Connecticut area for the summer and we wish her God's grace and blessings.

We have special feelings and joyfulness in our hearts and wish God's blessings and the remembrance of their Sunday School years to all the graduates of this year 1995: Lane Mosher (Bro. Neil and Sis. Ginger), Sis. Kayleen Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon), Natalie Gorney (John and Sis. Winifred), Mike Ramseyer (Dale and Mary), Joe Wieland (Bro. Brian and Char), Daniel Meylan (Dale and Sue), Ashley Knochel (Jack and Debbie), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol), Andrew Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn), Tom Hine (Tom and Anita), and Sis. Lori Schamach (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

"Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not..."

Psalm 71:18

We are thankful that here in Detroit we can have a hand in providing for those who are no longer able to care for themselves. On May 21, our choir hosted the annual dinner and song program to benefit Woodhaven. We were pleased to wel-

come the many who shared the day with us, and we so enjoyed the various groups that sang. May God bless all for participating!

"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

Mark 3:35

Two young men in our congregation have sought to do God's will through repentance and baptism and on June 4 we joyously welcomed them as brothers in faith. Through God's mercy and grace, Bro. Curt Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Tim Tomic are part of His family, and we wish for them the close fellowship and blessings of our loving Father.

The Father is ever seeking more souls to be added to His family, and we rejoice that Jesse Bedolla has expressed a desire to be one of them. We trust that he, too, will come to know the fullness of sonship.

Sis. Tessa Schamback and Sis. Marlene Reinhard have left our "family" here in Detroit for others elsewhere. Sis. Tessa has returned to her home church of Bay City and Sis. Marlene to hers in Latty. It leaves an emptiness in our hearts to have them go, but we are grateful for the memories they leave behind.

Sis. Martha Gleichman (Bro. John) recently had surgery on her ear and we're happy she is doing well.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Tom and Kay Moilanen upon the passing of Tom's mother.

There was great anticipation in the Germaine household as they awaited the arrival of a new baby! Andrew Tyler was born June 10 to Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce, and will be loved and cared for by Adam, Aaron, and Rachel as well. Andrew's grandparents are Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Mike and Lucille Germaine.

There is beauty all around,
There is joy in every sound.
Peace and plenty here abide,
And time doth softly, sweetly
glide...

When there's love at home.

(Adapted from Hymns of Zion #64)

God's love has brought two souls together, and a new Christian home has been established. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) had the privilege of uniting his daughter, Sis. Alisa, in marriage to Bro. Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha, KS) on June 11. Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa will be making their home in Kansas. May God continue to bless them and make their life together "a bliss complete!"

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Perry Virkler

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Cory Bergstrom (Doug and Connie) and Charity Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb). May they seek the Lord's guidance for their future plans.

We are grateful the Lord has directed another couple to move to Minneapolis. We heartily welcome Bro. Anthony and Sis. Lila Fehr from Fairbury, IL to our fellowship. May they feel our love.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God bless them for bringing us the inspired Word.

Many prayers were offered for Bro. Ray Schmidgall as he underwent quadruple coronary bypass surgery. We pray that he may soon enjoy renewed health and again assemble with us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one for

the many prayers, visits, cards and gifts during my surgery and since returning home. May God richly bless all of you.

Bro. Ray Schmidgall

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder

Linda Schmidgall

We were once again blessed on June 3 and 4, as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome our new sisters in Christ: Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel) and Heidi Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane). May God grant them the grace to be true and faithful till life's end. With us for this weekend were Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL). May God richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

We also want to thank Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for ministering unto us.

It is always a joy, as one by one, souls acknowledge the need of a Saviour and find grace to seek the Lord. We rejoice with Katherine Krikorian, Joan Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) and Janell Joos (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra). May God's love and grace be showered upon them.

Our hearts mourn with Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger over the sudden loss of their precious little daughter, Rachel (5), whose life was taken May 26, when the family van rolled over her. We want to especially remember in our prayers Bro. Bob, Sis. Gwen, their children, Michelle, Sis. Lanette, Barbara, Bradley, Denise, Kayla, and paternal grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma. May God grant them His love and grace in the coming days.

Our hospital patients were Sis-

ters Crystol Luthi and Helen Schaefer, and Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois) and Eli Nohl. May God grant them healing strength.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Helen Schaefer (Bro. Otto) and Sis. June Schmidgall (Bro. Dave) in the recent death of their brother and grandfather, Bro. Jesse Eisenmann. Also, we extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Diane Kellenberger in the loss of her brother, D. "Butch" Logan.

Congratulations and God's blessings are extended to our college graduates, Bro. Bob Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Bro. Kevin Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), Janell Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra), and Jody Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen).

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for helping me celebrate my 80th birthday. May God bless you all.

Sis. Esther Koehl

We would like to humbly express our thanks to everyone for the many deeds of kindness shown to us in the loss of our dear little Rachel. We really feel the prayers of everyone across the land. We truly are thankful for our precious faith. May the Lord bless you for your labors of love.

The least of His,

Bro. Bob, Sis. Gwen, Sis. Lanette, Michelle, Barbara, Bradley, Denise and Kayla Feuchtenberger

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

Greetings!

Behold how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity.

Hymns of Zion #188

What a blessing it is to be able to travel this land for summer vacations and to know you can find a safe, loving haven to rest; so many Christian friendships are formed with those of like mind and faith.

This past month we were privileged to sit under the sound of the Word of visiting minister Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth) of West Bend, IA. May the Lord bless him for sharing with us.

Our Sunday School ended a wonderful year with a picnic in the park. We would like to thank the teachers for their efforts throughout the Sunday School year. May the Lord watch over our children during this summer's vacation.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

Let us send our prayers out to our brethren for their safe travel as the 1995 Brotherhood Conference approaches.

Our surgical patient this month was Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin). We wish her a speedy recovery and God's healing hand upon her.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

Acts 3:19

We are so thankful to announce that Clint Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. MaryLou) has received peace. We rejoice that souls are still answering our Lord's calling.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

This past month we were blessed to have Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) minister unto us. May God continue to direct you as you labor in His service.

We want to welcome Bro. Keith and Sis. Alysya Beyer (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Janelle Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) to our congregation, as they will be working here this summer.

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

Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene) was in the hospital this past month. We are thankful that he is able to be home again.

Our four converts, Carol and Sarah Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Leon and Teresa Luthi were announced for peace and we are looking forward to hearing their testimonies in the near future.

We want to welcome Neil Stoller from LaCrosse, IN who is spending the summer in our community.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Betsy Schrenk**

The weekend of May 20 and 21 was a blessing to our local congregation. Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and their wives came to St. Louis for our annual business meeting, to serve Communion, and to read the Memorandum. We appreciate the unity and spirit of cooperation during the meeting. There are many responsibilities for the members of a small church, and it is gratifying when each one accepts his or her duties cheerfully.

