

The Silver Lining



...the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind...

September 1995

"Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire."

Isaiah 29:6



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

Luke 18:1

Volume 49

SEPTEMBER 1995

Number 9

PRAYER

"...the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet." Nahum 1:3

There are moments in our lives which help us to realize that the Lord God is Majesty over all, and thus it is when a great storm is upon us. We, God's creation and children, are so small when compared to God's fury and majesty. We learn real quick that at a time like in a great storm that we ought to pray and not faint.

Thus it was one evening after the harvest season, that a brother was returning home from the big city.

It was evident that a great storm was coming out of the west. As the car pulled into the garage, the brother got out and met two sons who were taking shelter from the strange storm. Lightning sizzled but there was no thunder. The lightning seemed extra close, even to the point that it appeared unsafe to venture out to try and make it to the house.

Then a lull came and all ran for the house. The father and two sons met the mother and daughter. The gaze of all was fixed on the western sky. The scanner and weather radio gave reports of ominous weather heading their way.

At about the time when the sky looked like it would fall from space, the family got a call from a volunteer who worked at the county civil defense. He reported a particular nasty cloud system that had spawned a tornado about five miles away and it seemed to be heading towards the family's farm.

For the first time that afternoon, fear grasped the whole family. Cover was quickly sought in the basement. They crouched in the southwest corner, all huddled together. The older son thought he would venture up the basement stairs to the gradeway and look out to view the weather. He took one look outside and seen lawn furniture floating in the air, trees crashing against the garage, and with one leap he was down the stairs and into the corner. The daughter asked, "Are we going to die?" and everyone felt a deep need. As the pressure changed and all of their ears started to pop, the small six-year-old uttered the prayer of the innocent, "God, please spare us."

About that quick, the storm passed and after a few minutes the family went up the stairs to view the damage. Forty-three

trees were twisted off, buildings blown off their foundations, livestock was standing in open lots because the protective buildings had been blown away, the whole farm was without electricity, high line wires were down, but the house did not have a shingle missing. Now we can think what we want but that family believes that the prayer uttered by the six-year-old touched God's heart and the wind ceased.

The storm was over and the sun shone brightly.

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

It has been said "There are no atheists on the battlefield." When man is in danger of losing his life, he will find an inward need to appeal to a higher power. We learn through the Word that God does not have a Holy communion with the sinner as he or she is in sin. Therefore, we need to repent for sin, and humbly ask for grace to carry on with life here on earth.

When we see the tremendous power unleashed by God in a tornado, we want to pray. With winds whirling near 300 m.p.h., the destruction can be far reaching.

It is too often that we pray when we are in imminent danger or having a great trial, but not when we are witnessing happiness. I believe God appreciates the prayer of thanksgiving as well as the prayer of request for deliverance.

A dear sister said just recently that their family would pray for peace because of the persecution they received from others in their church.

Another prayed a prayer of thanksgiving when their infant was returned to them after a severe burn.

Another prayed that they might endure the teasing of classmates.

Another prayed for guidance in a job offer, while others prayed that they would have grace and wisdom to be a light and example. So we can see how important prayer really is.

In James we are taught to pray for that which we need and if we pray for our wants, we may not get what we pray for because we ask amiss. In the same chapter we are told "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit in us lusteth to envy." Prayer can keep us close to God and it is our

communication toward God so we can find ourselves wishing for other's ultimate good.

I often find a need to pray for even those loved ones I don't know. For instance, at this writing there are loved ones depending on us to receive their daily bread. There are also loved ones in Hungary that are trying to pay for a new hymnal which would be a combination of our Gospel Hymns and our Hymns of Zion. While it is so very important to pray for them, we also learn in James how important it is to act upon our prayers in faith.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms." (James 5:13)

"Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned; behold the judge standeth before the door." (James 5:9)

Can we pray for peace and mercy upon those who despitefully use us? Can we pray for those who are in great need and not follow through with actions? That is a challenge to me as a brother of our Lord and it is our prayer that we might pray without ceasing.



The Silver Lining

RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

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David Bertsch

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 1995

God's Plan For Family Unity - VIII

Part VIII in a series of articles on family unity focuses on fair treatment of our children, security of a loving atmosphere and good communication.

Perhaps one of the more difficult tasks for parents with more than one child is to be "fair" to all of our children and not to show favoritism. Some children try our patience more than others do. As a result, it is easy to overlook some things that the well behaved child does and let him or her get away with more than the one who gives us the greater challenge. Favoritism brings contempt and must be guarded against very carefully. "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him." (Gen. 37:3-4). Jealousy, anger, bitterness and rebellion can be a result of a child's perception that he has been treated unfairly. Parents need to frequently reflect upon their responses to their children, especially if one of them is difficult to control, to make sure we are treating all of our children fairly. It might be beneficial to ask our teenage children if they feel we are being fair. Visit heart to heart and try to find out why they feel as they do.

Sometimes as parents we make hasty decisions and find out later that we have made a mistake. We should not be too proud to admit to our children that we have made a mistake nor should we be too proud to apologize for it. "Confess your faults one to another..." (James 5:16). "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). This does not mean that we should apologize for punishment properly administered but rather when we do it in error.

Children should have the security of knowing that their parents love each other and that they love their children. When children misbehave, we should never threaten to withhold our love from them. Withholding our love from our children is not an option that godly parents have. In teaching the importance of sound doc-

trine, Paul instructed the aged women to "...be in behavior as becometh holiness,... That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,..." (Titus 2:3-4). Words are important and we should tell our children every day that we love them.

However, far more important than words are the deeds that accompany them. Do we love our children enough that we spend time with them or are we always too busy or too tired? Do we love them enough that we will read Bible stories to them and sing hymns with them? Do we love them enough to establish daily family worship? Do we participate with them in wholesome activities so there is less desire and time for them to engage in unwholesome activities? Do we love our children enough that we are willing to say "no" when circumstances dictate the need?

The Golden Rule should be applied as we discipline our children. Now that we are adults and have children of our own, we appreciate the discipline our parents provided for us. Undoubtedly, we remember some times when our parents made mistakes. Rather than being angry, we should use this insight as a learning experience to help us as we teach our children.

Knowing that the Lord chastens us because He loves us, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (Rev. 3:19), we ought to do the same for our children. If we want the Lord to chastise us so we can be fitted for the kingdom of Heaven, by applying the Golden Rule, we are required to chastise our children in love and with compassion. A frequent cause of difficulty in many areas of human relationships is poor communication. Good communication is as important in our relationship with our children as it is at work or in the church. Communication involves much more than simply talking. The specific words we use are often less important than the way we use them.

One of the fundamental principles of good communication is that of being a good listener. Too often we are thinking of what we will say in response to someone's comments rather than listening to

what they say. When Job's three friends could find no answer, Elihu said, "Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles. I will speak, that I may be refreshed;..." (Job 32:19-20). Would Elihu have provided a more valuable service to Job and his three friends if he had been more concerned about the situation than about his own relief?

Although we need not always agree with our children, we do need to be willing to listen to what they have to say. This does not mean that children should be permitted to become argumentative or disrespectful, nor does it mean that every excuse should be listened to. It simply means that we keep in touch by finding out, from time to time, what is on their minds. The Bible teaches us that we have a God of compassion (Heb. 5:1-2). If we display compassion with our children as we communicate with them, we will increase the likelihood that they will be willing to talk with us when they have concerns. Compassion involves understanding, not necessarily agreement. If we are compassionate, our children are more likely to accept our opinions and respect our requests. If we are compassionate, we will try to make sure that our responses to our children are delivered in such a way that they will know that we love them. They will come to understand that the decisions we make are based on our concern for their welfare and on our desire to fulfill our God-given responsibility rather than on simple authority.

Good communication requires that we speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15). When we say "no", a kind and sound explanation is appropriate. Our children have a right to know that when we are talking to them, what we say is true. If we give them reason to doubt our word, it will destroy their confidence in us. Once lost, confidence is only slowly regained.

Fair treatment, the security of a loving compassionate home atmosphere and good communication all contribute to a peaceful, stable family relationship.

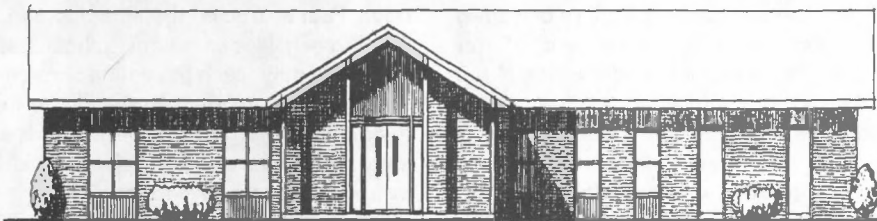


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

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

Building Advisory Committee



As the Church has grown through the years and new congregations have been established in various places, there has been a continuing need for church buildings. Each case has brought its unique challenges. Some months ago, the Mission Committee began considering a program to address these situations.

There has been much thought, searching and discussion. At the last meeting approval was given to establish a committee of knowledgeable brothers to serve on a "Building Advisory Committee". This idea was presented to the Elder Body and approved at the Princeville Conference this year.

Purpose of the Committee

It is proposed that this committee, eventually made up of four or five brothers, will assist small congregations in their efforts to acquire an adequate house of worship. It is hoped the committee can provide experience and expertise in design, construction, organization, and financial aspects. We have learned from past experiences, that most of the time, small or new congregations usually do not have the resources or time to consider all the needs involved in building or buying a satisfactory church.

First Services Usually in Hotels

When worship services are initiated in a new location, they are usually held in a home, hotel, or such facility. As more space becomes necessary, quite often decisions must be made within time frames that do not allow for proper study of all aspects of the situation. Since rental space may be expensive or not available, the elder body will often give permission to seek out a facility which can be purchased and remodeled. We have found that used churches are scarce, inadequate for our needs, and often in disrepair. If a building is purchased, it usually requires much time and effort to make it fit our needs. Although this sometimes is satisfactory, even after extensive work and expense, the congregation often doesn't have what they need.

Building a New Church

If a used building is not available, the elder body may give permission to build a new one. This creates an almost overwhelming responsibility for the local members who

seldom have either time or experience required for such a task. Often they are young brothers who have limited time to devote to the effort. Sometimes an architect or builder is hired who really does not understand our particular needs.

How the Committee Can Help

We believe that this new Building Advisory Committee can advise and assist the local congregation as follows:

1. The Committee can give counsel as a search is made for a used facility or building site. They can help decide if it would be best to remodel a used building, or construct a new one.
2. They will develop two or three plans for a modest church building adequate for a small congregation. The local committee could use one of these plans with some modifications to fit their specific needs.
3. They will help control costs. It is very important that all costs be considered, particularly when purchasing an existing building to remodel. It is highly possible that unanticipated expenses will increase the final cost substantially. When we ask our brethren to assist in funding, we must be good stewards of the funds they provide for us.
4. The Committee can provide a brother to be on site for the actual work period. He will help coordinate volunteer labor and work teams provided by the World Relief Committee.

Available to any Congregation

We hope to make this committee available to any congregation who is planning a remodeling or construction project, regardless of the size. If the local congregation wishes to request funds from our brotherhood, it is felt that there should be input from this committee at the beginning of the project.

The Mission Committee is presently making a search for qualified brothers to serve on this committee, and hopes to begin making some appointments soon.

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

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

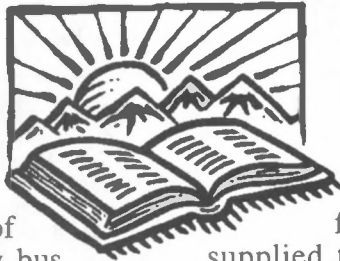


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Medical-Dental Team Makes New Experience

As the 13th semi-annual Apostolic Christian Medical-Dental work team visited Mexico, they found themselves making some new experiences. Instead of visiting the area around Jaurez, which is normally served by our teams, they had received permission to go to another location. Although there were some difficulties, which is not unusual in third world countries, the team was able to distribute supplies to the tribe of Tarahumara Indians dwelling in the most ancient of lifestyles in a small portion of the Sierra Madre Occidental mountain chain, known as the Sierra Tarahumara. The team of 29 persons traveled by bus from El Paso, Texas, to an area about 300 air miles away, yet centuries removed from current civilization. They were awed by the sight of people living in caves, maintaining life without rain, and surviving off the land. Life has stood still for these gentle people, who number about 60,000 men, women and children. It was obvious that mere survival is their daily focus. Plows are made from oak trees and homemade wares are taken miles to sell at a market. Their backward life is almost impossible for us to grasp.



Severe Drought & Poverty

Although the obvious signs of severe conditions were everywhere, the group could admire the overwhelming beauty of the mountains and canyons. The sight of dead and starving cattle demonstrated that the grim specter of famine stalked the

land. The people told of spiritual famine due to persecution if they turn to Jesus Christ for help. Mortality is high, with as many as 8 in 10 babies dying shortly after birth. The Indians walked many miles up and down the mountains with babies strapped on their backs when they learned of the team's coming.

Team Was Well Supplied

For the first time in two years, our semi load of food and donated items actually arrived on time, by the grace and blessings of God. There was an abundance to give, and the group prayerfully undertook the enormous effort of portioning it out in a fair and Godly order. Each day they would travel another 2 hours or so deeper into the interior. Our brethren and friends on the home front had made and supplied them large numbers of health and school kits, beans, clothing, blankets, etc.

Gospel in Word and Song

When everyone was present at a distribution site, team members sang hymns in the Spanish language, and then told them the story of Christ's salvation in their language through an interpreter. The hearts of these kind and simple people were moved by the preaching of the cross. When devotional services were finished, the chief of the tribe would separate out the widows and orphans first, as the scripture directs. Everyone received something for their needs. Little orphan children would sit on their bags of corn playing with their new toys and eating candy or chewing

gum. Each person received a copy of the Gospel along with a cardboard record player which is operated by hand. With this device, which seems so very primitive compared to our host of electronic equipment, they could play the story of Jesus over and over in their own language. Many tears were shed.

A Few Discomforts

As is often the case in areas where there is poverty, the team discovered they had to endure a few discomforts themselves. At first they thought it was hard having only two bathrooms to share among 29 people, but when they got into the interior there were none. The roads were very rough, hilly, and full of curves. One found himself getting exercise just bumping around on the seats of the vehicles.

Volunteers Benefited

Everyone who has been on one of these teams, regardless of where they find themselves throughout the world, discovers that they benefit. One cannot avoid weeping when seeing the desperate conditions, and realizing that he did nothing to deserve the great benefits in his own life. It can always be said that each trip does indeed change lives and attitudes.

Faithful Folks at Home

The work of World Relief could not be carried out without our brethren and friends at home. You provide us the goods, tools, and finances. Most of you will never know how greatly your work is appreciated, but please accept this sincere thanks from everyone involved. God alone can reward your loving support!



Caribbean Update

Haiti Coordinators Needed

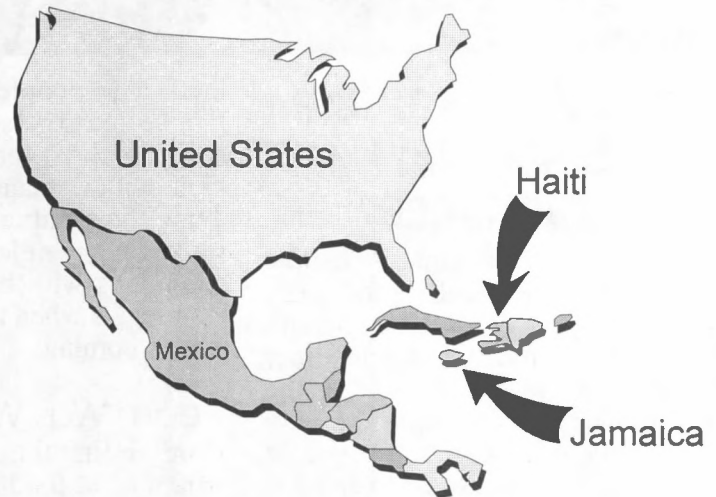


The concept of long term coordinators for Haiti building projects was approved by the World Relief Committee. We are seeking several couples or brothers who would have a desire to serve as coordinators for a period up to six months.

The coordinators would be involved in assisting and coordinating Apostolic Christian work teams, and also aiding in our other World Relief projects in Haiti.

We ask that you prayerfully consider this, and if you have an interest, contact:

Roger Sauder, Chairman
Caribbean Board
6251 S.W. 5th. St.
Plantation, FL 33317
Phone (305) 584-0947



Work Team Dates

Approval was made at the World Relief committee meeting on August 12th for the following dates for work teams in Haiti and Jamaica for the literacy program (school buildings) during the coming 1996 winter work season.

HAITI



January 12-20, 1996

HAITI - MEBSH

This work team is filled.

Coordinator: Glen Hackenjoes
10564 Haverly
El Monte, CA 91731
818/442-4957

January 26-February 3, 1996

HAITI - PALM GROVE

Cote de Feu area to be announced by Eris Labody

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer
RR #2, Box 69A
Elgin, IA 52141
Home: 319/426-5486
Office: 319/426-5585
Fax: 319/426-5586

February 2-10, 1996

HAITI - MEBSH

Location to be announced by Bob Stewart

Coordinator: Craig Emch

11856 Miller Road
Sterling, OH 44276
216/939-4591

February 16-24, 1996

HAITI - MEBSH

Location to be announced by Bob Stewart

Coordinator: Jim Walter

26 Timber Ridge
Fairbury, IL 61739
815/692-3158
815/692-2851 Fax

March 1-9, 1996

HAITI - MEBSH

Location to be announced by Bob Stewart

Coordinator: Phil Isabell

16746 S. 380 W.
Remington, IN 47977
219/261-3541
219/261-2860 Fax

JAMAICA



January 3-11, 1996

JAMAICA-CCCD

At Montego Bay

This work team is filled.

March 8-16, 1996

JAMAICA - CCCD

Kingston Site (scheduled for spring break at many colleges)
For information call:

Harold Witzig
308 N. 2nd St.
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6263
(309) 266-8575 FAX

May 17-25, 1996

JAMAICA - CCCD

Deaf Village Site (scheduled for end of college term at most colleges).

Coordinator: Mike Finley

Box 176
Carlock, IL 61725
309/376-7301
309/923-7243 Fax

- 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 |
| June 1995 -- | 3,208 | 33,123 |

*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.

**Program Assistant/Direct Care Provider**

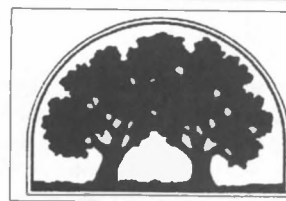
Lakeside Terrace, ICF/MR, in Sabetha, KS is looking for individuals to work as Program Assistants. This job requires one to be responsible for the daily care and implementing instructional programs for our residents.

The mental demands of this job include following directions, organizing time, and communicating with various people. The physical demands include physical strength to lift and position physically disabled adults.

The job requirements include: 1) pre-employment physical, 2) nurse aide or previous experience with handicapped adults or children, 3) being creative, flexible and willing to learn new ideas, 4) being positive and caring, sensitive to others' needs, 5) able to maintain confidentiality.

Lakeside Terrace is a 12 bed home to 5 women and 7 men with developmental disabilities. It is affiliated with the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged in Sabetha, KS. This home opened in April of 1991. Lakeside Terrace is a home with Christian background and ideals. Any individual interested in applying for a job, please call or write to Sheila Moser, RSD

Lakeside Terrace
1100 Harrison
Sabetha, KS 66534
(913) 284-0005

**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.

GOD IS FAITHFUL, and so are you, our brethren, families, and friends! Thank you so much for the loving response to our Auction on August 19. Our total is now over \$172,000! It is a real confirmation of our ministry at Gateway Woods to see the support from across the country and, in some cases, around the world. May God, the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, reward you from His abundant supply! Because the Sale is such a wonderful time of fellowship and excitement, we are already looking forward to next year. We hope you will all join us once again as we host this great event **FOR THE CHILDREN**.