Sunday brought another joy when the weekend for the testimony and baptism of Peter Schrenk was announced for July 1 and 2.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), and Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciated their labors and the fellowship we had with them and their wives and all of our summer visitors.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Rusty and Amy Adrian**

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Hebrews 10:23

That verse comes to mind as we recognized a special day for our earthly fathers this past month. We truly can count our blessings for the faith that has been held on to and handed down through the years by our forefathers and by the Christian examples we can see in each one today. Even though there may be some who do not have an earthly father, what a joy it is to know that we all have a Heavenly Father to give us strength and encouragement each day.

The weekend of May 20 we were privileged to have the Mortonaires with us to worship and sing praises to our precious Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessed time it was for each one as our Lord was lifted up through song.

May 24 we had a reception for this year's graduates, which were Jami Sublette, Jared Sutter, Julie Hoerr, and Allison Keifaber. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one as they make the decisions that are before them.

June 4 was a rewarding day as some from the Bible Class and the incoming freshmen traveled to the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship weekend in Bloomington, IL. To see the many youth that were

there singing beautiful hymns and fellowshiping together was truly an encouragement.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) who was in the hospital this past month. May God bless and keep all those who have physical ailments in their lives.

We are thankful for God's traveling mercies as those who traveled to Jamaica on a work project returned home safely. Those making the trip were Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Baurer, Julie Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie), Jan Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Ben Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny). May the Lord Jesus Christ be lifted up through helping others.

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

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

On June 10 we were able to gather and partake of the Lord's Supper. We were reminded of the sacrifice made by Jesus when He shed His blood on the cross for our sins. May we all take advantage of His suffering for us while we have life yet on this earth so we can look forward to everlasting life after this earthly life. We thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and his wife, Sis. Maxine, for being with us for the weekend and for Bro. Andy's services for the Lord in our behalf.

Our hospital patients are Sis. Minnie Taube and Sis. Corrine Virkler. Our thoughts and prayers are with them that they may each be granted a measure of good health if it is God's will for them.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to our college graduate, Paul Virkler, son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae; and our high school graduates: Tracie Farney, daughter of Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen; Hope Graves, daughter of Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda; Rachel Hirschey, daughter of Bruce and Gayle; and Jim Sturtze, son of Virgil and Sherry. May each of them look to God for daily guidance as they make new beginnings in their lives.

Note: Silver Lining subscriptions are due for our congregation and may be given to the reporter.

OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser
Diane Jarrett**

Greetings from the Akron congregation. On June 1, Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl were blessed with a baby boy, Brad Jacob. Welcoming little Brad are siblings, Andy, Michelle, Mark, Rachel, Christina, Elizabeth, Esther and Amanda. Grandparents are Bill and Helen Shurance, and Joseph Steidl.

Carole Collins was united in marriage with Kirk Edwards on May 20. Parents of the couple are Duane and Sis. Marge Collins, and Carl and Sue Edwards. May God richly bless their union.

We are thankful that Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy Graf have returned safely from a trip to Europe. While in Europe, they attended Kathy's class reunion and worshipped with our European brethren.

At the time of this writing, Sis. Ruth Taylor remains hospitalized receiving rehabilitative therapy, and Harold Fritz (Sis. Esther) has

also been hospitalized. May we remember to pray for those who are suffering bodily afflictions.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We were blessed to be served our Lord's Supper the weekend of June 3. Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) so graciously reminded us of our Saviour's love and sacrifice. May God bless their labors of love. Other visiting ministers include Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and their wives. We enjoy company so much and appreciate the efforts of those who travel to bring us God's precious Word.

There are friendships that we
cherish
In our daily walk of life
Friends with whom we meet and
labor
In our earthly toil and strife.
Hymns of Zion #91

It is especially sad when we must bid farewell to the special friends we have made and this month we have seen several move from the Columbus area. We bid a sad goodbye to ministering Bro. Ben, Sis. Michelle, Loren and Emily Wiegand as they relocate in the Philadelphia area due to a job change. Their presence will be missed greatly but we pray for God's richest blessings as they move to a new area. We are also sad to see Jeff and Darlene Lanz and Cody Stoller leave Columbus, but heartily congratulate Jeff and Cody upon their graduation from the Ohio State University School of Veterinarian Science. The Lanz's have moved to Apple Creek and Cody has moved to the West Salem area and they will be attending the Rittman church. We will miss you all!

Though it is sad to say goodbye, we also have the chance to welcome Michael William Sauder, born June 1 to Bro. Stan and Sis. Judy Sauder. Katie, Joseph and Christina gladly welcome their new little brother into their home. We would also like to welcome Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonnie Ramchiesel and Jordan to the Columbus church as they have moved from the Indianapolis area. We look forward to getting to know this family and making many new friendships.

June 4 was our Senior Recognition Breakfast to honor our high school graduate, Debbie Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky). We will pray for Debbie as she enters into a new era of her life and are thankful she has found the need to repent.

We would also like to congratulate Sis. Diane Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) as she graduates from Mansfield General Hospital School of Nursing with her R.N. degree. Our prayers are with her as she studies for her state board exams.

Many prayers have been answered as the announcement was made that our building permit has now been issued from the City of Columbus. We look forward to the remodeling process that should begin soon.

We rejoice with Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) as she has found peace with God and man. Emily's proving and baptism will be held, Lord willing, July 22 and 23 at the Mansfield church.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no church services held in Columbus on July 23 so that members and friends may attend the baptism held in Mansfield.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

"Verily, verily I say unto you, He

that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."

John 10:1-2

This was the theme that was threaded throughout the weekend that Christopher Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) and Pete and Helen Hurd were taken into the fold. Many visitors filled our church to witness this joyous occasion, including visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), and Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), John Laukhuf and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH). May the Holy Spirit which was sealed into our new sister and brothers guide them safely to their heavenly destination.

We offer our sincere sympathy to our Sis. Donna Manz (Bro. Bob) and her family at the death of her father, Bro. Richard Teubel (Pulaski, IA). For many years, the Teubel family has sent greetings to our congregation, and we wish to offer our support to the bereft at this time of separation.

Surgical outpatients have been Sis. Anna Manz and Bro. Emmanuel Manz (Sis. Louise). Both appear to be healing well.

Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) was our visiting minister one Wednesday evening. We thank him for his visit and welcome him to come more often.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

We were very thankful to have Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) speak the Gospel message to our Latty congregation. May the Holy

Spirit continue to bless and guide them.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Eisenmann have been blessed with a new baby girl. Carissa Leigh was born on June 1. Welcoming home their new sister are Carmen and Darren. Carissa's grandparents are Sis. Mary Eisenmann and Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller.

On June 8, Arlen Alan was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Welcoming home their new brother are Neil, Trent, Ross, Blane, Rustin, Joy, Esther, Arthur, Martin and Rueben. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein.

May God continue to guide both sets of parents as they raise their children and may the children feel the blessings of growing up in a Christ-centered home.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Nancy Laukhuf (Dave) and also to Bro. Dick and Sis. Viola Schlatter. Nancy's father, Ernest Adkins, passed away this past month. Bro. Dick and Sis. Viola's young grandson, Joshua Gordon (Dennis and Connie), was taken from this earth to an eternal land where his little body is now whole. We pray that God's nearness will be felt by both family circles.

"...Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Luke 7:50

Bob Graf (Sis. Joan) has been given the peace that passes all understanding. We will continue to remember Bob and Sis. Joan as we look forward to Bob's testimony and baptism.

June 12-19 was our Vacation Bible School. Many hours of labor and love were willingly given so that children of all ages could learn more about our Heavenly Father and our Saviour Jesus Christ. May

God richly bless all who had a part in the Bible School week.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Eccles. 3:1

The season of graduations is now come and gone for another year. On Sunday, May 21, we gathered at church for a breakfast in honor of our graduating seniors. This year's high school graduates are: David Beard (Larry and Sis. Donna), Steve Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn), Jared Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev), Laura Martin (Richard and Margaret), Ty Nye (Dave and Debbie Mobley), Sis. Kristy and Tami Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb). As each graduate was presented with a Bible, the prayer was on our hearts that they would each realize through reading the pages the way to life everlasting.

Sis. Diane Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky, Columbus, OH) has also graduated from Mansfield General School of Nursing. She has been assembling with us for mid-week services while attending school. We will miss her and pray that God will always guide her as she returns home.

"And she conceived again, and bare a daughter..."

Hosea 1:6

On May 23, a second daughter, Gretchen Yvonne, was born to Mark and Diane Sauder. Veronica, Abe and Jed are glad to welcome their new sister home. Sharing their joy are grandparents, Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder and Ralph and Delores Miley.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Bro.

Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) and his family joined us one Sunday. Also joining us for our Vacation Bible School were Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) who spoke on David; Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) told us about Solomon; Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) expounded on the life of Samuel; Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) helped us know Jonah better; and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) told us the highlights of Daniel's life. We are thankful that each one of these brethren was willing to share their time with us.

This month, Sis. Freda Beer and Mildred Dolce have both spent time in the hospital. We are looking forward to the day when they can again assemble with us.

As Christians, we always know that the hand of God is protecting us. But when something happens, we are even more aware of that fact. We are thankful that Bro. Richard and Sis. Helen Bricker were not injured when they were involved in an auto accident earlier this month.

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Isaiah 55:6

Many prayers have been answered because Steve Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn) has been moved to call upon the Lord while He yet may be found. We pray, as we do whenever someone repents, that Steve's vision will be so focused on the Lord, that the things of earth will lose all appeal for him. May he always feel the Father's guiding hand.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Marsha Rufener

Linda Schar

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the bap-

tisms of three dear souls on May 20-21. Our new sisters and brother are Cheryl Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Audrey Baltic (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty), and Aaron Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois). May God richly bless and guide them. Assisting Elder Bro. Henry with this important work was Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Also ministering to us were Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH).

Sis. Julie Atanasov (Bro. Novko) was recently in the hospital. We are glad she is feeling better and able to assemble again.

Two souls have turned their back on the world and started repenting. Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce) and Tony Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette) made this step recently. We pray that God will give grace and strength to them both.

Rich and Michele Holcomb welcomed their first child, Mara Caroline. Mara's grandparents are Glen and Mary Jane Winkler and Jim and Charlene Holcomb.

Allison Faith was born to Chad and Denise Riggenbach on June 14. Big sister and brother, Cherese and Joseph, were excited for a new sister. Allison's grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Anita Riggenbach.

We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Ruth Steiner (Bro. Ron), Joe Riggenbach (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Ellen Gasser (Jerry) in the passing of their mother, Sis. Martha Riggenbach (Smithville, OH). Willard Gasser recently passed away also. Willard's brother and sister assemble with us -- Bro. Robert Gasser (Sis. Neva) and Sis. Mildred Christian (Bro. Ralph). May God be with each one in time of sorrow.

June 3 was the wedding of Mi-

chael Maag and Molly Waltman. Their parents are Robert and Martha Maag and Mr. and Mrs. P. Dean Waltman.

There were two weddings on June 10. Fred Hartzler and Melinda Raught joined their hearts and hands. Fred and Melinda's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler and Mr. and Mrs. William Raught.

Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Kries shared in the joy of the wedding of their children, John Kries and Sheila Rufener. May God richly bless each of these dear ones and draw them even closer together.

We wish to welcome Sis. Laura Oplinger to our Rittman area. Sis. Laura moved here from Altadena, CA. May she feel our love here.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy Indermuhle just moved from our area to the Sardis congregation. We will miss seeing them here and welcome them to visit often. May God go with them.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

The engagement of Sis. Sheila Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) to Bro. Nathan Sabo (Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda) of Sarasota, FL was a joyful reminder that God has a plan for each of us that will be fulfilled at the perfect time if we will but listen to Him. They are planning an August 27 wedding.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy (Beard) Indermuhle have recently come to Sardis to make their home. We praise God for granting these times in our lives when we can look back and see that everything just seemed to "fall into place". We know, however, that it is God who leads the way.

Sis. Martha Indermuhle has moved from her home in the country to a new mobile home in Sardis.

So many memories are held in the home that Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha had on this earth. We rejoice that Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy will be the next to make their home there.

The Lord touched Matt Brake with the gift of peace. What a blessing to know that another soul has sought and found what so many do not even seem to know exists. May it give each of us a zeal to show others what is available to them by living a life of Godly order.

Wedding vows were exchanged by Bro. Robert Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Sis. Angie Blough (Sis. Janette) at her home church in Smithville, OH. Nearly the entire Sardis church family was able to gather there to witness the union. We welcome another couple to our growing assembly.

Trent and Kristy Indermuhle were blessed with their first child on June 16. They named their baby boy Jordan Trent. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle and Francis and Brenda Long. We are filled with awe and excitement at the arrival of another precious child.

We recently enjoyed visitors from three Illinois churches. Among them was ministering Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We are uplifted as we recall the dynamic pronouncement of the Word.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Margaret Blough
Edith Miller**

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

Proverbs 3:5

This was the message that was left with our high school graduates during our Sunday morning services; the same morning they and their parents were served breakfast

at our Fellowship Hall. We hope each one will remember these important words all of their lives.