The 20th ANNUAL
Gateway Woods
Auction and Sale
Saturday, August 17, 1996

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

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 which will be a combination of our Hymns of Zion and The Gospel Hymns.

Five 60 min. Tapes Available: *Delivery in September 1995*
From European Churches

- 1.) Budapest with guests: Dunavecse, Paks, Nagydorog churches
- 2.) Baja and Ersekcsanak churches
- 3.) Oroshaza with guests: Bekescsaba, Bekessamson churches
- 4.) Dunavecse Childrens Chorus
- 5.) Szeged with guests: 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. Dorine Kurkowski 3540 Prairie Berkley, MI 48072 810/544-2707 | 4.) Bro. Dennis Virkler Rejoice Records Ringger Ranch Recording RR 1 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 | 6.) Bro. Roger Ward RR 2 Box 74a Francesville, IN 47946 219/567-2687 |

Send U.S. Funds With Orders

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..."

II Chronicles 16:9

How reassuring those words are to us. We need to remember that even when we do not devote

proper time to Him that His eyes are always strong upon us, caring for us, leading us on and helping us in our life. What a comfort. How often life gets too busy and our prayer life and devotion time is not what it should be. It is during those times that He remains faithful. That is truly unconditional love. How I love Him for that!

At the Home for the Handicapped, we rely on His guidance each day. We are reassured that

He is the Builder of this Home and that He shows Himself strong on behalf of our residents and the functions of this Home. Again, we express our thanks for those who pray for the Home and those who must make the day to day decisions here at the Home. Your prayers are felt and God's loving hand is felt.

Many residents are happily anticipating an overnight camping trip. This is one of the more exciting outings for them. They will enjoy a variety of activities including swimming and let's not forget eating. Now there is a pleasure we all enjoy. We have had such hot weather that our summer activities have been curtailed this year. However, swimming, horseback riding and evening walks are enjoyed by both staff and residents. Special programs of entertainment are brought to the Home and many other activities make the residents' days special.

October Birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Tricia O'Donnell (1), Lois Baumgartner (4), Carol Fahrni (5). At OAKWOOD - Anita Schuon (13), Bryan Tiezzi (30). At LINDEN - Kent Knobloch (14). No Birthdays at our community residences.

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

Deb Graf

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The staff and residents of Gateway Woods are again humbled by the faithfulness of God through our supporters at our Annual Auction which was held August 19. We are so thankful for all the volunteers, donors and buyers who bless us each year with your support. Words cannot express the gratefulness we feel. The sale has initially brought in

proceeds exceeding \$170,000. Once again, many thanks to all!

Also, on the day before the sale, Bro. Tim Sauder, our Administrator, and his wife, Sis. Jenny, welcomed their fifth child, Raquel Ruth, into the family.

The days of summer are drawing to a close and that brings many changes to Gateway Woods. Aaron J., Christa D., and Gail R. have left and are now reunited with their families. We pray that each one will remember all they learned about Jesus and will put Him first in their lives. Some of the children leave here and go on to foster homes. Walt and Sis. Sherry Snodgrass (Bluffton) have opened their home to Nick H. We are so thankful for the foster parents who willingly give of themselves and their families to serve the Lord in this work.

As some children leave, there are always others to fill their places. Dawn G. and Aaron L. have moved into the home of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter. Also, Brandon W. and Tim H. have moved into the home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf. We pray that God will be near to all of the houseparents as they work with each special child.

Along with the changes in children, there are also changes amongst our staff as well. Sis. Deb Neuenschwander feels God directing her elsewhere and our prayer for her is said so well in the following hymn:

God be with you till we meet
again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet
again.
God be with you till we meet
again;
When life's perils thick confound
you,
Put his arms unfailing round you;

God be with you till we meet
again.

Hymns of Zion #216

It is always exciting when a sinner turns from their sinful life and begins a new life of service for our Lord. Brandi W. has given her heart to the Lord. We pray that many more will make the same choice.

We are so thankful for all of the willing volunteers who give of their time and talents. Our volunteers last month include: Bros. Jeremy Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL), Jeremy Greenway and Rob Honegger (Bluffton, IN), Gabriel Clough (Philadelphia, PA), Thad Heinold (Cissna Park, IL) and Brett Heiniger (Bloomington, IL). The volunteer sisters have been Christine Romersberger and Kelli Stoller (Gridley, IL), Kara Banwart and Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL), Rachel Clough (Philadelphia, PA), Deana Overmeyer (Francesville, IN), Brandy Girod (Bluffton, IN), Wendy Witzig (Morton, IL), Renee Miller (Sardis, OH) and Carol Graf (Altadena, CA).

At the close of the summer we also say farewell to our summer volunteer coordinator, Sis. Dawn Dick (Bluffton, IN); our long-term volunteers, Bro. Dana Plattner and Sis. Janet Frank (Bluffton, IN); and our Top Quality Landscape Manager, Bro. David Kieser. We really appreciate all the hard work you did this summer.

Now that Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf have moved into the East House to take the place of Sis. Deb Neuenschwander and Sis. Sandy Leman, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. We've been Alternate Houseparents for the past 16 months and can testify that the Lord has blessed us in countless ways. But we also realize that a couple has many concerns when considering

the possibility of becoming houseparents. A tape available called "**A Word of Testimony**" which talks about the concerns as well as the blessings of houseparenting is narrated by past and present staff members. Contact Gateway Woods for a free copy. If you have any questions or concerns, houseparent couples are always glad to share their experiences. Please prayerfully consider this rewarding work for the Lord.

We are pleased to announce that Bro. John Stoller will take over the position of Child Care Supervisor. Bro. John and his wife, Sis. Patsy (our office secretary), previously served as Houseparents.

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

As summer has drawn to a close, so closes our daily teaching about miracles of the Bible. It is good to see that this theme has not gone unheeded. Just the other day one of the students fell and was ready to cry, but changed his mind when he saw pebbles sticking to his arm. His face broke out into a grin, and he exclaimed, "I've never seen a miracle like that before!"

Our summer months have been busy with the coming and going of staff and volunteers. We were pleased to have Sis. Jill Meister (Peoria, IL), Sis. Shalome Knobloch and Sis. Julie Schick (Morton, IL) and Sis. Jenny Leman (Bloomington, IL) volunteer their time with us. Bro. Blake and Sis. Penny Stahl (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Shannon Stahl (Altadena, CA) also spent a week helping us at the Preschool. Many thanks to our volunteers for all their hard work, especially in

the midst of summertime heat.

We said farewell to Sis. Marilyn Walder (Cissna Park, IL) as the summer ended, and gratefully welcome God's provision of our new teacher, Sis. Tricia Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN). We pray that she will feel God's nearness in her move here and in her new job.

From a laid back summer, we have rushed headlong into another busy school year. We have approximately 50 preschoolers attending this year, representing many different educational needs, home situations, and levels of understanding of God. We ask you to pray for us as we inter-act with each of these children, setting their hearts and minds on things above.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

Another month has passed and it seems it was only yesterday when I was writing the last column. I apologize that the Athens' column was not in the Silver Lining last month. I did write it, and relied on the modern convenience of the FAX machine to send it; however, it failed.

I don't feel in touch with the Athens' news this past month, as we've been traveling, visiting our other churches. So I will try my best to report the news from Athens.

Roy Barnett has been hospitalized and I know Roy and Christine would appreciate our prayers. Sis. Nancy Sizemore's stepfather and daughter-in-law are undergoing surgery and she has asked we pray for them.

We also have joyful news to share. Jessica Haynes, a friend who has been attending our Athens church, has decided to make a beginning in committing her life to the Lord. We rejoice with her.

Sunday, August 20, was a busy day for Athens church. We held our monthly potluck lunch, with a small group attending, as so many are vacationing. A bridal tea was also held for Holly Jones and John Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris) who are preparing for their wedding on September 23, 1995.

We always enjoy visitors in Athens. Services are at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18

What fitting scripture for our dear sister, so loving, strong in faith and courageous. Sis. Dorothy Kraft entered Heaven on August 11 at 2:00 p.m. What a reward after 17 years of suffering cancer. Her funeral was at the Apostolic Christian Church on August 15. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich had services, assisted by our home ministers. Internment was in East Resthaven Cemetery. Family and friends came from Kansas and California. Our deepest sympathy to Richard, Sis. Kelly Freed, Bro. Steve and children. A daughter, Karen, died in 1987. May God be your comforter.

The Elder Conference was in Princeville, IL on August 9-11. Our prayers are partly answered, as many returned home safely. Now, if everyone would show Godly love one to another...not to just your favorites. We each need to be our Elder's helper. Be ye kind one to another.

For the children, Sunday School cannot start too soon. Little An-

neliese Hoerr (Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda) wants to sing "our" songs and make things about the stories. These wonderful times of twenty some years ago were not wasted, for in recent weeks we've seen Shayne Pulfer, Lex Beris and Bill Emch in church. Please come again; you are our family.

Visiting ministers, to whom we are grateful, were Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Don Gude- man (LaCrosse, IN) and Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Despite temperatures up to 121 degrees and 17 continuous days of 110 plus, we have many visitors.

Bro. Glen Gudeman will wor- ship in Phoenix church while he attends school here. We welcome you from LaCrosse.

The Lord has directed a dear family out of the country. Bill and Betty Pamer and children, Wil- liam, Aden, Tyler, Rachel and Kenzie have moved to 128 Brook- side Cresent, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2N1H1. (Note: Postage is 46 cents, not 32 cents.)

The Lord has answered our prayers according to His will; who then can be ungrateful? Hospital patients were Sis. Dorothy Kraft, Sis. Esther Harmon and Jim Laukhuf (Jim is home after five weeks and two major surgeries and really needs the Lord and our prayers). Kathy Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) had outpa- tient surgery. Sis. Josephine Martin is ill. Sis. Lou Ann Klop- fenstein has a broken foot. Sis. Ruth Vaughn is able to come to church after surgery.

As we pray one for another, do remember our children; it's schooltime and autumn is close by (less daylight).

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

II Thess. 3:5

John 13:34 will enrich us.

John 14:6 will give a real under- standing of our Lord.

John 14 will give comfort to all.

Be aware: the Lord sees and knows all; our hearts tell more than our face.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

The "coolness" of Prescott reached 101 degrees; after a slight cool down, some rain came. Only God can make the weather---what a lesson in patience as we await autumn.

Our new meeting facility has brought new folks, for which we are grateful. Welcome to each of you.

Bro. Ralf and Sis. Verena Kaep- pler moved to Sedona, AZ from Toledo and are worshipping here.

Elen Kornia, Prescott Valley, joins us to worship also.

After several months here, Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi and family moved to Lamar, MO. We pray the Lord will bless them.

Ministers who came to preach were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bro. James Emch and Bro. Curtis Kaufman. Other services are via tele-conference calls from Phoe- nix.

The annual picnic - corn roast will be August 19. Everyone is welcome, be it Tucson, Phoenix or California churches.

The best way to reach this facil- ity 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.

Services are Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. MST. A

phone number at the Odd Fellow Building is (520) 445-4253.

For more information, call Bro. and Sis. Harvey Smith at (520) 445-2164.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We have resumed our Sunday School, fellowship suppers and Bi- ble studies after our summer break, but we are still enduring our summer weather. We have been having 100 degree tempera- tures and will continue that way for awhile.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman has not assembled with us for quite some time. We pray the Lord will bless Sis. Martha with His com- fort and protection. We need to keep her in our prayers.

Bro. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and his family were with us recently for Sunday services. We appreciate their visit and hope they return soon.

We welcome Bro. Jeff Klopfen- stein to Tucson from Phoenix. He is attending the University of Ari- zona. It is certainly nice to wel- come someone for a change after a long string of farewells!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

"And how shall they preach, ex- cept they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

The Lord continues to bless us with faithful brothers, who so willingly and with the concern of our souls and our beloved church, bring forth the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. First, on July 23, Bro.

Greg Gramm (Sis. Denise, Phoenix, AZ) served us much needed exhortations on staying true to our precious faith and church. Then the need and encouragement to remain holy and sanctified in our walk with our Lord and the blessings of preserving the unity within our faith, were wonderfully brought forth to us by our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) on July 26. Lastly, on July 30, we were lovingly cautioned that "Today if we will hear the voice of the Lord, to harden not our hearts," which was brought to us by Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). We are so very thankful for those dear brothers who served us much needed Food from God's Word.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Romans 10:17

We rejoice to be able to see the evidence of this verse as a dear soul has surrendered her life to the Lord. Shayna Aberle (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy) answered the call of God and has begun her repentance to the Lord. We pray the Lord will ever be near her as she will continue her repentance in Illinois where she will be attending school.

Our prayers are also with all our dear children who will begin yet another school year. May God be with each one and guide them each and every day.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA). We were privileged to hear the precious story of Christ's birth and the strong faith of Job. We were encouraged that like Job, our faith can be tested

and even though we may feel that God is far away, He really is just a prayer away. May God richly bless our ministers and, likewise, all of our many visitors. Come back soon.

As another Sunday School year is about to begin after about a two-month recess, we pray for the Sunday School teachers, that they can be used by the Lord to direct our youth to Him.

Bro. Steven Varga is to continue as our Sunday School Superintendent and our other teachers are Sis. Marian Petrovic, Sis. Camille Voght and Sis. Kathy Bickadi as the alternate.

Our prayers go out for the Elder brethren as they willingly give of themselves for the preservation of our church. May they be richly blessed.

COLORADO, DENVER

Joleen Elder

Greetings!!

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

Zion's Harp #237

Our little church was filled to witness the marriage of Bro. Charles Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand, Eureka, IL) to Sis. Naomi Braun (Sis. Sharon and Herman Braun). May the Lord bless and keep them as they walk hand and hand together.

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristin Bauman in the birth of their daughter, Abigail Kay. Abigail is welcomed home by Luke, Anna and Bethany. Also

thankful for this precious bundle are grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

We sure appreciate all our visitors. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and visiting ministers, Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), minister the Word unto us. May God bless them and their wives and families for traveling the many miles to be with us. Also, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and their family were able to spend a Wednesday night with us for Bible Study. May God bless them for their efforts.

We said "goodbye" to Paul and Sara Lasnier (Sis. Sharon and Herman Braun), John Paul and Dominique as they have recently relocated to Marengo, IL. May God be with them.

Kris Braun (Sis. Sharon and Herman Braun) recently had surgery on his hand due to an accident with a circular saw. May the Lord provide His healing touch.

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to weep!

A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Hymns of Zion #111

We wish to extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristin Bauman in the passing of his grandpa, Bro. Lou Bauman (Goodfield, IL). May the family feel God's love and comfort.

The Sunday School teachers recently had a Sunday School gathering for the children and families. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

Bro. Dave and Sis. Peggy Bahler are first-time parents of a precious little boy, John Owen, born on August 2. His grandparents are Bro. Owen and Sis. Lois Ann Bahler and Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Skipper.

We were privileged to have in our midst Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We appreciate their labor of love and wish them the Lord's blessings.

We are thankful our hospital patients are recovering. They are Bro. Ed Mangold (Terry), Todd Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Emma Ruch.

We should pray for our children as they all start back to school. May the Lord direct their hearts and minds throughout the coming year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

There's a tie of noble kinship
In a soul who loves the Lord,
There's a friendship warm and
lasting
If he heeds the Master's Word,
There is mutual understanding
And a sympathy so kind
In the tie of Christian friendship,
As on earth we oft-times find.
Hymns of Zion #91

We bid farewell to Sis. Jill Aeschleman as she moves back to Lester, IA. We thank her and will remember all she has done for this congregation in the three and one-half years she has lived in this area.

We have been blessed this summer with visitors. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia,

PA), Bro. Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH) and Bro. Hartzell Kaiser (Detroit, MI). We thank these brothers and members of their family who traveled with them. Other visitors this month were from Lamont-Gridley, KS; Lester, IA; Chicago, Eureka, Goodfield and Tremont, IL.

The hottest part of the year should be over. Fall in this area is usually nice and a lot less crowded.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tysons 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 meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5947 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

Bro. Richard Bounassi passed away on July 28. His wife preceded him in death and they had no children. Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) had the funeral service. Bro. Richard and Bro. Lavoyd met at a local restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale in 1985. Bro. Lavoyd invited Richard to church; he attended the next Sunday and later repented and was baptized. Bro. Richard was such a friendly man and dearly loved his church family.

Robert and Beth Houk, Orlando, became the very happy first-time parents of Juliana Sage on July 28. Elder Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein are the delighted grandparents.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

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

Proverbs 22:6

As our children go back to school, we parents have to do some learning also. It is important that we be aware of what our children are being taught in the schools today. Sadly, it is very unlike when our parents went to school and all that was taught was wholesome, even having grounding in the Scriptures.

Our addition, in the middle of August, is getting ready to have the roof put on soon. We should be in the building in very early October. We thank the Lord for His goodness, and all of you that have helped make this possible.

As our Elders and ministers came back from the Conference, may we have humble, obedient hearts that we may be teachable, for "they watch for our souls."

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin

We rejoice with Bro. Chris Sabo who has sought the Lord in his days of youth and gave his testimony to the church and was baptized. Bro. Chris is the son of Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo.

As the children now start back to school, let us pray that they will also remember the teachings they have been taught in their homes and at Sunday School and church.

The month of July has inspired many of our congregation to spend time on vacations, which has been one of our smallest months of attendance at church. However, we know that where two or three as-

semble, the Lord will be with us.

It is always a happy reunion when our loved ones return for a visit and are able to deliver a message to us. We want to thank Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III and his family from the Atlanta, GA church for sharing their love and time at home again.

Bro. George Reardon recently had surgery and is back worshipping with us. We thank God for His healing power for a quick recovery.

While the ministering brethren were extending their stay up north following the Conference, the Sarasota church was blessed with a visit from many of the brethren and friends from the North Ft. Myers church. We always look forward to visits from them.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for being in our midst.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldber and their two children, Drew and Elise, have moved here from the Chicago area. We certainly welcome them and pray that they will continue to feel God's love as they worship with our small congregation.

If you are in Atlanta over a weekend, please stop in to worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located on I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit, just south of the airport. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 or Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Millie Jepson

We are now in our fall activities after the busy summer and all the children are in school. As we look back at the end of the summer, we remember hot, humid weather! It was great for swimming, but hard for working. The summer seemed to go by so fast.

One of the blessed events for Belvidere church was the birth of a baby girl to Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker on July 26. Her pretty name is Krista Lynn and her "big" brother and sister are Derek and Jill Anliker. Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart are the happy grandparents of these little ones. We rejoice with them!

We thank God for the visiting ministers that traveled our way at the end of the hot summer. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart, Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter were here and we appreciate each one's labor of love to us. On one of the Sundays, our Bro. Dean Steffen was ill and could not contact any other minister, so he sent tapes for our services. It made us realize how much we depend on Bro. Dean. We so appreciate his presence and ministry here in Belvidere and we thank God for his faithfulness to God's Word and this congregation.

Our summer activities ended on August 19 with the Sunday School picnic at David and Sis. Sheila McCoy's home by a beautiful lake in Muskego, WI. We had a delicious picnic dinner and the children really enjoyed all the games the teachers had organized for them. Each year as we drive to and from the Sunday School picnic at the McCoy home we realize what a long drive it is for them to attend church. May God bless them for their faithfulness.