Our dear Sis. Martha Riggenschach, 84, was called to her eternal rest on June 14. She leaves to mourn a loving family of eight children: Sis. Luella Stoller (Bro. Harold), John (Thelma), Joe (Sis. Karen), Ralph (Beverly), Sis. Ruth Steiner (Bro. Ron), Bro. Art (Lynn), Bro. Don (Sis. Gail), and Sis. Ellen Gasser (Jerry). Her husband, Bro. Will, preceded her in death, as also did a son, Kenneth. We extend our sympathy to this family.

We trust in the Great Physician's healing for young Cindy Stoller (Ron and Terri), as she is recovering from injuries sustained when she was attacked by a dog.

On June 11, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Robert Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula, Sardis, OH) and Sis. Angie Blough (Sis. Janette). We trust many blessings will be in store for them, as they begin a new Christian home. We will miss Sis. Angie at Smithville, but are sure she will be welcomed by the Sardis church, which they plan to make their home church.

We thank the following ministers for serving us this past month: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle, Bros. Bill Brake and Mark Ramsier (all from Sardis and attending the wedding of Bro. Robert and Sis. Angie). Also this month, Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) visited us.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We always appreciate the visits of those who willingly share in the ministry. Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit, MI) and their family were with us on May 28. We would like to thank him and wel-

come anyone to visit.

We would like to congratulate Michael Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN), Robert Harris (Sharon), and Kurt Rager (Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon) on their graduations. Also, Bro. Adam Uhler (Smithville, OH) has earned a degree in engineering from the University of Toledo. We wish them God's blessings and leading in their lives.

OREGON, PORTLAND Lori Martin - Mary Berg

I am going to a city
Where the streets with gold are
laid,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
And the roses never fade.

In this world we have our
troubles,
Satan's snares we must evade;
We'll be free from all temptations
Where the roses never fade.

Here they bloom but for a season,
Soon their beauty is decayed,
I am going to a city
Where the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

We were reminded of this beautiful hymn recently by one of our ministering brothers. Portland is called the City of Roses and home to a beautiful rose garden. This time of year with the roses in full bloom, we just marvel at the beauty of God's creation. But one by one the blossoms fade and soon the petals are blown away by the wind or wilt and must be plucked off. We are reminded of the frailty of things here on this earth and how we must set our sights on those things above.

We thank Elder Bro. Art Metz for ministering to us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank our dear friends and family for thinking of us

on our anniversary and birthdays with kind words, many beautiful cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts and especially the prayers. We are so thankful to God for His many blessings and may God richly bless each one for their deeds of kindness and love shown to us.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

On the weekend of May 20-21, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. They are as follows: Sis. Mary Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty), Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb), and Bro. Mark and Sis. K'ren Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary and Gary and Ruth Conmy). We welcome them into the fold. May we each examine ourselves that we do not lead one of these lambs astray. We want to express our thanks to Elder Bro. Lawrence (Sis. Sandra) Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Elder Bro. Art (Sis. Sandy) Nohl (Morris, MN) for coming to assist Elder Bro. Art Metz in this undertaking.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne Kraft welcomed their little daughter, Jessica Rose, into their family on May 31. She has two big brothers, Austin and Dallas. Jessica's grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter became grandparents for the first time on June 6 with the birth of Shauna Lee Popkes. Her parents are Karmin and John Popkes of Lester, IA. Shauna's paternal grandparents are Sis. Eleanor and the late Ed Popkes (Lester, IA).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi also became grandparents again on June 6 when Ashton James Fehr

was born to Sis. Nora and Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA).

We welcome Bro. Tim Schaefer (Morris, MN) into our congregation as he returns for summer employment.

We have two engagements to share. Chad Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter) and Megan Massey (Anita and Mike Massey, Wilsonville, OR) have announced plans for a summer wedding. On Sunday, June 11, the engagement of our Sis. Trinda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Brad Meyer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) was announced. We wish these couples the Lord's guidance and blessings as they plan for their future together.

PENNSYLVANIA,

PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

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

Psalm 107:8

A group of Philadelphia and Washington, DC brethren helped pack medical supplies donated by Capitol Hospital to our World Relief program. The medical supplies will be sent to Lumenaire Hospital in Haiti.

Bill Keene has moved to the Hershey Mill Home. We wish him God's blessings. Bill's address is Hershey Mill Home, 2828 Columbia Ave., Mountville, PA 17554.

We welcome Wayne Tanner (Bradford, IL) who will be spending the summer here, working in New Holland. We look forward to having Wayne worship and fellowship with us.

Christopher Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) recently had surgery. We wish him God's healing mercies.

Bro. Dave Roberts (Sis. Carolyn)

is the new Sunday School teacher in the middle class. Bro. Gabriel Clough is our new representative for World Relief. May God guide these two brothers as they take on these new responsibilities.

We thank the following Bros. for sharing God's Word with us: Bros. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), and Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH). May God richly reward these faithful servants for their efforts.

Our dear Bro. Franz Soni, who is confined to a wheelchair, has been unable to attend church for several weeks because of irritation from many hours in his chair. We pray for relief from his problem so we can soon worship and fellowship together again.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Several weeks ago, one of my co-workers related to me a church sign board she had observed many years back that read, "Where God Guides, He Provides!" The slogan has since stuck with her and has been a great help to her along her life's journey. How very true this statement is if we will only trust in God, He will provide for our every need.

This past month, we were vividly reminded of God's great power and might and this very slogan that where God does guide, He will provide. In previous writings, I have made known that we are remodeling a small church building and have the assembly room very nearly completed. We could not, however, progress with the kitchen and dining room without a required

building permit. During this past month, we applied for and received this permit to expand the kitchen and add on to the dining room. I make this process sound easy, but due to all of the regulations involved, this truly was a miracle from God. We would like to ask for your assistance in helping us to complete this project, especially in the areas of bricklaying and carpentry. Please contact your local Mission Committee member who in turn should contact one of the numbers listed below to try to coordinate a schedule.

Our visiting ministers during the past month included, Bro. James Byrd, Jr. (Sis. Leota, Roanoke, IL) on May 21; Bro. Ken Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) on June 4; and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) on June 18. Thanks to all of you for lending yourselves into God's service to minister the Word. May He richly bless and keep you. We also welcomed other visitors on June 18 representing the Illinois churches of Princeville, Morton, Congerville, and Chicago and the Ohio churches of Junction, Latty and Rittman. Thank you for your fellowship and support in worshipping with us.

Please remember us in Nashville as you plan your vacations this summer. We would love to have you call and stop by to worship with us. We have services scheduled for August 6 and August 20 with ministers from Elgin, IL and Ft. Scott, KS, respectively. On the other

Sundays, please contact us as we would be glad to meet for a tape service. Also, anyone who is thinking about relocating, please contact one of the numbers listed below. We would be glad to assist in any way. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 654-2139; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

**TEXAS, DALLAS
AND ROUND TOP**
Christine Kaiser
Kim Kaiser

Summer is in full swing here in Texas. The temperatures are in the 90's now and air conditioning powerfully cools our homes and cars. Air conditioning is our modern day refuge from the summer heat as church worship, prayer and God's Word are vital aspects of our spiritual refuge.

We thank the visiting ministers and their wives for the fellowship shared and the messages supplied for our needy souls. Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) were with the Dallas congregation in May. Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm (Morris, MN) also extended Christ's love to us in June. Round Top was blessed to have Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) lead services in May. We appreciate the sacrifices made. Again, thank y'all so much.

Dallas schedule -- Services are usually 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, or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for additional information. It's always good to check on possible schedule changes when visiting Texas.

Round Top schedule -- Services for the Houston/Austin area are held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top, TX on the last Sunday of each month. Contact Bro. Bill at (409) 249-5102 for schedule confirmation and directions.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Our high school graduate this spring is Julie Nohl (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce). Julie plans to attend Pan American University at Edinburg, TX this fall and study nursing.

Bro. Walter Stoller (Burlington, IA) died on June 6. Hearing of his death brings many memories. Bro. Walter and his wife, Sis. Dolly, were among the first members of the Apostolic Christian Church to establish a winter home here in Zapata. They spent many winter months here. They were not able to continue coming because of health reasons in later years. We remember their hospitality. Sis. Dolly preceded Bro. Walter in death. We extend our sympathy to the Stoller family.

Look Up

If you want to be distressed --
look within.

If you want to be defeated --
look back.

If you want to be distracted --
look around.

If you want to be dismayed --
look ahead.

If you want to be delivered --
look up!

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb. 12:2

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemp-

tion draweth nigh.

Luke 21:28

There is an inscription in the dome of the Capitol in Washington which few people know about. It says:

"One far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves." This event may not be so far off. It could be today! Look up!



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

(Continued from previous page)

work, and God provided for us. Weary and exhausted, but with thankful hearts, freed from all our worries, we set forth for Korovia in Ukraine, which we reached between 9:00 and 10:00 PM. There were about 20 brethren waiting for us, prepared immediately to unload the truck. After greeting one another, and a short discussion, we agreed that we would need to unload the next day under the supervision of customs officials.

Bro. Namenji and his daughter were picked up by his son, the drivers stayed in the apartment in the Korovia church, and Hella and I went with Peterbatschi (Elder Peter Karcia) to his house. We got to bed about 11:00 PM.

On April 26 about 8:00 in the morning, we drove with Peterbatschi to Korovia. The road was bad, and he drove his Mazda through a field. Inasmuch as it had rained hard during the night, shortly before we got to Korovia, we drove into a mudhole and got stuck. The wheels spun and threw mud, but the car didn't go anywhere. Finally, a stranger came along and helped, and the three of us were able to free the car.

In Korovia, we took Elder Vasile Paladean with us and drove to customs to pick up an inspector to observe the unloading. After an hour's discussion, an official went with us to Korovia. Under his observation, the truck was unloaded in just under an hour. About 12:00 the trailer was empty, and Bro. Grischa Jakobec drove the official back.

Now I had an opportunity to talk with the three elders, Peter, Vasile, and Dmitriv Hretschka, and give them the money we had brought in, plus relay the instructions from Bro. Ernst Pfister.

From this conversation, it became evident that the situation in Ukraine is worse than before. Presently great hunger stalks the entire land, including among our brethren. We could feel this as they served us meals. Our dear ones live off the land. They have no store of food, nor money to buy any. It is the time when one first plants the land, and can only harvest after some months. It is the leanest season of the year. Peterbatschi said that he has already looked at swine ready for slaughter, but didn't want to spend the last

but also the money.

We took tearful leave of one another, and they gave us their most hearty greetings to all we meet, as is written in song #7 in the Hymns of Zion. It was about 4:00 PM when we got into our vehicles to begin our return trip with the help of the Lord. As we left the church at Korovia, they all waved to us until we were out of sight. To our great surprise, when we got to the main road about five minutes later, the entire group was there to show us their great love and appreciation one last time. After about

one half hour we got to the border.

At the Romanian side of the border, the officials demanded a fee of \$500. After a half hour of this sort of thing, the Lord intervened once again. A soccer game began on television, and since the Romanians are addicted to soccer, and we spoke the same language, we got the thing cleared up.

It was about 6:00 PM and the Carpathian Mountains and darkness lay before us. But God be praised,

thanked, and honored, that He conducted us over the mountains and through the night without problems.

About 8:00 AM on April 27, we were prepared to go through the Romanian border. There we met the same officer who had cleared our papers on our way in. After some time, we were allowed through.

This is where our united trip ended. We bade farewell to our drivers who had been so faithful. They drove home, and we stayed two days with relatives in Budapest.

To God alone, the great, almighty, loving and faithful God be all praise, honor, and thanks.



money he had on them. Since our time was very limited, we had no opportunity to visit the open markets, in order to evaluate the situation. The brethren told us that goods are available, but very expensive.

They were elated that this shipment was 95% clothing, which is impossible for them to buy. The brethren shared with us that one pullover sweater costs a full month's wages. We hope that the \$18,000 we left will help them in this great need.

I spoke with the brethren for about one half hour. They thank everyone in the name of the Lord for this great gift of love, especially the brethren in America from whom the greatest portion came, not only the goods,

Michael Gruber

"JESUS IS THE CENTER OF THE BIBLE"

Sermon by Bro. Peter Petrovic of San Diego, CA

Ezekiel 20:39-44 and Mark 14:66-72

Some of you might say, "Well, I know this portion of the Scriptures so good. I have read it so many times, and yet, we are reading it again." But that is what this Word of God is all about, loved ones. When I open the Holy Scriptures to read it at home, I ask the Lord to bless His Word in my heart so that I can learn something. That is not something that I haven't read before, but it is something, perhaps, that I quite do not understand.

So often we read the Word in the same chapters and we think we know it. "I read it before." Yet, as we concentrate and as we pray to the Almighty God, He sent His Holy Spirit to reveal something. Maybe the smallest thing, but it is very important in your life and in my life. That is how our Heavenly Father cares for each one of us. He reveals to us as much as we can grasp and understand and as much as we ask.

We heard in this morning hour (as the brother even mentioned) about prayer and the importance of it. What is the Scripture telling us? Ask. Knock. Are we asking? Are we knocking? Are we receiving? Maybe we are not receiving because we are not asking, as another Scripture tells us, but the loving Lord reveals to us.

I am sure that each one of us have such a burning desire in our heart that we will love the Lord so much. I am sure that each one of us would agree with the Apostle Peter here, even when he said, "If all of the disciples and those that were there will deny You, I would not." I am sure each one of us would say that. Perhaps all of us feel that we are that strong as he felt. Well, I hope that we are a little bit stronger as we have the Holy Spirit. He did not have it at that time.