As we think of God's faithfulness to us and the many dear ones that are so faithful in the various places God has put them, we are humbled. May God grant us faithful hearts to support each other in prayer.

I need the prayers of those I love,
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged
way,

That I may true and faithful be,
And live for Jesus every day.
I want my friends to pray for me,
To bear my tempted soul above,
And intercede with God for me,
I need the prayers of those I love.

Hymns of Zion #201

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for
me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to
Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am - Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Hymns of Zion #105

The weekend of July 22-23 we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Bro. Brett Heiniger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen). We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven that Bro. Brett answered Christ's call and came to Him to be pardoned and cleansed. Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) were present to minister God's Holy Word, as our Elder Bro. Everett Hari performed the duties of testimony and baptism.

Our only other visiting minister this past month was Bro. Jim Le-

man (Roanoke, IL). We thank God for these committed, Godly men and their supportive families who share of their God-given talents and their time in doing His will.

Happy the home when God is
there
And love fills everyone,
When with united work and
prayer
The Master's will is done.

The marriage of Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou, Princeville, IL) and Sis. Sara Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma) on July 30 was a joyful occasion, and we prayerfully support them as they build their home upon the firm foundation of our Lord and Saviour.

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

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in
heart,
And hope to meet again.
Hymns of Zion #156

A farewell was held on Wednesday evening, August 16, for Sis. Eileen Roberts, who will be moving back to Gridley, IL where she lived before moving to Bloomington-Normal. We have very much appreciated her faithful presence and support, and we will miss her sweet smile and the fellowship we have enjoyed together.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
Hymns of Zion #156

Our sympathies are with Bro.

Larry Fischer and Sis. Carolyn Fischer, as well as their family, at the passing of their father, Bro. Fred Fischer (Roanoke, IL). We pray their Heavenly Father will comfort them and fill in the void as they mourn the loss of their earthly father.

We are also saddened at the death of Robert Tewell, and our prayers are with his wife, Dorothy, and their family. During Robert's illness and his time spent in an area hospital, nursing home, and hospice, Dorothy assembled with us frequently. We have enjoyed getting acquainted with her, and we share in her family's sorrow.

Finally, we lift up Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel in prayer, as they have suffered the sudden loss of their nephew, Eric Miller, of Middlebury, IN who was hit and killed in a car accident by a drunk driver. This tragedy and its consequent grief are felt by all of us in our Bloomington-Normal congregation. Unfortunately, sin and its consequences often touch the lives of innocent people. It's in these tragic and seemingly unfair situations that we realize our faith in God must be independent of our understanding of the present circumstances. His ways are far above our simple human understanding, and we must never forget He is the sovereign God. He wants us to believe, to trust in Him, and to hold tightly to our faith despite the things we don't understand. We do receive comfort from the fact that we know His presence is near to those left behind in their grief, and that they need never feel alone. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalm 34:18). We also know that the Holy Spirit is there to comfort us and pray for us when we can't find the words to do so ourselves.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26).

Take time to be holy, Be calm in
thy soul,
Each thought and each motive,
beneath His control;
Thus led by His Spirit To
fountains of love,
Thou soon shall be fitted For
service above.

Hymns of Zion #112

In our quest for personal holiness, we have been aided by a recent series of Bible studies on the topic of relationships. The study given on Wednesday, August 2, by Bro. Dennis Kaufmann focused on our relationship with ourselves. Self-pity, self-blame, self-forgiveness, self-image, self-worth and self-esteem were some of the areas covered in this very profitable lesson. We know that only as we give "self" over to God can we travel that road to personal holiness and reach our full potential in our relationship with ourselves, with others, and with our God.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

School time is here already! It seems like summer just started yesterday and now fall is already on our doorstep. Time goes so fast in this day and age; we pray we can stay close to the Lord and not let the "urgent" things crowd out the "important" things.

Our prayers are with Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly Kieser as they mourn the loss of Sis. Kelly's brother, Kevin Geary. Bro. Dennis (Sis. Becky) Pyles' mother, Lottie Pyles, has also passed away

recently. We pray that God's comforting Spirit may rest upon both families in this time of need.

We would like to take a moment to thank our Elder brothers for their labors recently at the Brotherhood Conference in Princeville and for their time and effort many other times throughout the year. We will continue to pray for you, Elder brothers!

We had a number of visiting ministers this month, due in part to the Conference. They were: Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) were also with us this month. We thank them for coming and invite them to come back soon.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

This past month has been busy and transitional for many in our congregation. We said farewell to two of our young student couples who have moved to the Peoria area. Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn Kaufmann have moved in order for Tim to continue medical school at the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Peoria. Bro. Win and Sis. Amy Stoller have moved following Win's completion of a graduate degree in business at the U of I. He will be working for an accounting firm. We wish these couples well in their new endeavors and hope they come back to see us. With these two couples leaving, it was only appropriate that we would be blessed with the arrival of some new people in our congregation---the Lord has sent us five.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan

Plattner, along with sons, Luke and Joshua, have recently moved from California to Danville and will be making ours their home church. Paul is employed as an orthopedic surgeon for Carle Clinic. We are thrilled to have another family join our congregation. We hope their transition from ocean views to cornfield views will be fairly smooth and that they will be with us for many years.

Our newest arrival to the congregation came to us as a little 7 lb., 12 oz. bundle from Heaven on Friday, August 11. He is Colbey Ray Steffen, the new son of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sarah (Ricketts) Steffen. Colbey has a big brother, Trenton, to help him along on the road of life.

"The Seasons of Marriage" was the topic of a Married Couples Gathering held at our church on July 22. Nearly 40 couples who were students in our congregation or are presently with us attended the one-day gathering. The program was presented by five visiting ministers who each spoke on a given topic. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) covered the topics of becoming friends, laboring together, resolving conflict, cultivating intimacy, and leading the family into spiritual health. We thank these ministering brothers plus our own three ministers for the work they put into making this gathering a fruitful one.

Water balloons helped the Sunday School children keep cool as the temperature went higher and higher for the annual Sunday School picnic on July 30. Following church, the Sunday School teachers took the children for various activities; then everyone

from the church was invited to share in a picnic in a local park. Despite the heat, there was a good turnout for the picnic at Hessel Park in Champaign. The children and teachers will begin the new year of Sunday School with a few new faces and the absence of some graduates on the Sunday after Labor Day.

Sharing the Word with us this past month have been the five ministers mentioned above plus Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). Our thanks are extended to these brothers and their families for spending the day with us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

On a trip downtown with several nephews, we were inside for an hour--coming out without umbrellas to gray skies emptying buckets. The downpour seemed endless. Still, ultimately, we continued walking (half running at times). Needless to say, we were soaked from the rain and sometimes from the curbside rivers as we crossed the streets. We persevered in our sightseeing and didn't complain a lot, but we were not comfortable. Imagine my surprise when we reached home and could change into dry clothes: three young boys went swimming! Now I ask you, weren't they even WETTER--for LONGER--in the pool? Ah, yes, but then they had a choice and they were prepared for the water. Is it not even so with us? When we allow the Lord His choices in our lives, and as such, have allowed Him to prepare us, are we not buoyed up by His comfort even in difficult times? And otherwise, when we want only our way and run into afflictions and trials, can we not

be so overwhelmed that we think to complain? I am rebuked. I want His choices and preparations in my life; thus I must truly submit day by day.

As we are accustomed, the Lord has filled our cups to overflowing each time we have worshiped together. We praise His name in thanksgiving, and we also want to express our thanks to our home ministers and visiting ministers, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), for being the vessels through which we were filled.

One of our "summer people" the past two years has been Bonnie Wieland (Detroit, MI). One Wednesday night there was something different in her eyes, and the Lord be praised, she has reached out to accept His hand, to repent, become converted, and receive His promises. We rejoice with her as do the angels in Heaven. Bonnie, know that you take with you our love and prayers, as before, yet with extra fervor for your firm foundation and continued newfound joy.

We are privileged to have two newcomers in our area. Jill Metzger from Lester, IA is attending UIC (University of IL, Chicago), studying biomedical visualization beginning this fall. Mark Blunier from Roanoke, IL is at work at Fluor-Daniel in Chicago as an engineer. The fascinating individuality of each one, God-given, is always an inspiration to us. Welcome to our Chicago family, Jill and Mark. May you be blessed in being here.

We have two other special family members, newly-named among us. Jonathan Reid, born July 26, joins the Plattner family--Bro. Craig, Sis. Raelynn, and big sister, Anissa. His grandparents, Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl, and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Sabetha, KS) share in

the enjoyment. Gloria Joy Pflederer (August 2) has been welcomed by her parents, Bro. Kurt, Sis. Dana, and big sister, Hannah. Her arrival is much appreciated by grandparents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Tremont, IL) and Nancy Trumbower, Bucks County, PA. Soon, Lord willing, we will have more room in our baby room for these two new miracles. May the Lord grant them His guidance and blessing through their devoted Christian parents, prayerful and loving grandparents, and us, their church family.

I was in an unusual parking garage recently. We ended up on the 12th level and realized it was not AA or section Y-2, but "Tie a Yellow Ribbon". We joked about it at first; then we were incredulous when we went into the elevator and heard the song playing--in a lobby painted the brightest yellow imaginable. Finally we realized the management was serious about helping us REMEMBER which level we had parked on. We have a truly helpful Lord and Saviour willing to aid us in remembering also--and it's vastly more important to us. We must have our senses available and our mind open. He then can help us memorize His word so that we are always at the right level. In Deut. 6:7-9, we are reminded of ways to spur our memorization efforts, ever including repetition, repetition, repetition. May we allow Him to teach us more of Himself and His Word each day.

Teach me to live, dear Lord, Only
for Thee,
As Thy disciples lived In Galilee;
Then, all my struggles o'er, Then
victory won,
I shall behold Thee, Lord, The
Living One.

Hymns of Zion #10

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer

Anna Marie Reutter

As you read this, our church Conference is over for this period of time, and our young people are back in school. There are many concerns that are ever present and we trust that each reader of this publication will have prayed, and will continue to do so each day, for all the problems that confront us, whether we be young or old.

Our congregation has been blessed with the following visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). The message each one brought was appreciated.

As Jesus died for me, and in the
grave did lie
So I the same, Immersed and
buried there,
I'm resurrected where, I no more
death shall share.
Praised be His name! Praised be
His name!
Zion's Harp #201

The last weekend in July was one of joy and blessing when Erica Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) gave her testimony, was baptized, and is now our new sister-in-faith. We rejoice with this family. We have two more souls awaiting baptism the last weekend in August. They are Octavio and Cristela Martinez who have been assembling with us for some time. They realized a need for repentance and conversion and we rejoice with them. The Lord is so

merciful and at this writing we have others who are turning their hearts to the Lord.

Sympathy once more goes out to Bro. Ray Eisenmann (Sis. Emily) over the loss of another sister. On August 2, Sis. Helen Schaefer was called from this life. This makes four from the family of the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Ida Eisenmann to be called Home within nine months.

On August 16, funeral services were held for Marvin Kaufmann who was the son of the late Bro. Ben Kaufmann and Sis. Lily Kaufmann Feller.

Art Vogel, son of the late Bro. Ed and Sis. Lily Vogel, passed away August 13. Our sympathy goes out to all of those families who have lost loved ones.

Bro. Aaron Bauer is doing well after having quadruple by-pass surgery on July 24. Bro. Richard Ehman was hospitalized for a short time. Sis. Mattie Bauer, Bro. Melvin Stock, Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann, and Sis. Violet Maul are still confined to their homes at this writing. We know that hours grow long for them and we miss them in our assembly. May God comfort and heal according to His will.

Planning a September wedding are Kellie Drayer (Bill and Judie) and Kennie Rittenhouse. We pray for God's blessing on this couple as they make this step in life.

On August 2, Aubrey Renee was born to Alicia Maul, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann. We pray for God's blessings and guidance to this family.

With fall approaching, the delayed rains are causing our flowers to bloom in brilliant array. The sunshine of God's love wants us to open up, too, and bloom for Him.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart Linda Knobloch

Use our talents thankfully, willingly to the glory of God's people.

The third servant, the one who received one talent, came murmuring and complaining.

We can't allow ourselves to be at odds with one another. Bitterness will eventually destroy us.

These were some of the teachings shared by our many visiting ministers this month. We thank Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). Also blessing us with God's Word were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley-Lamont, KS), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ).

We welcomed many visitors from Eureka while they were unable to assemble in their church due to remodeling.

Bro. Chris Miller and his daughter, Melissa, were both hospitalized for surgery and we pray God's healing to their bodies.

As we think of some of the storms of life, I am reminded of a stormy time in my life; I couldn't sleep. I got up and there on the kitchen counter was a poem in large black type, "Someone is Praying for You". It was received by one of my children from a sister half of a nation away, one she didn't even know well. But, what a comfort and blessing it brought to me that night. It's strange that I have no recollection of what problem I was having in life---just the assurance of God's presence through those encouraging words.

Someone is Praying for You
When it seems that you pray til

your strength is all gone
And your tears fall like raindrops
all the day long,
Jesus cares and He knows just
how much you can bear,
He'll speak your name to someone
in prayer.
Someone is praying for you;
someone is praying for you.
And when it seems you're all
alone, and your heart would
break in two;
Remember someone is praying for
you.
Have the clouds around you
gathered in the midst of the
storm?
Is your ship tossed and battered?
Are you weary and worn?
Don't lose hope; someone's
praying for you this very day,
And peace be still is already on
the way.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker Debbie Sauder

"Each step I take my Saviour goes
before me..."

Gospel Hymns #364
(various verses)

Our life consists of one step followed by another, both physically and, most importantly, spiritually. Day by day, each of those steps lead us closer Home, so how important it is that our footsteps are heading in the right direction. Knowledge of both the right and wrong direction in life is planted within the young and tender hearts of our dear children at home and as they attend Sunday School and related activities. On July 30, an evening of fellowship and blessing was enjoyed at the annual Sunday School picnic. Throughout the following week a few more important steps were taken as Vacation Bible School was held. We are so thankful for

the efforts of all who participated; students, teachers, parents and ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) and our Bro. Gary Anliker. Wednesday evening that same week we were privileged to gather friends, brethren, students, young and old, to hear Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) speak of our Lord's second coming. As we were lovingly exhorted, it is not important when, but rather are we ready, for we know not when our last step will be taken.

"Each step I take, I know that He
will guide me;
To higher ground He ever leads
me on..."

Continuing down the path of life, we reach the age of accountability when we realize our need for a Saviour. We were privileged to hear the testimonies of Jason, Matt and Scott Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) on July 23, and how God tenderly drew each of them unto Him in a true repentance. Present with us for this blessed weekend were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and ministering Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and John Stoller (Leo, IN). May God bless these brothers for their untiring labors on our behalf. On August 5 we again assembled to hear how God lead Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) from a world of sin unto a life of faith. Ministering Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) were able to be with us to witness this most important work as well as bring forth the Word of Life. As a convert brings forth their testimony, we are each renewed of what the Lord has done for us and how we long for many

more to heed the call while the Lord is still on the mercy seat. We are thankful for each soul that finds the grace to answer God's call, and trust our new brothers and sister in faith will always follow the Lord's guidance, wherever He may lead.

On August 13, Sis. Ann Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jeane) and Bro. Chuck Hart (Indianapolis, IN), son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry of Goodfield, IL took the second most important step as they were united in Holy Matrimony. May they commit each step in their new life unto a faithful Creator. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), as well as ministering Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) were with us for the day. Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). May God bless our brothers who are willing to speak of the inspiration of an Almighty God and not lean to the weakness of man's understanding.

"At times I feel my faith begin to
waver,
When up ahead I see a chasm
wide.
It's then I turn and look up to my
Saviour,
I am strong when He is by my
side."

Not all of life's pathway leads through the grassy meadows but God chooses to strengthen our faith when He leads our steps through difficult times. Several loved ones have been very ill, endured much pain or undergone surgery this month. May God heal and restore Bro. Paul (Sis. Joyce) Weiss, Bro. Ken (Mary)

Lindoerfer, Bro. Elvis (Sis. Marilyn) Kellenberger and Sis. Lucile Knupper as they look up to their Saviour and trust their restoration unto a God who cares and understands.

"I trust in God, no matter come
what may,
For life eternal is in His hands.
He holds the key that opens up
the way,
That will lead me to the promised
land."

Not one of us knows when the last step of our life will be taken, just like we none know when our Lord will return. But each day, each step of the way, we can entertain a hope of the life to come, if we are ready. We want to remember our loved ones in prayer who have laid a dear one to rest: Sis. Helen Banwart and Sis. Ann (Bro. Bill) Reber. May God comfort them in this time of loss.

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

As we get ready to take any step
in life--big or small--let us take a
moment to determine, will it lead
us closer to the Home we are striving
to someday reach?

Note of Thanks:

My heartfelt "thank you" to all who remembered me on my 97th birthday. May God richly bless you for your love and thoughtfulness.

Sis. Lillian Foell

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

Tho' the angry surges roll
 On my tempest driven soul,
 I am peaceful, for I know,
 Wildly though the winds may
 blow,
 I've an anchor safe and sure,
 That can evermore endure.

Gospel Hymns #773

Even as I write this, the clouds, the rain, and the thunder are sweeping across the sky. This summer has brought us much heat, humidity and storms. Everyone is looking forward to the time when the weather will change and we will have relief. It certainly is reassuring to know that God is the Master of the tempest and wind, and He will bring relief from the weather and from all the storms of life.

We extend our congratulations and blessing to Bro. Chuck Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Friedora) and Sis. Naomi Braun (Herman of Elgin, IL and Sis. Sharon of Denver, CO) who were married in Denver on July 23.

Bro. Kent Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) and Sis. Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne of Elgin, IA) also exchanged wedding vows on August 13 in Elgin, IA. May God's Spirit be nigh to both of these couples as they begin to walk even as one flesh.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marilyn Leman (Bro. Larry) at the death of her father, Bro. Leland Swadley, of Peoria. Bro. Leland (Sis. Mary) died on Monday, July 24.

As our construction nears the end, we are all looking forward to the first Sunday when we can use our new dining room, baby room, and Sunday School rooms. The first Sunday is scheduled for September 17. We appreciate the welcome we have received from our neighboring churches as we have not always been able to as-

semble in our church during this time.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Frances Schumacher wishes to thank everyone for their support and help at the time of her death.

Phil McCanless (Wilma) is recovering well from a recent heart attack. He writes the following: "I would like to thank all my relatives, friends and neighbors for all their cards and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to the ministers for their prayers and visits. God bless."

A special thanks to my family and all my loved ones for your prayers, cards, visits, and gifts of love since my hip surgery. May God bless you all!

Bro. Elton Wiegand

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

As the sultry days of summer
 Swiftly ripen earthly grain,
 So in days of dire affliction
 Shall our faith its growth attain.
 And beneath this heat and burden
 Shall the Christian be prepared
 For his happy home in Heaven,
 Where God's bliss and joy is
 shared.

Zion's Harp #36

The 90- and 100-degree temperatures, combined with high humidity, this summer have, at times, almost seemed unbearable. This hymn from the Zion's Harp reminded me, though, that these sultry days are necessary for ripening of the grain. Even so, in our lives, it is necessary to have "days of dire affliction" to prepare us for that "happy home in Heaven". And just as God sometimes sends

showers of rain to refresh the earth, so He rejuvenates our spirits, in a time of testing, with His grace "like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest." (Isaiah 18:4)

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways...thy children [shall be] like olive plants round about thy table."

Psalms 128:1 & 3

Five families in our congregation were blessed with additions recently.

Candice Dawn was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger on July 17. Her big brothers and sister, Kyle, Karl, Dallas and Janelle, and grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean Aberle (Forrest) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger welcome her home.