But I still know that I am weak. I am sure all of you brothers and sisters will agree with me that we are weak. We live in this flesh and blood. There is someone out there in the world that wants to take our mind and wants us to think about something else today, and not to think about spiritual things. Satan doesn't want us to grow spiritually, but the Scripture is encouraging us to grow. Why do we have to grow? So we can become strong in the Lord. We want to establish our roots as the trees need to have these established roots.

We have had a lot of rain in the last few weeks and in the last month in California. We have seen a lot of trees down, and I am sure you have had similar problems here with the weather.

You look at some of those roots and you see how shallow they are. The tree looks beautiful. The branches are nice and green, and there is so little of roots therein. Sometimes we can say, "I wonder how it is that this tree was standing there for all of those years." But when it falls down, it cannot get up anymore. That is it.

I pray that you and I will have these roots established and that we can be firmly grounded on that foundation which is our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul tells us in I Corinthians, chapter three, nobody else can lay another foundation that is laid. Our Lord has done His work, but it is up to us now. Are we going to build wood, hay, stubble, precious stones, gold or silver? That is up to you and me. The Lord has left that up to us, beloved, but I can just encourage each one. Let us hold on fast, as the apostle was encouraging us, hold on fast to this wonderful doctrine that we have. People did not have it always, loved ones, we know that.

Go read a history of Christianity between, I believe, 200 A.D. and 1400 A.D. Someone had to translate the Scriptures to common people. They did not have it as you and I have it. I am so thankful that for some reason, God has been so merciful to us and that He has given us Holy Scriptures and that we can have more Bibles than we can read at home. I don't mean by every translation, but the translation that we appreciate and that we can understand. I am so thankful that I can have twenty Bibles if I want at home. If I wear one, I can get another one.

I don't like to stray too far from the subject that we have read in here, but I would just like to say this. Some people have intended to keep the Bible on the shelf so a child can't touch it and no one can touch it. That is a Holy Book. You know, it is holy. But to you and me, it is holy as you and I are holy. If we never touch it, it is not holy to us. We can just say that it is holy. Let us use our Bibles. It is wonderful to read in the mornings and evenings.

It contains precious words of everlasting life -- a history of Christianity. A lot of things we can learn from somebody else's mistakes, as we have learned, even from reading. In our first reading in here, about Israelites, they have given themselves to idolatry. Something else in this world became more precious to them than the commandments they had received from the Almighty God, loved ones. God was not

very pleased with that. We know that very well.

When I think about society today, someone might say, "We don't have any idolaters. We don't have any idols today. That was all many, many years back. We read about it as history." Examine your life, and I need to examine my life.

Think about all the things that you possess, just things that you have, physical things. If the Lord would take all of these things away from you, would you still love Him and serve Him the same? If you have a college degree, if you have been schooled for a certain profession and then all at once the government would issue a decree that all the true fundamental Christians will lose their jobs and have to go and work as laborers, perhaps, where they would earn minimum wages, would you still love the Lord the same and say, "Lord, what are You doing?"

You know, that has happened in Europe in my time when I was growing up. Our brothers and sisters were not able to get, first of all, schooling and hold such a position that many of us here can enjoy. But that is past. Let us look at ourselves. Is there something in this world that is more precious to us than loving and serving, praising and glorifying the Almighty God? You have to answer that for yourself, but look about the Israelites. There was something that was more precious to them than serving the Almighty God.

Don't forget about this. The Israelites were called "hard-headed", "hard-necked" and a lot of other terms that I don't even remember. Maybe we think we don't fall into that category at all. We have a lot of Christians around us, but where is our heart? I know we all believe in Jesus Christ. How much have we grown since we accepted that Jesus is the Son of God? Since we were rescued from the claws of the enemy of our souls, how much have we grown, beloved?

Look now a little bit in the Apostle Peter's history. He thought that he was something strong. He was the one that walked with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee, I believe, and how is it that he is going to deny the Lord when he is so strong? That is what happens when we put too much confidence in ourselves when we think that we can do something. The Lord tells us as He did speak to the Corinthians through the Apostle Paul, "What do you have that you have not received?" Whether it is your health or

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

physical or material things that you have, what do you have that you have not received?

The answer is that we do not have anything that we have not received. That is the way I believe it. Everything that I have, it is not mine. It is the Lord's -- He gave it to me. I often sing it, "I am a pilgrim here below. I am traveling to a promised land."

Beloved, so often we get attached to material things. So often we rely on our own wisdom, which is foolishness before the Almighty God, the Scripture tells us, instead of relying on the Holy Spirit.

How much is the Holy Spirit revealing to us His will in our personal walk of life? Or have we come to the position in our spiritual walk of life that we ask the Lord, "Give us some signs so that we know that the Holy Spirit is still within us." Where do we stand? Loved ones, I am not criticizing. I am really speaking to myself. I need to be awakened as everyone else as we look into the Word.

I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit of God will really do the things that we read in the Gospel of John in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth chapters as He tells us how He would manifest His power in our lives. Is it still so hard to worship the Lord, the Almighty God as it was before we repented? If it is, maybe we are not walking on that narrow path. Maybe we are not praising the Almighty God as we ought to praise Him. We are not as appreciative as we ought to be to the Almighty God. Maybe we have not learned to depend on Him.

We have now learned that the power comes through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is preparing you and me for eternity. I cannot prepare myself. I can try it, but I know it won't work. I can try to do things in my profession and that even may not work if God doesn't give me strength -- physical strength.

We need to depend on our Lord Jesus Christ as every member of this body must depend. The Scripture tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ explained to us that He is the Head and we are the members. He is the True Vine and we are the branches, loved ones. How thankful we are that we are attached to the True Vine, which is our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we heard this morning how He loved so much this world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for each one of us. I am so thankful that He was so mindful of me. I am not worthy to receive His grace and mercy. That is how much He loves every soul in this world.

I talked to a friend not too long ago (a few weeks ago) and he was brought up in a Christian family in Europe. He said, "I feel that I am not chosen." We became pretty

close friends and I asked him, "Well, what is keeping you away from God for so long?" He said, "Pete, I feel that I am not chosen." I said, "Are you sure about that? What do you mean, 'You are not chosen?' Can you find that in the Holy Scriptures?" Of course, he cannot.

But he feels that there are certain people who are chosen to be saved and the rest will just go to perdition, or that they will be damned. I said, "You are wrong. There is so much yet to be done in this world and the Lord is waiting for you. There is something that you ought to do. You are wrong. Have you been exposed to this precious Word?" I said, "Read the Book of Romans and it will tell you there that you are chosen!"

We all came short of the glory of God, we know that. The Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter and Jesus Christ Himself... I don't need to go through the verses now as I don't think it is necessary, but He tells us that the Lord is not slack in concerning His coming, but He is waiting! He wants all men to come to repentance and to be reconciled with Him.

Encourage, dear ones, those who are confused yet. Where is this idea coming from? From somebody else? Yes, from somebody else, and that somebody else is the enemy of our souls.

The same enemy that deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is trying to deceive you and me in these latter days. He has brought a lot of confusion into this world. There is a lot of corruption in this world, and we ought to stand. If Christians ever needed to stand and be firmly grounded in the Holy Scriptures, this is the day and time when you and I must know the Word of God.

There is a Scripture that crossed my mind right away, "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." I Corinthians 8:1. Not to be puffed up, but to admit that we are just the servants of the Almighty God -- each one of you that are seated here.

You don't have to be a minister or you don't have to be an Elder. Each one of us is equal in the sight of Almighty God and we are all ministers of the Word of God.

Let us not be ashamed of this holy and precious Word. We are our Lord's ambassadors today. The Apostle Peter understood that later on when he was anointed with the Holy Spirit. He said, "No, Lord, I am not going to deny You." He said that before he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, and he needed to learn the lesson so that he could become one of the leaders of the church---the early church. And he sure did learn!

There are some beautiful Epistles that you can read. They are so encouraging today when He tells us that we should not

fall asleep. He did fall asleep spiritually and physically when Jesus was in the garden. He was praying to the Almighty God and there was no one there to comfort Him. Peter, James and John were sleeping there. "Oh, we are so strong. We do not need to pray just to pray." Pray. No, they don't need to pray. They felt they were strong enough, and they sure learned a good lesson.

Sometimes you and I learn good lessons through our mistakes. Sometimes I feel, as I was talking to Bro. Loren last night, even when you do your best, we still have the enemy that comes before the throne of the Almighty God and he is accusing you and me. He says, "Look! He loves you and He serves you. He understands you where He has given you understanding. Please don't understand enough so that he can find his soul's salvation or the way to Heaven. Just touch this or that that he has, and you will see where you stand and how much He loves you."

Let us not be deceived. We have the same enemy as Adam and Eve had. One day that enemy will be bound, the Scripture tells us. What a glorious day that should be when Jesus will come back and show this world what is like Heaven, a righteous government. That will come to pass soon, beloved, I believe that.

The Book of Revelation tells us that it might be around the corner. Then you and I that have been faithful here on this earth will rule over this world with our Lord Jesus Christ for one thousand years. Aren't we looking forward to that?

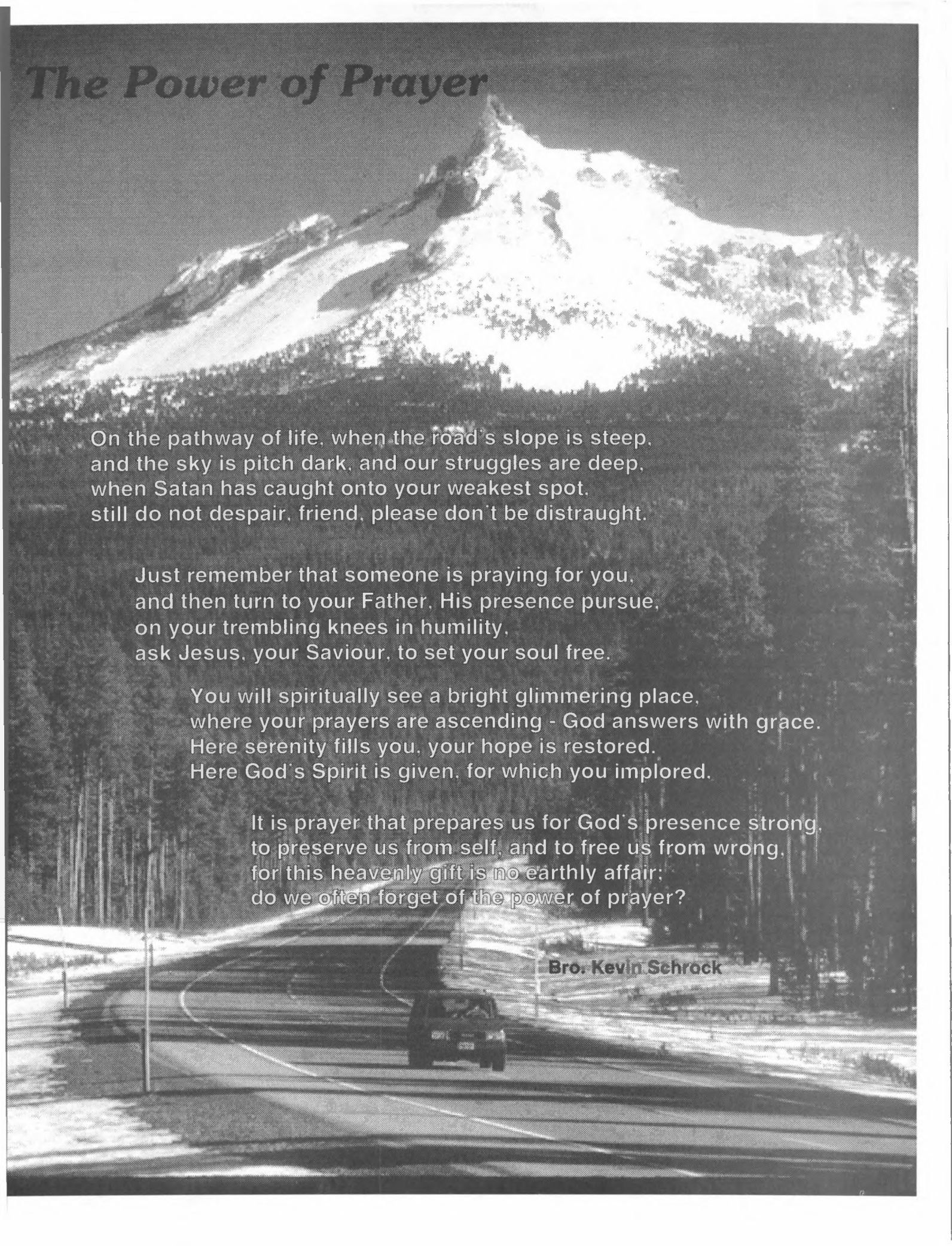
Once we pass from this life to eternity, we will never die. But we will live forever and forever. Even when we must leave this flesh and blood, which is passed from death unto life, to live eternally, what a glorious day that will be!

Let us remain strong. Let us not rely as the Apostle Peter relied on his own strength. I am thankful that even the Apostle Peter was given grace to repent. He went out and wept bitterly. Then when Jesus rose from the dead, we know He loved him. His soul came to Jesus. He knew that that is not really what he had in heart to deny Him, but God gave him grace to repent.