First-time parents, Randy and Hope Perry, have been blessed with a little boy, Jacob George, born July 28. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and George and Juanita Perry of Streator.

On July 31, Elizabeth Lee arrived to bless the home of Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda Walter. Jacob, Jared and Eli are thankful for a little sister. Grandparents are Nancy Eaton of Fairbury and Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen Walter.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser and Silas and Damaris welcomed a new little bundle, Leighton Lloyd, on August 9. Thankful grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner, Brian and Colleen Loschen of Tuscola and Bro. Lloyd Moser.

The home of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Steidinger has been blessed with a little girl. Taylor Morgan was born on August 12. Her sister and brother, Shelbi and Collin, and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Fehr and Bro. Donald Steidinger and Sis. Alice Steidin-

ger (Gridley), welcome her home.

May God grant His rich grace to all these couples as they raise their children.

Trust the heart of Jesus,
Thou art precious there;
Surely He would shield thee
From the tempter's snare;
Safely He would lead thee
By His own sweet way,
Out into the glory
Of a brighter day.

Hymns of Zion #74

Bro. John and Sis. Katharine Fehr have often been in our thoughts and prayers recently as Bro. John has undergone extensive treatment for cancer. May you feel the Lord's nearness. Bro. Melvin Hartman was also in the hospital this month.

We extend deepest sympathy to Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Bro. Eldon) and Deann Steidinger (David) and families in the loss of their mother, Bernice Lovell, 79, of Mesa, AZ.

Truly stones could not help crying
If the watchmen's call would
cease,
And the very rocks about us,
Ev'ry one a crying witness
Could no longer hold their peace.
Truly stones could not help crying
If the watchmen's call would
cease!

Zion's Harp #112

Again the call of the watchmen was sounded by our Elder brethren at the Annual Brotherhood Conference at Princeville. How thankful we are for their exhortations which we need "so much the more, as we see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25) May God bless their efforts and the efforts of every brother and sister who prayed for the presence of the Spirit that day.

A number of ministering broth-

ers shared the Word of Life with us this month: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Earl Gerber and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We thank you for your willingness to serve us. May the Lord reward you richly.

Note of Thanks:

A heartfelt thank you to one and all for the prayers, gifts and cards I received while at the hospital and upon returning home. Every expression of love, care and concern was a great comfort and support for me and has been deeply appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

In Christian love, Sis. Anna Mae Fehr

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

July 22 was the wedding day of Ron Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Vicki Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene, Fairbury). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Believing it is God's will that they should become man and wife, the engagement of Sis. Sheila Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Brent Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) was announced. May they look to the Lord for guidance as they take this step in faith.

We were blessed with many visitors this month. Among them were Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Paul Gasser and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Steve Martin

(Eureka, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Robert Miller (Portland, OR) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). May we always remember to keep our Elders and ministers in our prayers.

Three families in our congregation have been blessed with precious bundles from Heaven. Eliza Martha Rose is welcomed into the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth. She is a sister of Nicholas, Jonathan, Zachary and Olivia. Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth are the grandparents.

Bro. Troy, Sis. Kathleen, Ashton, and Trevor Lanz are happy to have Jensen Troy join their family circle. Grandparents are Jim and Mary Slagel of Fairbury and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

Big sisters, Nicole and Kimberly, welcome the arrival of Jason Dean Wenger. His parents are Sam and Teri and his grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel (Fairbury) and Sis. Nathalia Wenger. May God bless these parents as they strive to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Edith Honegger, Sis. Marion Rieger, Bro. Rich Steffen, Marie Roth, Dick Rieger, and Bro. Perry Zimmerman. We are happy to report that they have all returned home and pray that God will continue to bless them with health and strength.

We sympathize with Eugene and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen in the death of his brother, Raymond, of Phoenix, AZ. May God's comforting Spirit be with them during this time of sorrow.

We have been privileged to assemble together to listen to the tapes of the Conference. We are

thankful for the love and concern our Elders have for us as they exhort us to be true believers.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks for the many cards, memorials, food, your prayers and other deeds of kindness shown to us in the unexpected death of our loved one. May God bless you all.

The Virgil Koehl family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord."

II Kings 19:14

Isn't this a beautiful verse? King Hezekiah, a great and mighty man of immeasurable faith, was humble enough to spread his concerns before the Lord, and if we continue farther in this chapter, we read of God's solution to his problem. Do we appreciate enough the simple perfection of this verse? We have the privilege through faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to spread our cares, our worries, our lives before the Lord and rest assured His will be done. Freedom through His grace is awesome. Praise His blessed name!

Our congregation rejoiced this month as two young couples, having spread their concerns before the Lord and accepted His will that their separate lives become one, were joined in marriage. Our love, prayers and very best wishes are extended to Bro. Mike Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla) and Sis. Jenise Zobrist (Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis); and Bro. Chuck Hart (Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry) and Sis. Ann Martin

(Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) of Elgin, IL. May you continually seek and accept His will in your new lives together. God bless you all.

The Lord has added a new blessing to the lives of our Bro. Rod and Sis. Lynda Hinrichsen this month. Little Kent Arthur was welcomed home by his older brother, Kyle, and his very happy grandparents, Bill and Jan Hinrichsen and Bro. Allan and Sis. Carol Schrock (Congerville, IL). We pray our Lord Jesus will watch over and protect this newest young lamb all the days of his life.

Hearts and souls were grieved over the passing of one of our dear elder brothers, Bro. Lou Bauman. Bro. Lou's life was a wonderful example of faith and service to the Lord. He will be sorely missed, yet we know of a certainty that his life in Heaven will be one of the most glorious bliss and we, too, await that great reunion in the sky. To his dear family, Bro. Larry, Sis. Betty, and all the grandchildren, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and love.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers and their wives this month as the Elder Conference was held relatively nearby and several were kind enough to prolong their visit to include sharing with us of the Lord's Word. Many thanks to Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), and Bros. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN) and finally, Bro. Frederick Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL), for spending your time and efforts in the Lord with us.

Note of Thanks:

*What a blessing and
priceless gift - friendship!*

Priceless the gift of friendship,
ours
Enhancing life anew each day.
Gems, oh so rare, worth far more
than
Gold of Ophir or jewels from
lands so far away
Yet ours to have and hold, and
without pay!

Happiness! Tis ours through
willing service.
Incentive? Yes, strive to attain
the goal.
No act of love, however small, is
ever wasted.
Reach out to small and great -
this is our role
In life: to be that patient,
understanding soul.

Cheer others long life's way with
sunny smiles,
Helping hands to share and lift
another's load,
Sowing deeds of kindness (and
that without knowing) too
Encouragement twill give to
weary on life's road,
So in my heart shall friendship
find abode!

For this I'd like to thank everyone for their part in making my "special" day special.

*God's blessings and my love,
Clara*

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Several brethren had the privilege to attend the General Conference at Princeville on August 11. Like everyone else, we were surprised by the area-wide lack of electrical power (lights and air-conditioning).

A clear analogy came to mind to most everyone how helpless man

is when power is cut off. The absence of physical power (electricity) reminded us how helpless we are without spiritual power.

But another spiritual lesson stood out during the power outage that lasted until 9:20 a.m. It centered on the trust and confidence (and lack of general alarm) that God would eventually provide.

Although the lights were out and there was no air-conditioning, the attendees quietly came in, were seated, and singing proceeded as always. The assembly filled along with the adjacent foyers. A quiet confidence persisted that everything would be all right. Faith and patience were soon rewarded. The power returned. The lights came on, and the air-conditioners provided cool air. Although we can't always see or feel God's power, we know it is there.

On July 16, Sis. Heidi Maurer was married to Bro. Jay Kiefer. Her parents are Bro. J.D. and Sis. Sandy Maurer. He is the son of Bro. Richard, Sr. and Sis. Louise May Kiefer, all of Gridley. We extend our heartfelt best wishes for this lifelong union of hearts.

An all-church potluck was held for Bro. Harold and Sis. Ethel Schmidgall in observance of his stepping down from the ministry. He preached his last sermon on July 23. He served in this capacity for 26 years, having been in-stated into the ministry on May 4, 1969. He and Sis. Ethel have moved to Eureka. Our congregation is deeply appreciative of his efforts, and may God reward him, both now and in the time to come.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) preached here on Wednesday evening, August 2. Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) was here on August 13, and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) on August 16.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Tonya Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly) and Bro. Brad Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane) from Tremont, IL were united in Holy Matrimony on August 6. We rejoice that another Christian home has been established. May they continue to seek God's will in their lives.

Bro. Alpha Welk, 98, was called Home on August 3. During his lifetime he saw tremendous changes in the world. May God comfort and bless his son, Wilbur; his daughter, Alice Hohulin; his sister, Sis. Lillian Schrock; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

We are very thankful that five young souls have responded to our Heavenly Father's call to come unto Him. We welcome them into the Family of God. Their testimonies and baptisms were August 12 and 13. Our new sister is Sis. Haley Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry), and our new brothers are Bro. Casey Getz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol), Bro. Joshua Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie), Bro. Daniel Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl), and Bro. Andy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy). May they continue to look to their Heavenly Father for guidance and direction throughout their lives.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we had this month. May God richly bless them and their families. They were: Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Ben Maibach (Detroit MI), Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL),

and retired Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Christine Sinn wishes to express our sincere thanks for the prayers and love during her illness and her death. May God bless all who were so kind.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

July 30 was a special day for Bro. Michael Rieker and Sis. Kristi Hoerr, as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jo Anne Hoerr and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker. May God bless their union.

We are thrilled that four more souls were taken into the fold recently. They are Andy and Darcy Biedscheid, Faye Blunier (who now resides in Roanoke), and Ference "Feddy" Davidovics. We welcome them into the Family of God and pray that they may experience the wonderful love and mercy of God.

We were saddened this month following the deaths of Bro. Leland Swadley and Bro. Lester Bittner, two dear brothers in Peoria. They will surely be missed by their wives, Sis. Mary Swadley and Sis. Martha Bittner, and their children, as well as all of us. May God, who is the Great Comforter, fill the void that has been left in their lives.

We want to thank those ministering brothers who visited Peoria in the last few weeks. They are: Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), and Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH),

Duane Ruetter (Rockville, CT), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), David Graf (Akron, OH), and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). May God bless each of them.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Martha Bittner, Sis. Emma Woerner, Esther Kieser and Bro. Roy Sauder. We are thankful they are all out of the hospital and pray a speedy recovery for each of them.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for your love, prayers, cards and deeds of kindness during Leland's illness, and death of our beloved husband, father and brother. God's blessings to all of you.

Sis. Mary Swadley, Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman and family and Gene and Florine Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann

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

Mark 10:14

On July 30, we had our annual Sunday School picnic. I think of the special love our Lord had for the little children. What a responsibility we have, whether as parents, grandparents, etc. or, at this time of the year, as teachers. May God help us to be an example of His perfect and unconditional love. May we be especially prayerful for those brothers and sisters who have chosen education as a profession.

We were reminded of our first love by Bro. Jim (Sis. Marlene) Ramseyer of our Bay City, MI con-

gregation. Bro. Jim gave a Bible Study on July 28. We thank him for his labor of love. We were exhorted to search our hearts, to see if we were holding hard feelings toward any, and to take care of it, tonight!

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

We are thankful that two more are seeking the Lord. They are Clint Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene), and Bethany Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann).

Our prayers go with Sis. Stacy Francis as she leaves us to work in Bellevue, WA. "God be with you till we meet again." (Hymns of Zion #216).

On August 8, Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever." (Eccles. 3:14). Their children are Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold, Bro. David and Sis. Connie Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Sis. Rita Menold (Washington, IL), and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Schrock (Oakville, IA). They have 12 grandchildren.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Elaine (Bro. Lawrence) Wagenbach and her family at the passing of her father, Bro. Lou Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

We were blessed abundantly with visiting ministers this month, due to the Brotherhood Conference. We thank each one for their part.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who so kindly remembered us for our 50th wedding anniversary. A special thanks to our children

and grandchildren who hosted this special occasion for us. God bless you all.

Leonard and Marie Menold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Ben Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris), Peggy Schroeder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl) and Zack Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie) as they begin their walk with the Lord. May God grant them sufficient grace for each day.

August 4 was the wedding day of Lisa Rumbold and Eric Schwarz. Their parents are Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold and Anne Schwarz of Springfield.

Rachel Braker and Greg Braman were united as one on August 12. Parents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker and Roger and Alice Braman of Goodfield. We wish both of these couples a happy life together.

Three-year-old Steven Joseph has been welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb Fischer. Steven was born August 16, 1992. Also welcoming Steven to his new home is big brother, Sam (9). Grandparents are Sis. Clara Fischer and Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Eureka, IL).

"When pure and upright hearts, by flames of love ignited, are by the bond of faith more firmly yet united." (Zion's Harp #79). We rejoice with Josh, Cody, Zachary and Sara Maher at the engagement of their dad, Bro. Dan, to Sis. Kim Hoffman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanni). May God's love and

blessings be upon them.

Our prayers have been with our Elders, ministers and brothers as they gathered for the Conference in Princeville. May we all open our hearts, and do our part to remain a unified body of Christ.

We sympathize with our Bros. Bill and Jim Hodel, Jerry Hodel and our Sis. Melinda Gerber on the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Lou Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Fred Fischer passed away on August 7. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Wilma, and their children: Melvin (Roanoke), Wayne (Normal), Harvey (Benson), Bro. Larry (Bloomington), and Sis. Carolyn (Bloomington).

Our prayers have been with our Bro. Irvin and Sis. Alice Kempf on the passing of their grandson, Erik Miller.

We pray God's healing hand will be upon our hospital patients this month: Sis. Ethel Rassi, Bro. Harold Blunier, Sam Bradle, and little Elizabeth Lowder.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Bob Miller (Portland, OR) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were: Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Marvin Stieglitz and John Stoller (Leo, IN), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Floyd Graves (Croghan, NY), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bill Dot-

terer (Phoenix, AZ). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

August 6 was the wedding date of Bro. Brad Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane) to Sis. Tonya Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly) of Morton. Our love and prayers are with them for many happy years together.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner have been blessed with the birth of their first son, Trent Joseph. He is welcomed by his sister, Victoria, and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner.

Todd and Stacey Prather rejoice in the birth of their second son, Jesse Joseph, born August 1. He is welcomed by his brother, Matthew, and grandparents, Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn Prather and Richard and Susan Muselman.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen Sinn are the happy grandparents of little Tessa Rose, born August 10 to Tom and Janet Hanlon (Champaign, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with those loved ones who have spent time in the hospital. They were Bro. Albert Aberle (Sis. Emma) and Curt Musselman (Pat). May God give grace sufficient to each one who must experience the afflictions of the body.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

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

Chorus:

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

At times I feel my faith begin to waver,
When up ahead I see, a chasm wide;
It's then I turn and look up to my Saviour,
I am strong when He is by my side.

I trust in God, no matter come what may,
For life eternal, is in His hand;
He holds the key that opens up the way
That will lead me to the promised land.
W. Elmo Mercer

As I read the verses of this song, I wonder "Do I really let Him go before me, or do I try to step ahead of Him?" And the adoration expressed with each breath---I know I could not honestly say that I come anywhere close to doing that. Do I really turn and look at Jesus when I see a difficulty ahead, knowing my faith is sometimes weak, or do I plow ahead in fear, and then, much later, stop to trust Him? This same lack of faith prevents me from trusting God, no matter what happens in my life. No, I sometimes stew and worry, both actions that don't accomplish anything. If only I would remember that I can only be strong when Jesus is by my side, and that He is the one that holds the key to our life and our life eternal. I have heard it said that we tell the truth when we speak, but not when we sing the words of songs such as this. May

God give us grace to more fully trust in Him, until our last step on this earth leads us to the promised land.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We have enjoyed having Eureka brethren visit us on Wednesday evenings, while they undergo construction at their church building. Among them were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht, and Bros. Jim Vierling, and Marvin Schmidgall. Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) also lent themselves. We thank all of these brothers. We are also thankful that our Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) could be here for the testimony and baptism of Sis. Jessica Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol). We welcome her as our dear sister.

We are glad to have Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold home, even though it will be only for a short month. Continue to pray for them, their ministry in Mexico, and their family.

A new bundle of joy has come to live with Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Wyss. His name is Troy Frederick and his grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman (Roanoke).

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Don Endress. He is now home recovering from his surgery. We are thankful for God's protection of him.

The Washington congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Steve Elsasser last month. Our church family grieves for the loss of a family member, just as a natural family would do. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Lona, and their children,

Crystal, Dawn, and Jeremy. May they feel the prayers of this congregation in the coming days, just as they did during the time of the visitation and funeral, and may they be comforted and drawn close by our loving God.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman welcome a new granddaughter, Allison JoAnn. She was born on July 16 to Mark and Laura Grime.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi Reinhard were blessed with a new addition to their family on August 5. Crystal Ann joins Clint, Audrey and Logan at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Ezra Reinhard and Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger.

Little Erika Lynn was born on August 11 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Trisha Steffen. She is welcomed home by big brother, Tre, and grandparents, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen and Don and Carol Lough.

August 12 was the wedding date of Brandon Everett and Trisha Taylor. Brandon is the son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We wish to thank Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) for sharing the precious Word with us on their recent visits.

"For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm,"

Isaiah 25:4

Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), and Sis. Glenda Meyer (Bro. Dale) have all been hospitalized this

month. Let us keep them in our prayers.

We bid farewell to Sis. Trisha Baumgartner (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) as she makes her home in Athens, AL.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

Fall is fast approaching and our children will be back in school. We have several who will be in college again and some for the first time. We pray that they will feel God's presence wherever they may be.

We were blessed to have Bro. William Dotterer and his family from Phoenix, AZ. We would like to thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

We're thankful that three souls have chosen to "grow wings" and seek God for direction in their lives. We rejoice with Margo Hailflich (Ron), Tim Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois), and Bryce Drayer (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jan) as they make their new beginning with Christ in repentance.

It was truly a joy for Bro. Vince and Sis. Susan Gerber as they welcomed William Harrison into their lives on July 21. William joins a sister, Sophia. Happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel and Bro. Vernon Gerber.

Congratulations to Brian and Sis. Kristi Curry and Landon as they have a new little blessing in their family. Lacy Ann was born August 12. We rejoice with the grandparents, Bro. Walter and

Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander and Jan and Alice Curry.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner recently attended the Conference at Princeville, IL. May God ever bless these brethren and grant them wisdom in the work they do.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"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

Have you ever sat around a campfire and watched as the roaring fire turned to glimmering hot coals? And then just when it looked like there was no more life, someone threw a few more pieces of wood onto the coals and almost instantly the fire was roaring once again. Spiritually, we are thankful for the "wood" that kindles our lives and gives us renewed hope and courage to press on. Recently in Francesville we had three young ladies give testimony that Jesus had given them new life. Sis. Tonya Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Molly Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) were baptized into the precious faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. We wish them God's strength and blessings as they begin a lifelong journey with the Lord.

We were thankful to hear of the many rich blessings that the brothers received at the Annual Brotherhood Conference. We look forward to hearing the results of the meeting as we will be challenged and encouraged in the way Jesus would want us to live.

Andy Gutwein and Linda Sychowski were united in Holy Mat-

rimony on August 5 in Palatine, IL. Parents of the couple are Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein and George and Carol Sokulski. We wish them many happy years together and pray God's blessings upon their union.

We have had several that have been hospitalized this past month. Sis. Minerva Wuethrich, Bro. Morris Stedman (Sis. Verna), and Jim Albrecht need our prayers and love as they seek renewed strength for the physical body from God their Creator.

We again wish to express a special thank you to those brothers who have lent themselves to us through the ministering of the Word this past month: Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), and Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH).

Note of Thanks:

Words fail me to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to ALL my dear family; also my dear church family, relatives and friends for their prayers, telephone calls, cards, etc. during my stay in the hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to Fred and Marge Hess and Dr. and Mrs. George Geier. May God bless one and all and what a blessing to live in a caring community.

*Humbly,
Minerva Wuethrich*

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle Lauretta Schafer

On July 19, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and his wife, Sis. Frances, were with us as Bro. Alfred had a Topical Bible Lesson on being true to your first love and the various temptations that befall different age levels. We appreciate the sincere spiritual food

for our spiritual growth.

First-time parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Baumgartner, were blessed with Zachary Walter born on July 31. We are rejoicing with them and Zachary's grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN).

August 13 was the wedding of Bro. Chuck Hart and Sis. Ann Martin (Elgin, IL). We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Ann into our congregation. May God's love and blessings be with you both as you establish your home together.

Our prayers are with the students, teachers, and staff at the beginning of another school year. Be true, stand firm, pray often, let your light shine for God's glory.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

As we approach Labor Day, may we remember to thank the Lord for work to do and the ability to do it. There are always others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Hopefully, this holiday will also remind those from Lacrosse that our Silver Lining subscription dues must be collected this month! Please forward them to the reporter, along with any address changes, if applicable.

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

We rejoice with Bro. Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) as they were united in Holy Matri-

mony on July 30. We appreciate their strong faith in God and wish them many years of happiness together!

The Ft. Sam Reunion was hosted by LaCrosse with assistance from Valparaiso and Wolcott for the brothers and friends discharged around the same time as Bros. Don Gudeman, Elvin Nuest, and the late Richard Nuest. It has really been a blessing to have this special fellowship group over the years, and many new memories were created as countless old memories were recounted. Ministering brothers visiting LaCrosse church for the reunion were: Bros. Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) also visited us this past month.

Several members from LaCrosse were able to attend the Annual Brotherhood Conference in Princeville, IL this past week. Our thanks go to the brethren there for their many efforts on our behalf, which were compounded by an unexpected power outage. We were nevertheless able to hear the messages plainly and were reminded again of our blessed plan of salvation, and also the importance of working together towards our Heavenly goal. We are looking forward to hearing the tapes of the Conference in the near future.

We can hardly appreciate our blessed freedom and fellowship enough. I can remember as if it were yesterday the experience I had in visiting some Romanian brethren four years ago. The visit fell approximately one and one-half years after the execution of Romania's heinous dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu. We heard stories

of persecution there that never were aired on the American media. The people were not even allowed to speak one-with-one in the street, much less visit one another in their homes. Although we still had to go through many questions at customs, we were allowed to enter the country due to the newly "relaxed" rules. We visited several homes of believers in the Transylvanian region---all with dirt floors and mud walls---and were overcome by the love shown to us during each visit. What moved me the most, though, was that when we sang some Zion's Harp hymns and prayed with them, they openly wept. We could not keep tears from our own eyes.

Earth's trials and temptations
Make true love manifest,
To gain for us salvation
And heaven's joy and rest.

Zion's Harp #137

Be true; be true! Those who in all
temptation
Have proven true, deserve our
commendation.
Were there no test, how should it
proven be,
Who weak, who strong, who true
or untrue be?

Zion's Harp #172

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:...Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

I John 3:1-3

We were blessed to have visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) was with us on August 2 for mid-week services and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) on August 6. Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) presented a topical Bible Study, "Arriving at our Destination", on August 9.

Our bi-monthly family singing was held on August 6 at the Fellowship Center.

Tim and Penny Den Hartog had a baby boy, Seth Ryan, on July 28. He joins sisters and a brother, Danyelle, Rebecca and Joshua.

A baby boy, Matthais Frederick, arrived at the home of Ron and Christy Bowie on August 16. Two sisters, Alicia and Lydia, also welcome him.

The Gateway Woods' auction on August 19 is summer's finale at Leo. Many stayed for the Sunday service and we were again blessed with four visiting ministers. Bros. William Waibel, James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) brought us many sound and encouraging teachings. One thought was how we need to trust our God, even though it does not make sense to us. After the service we sang "Blessed be the Tie that Binds" for Deb Neuenschwander, who is moving on in her service at Gateway Woods to serve at a clinic in Haiti.

We welcomed Sis. Imogene Stieglitz back to church again, after hospitalization, tests and a time of needed rest.

A baby girl joined the family of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder. She was welcomed by siblings, Erica, Kirsten, Andre and Adam. Sis. Jenny rejoiced that God honored her desire and prayer that Raquel Ruth was born on grandma Ruth Gramm's birth-

day, August 18. Her grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlis Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Art Gramm (Leo, IN).

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Judy Longcor

We are thankful that God sent us visiting ministers this past month, those being, Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL). We heard many good teachings from them. May God bless them for laboring on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was with us for a Topical Bible Study, "Appreciating our Faith". The question was asked, "Do we have a true appreciation for our faith?" May we be settled and held fast in our faith when the storms of life come our way. May God bless Bro. Dale for coming; it was truly a blessed evening being together.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Deb Beer (Bro. Dan) in the recent death of her brother, Andrew Shearer, of Arizona. Sometimes it's hard to understand why, but we cannot question the hand of our God--His plan is so perfect.

Sis. Flossie Hartter (Bro. Elmer) who resides at Lakeland Loving Care here in Milford, suffered another stroke, and her progress is slow. We pray for the Lord's will for Sis. Flossie.

Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful he is back home again with his family. We pray Simon will regain his strength.

Summer is quickly coming to an end and our precious children that God has given us will be going off to school. We pray that God's protection will be over them, keeping

them from all the evil of this world.

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."

Psalms 116:1

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Psalms 71:1

Speaking for myself, I have to admit I don't "trust" as I should, or else why do I worry so much?

I've been asked by some why I didn't have any news in the last month's issue. The answer was that I had no news other than our Sunday School church picnic which was held the last Sunday in June. As usual, there was lots of food and good fellowship.

Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) visited us Wednesday evening, July 10. Thank you, Bro. Rex, for visiting and ministering to us.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Bahler hosted the 43rd Fort Sam Reunion on Saturday, August 5. Seventy-two couples attended with many staying to assemble with us on Sunday, including Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). This was a blessed day and again, we welcome you brothers to visit us again.

We were happy to hear Judy Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) was announced to have peace and awaits baptism.

The first tape from the Brotherhood Conference was played at Wolcott on Wednesday evening the 16th. Next week we will hear more at Remington.

We are still experiencing hot, hot weather. I often wonder why people don't think "if it's hotter than this in hell, I don't want to go there" and do something about it!

Closing thought: Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Otto J. Schlatter who moved into the South Bend area from the Alto, MI congregation.

We thank Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer for opening up "heart and home" for our Sunday School picnic this summer. Their kind and gracious hospitality, as usual, was appreciated by all.

On a Wednesday evening, we were blessed with the presence of Bro. Matt Pamer (Milford, IN) who told of his experiences in coming to the United States after World War II from Eastern Europe. Then the following Wednesday evening, Bro. Wayne Lehman presented a topical Bible Study on "Grace". We thank both brothers for their efforts.

The visits of Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) and ministering Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) were an inspiration to our congregation. We are grateful to them and all of our visitors for the gift of fellowship.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Matt Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Anna Haroguchi (Ciro and Karen Haroguchi), South Bend, was recently made known. May the blessings of our Lord and Saviour remain with this dear couple.

Mark Beebe has returned home after working a summer at the Kennolyn Camps, Soquel, CA.

As our college students return to school this fall, we pray for

God's blessings in their lives. Those returning to college are: David Beebe and Craig Langhofer, Indiana Univ., South Bend; Bill Langhofer and Nathan Mangold, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette; Mark Beebe, Matt Beebe, Micah Frank, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, greetings to all across the land. It has been such a blessed month for us, we could hardly wait to get this writing started. It's been one of those months where many good things happened. We hope yours was much the same.

Valparaiso hosted the singles weekend for this year. What an encouraging time it turned out to be for all of us. Thanks to everyone for doing their part. A special thanks to the speakers: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Also, thanks to Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) for sharing God's Word with us that Sunday. God bless you all for your labors over this weekend. Thanks for being willing. We were just so pleased, as the greetings were being given that Sunday; fourteen churches were represented in all, including a church from California. This makes us very thankful for our heritage which we love so dearly.

The very next weekend was the Fort Sam Reunion. Once again, we counted thirteen churches that gave greetings, from a different age group this time. We thank God for you all. You brothers and sisters are so important to our church family. We want to give special thanks to Bros. Charles

Sauder (Tremont, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). The Lord bless your labors and your families. Our hearts were thrilled to be with you all. Also, thanks to all who did their part for this blessed weekend.

Also this month, we were blessed through the labors of Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). Thank you, Brothers, for your love and many hours of service. God will reward you all for your willingness to serve.

We are very thankful to have our dear Bro. Roy Frieden attending church with us on a regular basis once again. It's been a long hard battle, but God is blessing him with improved health.

Until next month, loved ones, we bid you farewell. Keep up the good fight of faith so that one day we may all meet in that beautiful city. With the Lord's help, we can be found faithful.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

This past month, Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) gave of their time and service to speak to us about Israel--yesterday, today, and forever. May God bless these two dear ones for their willingness to minister unto us.

On July 30, Bro. Duane Gudeman was united in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Jill Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Duane's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Jill's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We pray that God will direct their pathway together as they strive to serve Him as one. We are thankful to have them in our assembly here in Wolcott.

We rejoice with the angels in

Heaven that Rachel Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy) has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God grant her grace to seek His will each and every day.

Once again, we are enjoying the blessing of listening to the Conference tapes here in Remington and Wolcott. We appreciate the Godly wisdom and kind instruction proclaimed by our Elder brethren. May we each take to heart the words that are spoken, in order to live more fully for Christ.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God bless them for their efforts.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Lorna Knapp

Several visiting ministers allowed the Lord to bless us through the sharing of God's Holy Word. We thank Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for lending himself in July. It seems the Brotherhood Conference always carries the fringe benefit of extra visitors as they journey home. We were privileged to have with us Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) the following Sunday. May God bless them for their uplifting encouragement as we all journey "Home". We can have peace in the midst of the storms of life if we keep our eyes on that goal, and do not become distracted by the turmoil around us.

With the Brotherhood Conference past, those of us who were unable to attend look forward to hearing the tapes in the near future. May we hold up our Elder brothers' arms in the battle,

through willing obedience to their loving warnings and admonitions.

We likewise hold up our Bro. Ken Scheitlin (Sis. Charity) in prayer as he has spent more time in the hospital. They have been such shining examples of peace in the midst of the storm.

Our prayers also go with our dear friend, Karl Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid), as he leaves for college. May he take with him the wisdom of the truth he was taught as a youth, for without it all pursuit of knowledge will be worthless.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

As we are rapidly nearing the first day of autumn, we are again reminded of how quickly the warm, busy days of summer fly by. Summer is truly a busy season and Satan must feel quite satisfied and happy when we become so busy with our earthly toils and pleasures that we don't "Take time to be Holy". May God help us to daily set aside time to give Him our praise and to nourish our souls.

In Romans we are taught to rejoice with them that rejoice. This month we are rejoicing with Jeff and Tammy Callahan who were blessed with a son, Alex Michael, on August 3. Ashley will be glad when her little brother will be big enough to play with. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore and Tom and Lavonne Callahan.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Kent Getz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) who were joined together as one in the Lord on August 13. May God's presence always be felt in their home as together they serve the Lord.

Visiting ministers this past

month were Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN). May God richly bless them for serving us from His Holy Word.

May God grant willing hearts and much grace to those who are called to serve Him in teaching our youth. What an important duty it is to guide these tender hearts to the knowledge of repentance and the needs of their undying souls. Newly elected teachers are Sis. Heidi Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne), Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) and Bro. Tim Butikofer (Sis. Kathy).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

A day was set aside for Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Creation". The children were taken to the Botanical Center and the zoo. Many animals and plants were observed that we do not see in our everyday life. The day was enjoyed by all.

We are thankful the Lord is still calling souls and His call is being answered. Jeff Reinhard has professed peace with God and man. We look forward to his proving and baptism in the near future.

And ye, the Church's members,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

We want to thank Elder Bros. Sam Huber and Ed Lanz for coming and sharing Holy Communion with us. What an important and blessed part of our faith. May the suffering Jesus endured for our sins be remembered each day, not

only at Communion time.

A special thank you to Elder Bro. Sam Huber who has been the dear shepherd of the Garden Grove congregation for several years. Only the Lord can bless Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette for their kindness and efforts.

We want to welcome Bro. Ed Lanz as our "new" Elder. May the Lord direct you as you guide our little flock.

I read an account of a blind man who always carried a lantern. People were wont to ask of what use the lantern could be to his sightless eyes. "I do not carry it to prevent my stumbling over others," he replied, "but to keep them from stumbling over me." Let your light so shine that somebody else will not stumble because of you.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We are thankful for our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and his family. We continue to appreciate our location along I-80, on the way to other destinations, since this brings us surprise visitors on many occasions.

We welcome several new students to the area this fall. Attending the University of Iowa will be Marty Taeger (Burlington, IA), Ben Weyrick (Oakville, IA), Carrie Gress (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ted Wiegand (Sis. Carrie, Oakville, IA). Attending Kirkwood Community College will be Jennifer Tanner (Bradford, IL). We look forward to having them assemble with us when possible, and pray that God will bless their pursuits of higher education.

If anyone is aware of other new residents in our area, please contact one of our ministers so that we can welcome them to our

church family.

Whether our daily labors include schoolwork, housework, childcare, work outside of our homes, or all of the above, God has a work for each of us, as expressed in Gospel Hymns #161.

There's A Work for each of Us

Our Master has taken His journey
To a country that's far away,
And has left us the care of the
vineyard,
To work for Him day by day.
In this "little while," doth it
matter,
As we work, and we watch, and
we wait,
If we're filling the place He
assigns us,
Be it service small or great.
There's only one thing should
concern us,
To find just the task that is ours
And then, having found it, to do it
With all our God-given pow'rs.
Our Master is coming most surely,
To reckon with ev'ry one;
Shall we then, count our toil or
our sorrow,
If His sentence be, "Well done."
There's a work for me and a work
for you,
Something for each of us now to
do;
Yes, a work for me and a work for
you,
Something for each of us now to
do.

May God grant each of us the wisdom to recognize our "work", the willingness to accept our assignment, and the grace and ability to accomplish our duties to His praise and glory.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

The summer months are vacation time for many and with it comes visitors we always appreci-

ate. We are grateful to our ministering brethren who are willing to labor in our midst. Recent visitors have been: Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Dean Messner and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN).

We are so thankful to hear of souls that have heeded the Saviour's call. We rejoice to learn that Curtiss and Laurie Knobloch have begun their repentance. May we diligently pray for them and for those who linger outside the Gate.

A sweet little bundle from Heaven has arrived at the home of Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori Moser. Cari Mae was born on July 30 and has been welcomed by her brother and sisters, Colin, Camille, Crystal and Caley. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser and Bro. Ray Luthi of Lamar, MO.

August 13 was a special day for Bro. Brad Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla) and Sis. Trinda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) as they were united in Holy Matrimony in Silverton. We especially want to welcome Sis. Trinda to our congregation as they begin their new life together here.

We pray for His nearness as we remember those who have suffered the loss of loved ones. Our thoughts are with Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn Meyer and their families with the sudden loss of Sis. Twyla and Sis. Charlyn's father, Bro. Lou Bauman, of Goodfield, IL. We also want to remember Ladell and Shelley Kellenberger who recently experienced the death of her father, Ken Heerde. May the Lord's comforting Spirit fill the emptiness left in their hearts and homes.

Sisters Kim and Carla Knobloch have moved to the Mor-

ris, MN area as they have secured new employment there. We will certainly miss them and hope they will come back often to visit us.

Our known hospital patients this month have been Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily) and young Nate Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeanne). We are happy to report that they are both once again in their homes recovering from their illnesses.

Once again, Sunday School resumes after the summer break and we pray for those who have been entrusted with the instruction of young and tender minds in the ways of truth.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Another little bundle from Heaven has arrived into the hearts and home of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois Massner. They have named their son, William Richard, and big sister, Stephanie, is happy to have a new little playmate. Also thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch. We wish them God's many blessings and help as they raise their little ones.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Philip Heiniger, Sr. in his recent passing from this life. We think of his brother and sisters in our congregation: Sisters Mayme Gerst, Pearl Vierling, Ione Stoller, Sarah Miller and Bro. Clem Heiniger. May the Lord be near to each of them in their loss.

We want to thank those visiting ministers who have been with us this past month: Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Rex Frieden and Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Bill Schlatter

(Junction, OH), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

We send our prayers and love across the miles with Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker and their little boys, Grant and Gavin, as they take employment in Detroit, MI. We will miss them greatly but know they will be a great asset to the Detroit congregation.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Carrie Wiegand have recently moved to Iowa City. Bro. Ted will be continuing his education there. We will miss them also but pray they will come visit us often. We know they also will be an asset to the Iowa City congregation. May God be with them ever.

IOWA, PULASKI

Carol Wettstein

In July, we had our annual Vacation Bible School. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm of the students and teachers; a week enjoyed by all!

We extend sympathy to Sis. Wilma Teubel in the passing of her brother, Bro. Fred Fischer (Roanoke, IL).

Our prayers are with Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Sis. Karoline) who is in the hospital at this time. We trust God will grant His healing powers to him.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) visited our congregation recently. May God bless him for faithfully bringing God's Word to us. May He impart much Godly wisdom, grace, and the Spirit's guidance to all our Elders and ministers. We especially think of them at this time as they prayer-

fully meet at the General Conference in Princeville, IL. May the Lord's blessings be upon this meeting, that it might yield the desired spiritual benefits to all our congregations, now and in the future.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Josephine Thomann, who passed away July 22. She will be missed by brothers, Frank, Bro. Bert, and Bob (West Bend), and Earl (Rochester MN); sisters, Edna Coleman (Falmouth, MA) and Lydia Gordon (Reding, CA); many nieces and nephews, as well as a host of other relatives and friends. Our prayer is that the Lord will comfort the loved ones at this time and in the coming days.

Our prayers and concerns are always with those who are ill. Hospital patients the past month were Mildred Scuffham (surgical), Sis. Katherine Fisher, and Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della). We are thankful all have been released and pray the Lord will bless each one with better health. At this writing we have learned that Bro. Bert Thomann is in the hospital following surgery. May God be near to bless and heal him as he recovers.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Andy Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte) and Jami Shouse (James and Vonnie Shouse, Laurens, IA), who were united in marriage August 12. May they seek God's presence and guidance in their lives as they establish their home together.

On July 16, we were happy to hear of the wedding engagement of Bro. Kevin Fehr to Sis. Lonnie Metzger. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger are their parents. We extend our congratulations and may they feel God's love and direction as they plan their wedding for September 10.

We also heard of the engage-

ment of Colette Fehr and Jason Snook of Silverton, OR. Colette was from West Bend but has been attending school in Oregon. Parents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Vance and Sis. Liz Snook (Silverton). May they also look to God as they plan for a September 23 wedding.

God has blessed several homes with precious little ones. On June 26, Pete and Jill Stigman of Minneapolis, MN became first-time parents of Cori Rachel. Her grandparents eagerly waiting to share their love are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman and Mr. and Mrs. Stigman. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg.

On August 7, Ed and Patty Origer (Ankeny, IA) became happy parents to little Carissa Jo. Big brother, Jeremy, welcomes her, along with grandparents, Eli and Margaret Grimm. Sis. Lena Grimm is the great-grandmother.

Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch are thankful parents of Braden Michael, born August 8. Big sister, Amanda, is eagerly waiting to help care for him. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr, and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch of Lester, IA. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr. May all these dear couples feel God's nearness as they try to raise these precious gifts from God.

On the weekend of July 22-23, we were privileged to travel with our Bible Class students to Tremont, IL. An enjoyable weekend was spent by all and we want to extend a special thank you to the Tremont teachers and students.

As our students are about to return to schools, colleges, or perhaps just beginning college, our thoughts and prayers go with them. May they ever remember the Lord and seek His presence

and guidance in their lives, that they might be able to keep the spiritual things and the temporal things of life in proper perspective.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Toru and Junko Saigusa

Our summer fellowship meeting is near at hand, which is held in a mountain resort every summer. In this fellowship meeting, both Tokyo and Shioda members assemble. The theme is Christianity in Japan. We want to think and talk of the problem of Christianity and Japanese culture.

It is a very difficult question whether Japanese people are religious or not. Some people say they have a religious mind, but others not. Frankly speaking, we ourselves are still embarrassed how to respond to this question.

But we have gradually noticed that we should reflect our own culture. Because it is possible to say that there is a kind of obstacle between Christianity and our Japanese culture, our traditional way of thinking.

This summer our children, Kai and Michiyo, have been staying with Hisato and Kathie Inoue (Bloomington, IL). They told us on the phone that our American churches are so impressive and that they are moved deeply. They were also fortunate to attend a baptism and a wedding. We hope they will deeply understand Christianity in our American churches. That's the main reason we let our children visit the United States. We appreciate many people's kindness to them.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

As the summer draws to a close, we are thankful to God for the safety He has given us in many

travels and for the visitors who have traveled many miles to be with us here. Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue is back with us again after spending several weeks in the States. Sis. Jana Klaus and children are back after three months in Illinois. Coming with her and staying here for two weeks are Sis. Robin Steiner and Sis. Lisa Kieser (Princeville, IL).

Sis. Takako Horiuchi spent three weeks in Illinois in July and shares these thoughts with you:

Thank you for all of the kindness that each one of you have shown me during my stay in America. By being with you and observing your daily lives, I have come to know the meaning of true Christian living. Through it all I have also come to know more of the help and grace that comes from God who knows each one of our hearts. Now I am so old, and finally realize how much I have been lacking thankfulness in my life for all that He has given me.

When I see the life of Christians, I see two different kinds. One kind are those who have lived all of their lives from birth in Christian homes. The other kind are like me, who have come into this world with hardships, have been born again in this world though with much difficulty, and with much oppression from those around. Some of the things so natural to all of you as part of your Christian lives have seemed foreign to me.

In the American churches, for the first time ever, I have experienced almost overly God's abounding grace and the warm hearts of the brothers and sisters in the Lord, from the strong handshakes to the love shown by smiles. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman Lori Baumgartner

As I walked outside this evening I heard the locusts singing---our signal that summer is drawing to a close. Reflecting on these past busy months of summer, one small incident seems to stand out above all the others. I enjoy spending time in my vegetable-flower garden during the summer months as do my two small children. During one dry spell I was hurriedly trying to move my long soaker hose from one row of vegetables to another. The hose kept getting tangled and twisted, mud was smeared on my legs, and it was becoming quite a complicated task. In frustration I muttered, "Oh, this is about impossible!" My six-year-old, standing at my side, immediately responded, "But Mommy, with God all things are possible!" A warm smile spread across my face---what a beautiful spiritual reminder from my young daughter. As we leave summer behind and enter autumn 1995, may we all remember that no task is too small for God. Sometimes we as humans can complicate our lives in so many ways by trying to figure things out in our own way rather than simply leaving it all in our Lord's hands.

"...With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

Mark 10:27

There is cause for rejoicing in the lives of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey. They have welcomed their first child, Amelia "Amy" Elizabeth, into their hearts and home. Grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr (West Bend, IA) share in their joy.

We rejoice with Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman who are the

happy grandparents of Malaena Ivy born to Ronnie and Stephanie Edelman on July 14.

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner have also had the joy of becoming grandparents again. Jonathan Reid was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner (Chicago, IL) on July 26.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

August 12 and 13 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Dayra Meyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) and Jason Strahm (Clayton and Miriam). Such a good reminder it is for all of us that the covenant we made in the waters of baptism can never be broken by our ever-faithful God. If we remain true and faithful, He has promised us eternal life!

We appreciated the visiting ministers that visited us and brought forth God's Word: Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Margaret Edelman and their children on the death of Sis. Margaret's father, Gerald "Jack" Koch. He passed from this life on Friday, July 28.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held August 1 at Sycamore Springs, a local resort picnic area. As Sunday School resumes again after our August break, we wish to encourage our Sunday School teachers. May God grant each of you wisdom in the task of "sowing seeds of truth" in each little heart.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

Blest are they who in the Saviour,
Die consoled in peace and joy,
Who their time and all their
talents
For the Master did employ.
They shall rest from care and
sorrow,
From the burdens of the day,
And their works do follow after,
In that bright eternal day.
We shall sleep, but not forever,
There will be a glorious dawn;
We shall meet to part, no, never,
On the resurrection morn!

Hymns of Zion #125

Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones in our congregation who have recently lost family. Bro. Lyle Fischer's (Sis. Lillian) brother, Bro. Fred Fischer, Roanoke, IL went Home to meet his Lord and Saviour.

Our sympathy is also with Bro. Harold Kraft (Sis. Wanda) as his sister-in-law, Sis. Dorothy Kraft, was able to lay down her armor and go to her rest.

We welcome Sis. Janelle Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) home with open arms. She spent the summer working at Kansas City.

Sis. Rebecca Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) feels it is the Lord's will for her to continue at Sabetha. We miss her but know that wherever the Lord leads us, we must follow.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Sorry! Due to a formatting error, the Kiowa news was omitted in August.

His Healing Hands

God has the power to heal a mind,
A body wracked with pain.
He holds you in His loving hands

Tho' it seems so all in vain.
It may not be this moment
Or later in the day,
Days and weeks and months may
pass
But never cease to pray.
It's not for us to understand,
No use to even try,
But oh, my friend, He loves you so!
He knows you wonder - "Why?"
So wear God's armor every day
And try to run the race,
Your cross will seem much lighter
With His sufficient grace.

Helen Parker

We do not know from one day to the next what life holds in store for us. Will we have illness or health? Will we have to face heartache or joy? The only security we have in this ever-changing world is the love of our Father in Heaven and the knowledge that no matter what we face, He will never leave nor forsake us even when the future looks bleak and there seems to be no way to turn. Sometimes, it is unfathomable to me that people say they do not believe in anything, because I talk to "My Friend, My Saviour, My Lord" all the time, and would be lost without Him to talk to. We all at one time or another face trials, temptations, loneliness, illness, and discouragement, but praise be to God for the power and peace of prayer that brings us into His presence and gives us a calm haven in the midst of all our storms!!

We had the blessed privilege to have Bro. Mike Feuchtenberger of Morris, MN in our midst for a few weeks this month. He came to help with the harvest, and we enjoyed having him with us even though the time was so short.

With vacation time starting and school just around the corner, let's keep each other lifted up on the wings of prayer and keep Christ in the center of our world!!

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY**Julie Bahr**

The wedding of Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) was held July 30. What a blessed event when two dear souls can unite together in Holy Matrimony. Visiting ministers include: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May God direct their hearts as they begin their path of life together.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Glen Kraft in the passing of their brother Richard's wife, Sis. Dorothy Kraft, Phoenix, AZ. We ask for God's comfort upon each of them and their families.

Our congregation is happy to welcome Marvin Anliker and his wife, Jeana, along with their two children, Marshall and Rebekah. Marvin has taken employment with Bank IV in Emporia. He is the son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker.

I failed to report that our dear Sis. Jill Luthi was hospitalized for tests and treatment a while back. It is our prayer that Sis. Jill will continue to feel God's healing hand upon her.

Sis. Edna Somerhalder celebrated her 80th birthday. A surprise card shower was planned for her by her daughter, Sis. Sarah. Sis. Edna received many wonderful cards of well wishing from many who rejoice with her on this special occasion.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks for all the acts of love and kindness shown to us since Glen's heart attack. The many prayers, cards and gifts have truly been

acts of Christian love. The church has not only been an inn for our souls but also for our physical being as well. May God bless and reward each one.

Your least one in faith, Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker

KANSAS, SABETHA**Mary Kay Wenger**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

May God help us through the storms of life that they can work together for our good.

God has spoken to us through several visiting ministers who brought forth many good teachings: Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Tom Le-man (Denver, CO), James Kaeb and Darryl Stoller (Bern, KS). May we strive to do our part to magnify the name of the Lord.

Several among us have lost loved ones recently. Sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Irene Aberle and Sis. Vi Meyer (Bro. Velmer) on the loss of their brother, Arthur Strahm, of Sabetha. Also, we wish to remember Sis. Matilda Steiner and Sis. Lena Steiner whose brother-in-law, Bro. Lester Bittner, passed away in Peoria, Illinois.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn Wiegand as they feel it is God's direction for them to be a part of our congregation, and Paul and Sharon Mills who are establishing their home in Sabetha.

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

We were blessed on Thursday evening, July 27, when Elder Bro. Akito Inoue of Tokyo ministered to us. Bro. Akito's traveling companion, Bro. Taca Miyagawa, a first-time visitor in the United States, was amazed at the number of his brothers and sisters in Christ. He marveled that we would postpone our Wednesday evening service to accommodate their schedule to be in Wichita. Sis. Judy Langhofer recalled that Bro. Akito came to Wichita twenty-nine years ago as a single brother. After his marriage, he and Sis. Marie spent three more days in Wichita. Many of us remember hearing him offer a prayer in the Japanese language. Our bonds of love and fellowship are precious gifts from above.

August brings changes for our college youth. Bro. Patrick and Bro. Derek Funk will continue at Kansas State in Manhattan and will be joined by their sister, Glenna, as a first year student. Sis. Jennifer Reimschisel will continue her studies at Bethel College in Newton and Sis. Jodi Reimschisel has begun her studies in medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. It is our prayer that they will remain close to their Saviour as they prepare themselves for the future. We appreciate their making the effort to spend their weekends with our congregation.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Doug and Rebecca Germann**

A special thanks to our many visitors this past month from Smithville, Junction, Forrest, Chicago, and Mansfield. We appreciate the fellowship and welcome all who would be travelling to join us. Wednesday evening services are at 7:00 p.m. EST and

Sundays at 10:00 and 12:15.

We would also like to thank Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and the group they brought from Smithville the weekend of July 23. We enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening.

Our Sunday School would like to thank those brethren who coordinated efforts for the Ohio Youth Day Fellowship on July 29 and 30. We enjoyed a blessed weekend as our youth were able to renew friendships and cultivate their tender faith.

Another school year has started. It brings mixed emotions to many a father and mother as we send our precious children to these secular places of learning. Many a tear is shed as the school bus roars out of sight. May we as believers strive to do our part in training these lambs the way of righteousness, and to truly understand what it means to be in the "world" but not a part of it!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

It is so uplifting to welcome precious souls into the Family of God. On July 22 and 23 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Susan Steffen. May God bless them as they embark on their life's journey. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) assisted with the duties of the weekend. We want to thank Bro. Mark for his very special labors of love.

There were more than 1,300 brothers and sisters in attendance at this year's General Conference which was held on August 11 in Princeville, IL. We learned about true faith, the faith of "The True Believer", the trust that never doubts nor questions. In St. Luke we read about the comparison our Lord makes of faith and a grain of mustard seed. We are justified by

this faith. We need to be committed to God in order to receive our strength.

In a true believer's life, true faith leads to true repentance which is a state of contrition with an amendment for life. We need to be extremely sorrowful for sin with an intent to never sin again. St. John's gospel tells us to bring forth works worthy of repentance. Everyone needs to come to the foot of the cross and completely unburden themselves through confession of and restitution for their sins. In Romans we read that we are to make restitution and love one another. When we repent, our Lord converts our hearts and gives us peace.

We need a complete conversion and true faith will lead to that. From St. John we learn that Jesus told Nicodemus that except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. With a complete conversion, we speak in a different tongue, the way God wants us to speak. We also experience a changed lifestyle and the world around us all of a sudden has no value. It's as if we are in a bottle, wanting to keep the world away from us.

True faith leads to an appreciation of our Church. Romans tells us that we are one body in Christ; members one for another. We need to hold fast to our traditions to enhance our godliness, and we need to share in the Holy Kiss. Admonishing one another in love is good because we need our brother's and sister's help in order to get to Heaven. Love holds us and cements us together in our ship of faith.

We are a thankful people; for the true faith that we have, for our Church and for our repentance. Colossians tells us that we are called in one body and that we should be thankful, and we are thankful that God has made it

possible for us to bond together. We are thankful for God's Son and for the peace God has given us. Revelations tells us that we need to maintain all of this. We need to stay close to God and we need to tell each other that we love each other every day.

Close to God comes when there is a closeness in families between parents and children. It comes when we take time to read the letters God has written to us. It's there when we call Home to our Father; when we develop faith and trust in Him.

We were encouraged to not overlook salvation and advised that our spiritual gold is what will lead us to the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the afternoon, we learned about having a right attitude, a right relationship with others, and about being a good example for others. We need to be humble and accept what God has in store for us. We need to have esteem for others and place others before ourselves. Me-ism attitudes have no place in the house of God. Our goal should be achieving a contentment with our faith, obeying and submitting ourselves to God and the Church.

When considering what kind of relationships we have with others, we need to think about the trail we leave behind us. Are we a peacemaker or a troublemaker? Are we offensive or do we watch our tongue? In the office atmosphere, do we simply sit back and allow the world to walk over us, or do we stand up for our faith and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us? We need to be good stewards, eschewing evil and being totally honest. Obedience is far better than sacrifice.

True faith leads to the willingness to serve within the Church and all mankind. In that service, we need to stir up peoples' minds unto salvation. Moses, Noah,

John the Baptist, Stephen and Paul were all servants and Jesus was, and still is, the ultimate servant. We need to be like them and possess a Christ-like love which will enable us to serve the way God wants us to serve. When we serve in this way, we share our Christian love with others.

We will be rewarded if we are true, faithful servants of God. Let's keep our lower lights burning. Our Lord will preserve us if we are true and faithful and will reward us for that which we have done. We need to stay away from Satan. We should never lie. Our names are in the Book of Life and we need to keep them there. Our hearts should be filled with the Holy Spirit, enough that there isn't room for the rest of the world. Doing this, God's grace will be with us and we will be rewarded in Heaven.

We want to thank our brethren at Princeville for their efforts in ensuring that this year's Conference was successful. May God's blessings be with them. We look forward to meeting again next year in Eureka, IL.

Miriam Nicholiv plans to return to Russia within the next few weeks. We have all enjoyed having her with us and pray that she has a safe journey back to her homeland.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel**

Sis. Betty Schlatter has had to have surgery on her neck and is now undergoing treatment. We pray for Sis. Betty and others who are ill in body and mind. We wish our Lord's grace and healing power to all.

Also with the sick--Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) broke his leg but is getting along satisfactorily. Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bro.

Bob) had surgery and is doing fine. She is worshipping with us again. We thank our Lord for His healing touches.

Marcie Meylan and Stacey Cowan have become husband and wife. Parents are Sis. Carol and Bro. Eugene Meylan. We wish the new couple God's grace and leadership in their new home.

Bay City was blessed to have with us Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and many other visitors. What wonderful words were brought forth through our brother from our great Lord.

Bro. Marshall Rylance has left this world for a better Home to reside. We pray for comfort and the grace of our Lord to his children, Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean), Sis. Darlene Cluff (Jon), Sis. Lynn Kimmerly (Gordon), Jim Rylance (Nora) and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren who have to stay behind on this earth. May God bless.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret) would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards, visits and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Holly Barton
Lynette Moser**

We rejoice in the beautiful summer which God has given. There is no room for doubt as we view the colors of summer that He alone is able to orchestrate such a beautiful creation.

"But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create:"

Isaiah 65:18

As God has blessed us with

creation, He has blessed our small congregation in Detroit with the touch of His Hand. We rejoice with Bonnie Wieland (daughter of Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn Wieland from Bay City) as she experiences the joys of repentance and beginning her walk with God.

Our congregation is also growing with the addition of Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker and their children, Gavin and Grant. Jason will be working at Comerica Bank.

We also bid farewell to Bro. Ken Beyer and Bro. Kevin Schaeffer as they return home after doing summer internships in Detroit.

Sis. Amy Bahr (daughter of Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr) is moving to Kansas to pursue higher education. Ryan Maibach is also returning to college for the fall. Michael Peterson (son of Dianne Peterson) has joined the army and is currently in boot camp. Our prayers are with him and his family.

We are praying for God's healing power for Carole Maibach (wife of Bro. Doug) and Josh Schmidt (son of Bill and Sis. Trudy Schmidt) who have spent time in the hospital over the summer.

We are thankful for the visits of Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) as they shared their ministry with us. Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) shared their ministry with the residents at Woodhaven this month also. Woodhaven celebrated its eighth anniversary this month with a special service and dessert for all.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Perry Virkler

Vacation Bible School was held July 17-21 with the theme: "Be Joyful". Our thanks to Bro. Paul

Messner (Winthrop, MN) for coming and speaking to us. He reminded us that we should all be as joyful and enthusiastic about hearing God's Word as these young children have been in coming to Vacation Bible School to learn more about Jesus. The children sang songs and displayed their many projects that were completed during the week. The efforts of the teachers and everyone who helped were greatly appreciated.

We are thankful and appreciate the many good teachings brought to us by His servants. Visiting with us *this month* were Bros. Alphai Moser (Morris, MN), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Joe Bednarski (Sis. Ethel) and Sis. Sheryl Luthi were recent hospital patients. We pray that they will feel God's healing power and soon be able to assemble with us again.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Maxine Sauder
Linda Schmidgall**

So delightful it is here,
When in Christ's way we appear,
And in unity do stand,
All to Him look hand in hand.

Also does this bond unite
Heart and heart in faith and light;
Many in one body be,
Many souls in unity.

Zion's Harp #181

Let us pray for our churches,
that they can be united in word
and deed and let us encourage one
another that we may strive to do
God's will.

"Behold, how good and how
pleasant it is for brethren to dwell

together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

We are always thankful for ministering brothers who share the Word of Life with us. Those who visited us were: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Roy Ehnlé (Bradford, IL), Jim Knobloch and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May God richly bless them for being willing servants.

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of our Sis. Helen Schaefer. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. Otto; and two sons, Charles, of Hancock, MI; and Roger, of Kambra, Australia; and their families, as they bear the loss of their loved one.

God has blessed Randy and Lori Fehr with a precious little girl on August 9. Risa Bree is welcomed home by her brother, Tyler, and sister, Tara, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr.

Prayers are with John Goll as he is having complications and needed to return to the hospital. Others submitting to surgery this past month were Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Sis. Diane Fehr and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Bro. Neil). May God restore their health once again.

We want to welcome Sis. Kim and Sis. Karla Knobloch to our congregation who have moved here from Lester, IA. We hope you feel at home in Morris.

Our prayers and God's blessings go with Sis. Martha Greiner as she moves to an apartment in Elgin, IL. We will miss you, Sis. Martha.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Helen Schaefer wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to those who remembered them with cards, phone calls, food, gifts, and especially prayers during the accident and death of their loved one. May God richly bless each one.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

We would like to welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll and family to the Winthrop area. Your move here in the spring from Washington, DC has been so uplifting for our small church. We are so thankful that God has provided the opportunity for you to be a part of our congregation. Forgive us for not welcoming you into our midst before now.