You and I have denied our Lord many times prior to our conversion, and I hope that it wasn't after our conversion. If it has happened in anyone's life, where can we go? The Scripture tells us to go to the Lord...run to Him! He is our Shelter!

As we read the beautiful Psalms -- Oh, they are so encouraging! So uplifting! We belong to Him! We are His peculiar people. We are His and He is ours. Let us love Him and serve Him with all our heart and mind.

The Power of Prayer



On the pathway of life, when the road's slope is steep,
and the sky is pitch dark, and our struggles are deep,
when Satan has caught onto your weakest spot,
still do not despair, friend, please don't be distraught.

Just remember that someone is praying for you,
and then turn to your Father, His presence pursue,
on your trembling knees in humility,
ask Jesus, your Saviour, to set your soul free.

You will spiritually see a bright glimmering place,
where your prayers are ascending - God answers with grace.
Here serenity fills you, your hope is restored.
Here God's Spirit is given, for which you implored.

It is prayer that prepares us for God's presence strong,
to preserve us from self, and to free us from wrong,
for this heavenly gift is no earthly affair;
do we often forget of the power of prayer?

Bro. Kevin Schrock



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The persecution of Samuel H. Froehlich and his faithful co-workers came from three primary sources--the Swiss State church, the Swiss civil government, and later from a schism within that resulted from doctrinal challenges. The major causative factor to all the troubles and distresses of the Froehlich-led believers in Christ stemmed from his challenge to the rationalistic doctrines of the state church. This brought endless rebuke from the authorities.

Not only did Froehlich face retribution from the state church, but also from civil (governmental) officials, of which the state church was a part. Because the church and the state were one entity, a long-held belief prevailed that disloyalty to the state church was disloyalty to the civil government, and thus treasonous.

Also, because Froehlich's followers refused to have their infant children baptized in the state church, they were scorned and often fined by the state. Interestingly, the Anabaptists (300 years earlier) who refused to have their children baptized were called "soul murderers". In Froehlich's time, the state attitude was less harsh, but deep criticism still prevailed.

Early in his ministry, Froehlich suffered from poor health. Chest pain and respiratory problems plagued him throughout his years of preaching and pastoring, and his medical situation was aggravated by religious tensions and distresses. It contributed to an early death at age 53.

On September 2, 1832, Froehlich preached to a large audience at Lang-

nau. About 500 were present. He preached for three hours from the text of John 16:7. The next day his preaching of salvation was reported to the civil authorities. He was arrested and told to leave the area within 24 hours.

In Leutwil, where author Herman Reugger reports 45 souls had one time been baptized, fines were levied on anyone who permitted religious meetings in their homes. Reugger further writes, "He (Froehlich) held meetings everywhere and persecution followed him at every step."

Froehlich writes, "As long as I kept silent I was left alone. As soon as I began to testify of Christ, persecution came."

By 1842, trials and challenges were ever-present. Reugger writes, "The persecutions ever and again posed new questions and tasks. New problems arose almost daily, and the more so, because so many people of many trends and varied circumstances were gathered together."

Froehlich met persecution (i.e., harassment by the state) almost everywhere. Fines were commonplace. Once, in Thurgau, newly-baptized souls were beaten with clubs, and nearly drowned in watering troughs. But such treatment drew the brethren together, and energized their tendencies to spread the gospel.

In 1843, Froehlich was expelled from Zurich and branded a "sectarian". Bounty was offered for his capture. The brethren, amid these distresses, resolved to hold fast to their religious principles "according to the Word of

God, and to carry them out, *whatever the cost might be.*"

Froehlich's travel patterns were monitored. Once his enemies were waiting for him. It was thought he would walk under a viaduct to reach a certain gathering where he was to speak. His opponents waited on top of the viaduct where they intended to pour scalding hot water on him. He learned of this trick, and walked on another path to the meeting. He escaped their wrath.

Despite ongoing setbacks, a thirst for God grew. Believers were determined to meet for worship. Sometimes meetings would be held at 3:00 a.m. Often, this would occur three times per week. Church and civil attitudes toward the believers necessitated secret meetings.

An arrested believer once told a judge that the difference between the sermons of Brother Froehlich and those of the state church were like the difference between day and night.

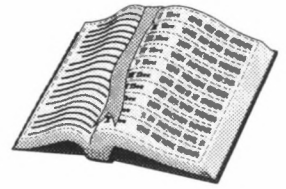
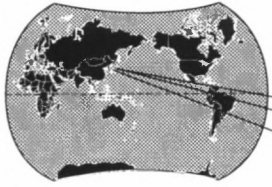
Persecutions, distresses, and suffering did not deter the establishment and growth of a true, Bible-based faith. Such patterns enhanced it! We, today, are its beneficiaries.

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

**Next issue:
Froehlich's personal
circumstances**

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

"Puppies"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

At the breakfast table I was reading along in the Japanese Bible from the Gospel of Mark. Lois follows in the English King James Bible. In 7:27 Jesus said to a Greek lady who wanted the devil cast out of her daughter, "It is not meet (or proper) to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs." Jesus may have been testing her humility with such a statement.

The lady responded in verse 28, "Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs." I noticed that in both verses, in Japanese, dogs is written with two kanji or characters which mean "little dogs" or "puppies". This gave me a vision of puppies scrambling around under the table to catch a crumb or two.

What is our position? Are we willing to be called "dogs" or "puppies"? In II Cor. 1:1, believ-

ers are called "saints", and in II Cor. 6:3 it is written, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" This is quite a contrast from being puppies under a table looking for crumbs.

Generally speaking, the Pharisees felt themselves to be better than others. We read in Luke 18:11 and 12, where a certain Pharisee prayed, "I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." They didn't consider themselves to be unworthy puppies, looking for crumbs that might fall from the table of those who are more worthy.

Lazarus is another Bible character who "desired to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table." (Luke 16:21). Dogs were also involved as they

came and licked his sores.

Both the Greek lady and Lazarus were commended in the Bible. The lady took no offense at being called a "dog" or a "puppy". Lazarus would have been, oh so happy, to have been given some of the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table, but the crumbs were not forthcoming. Are we like them, or do we expect more and complain more? I keep seeing puppies under the table looking for crumbs and wonder how I measure up.

We should follow the example of the Greek lady with whom the Lord Jesus Christ was so pleased. She was humble and humility is something we have long advocated. Let's be like puppies under the table, enjoying every crumb that comes to us from the hand of the Master.

希望の光



Lamont, Kansas 1881-1978

The Lamont congregation gathers in this little white country church for about 97 years until a new church was built in 1978. This building holds many precious memories that we cherish.

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