We had the blessed opportunity to witness the testimony and baptism of a dear soul, Bro. Clint Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou). What a blessing it is to greet Clint as a brother in Christ. May the Lord continue to lead and guide him through this beautiful Christian life. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for sharing his time with us for this blessed occasion.

Now grant to me Thy power
So that I may not waver,
And bless me every hour,
O my beloved Saviour!
Thus shall I safely fare
Upon this blessed way,
And reach the city where
Thy peace shall reach for aye.

Zion's Harp #43

We were also privileged to have with us ministering Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) to share God's Word with us. We would like to thank Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam and family for being with us again.

Now that the summer is almost over, our Sunday School is once again in progress. May the Lord's blessings shine upon our Sunday School teachers and our precious children. We pray that the good seed will be planted and continue to grow throughout their lives.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On July 30 we gathered at church for a farewell potluck and singing for Brad and Sis. LuAnn, Alec and Ashlyn Gramm. They are relocating to the Philadelphia area. We will miss you and wish you God's blessings as you settle in your new home.

July 31 - August 4 our Sunday School children enjoyed Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all those who participated.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Jodi Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). She has moved here to attend the KU Medical School.

On Sunday, August 13, we were privileged to have Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) minister unto us. May God bless your labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart

Becky Marti

We were thankful to have several ministering brothers with us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). May God bless them for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

Bro. Dean Marti has been hospitalized and we are thankful he is able to be home again.

Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to

bless them.

We are thankful to have Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa Luthi and their children, Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer and Matthew, back in our congregation. They recently moved from Phoenix, AZ.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Thadd Walter

This past week a neighbor told me that he had noticed how strong the bond of fellowship is within the Apostolic Christian Church. He commented on how nice it must be to travel from one church to another, sometimes crossing many states, knowing that the doctrine and the congregation will be familiar. I agreed with him. The Apostle Paul serves as an example. He wrote letters and traveled to many churches in order to strengthen the church and the bond of fellowship. The St. Louis congregation has benefitted from visitors following Paul's example, as we have had many this past month.

We are thankful that Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) were able to share the Word with us. We also thank the many families that have worshipped with us. May God bless all of you.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

Once again, we have reason to rejoice as Shannon Haerr (Marci) has decided to make a new beginning in life through repentance. May the Lord direct his path as he makes this new beginning in overcoming the world.

Finishing the last two weeks of Bible Study in the month of July were Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), speaking on "The Blessed Hope in Perilous Times"; and Bro. Eric Givens (Princeville,

IL), speaking on "How the World Views the Apostolic Christian Church". May God bless them for their willingness to take time out in the middle of the week to share these topics with us.

The week of July 24th was an exciting one for our youth, as they gathered together for Vacation Bible School. Being able to see the excitement on the children's faces as they learned about our precious Lord and Saviour through songs and stories was truly a blessing.

We had the privilege of hosting the committee that is looking into our Zion's Harp hymn books. Our heartfelt thanks goes to each brother for their efforts in the time they spent here. May God direct and bless each one in the decisions that will be made.

Our prayers are with Kip Massner (Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie) and Marcia McCord (Gerald and Vivian Balsar, Ursa, IL) as they have been united in Holy Matrimony. May God draw them close to Him as they begin their walk of life together.

Special thanks goes to our visiting ministers this past month who were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ).

Even though the Brotherhood Conference has once again come to pass, may we all pray for and encourage the leaders of our most precious faith. Many times we take for granted the weighty decisions and responsibilities our shepherds have. May it be in the times we live, that we can draw close together as a flock under our shepherds' guiding staff so that the world cannot enter in.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN- NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

God's Word was shared to us by ministering Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) on July 30 when he and his family were with us. We are thankful that God's Word is still going forth and that young brothers accept this great responsibility of preaching the Word in season and out of season.

Our annual business meeting was held on July 31. May God be with those who have accepted responsibilities for the coming years. May He especially give our new Sunday School teachers the much needed grace to teach our children. New teachers are Bro. Walter Rumpf and Sis. Anna Mellnitz.

The Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by all at Happy Hollow on August 5. May God be with each of our Sunday School children as they begin a new school year. We realize the many dangers they face from day to day and pray for God's nearness and guidance for each of them.

Bro. Raymond Stockberger was hospitalized for several days and we miss him in our assembly. May God grant him a measure of health so he can again be with us if it is His will. We are thankful that Bro. Niles Farney has been able to assemble with us again.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you for the many cards, gifts, and especially the prayers and other deeds of kindness since my hospitalization and recovery at home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Niles Farney

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings from Akron. As we

ponder words of a beloved familiar hymn, we can appreciate anew the gift of salvation.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

Our dear Sis. Ruth Taylor went to her eternal rest on August 16. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Fred, and his wife, Nancy, and to their family. A brother, Bob Kaufman; sisters-in-law, Charlotte Kaufman, Judy Kaufman and Peg Kaufman (Akron); and many nieces and nephews are also remembered in prayer. We will miss Sis. Ruth's loving smile and kind manner.

Note of Thanks:

Kathryn Nagy would like to thank those who remembered her with cards and good wishes on her 80th birthday.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We rejoice with our new sister-in-faith, Emily Banks, as she was welcomed into our church family after sharing her testimony of faith and her baptism July 23 in the Mansfield church. Sis. Emily is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks. We would like to thank the Mansfield church for opening their hearts and home to us for that precious weekend.

There have been many visitors with us this last month; many whom have taken time out of their busy schedules to help on the remodeling of our church. We are so thankful for each and every person who has offered to help in any way. We are equally thankful for those ministering brothers who have traveled a distance to share God's Word with us: Elder Bro.

Ken Sauder and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL).

Due to the remodeling of our church building, there have been some necessary changes in our normal scheduling. Sunday church services will be held in the morning only for the next few months. Any visitors coming to the Columbus area should contact Bro. John Grimm to see if there are any time changes for that week. Another change due to our remodeling is the cancellation of our College Welcome Day. We hope to reschedule this weekend in the near future.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Many of us feel a degree of heaviness on our hearts as we send our children back to public school. Although we parents must do our part to keep in touch with the teachers, textbooks, and lectures to which our children are being exposed, the Lord will surely honor our pleas to Him to protect them from spiritual danger and false teachings.

One hour each week our children have the opportunity to attend Sunday School and learn those things which have eternal significance. Newly elected teachers are Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) and Sis. Jennifer Manz. May the Spirit guide them as they instruct our future church.

Two of our young people have expressed their need to repent and serve the Lord. Our prayers will be with Sam Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) and Rose Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy) as they begin their walk with the Lord.

Shawn Hurd (Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen) spent some time as a hospital outpatient. He underwent reconstructive surgery on tissue previously injured in an accident.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO), Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). Whether from near or far, we always appreciate the good fellowship and teachings that they bring with them.

The home of James and Julie McCullough has a new addition, Sierra Nicole, born on July 21. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz and James and Paulette McCullough. May God's love and wisdom fill their home.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

As the month of August wears on, it is hard to be thankful for the extremely hot and humid weather we have been experiencing all summer. All too soon it will be winter and we will long for the warmth of the summer months. We need to learn to appreciate the seasons and the situations that our Heavenly Father allows us to experience.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), and Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We pray that they will continue to feel the Holy Spirit's guidance as they speak the truth from the Living Word.

Our prayers are with Charles Yoh on the loss of his wife, Kathryn. May he feel God's presence in his life in the days that are ahead.

We extend a warm welcome to

Sis. Marlene Reinhard as she makes our Latty congregation her home. Sis. Marlene attended Latty several years ago with her family before their move to Detroit, MI. We are glad to have Sis. Marlene back in our area.

"...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:13

Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) has found the grace to repent. We rejoice with her and her family, and pray that Erica will look to Jesus for the perfect example.

We pray for God's continuing blessings for strength and health to our hospital patients this month: Sis. Florence Stoller (Bro. Bill), Sis. Carol Eisenmann (Bro. Bill) and Kurt Plummer (Bro. Rick and Denise).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

In my last report, I neglected to mention that our annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 9 at the home of Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder. All who were present enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and good food. Our thanks to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue for having us.

There is not much sweeter than a newborn baby. First-time parents, Jeff and Julie Webel, sure think that about their new arrival, Hallie Olivia. Hallie was born on Sunday, July 16, and when great-grandma, Anna Webel (John), received the call, needless to say, she was excited. Also excited by Hallie's arrival are grandparents, Pete and Linda Webel and Jim and Barb Somers. May Jeff and Julie always look for God's guidance as they are charged with the responsibility of

raising this precious little girl.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Millie Gerber who are now assembling with us. May they always feel God's love abounding in our church.

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

Mark 8:35

We rejoice with Jared Hill (Chip and Seda) as he has made a beginning toward saving his life. It is our prayer that he will always keep striving toward that Heavenly goal.

"The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom" was the theme for the 23rd Annual Youth Fellowship Day which was held in Mansfield on July 30. Many young people gathered on Sunday to renew old friendships or make new ones. The evening before, we gathered in Rittman for supper and singing. Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) gave a short talk after the singing. He told this story: There were some wise men traveling in the desert when an angel came to them. The wise men were overjoyed to see the angel because they figured the angel would give them some direction. The angel told them to put some stones in their saddlebags and journey through the next day. He said that at the end of the day, the wise men would be both happy and sad. They journeyed the next day and when they stopped, they looked in their saddlebags. There instead of the stones, they found diamonds. The angel was right-- they were happy that they had taken some stones and sad they had not taken more. Bro. John compared the diamonds to Youth Day. He said that the young people would probably look back on

these Youth Day gatherings more than they looked forward to them. We pray that our young people will realize the "diamonds" that are out there to be gathered as part of our fellowship.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

We have received many blessings by way of visiting ministers this month. Our visitors include: Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), and Don Manz (Junction, OH). We pray that each of our visitors received as much of a blessing from being with us as we did by their coming.

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

Mark 10:9

Bro. Bob and Sis. Miriam Bird are true testimonies to this verse as they celebrated 50 years of married life this month. We pray that the blessing of those years together are too numerous to count. We also pray that God will continue to bless the years they will yet spend together.

One day as my co-worker and I were driving to work, we saw a rainbow when it was not raining. The closer we got to our destination, the more glorious it became. When we arrived, we could see the entire arch. It reminded me of Heaven--the closer we get, the more glorious it becomes and when we reach our destination, we will be able to see it all.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Marsha Rufener Linda Schar

We have been blessed to have two visiting ministers with us recently: Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT). May God richly bless these dear ones for their efforts.

July 22 was the wedding day of Matt Csapo and Darlene Gasser. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Csapo and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser. May they look to God to be the third member of their family.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty Zollinger were blessed with a little girl on July 17. Belinda Sue joins her brothers, Eric and Chad. Grandparents are Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler.

Martha Ann was born on July 23 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Debra Jenkins. Big sister, Mary, and grandparents, Sis. Clara Jenkins and Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Steiner, also were anxiously awaiting her arrival.

July 27 was a special day for Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois and Blake Maibach as they welcomed Joelle Rose into their family. Joelle's grandparents are Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller.

Sis. Martha Steele (Bro. Ken) and Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) were recently hospitalized. May they feel God's healing hand.

Mary Schorle passed away. Mary was Sis. Janet (Bro. Art) Maibach's mother and John I (Sis. Marg) Calame's sister. We extend our sympathy and prayers.

OHIO, SARDIS Renee Miller

This summer has been full of both "scheduled" and "surprise" visitors at church. We hope this trend continues, as it adds an ex-

tra measure of blessing for each of us!

Among our visitors within the past month were ministering Bros. Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Mark Steiner (Rittman, OH). As our dear ministers travel with their families on vacation, they are rarely given a vacation from standing and bringing forth the Word of God. Your labor on our behalf is truly appreciated. May you be richly rewarded for it.

Sis. Rosella Figel is walking without a cast again. We are thankful God's miracle of healing has been performed on her broken leg.

We often sing "When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again." We all were sad to bid Bro. Clint Heinold farewell as he completed his summer job in Pittsburgh, PA and returned to Illinois to complete his schooling. We recognize, however, that if we could live a life without "inward pain", we would also have to forfeit the special friendships and fellowship that God gives us as He directs each of us on the path of life. We praise God for allowing you to assemble with us this summer, Bro. Clint!

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Margaret Blough Edith Miller

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10). This was the theme of our 23rd Annual Youth Day, to which many of our youth traveled to Mansfield on Sunday, July 30. We trust the good seed which was sown on that day will in due time bring forth acceptable fruit. On the evening before, as part of the Youth Day program, many gathered at the Fellowship Hall for an

evening of singing and fellowship. Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) spoke to our young people at that time. We thank Bro. John, and all who took part in this event. We would also thank him for spending the following day with our congregation at Smithville. May God bless him for his efforts.

Brandon Matthew Luginbuhl arrived on August 4 to bless the home of first-time parents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl. Also, first-time parents, John and Jennifer Brewer, welcomed Olivia Audrey in May. Grandparents of Olivia are Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery. May these new parents receive grace from God to teach their children "the fear of the Lord".

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank, as they have moved to our area from Phoenix, AZ. They were formerly from this area, and we look forward to having them here again. They are presently residing in one of our Nursing Home Retirement Apartments. May God be near unto them as they adjust to the many changes in their lives. We trust God will bless them with good health, as Bro. Gordon has just come through some major surgeries before arriving here.

As summer comes to a close and the school bells begin to ring again in our land, we send our children back to school with mixed emotions. We hope and pray that by many good examples, "the fear of the Lord" has been impressed upon them this past summer. And now we trust God will protect each one of them, whether they are just starting to school for the first time or if they have gone to school for a number of years. Our prayers go with each one of them.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

Grandchildren have been welcomed by Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Fetter and Bro. John and Karen Breitwieser. Skyler Zane is the first child of Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Fetter of Washington, D.C. Caitlyn Marie joins Derrick and Sandy Rawson and big sister, Hannah.

Recently hospitalized were Trent Jackson (Mike and Laurie) and Bro. Oliver Spangler (Sis. Annabell). Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa) has also experienced some health problems. We hope that they will each feel God's hand of healing.

A visit by Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) was very much appreciated. We would like to thank him and all the visitors we have recently enjoyed. The presence of guests makes a welcome difference in our small congregation.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Lori Martin - Mary Berg

We've had some cool, rainy weather this week. A gentle reminder that fall is just around the corner; the children will soon be returning to school, vacations will be over and summer visitors to our area will be slowing. It seems that the summer has just gone by too quickly and all the things we planned to do just did not get done.

We have enjoyed many visitors this summer. We hope that everyone who has come to this area has felt welcomed and appreciated. Among those visiting this past month were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). Ministering Bros. were: Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Todd Zollinger

(Silverton, OR), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN). We thank all of these Brothers for giving of themselves to share the Gospel message with us.

On July 29 and 30, the Oregon churches were host to a group of Snowbirds traveling through the area. Our congregation hosted a potluck at the church on Saturday evening with a singing following. We certainly enjoyed meeting many new faces and seeing those that we knew but hadn't seen for many years. What a blessed weekend it was!

We welcome Peter and Elizabeth Folia and their daughter, Elisheba, to our congregation. They have moved to the Portland area from California and we pray that God will richly bless them in their new home.

We have begun a World Relief sewing project involving our Sunday School children. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at the church at 6:30. We encourage all to join us when they can to help us with this project.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Greetings to one and all! We are thankful to share with you that Diane (Urban) Kuenzi feels she has found peace with the Lord following her repentance. We look forward to hearing her testimony of faith.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo Kuenzi were blessed with the arrival of little Kyle Jason on July 17. He was born prematurely and we are thankful he is doing well and has come home to join Michael, Megan and Jared.

On July 22, we held our Open House. It was a blessed day for us as we shared our new edifice with

brethren from across the land as well as many people from our surrounding community.

We have had many visiting ministering brothers share God's Holy Word with us this past month. They include: Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN); and Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), and Ed Knecht (Portland, OR). May the Lord richly bless each one for being willing servants in His vineyard.

August 13 was the wedding day of Sis. Trinda Kuenzi (Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brad Meyer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla) of Lester, IA. We will miss Sis. Trinda, but wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they set up residence in Iowa and assemble with the Lester congregation. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Art Metz with this ceremony.

Our love and prayers will go with our dear ones, Merlin and Marilyn Meyer, as they feel directed of the Lord to move to the Lester area. We surely will miss them but find comfort in the knowledge that the Lord will continue to provide for them there as He has here.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
Psalms 119:105

Our thoughts and prayers are

with Bro. Gabriel and Sis. Rachel Clough who will be attending school in Illinois.

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

We rejoice with Kevin Clough who has professed peace with God and man.

We rejoice that Hope Clough has surrendered her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God be near her as she builds her foundation in Christ.

Bro. Gabriel, Sis. Rachel, Kevin and Hope are the children of John and Sis. Kathy Clough.

We thank Bro. Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

With the coming of fall our area offers good weather and it is a nice time to visit. We welcome those who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 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**

To fathom the awesome love of God is incomprehensible to the human mind. In the Hymns of Zion, F.M. Lehman was inspired to write about God's great love:

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.
Hymns of Zion #289

One of my co-workers recently

returned to work after having her first child. With all of the overwhelming love she felt for her newborn child, she knew that this was a very, very pale comparison to the love God has for each of us. Let us stop and consider God's love for us and truly thank Him for loving us so much that He even sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross for us.

On August 6, we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) share the Word of God with us. Visitors were also present from Bluffton, IN. May God's blessings be upon all of you, and we hope you will return to visit us again soon.

The remodeling of our church building is progressing quite rapidly. This past month, concrete was poured for the church front entrance and for the floor of the kitchen/dining room addition. The addition was also framed in. Lord willing, we hope to complete remodeling by year end.

Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you plan to be in the Nashville area. Our upcoming services are scheduled for September 17 - Francesville, IN; October 8 - Rittman, OH; and October 22 - Champaign, IL.

Encouraging thought for the approaching Labor Day Holiday:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58)

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

Many of us in Texas have en-

joyed a summer of trips "home" attending weddings and reunions. We are very thankful and blessed to have had the opportunities to see our loving families and friends and attend larger church congregations.

God's message was brought forth in Texas in July by Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), who were accompanied by their wives, Sis. Shirley and Sis. Lyn. The folks who gather at the Dallas and Round Top services are so grateful for the efforts of our ministering brothers and their families. Thank you for your continued love and service. May God bless you.

Dallas church services are usu-

ally 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.

Round Top 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**

July 29 and 30 the Zapata reun-

ion was held at Morris, MN. About 100 members and friends from Bradford, Tremont, Fairbury, Champaign, Bloomington, Goodfield and Elgin, IL; West Bend, Oakville, Burlington and Lester, IA; Bern, KS; Mansfield, Junction and Latty, OH; Bluffton North and Remington, IN; Rockville, CT; and Zapata, TX attended this reunion. On July 28, some of the travelers spent time in Winthrop, MN. We all enjoyed the Christian fellowship and want to thank all that took part in hosting this occasion.



The Children are Watching

Are you ready to faint
When trials come your way,
Or are you quickly ready
To get down and pray?

Do the cares of life
Always catch you off guard,
Or do you pray for grace
For when times get hard?

Are you continually wanting
What the other one has,
Or do you show contentment
With those things that you have?

Maybe, just maybe
It would help us to know,
It's how we cope with trials
That help children grow.

So that when they're faced
With life's heavy blows,
They know where to turn
For God only knows.

So we should be patient
And try to endure,
Through trials that come
We must remain pure.

...always to think,
the children are watching!

*Submitted by Sis. Stephanie Kaeb
of the Forrest, IL congregation*



"GOD'S LOVE NEVER FAILS"

Sermon by Bro. John E. Laukhuf

Matthew 25:1-30

A most beautiful exhortation of our Lord and Saviour. This is a very common, well-known and well-read chapter. We have all read this chapter in our homes and we have all heard this chapter exhorted on many times. Yet, because of this Living Word of God and because His Spirit comes and teaches us each time we open our hearts unto Him and each time we have a desire and a zeal to look into His Word, He can open our understanding and He can fill us with His love, His kindness and His mercy and He can fill us with His Spirit.

Even though it is a familiar chapter and even though it is something each one of you understand, we could sit down right now and God's Spirit could teach you and He could lead you. There could be a blessing. Yet, we know that each time we are willing to come and listen and each time we are willing to let the Spirit of God speak to us, He can bring to us, perhaps admonition, or perhaps encouragement. He can bring to us the very thing that we need in our very life on that very time in this very day. This is a parable that Jesus Christ taught--the greatest Teacher of all times. He spoke in parables to mankind so that they could understand...so they could liken the ways of following the Lord and Saviour and the ways of Heaven...so they can follow them in their own understanding and in their own simple and finite minds.

So often we look into this Word, don't we? When we don't allow the Spirit to open our mind and just read through, it becomes a habit of reading. How many times do we go on---go about our work and then it dawns on us that we really didn't even hear what we read? We didn't even let the Spirit speak to us when we prayerfully entreated Him and took time. Even though it is a chapter that is so familiar, He can teach us and He can grant us the things we need.

A most beautiful parable! It is the call of the Lord and Saviour! It is a call going forth to the friend of the truth again today. There are those that have answered that call and have felt this conviction--the conviction that made us all feel at one time so uncomfortable because we couldn't sleep at night and we had no rest in our hearts and our

souls. The conviction of Jesus Christ is because of His mercy and His love for us.

Because He loves us so much, God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe on him should not perish, but have eternal life...everlasting life! (See John 3:16). He loves us so much that He sends His conviction, friends of the truth, because He doesn't want you to perish where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (See Matthew 25:30). A place most horrible.

Yet this parable speaks directly to the brother and sister that are upon the way because it tells us there were ten virgins. They were virgins---they had been washed. They had been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb and they had been on the way. But it says five were foolish because those five allowed the effects of this world---the busyness of this world---to somehow cause them to begin to cool off, and to begin to lose the first love.

We can read in the Book of Revelation of the church of Laodicea where Jesus Christ rebuked and said, "You have lost your first love." He tells them, "You are lukewarm. I wish that you were cold or hot, but because you are lukewarm I will spew thee out of my mouth." (See Revelation 3:15-16). Brother and sister, this parable speaks not only as a calling to the friend of the truth, but it speaks to us. It speaks to us in the day and time in which we live when we busy ourselves with our occupations and the things that we must do, that we don't lose sight of our priorities, that we don't lose sight of where we were and where He has brought us.

Five were wise and five were foolish. This chapter was opened up to us so that we can take heed and so we can watch therefore, even as Jesus Christ said so that we be not one that becomes even as foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them. Can't we see that perhaps they were in a hurry? Perhaps they were too busy. Perhaps they said, "I'll just get the oil a little later, but I've got things I need to do right now." Some of us do that from time to time. Do we get up in the morning and do we fall upon our knees and say a very hurried prayer? Then, do we go on in our way because

we are so busy and we have things to do and we have places to go? Do we say, "I'll read later; I'll pray a little longer later?"

Oh, the enemy of our soul would love us to do that, brothers and sisters. Let us not fall into that trap. Let us not become so busy that we would begin to lose sight of our priorities. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour and He died for us and He grants us this oil for our lamp. When we seek Him upon our knees in prayer, the oil comes in abundance in mercy and His grace and His Spirit. It represents all those things. It represents the strength we need to overcome the obstacles that stand in our way, even as Joshua fought those kings and fought those lands and those peoples.

We sing a hymn, *Take Time to be Holy*. We need to take time. We are in the day and time and I believe with all my heart that Satan causes us to be so busy that we do become complacent. We are in a time where our economy dictates and we have to work harder and we have to work longer hours, so the world tells us, but do we really?

Hasn't Jesus Christ promised us that if we seek Him first that He will grant us the things we need? He will grant us food and clothing. He tells us to consider the lilies of the field, and to consider the birds. It says that they don't toil and, yet He adorns each one of them. They are adorned even greater than Solomon was in all his glory, the Word promises us. (See Matthew 6:28-30).

He will grant us our needs, but we, as weak mortals, sometimes we get caught up between needs and wants, don't we? Then we get a bit confused about needs and wants. Sometimes we think we need to work so much harder, but we need to take time and keep Jesus Christ as our number one priority, so we don't even come as a foolish virgin, or that we don't find ourselves without any oil. It is the days that we spend in servitude to Him, and the time that we spend upon our knees in prayer that we fill our lamps with oil. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Beloved ones, this is the day and time when we can gather oil. We gather oil when we assemble to sit un-

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

der the sound of the Word. We gather oil when we seek the Lord in prayer. We gather oil when we labor and hum that favorite hymn. We gather oil when we visit with our brother and sister when we go to encourage one another. We go to confess our faults one to the other and we can be uplifted and encouraged. That is all part of gathering oil.

Beloved ones, we can learn an occupation and we can keep our beloved ones that the Lord has given us. We can keep them well cared for and still have an abundance of time to gather this most precious oil of the Holy Spirit. Because the more that we diligently seek after Him and the more that we want to draw ourselves closer to Him, oh, He will draw nigh unto us. He will fill our lamps so we won't be caught unaware at midnight when the Bridegroom comes. He will come back at a time when we think not.

We read about the good man of the house that if he would have known the house was going to be broken into, he would have stayed and watched, wouldn't he? Beloved ones, are we watching today? The Bridegroom is going to return.

It tells us, "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Matthew 25:10). It just causes me to tremble. Each time I read that verse, I think of Noah and I think of how he preached to those people and he told them that the rains were going to come. There is going to come a day when you are going to have to give an account for how you have walked this life.

It says that he gathered those people into that ark and he gathered those animals and the Lord shut the door. The door was shut! I often weep when I think of what Noah had to hear. He heard the souls of men crying out outside of that ark. He heard them pounding on the door and asking, "Let me in! Let me in!"

Beloved ones, that is how it is going to be when the Bridegroom comes. There is going to be some poor stranded soul that is going to be seeking just one more day of grace. The Lord is going to say, "I know you not." (Matthew 25:12). The door will be shut.

Today is the day when that door stands wide open and He is beckoning each one of us to come. It is a day when the friends of the truth need to take careful consideration of where they will spend eternity, and how they

stand with their Lord in this day. Those of us who are upon the way need to take careful consideration of how we are walking our life and what our priorities are.

It says they went to buy oil. The foolish went out to try at the last minute to buy oil. But it was too late. We cannot go our own way. We can't walk after self-will and then expect after the Bridegroom comes to be able to go and make the necessary preparations. We need to heed the Saviour when He calls, and He calls in such loving tones. He says, "Come and taste and see."

He said, "Come unto me, all ye that are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (See Matthew 11:28). Didn't we find that in our life? Didn't we find there was a time when we had no rest when we tried to appease ourselves? We tried to be a good person and do things on our own, but we found no rest until we came to the foot of the cross. We poured our heart out at the foot of the cross. Then we found the rest for our souls. We found the rest that only the Saviour can give because He is the Only Door to the sheepfold. There is no other way. If we try to go another way, we are a thief and a robber.

May we be encouraged. May we be encouraged when we read these parables that we know so well to take an examination of ourself, to look deeply within ourself and see where our first love is and where our priorities are.

God loves us so much! That is why we come back to these familiar scriptures. He loves us so much that when we begin to stumble and we begin to walk a little bit to the side of the road, He wants us to walk down that narrow pathway. He reminds us. He gently reproves us. Oh, He is a loving Saviour!

I think of the Shepherd that when the sheep goes off and begins to walk astray and begins to be lost, how He gently reaches out with a staff and He pulls him back in. He is careful not to injure--that is the love of our Saviour. That is the love of the One who went to the cross and suffered the shame and the reproach and He took our place.

Beloved ones, we have to be so careful that we don't become so busy that we forget what He did for us. We should not become so busy that we forget the friend of the truth, or the brother and sister that is standing right before us that needs a word of encouragement...that needs a squeeze of the hand...that needs to feel the love

of Jesus Christ through each of us toward them. That is one reason why God has placed us here and why He has given us so much--so many blessings that we walk hand-in-hand one with another so that we encourage one another.

I feel such a love and a kinship and a kindness when I come back to this church in Forrest. I looked forward all week to coming back to Forrest. I read an account this week that taught me about brotherly love, and it is what I feel. It is what we have because God loves us so. It is the love of Jesus Christ dwelling within us and that is where our glory should be.

It was a story of two brothers who were farmers. One brother was single and didn't have a family. The other brother had a wife and several children. They worked everyday together and at the end of the day, they shared what they had grown. They shared their produce. They split it equally down the middle. Then they went to their separate homes.

The single brother began to think, "This just isn't fair. My brother has a family and a wife to take care of. It is just me and I don't need this much." So at night he would go out to his bin and take bushels of grain and he would sneak over to his brother's bin and put some of his produce in his brother's bin. At the same time, his brother felt, "My brother that is single has no one to take care of him in his old age. I've got a wife and I have children; I don't need as much as he does." He would do the same. In the dark of night, he would go to his bin and would take bushels of grain and go over and put it in his brother's bin.

Time went on and they both realized that their bins were staying the same. Until one night, as they were each transmitting those bushels of grain one to the other, they bumped into each other and they realized what they each were doing. The account said the two brothers looked at each other with tears in their eyes and they embraced. Beloved ones, that is the love of the brotherhood. That is the love of Jesus Christ dwelling within us, because by His mercy and His grace He has allowed us to be a part of the wise because He has given us an understanding.

It tells us that we are destined to be lost to where there is a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. It doesn't mean it to hurt us. He means it because He loves us so dearly.

He loves us so dearly that He died for us and shed His blood. He took our place there on Calvary's Hill so that we can have this peace and this joy.

He goes on and gives us another parable to those of us that have been given these wonderful things. We cannot take them for granted. We need to be up and doing. We cannot take the talent and we cannot take the blessings that God has given us and just bury them in the ground. We cannot become too busy to recognize where it came from. When we become too busy in our lives and we take that talent and bury it in the ground, again there is going to be a time when the Bridegroom will come and it will catch us unaware of this heritage that He has given us. What have we done with it? Have we passed it on to those that come behind us? Or have we gotten too busy?

I heard it once said that we are living in a time when we are so busy that we set an alarm on our wristwatch. We jump when the alarm on our wristwatch goes off, but we sleep through the call of Almighty God. Beloved brothers and sisters, I am speaking to myself. Do we do that?

Beautiful, beautiful Scriptures that remind us what our priorities need to be. They remind us of the talents that He has given us--the blessings. The things that He has given us are gifts from Him. How do we receive a gift from another human being in this life? Aren't we thankful? Don't we thank that person? Aren't we very appreciative?

How many times do we forget about the greatest gift of all? We can become complacent and we forget to thank our Lord and Saviour for everything that we have. Our soul's salvation is the highest calling! It is the greatest thing

that anyone could ever bestow upon us. He has given it to us because He bled and He died for us. We need to be so appreciative. We need to be so thankful for our heritage and this beloved faith that we so enjoy. We are willing to smile. We are willing to show the love of Jesus Christ and we are willing to embrace our brotherhood, even as those two brothers.

We are willing to take on the obstacles that are before us. We are willing to march onward and forward. We cannot go on our own strength, can we?

How many times have some of us tried to go on our own strength? We know how far we get. We fail miserably, don't we? But if we wait upon Him, our Lord and Saviour, the strength will be there.

Dear friend of the truth, if we wait upon Him, the door is open yet today and He is calling. He will send things into your life that will cause affliction and cause despair because He is trying to save you from the weeping and gnashing of teeth. He is trying to call you to show you that there is a gentler way.

"Come unto me, ye that are weak and heavy laden. I will give you rest." (See Matthew 11:28).

Oh, we often sing that hymn, *The Prodigal's Return*.

Afflictions, tho' they seem severe,
In mercy oft are sent:
They stopp'd the prodigal's career,
And caused him to repent.

"What have I gained by sin," he said,
"But hunger, shame, and fear?"
My father's house abounds in bread,
While I am starving here!"

"I'll go and tell him all I've done,
Fall down before his face;
Unworthy to be called his son,
I'll seek a servant's place."

His father saw him coming back;
He saw, he ran, he smiled,
And threw his arms around the neck
Of his rebellious child!

"O father, I have sinned--forgive!"
"Enough," the father said;
"Rejoice, my house; my son's alive
For whom I mourned as dead!"

'Tis thus the Lord His love reveals,
To call poor sinners home;
More than a father's love He feels,
And welcomes all that come.

Beloved ones, today is the day when the door of grace is open. Today is the day when He reveals unto us the gifts that He has placed in our life and He asks us for the accounting of the gifts that He has given us. Are we appreciative of those gifts? Are we willing to use them to encourage one another, to uplift one another, to carry forth the name of Jesus Christ and hold the banner high?

When we get to the end of the road, that is all that will matter. That is all that will hold us. It doesn't matter what we have accomplished in life. It is only what we have done by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ and what we have done for Him. Today is the day of grace.

Beloved friend of the truth, He is knocking at your heart's door. Won't you open it? Won't you answer His knocking and find joy, peace, rest and find the precious pearl that your soul so greatly desires?





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The Importance of Heritage

We study heritage to create an awareness of the past. The struggles and victories of our predecessors in faith can inspire us to greater devotion. The past, however, is not sacred, and neither were our foreparents in faith perfect. Yet, we can learn---for the purpose of enrichment, inspiration, and warning---from the events of former days.

An author once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This is true regarding the negative aspects of history. In a Bible-rooted heritage, however, where fidelity to scriptures was prominent, we will thrive spiritually if we remember (and repeat) the past.

An English statesman said, "The further back you look, the further ahead you can see." From this, the enduring concepts, the nobility of thought, the courage of principle, and the grace to follow God's Word, constitute a foundation to both imitate and build upon regarding our spiritual pathways. To reject the past, or to exist in a fog of unawareness, "is like a path leading from nowhere to nowhere."

We must use the wisdom of the past to maintain a surer spiritual foundation for the generations that may follow us in faith, so long as the dear Lord tarries. Unawareness constitutes peril. A puritan leader once wrote, "Ignorance is the mother of heresy."

The Apostle Luke was unmistakable in exhorting the new believers to know the "certainty" of those things which were "most surely" believed among them. Auxiliary to this reasoning is a verse found in Proverbs 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." We, as believers,

are to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). As we study heritage, we can learn from the practical efforts our foreparents exercised as they applied doctrine to everyday life.

As one studies Christian history, it is obvious that both failure and waywardness (and confusion) were an ever-continuing pattern over the centuries. Periods of fervent devotion were interspersed with apostasy and deception. The ebb and flow of revival and apostasy are unmistakable trends.

As we learn (from history and from God's Word) about the social influences that can cause an undermining of true faith, we can better assess our present era to determine if social trends today can be equally as undermining as in the past. A familiarity with the past can help to strengthen the church as it exists in the present.

There are five historical factors that over the years have affected Christian devotion: (1) persecution, (2) privation, (3) abundance, (4) ease, and (5) educational levels. To the extent that such factors affect the church today, we are possibly subject to a greater or lesser sense of devotion. As we learn how our foreparents dealt with these factors/influences we can hold onto a more fervent, careful, and biblically-rooted lifestyle.

As we study heritage, we find inspiration, especially from those who took a stand for righteousness---and who subsequently suffered privation and often severe persecution. The Reformation of 1517 and the Radical Reformation of 1525 are movements that have affected us today.

We can take courage, too, when we more fully comprehend how God used young Samuel Froehlich and his counterparts in the 1830's and 1840's to re-establish a church based on an apostolic foundation, using the Word of God

as the only rule of faith and life; and how succeeding generations in this legacy have, by God's grace, strived to literally follow God's Word.

Lukewarmness, apostasy, and Satan's interference with truth are patterns of which we must continually be aware, both regarding the past and now. These influences must be brought to light and understood. Satan has been skillful in shading and undermining truth.

One such tactic of the past has been to dilute the Word. For instance, studying history makes us aware of the "higher critical" method of interpreting the Bible---in which biblical truths are seen situational, historically, and from the author's social "prejudices" (instead of understood literally). This tends to dilute God's Word. In this, man rather than God, becomes the authority.

Over the years, doctrinal aberrations have occurred in which truths have been twisted. Infant baptism, papal infallibility, and eternal security are examples of beliefs that arose out of confused interpretational settings. Also, diluted versions of the Bible, which have proliferated in our time, can offer a peril to the brotherhood.

As we become aware of history, and the strengths and weaknesses it presents, we can more fully recognize the "certainty" of our beliefs today! This will spur our motivation to be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58)

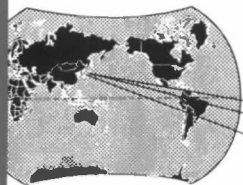
By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

*Next issue:
Our Theological Heritage*

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



"Avoiding Conflict"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I don't know about you but conflict is very hard on me. I want to love everyone and get along with everyone. Loving others is pretty much up to me but getting along with others requires their cooperation, which sometimes is not forthcoming. There is one consolation and that is that we can love others even if we do not have a good relationship with them.

In speaking to an acquaintance of mine, I once said, "Life is full of conflict." He replied, "It certainly is." As one grows older, at least for me, conflict diminishes and life levels off on a plateau of bliss and contentment.

Conflict probably originated in Heaven. Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven." When Satan had conflict with God, he lost but he didn't give up. Thus, the conflict between good and evil continues to this day and we do well in our church to require candidates for baptism to give up everything that is not good, although it may

cause a struggle for that person to do so. The only way to avoid the conflict is to surrender completely and be done with it. God will bless you for doing so and conflict diminishes.

Another kind of conflict beside the conflict between good and evil is the conflict between and among human beings. This may be evident in the family, in the school, in the work place, on the highway and in the church. The chief cause of conflict between or among human beings is that someone thinks he or she is better than someone else. The Bible attempts to remedy this by teaching, "...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3).

Yet, there are standards in every social group, including the church, which must be kept if we are to work together well. If we comply with those standards, so long as they are not evil, the less conflict we will have and the more we will be blessed.

Conflict between parents and

children is inevitable from day one but what we need to avoid in this conflict is losing control of ourselves in the battle. When we attempt to discipline or correct when we are out of control, our children lose respect for us. What they want is to be controlled by their parents in a firm and loving manner. What we would like to settle for in many aspects of our lives is disagreement without conflict.

Most of us in our church have a German background and the feeling in the German culture of being better than others has affected us. We each need to remember that we are the least of the least, not only within the church but all over the world. Many other ethnic groups in Europe have the same problem with a feeling of supremacy, not only the Germans.

Let's do what we can to avoid conflict, by being dead to self. We must learn not to fight back when abused.

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Klondike - 1911

In the past, long before some of us can remember, the mode of transportation was by buggy. The horse drawn buggy had many versions of which the Klondike was one. Really first class. Heated bricks were used to keep the feet warm. No CD, tapes, or radio. No insulation. Travel was ten times as long as today. A typical round trip to church today may be about 5-10 minutes. After harnessing the horse, and removing the harness at church; re-harnessing and again removing the harness at home, we could figure the same family might spend three hours making the round trip to church. As I understand, that was a blessed time to visit. The faster pace of today may be taking away from the valuable family time that beloved ones seemed to have in that day and time.

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