



The Thanksgiving Lining

We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty

November 1995



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

I Thessalonians 5:18

"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name."

I Chronicles 29:13

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Number 11

"Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." (Revelation 11:17)

Thanksgiving—a blessed time of the year when our hearts turn to God in thanks and praising of His holy name.

Thou, our great God in Heaven, halloved be Thy holy name for all of the blessings that Thou hast bestowed upon us during this past year.

How often we stop to count our blessings. Blessings from God which are directly given by Him and those blessings which come through the hand and heart of beloved brethren who share with us the blessed joy that God has shared with them. This was the theme on that day so long ago as the Pilgrims brought together all people, Pilgrim and Indian alike, to give thanks unto the Giver of life, the Allower of death, the Giver of happiness and He who allows sorrow.

The Pilgrims did not have a real easy time when they came to this new land to escape religious persecution. They met hardship after hardship until they wondered if God would spare even a remnant of life.

We also can often witness God's holy direction in things after the trial or storm in life occurs. We have found that sometimes He brings growth by purging and tribulation. How many weeks or months have gone by in each of our lives when we thought the sun would never shine. A child taken unexpectedly, or a parent goes Home to the Lord, a financial trial, or those we thought loved us the most, turn against us. These trials and others leave us staggering down the path of life without good answers as to why they have beset us. There comes a time when we can see the silver lining of the clouds in our life and know of a surety that God was directing us all along. Sometimes when we look back on the sands of the seashore where our footprints are plainly seen, right along beside the Lord's, we notice there is sometimes only one set of prints. It is then that we know God has lifted us and carried us through that particular trial. We cannot express in mere words how much our heart trembles at the

majesty of God and the love He gives to all who call upon His holy name.

Surely we would be amiss if we did not look out upon the face of this country and see the bountiful harvest He has again brought to His people. The cover depicts God's bountiful supply given to man. Wheat to make our bread and straw to lie down upon, corn to make corn meal and "mush", pheasant for meat, and pumpkins for pie. Surely, we are blessed beyond our comprehension, but then why are we still sometimes sad?

Maybe we do not accept God's directions and as it was with Saul (Paul) of Tarsus, we find it hard to kick against the pricks. If we do not choose to be pliable, we can find ourselves as hardened clay which can hardly be molded, even to the point of breaking. We must consider in all things God's Holy Word and direction, and realize that He will not let us down. God will not forsake us, neither will He let us struggle with more than we can bear.

The great God of Heaven, who has created all things great and small, should be praised with our song, He should be praised in our prayer, He should be loved so much that there would be no question in our mind about total obedience to His Holy Word.

The season of Thanksgiving will bring to our mind great and small things that He hath done for us. It is with a thankful heart that we thank Him for "the sunshine in our life", for the love of others, for deeds of kindness, and for the unspoken love for our brethren.

Thanks and praise be to our Heavenly Father.



A small blessing, for which I am so thankful, was when God brought the Purple Finch to us this year. They have raised a large family and because they find seeds each morning, they are staying to hopefully grace our back yard this winter.

As we feed the birds, so we can feed those who have met with misfortune so they, too, can sing with a glad heart unto the Lord in thanksgiving.

The Silver Lining

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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

November 1995

Being Christlike in Business and Commerce

The Word of God strongly exhorts the believer to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

The implication is that as one conducts his life, the light of Christ will come forth during interaction with others. The end result is that if we let our light shine, God will be glorified.

Our daily responsibilities provide many opportunities to glorify God as we interact with others through our families, our employers and employees, and in a host of other ways. Every hour of every day affords the believer unique opportunities to show forth the light of Christ, and as believers, we should always be conscious that this is our calling.

The areas of business and commerce provide opportunities whereby we can be either a shining light, or a "poor" light for the Lord. A bright light is a powerful influence for good and brings much honor to God. Conversely, a poor light can bring reproach to His holy name.

In the general area of commerce, both among buyers and sellers, a child of God has a high standard of godliness to uphold. As an ambassador for Christ, he should be guided by biblical principles: by the golden rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matt. 7:12), by not only focusing on the things which are seen, but on the things which are not seen (II Cor. 4:18), and by the words of the Lord Jesus, "Take heed and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15). The Word further exhorts that the trait of "covetousness", which is a form of idolatry (Col. 3:5), is not to be named even once among the saints (Eph. 5:3). The traits of graciousness, respect for others and uprightness should describe our business/commercial endeavors. It grieves our heavenly Father when we who are called to be ambassadors for Christ fall prey to the fleshly patterns of seeking undue advantage and selfish gain in our buying and selling even

though we might not always be aware of it.

As we follow Christ, may we remember that three of His greatest teachings center around turning the other cheek, going the second mile, and being willing to give our overcoat along with our coat, when asked. We are to be totally unselfish.

To be possessive and selfish in commerce demeans the character of Christ and His marvelous, perfect ways. As we try to gain a little edge here, and a little edge there (always at someone else's expense), we cast a shadow on both our testimony as a believer and on the Spirit of Christ which dwells within us, thereby grieving the heart of God. A believer's reputation suffers as he demonstrates selfishness, discourtesy, insensitivity, and a lack of concern for the business/financial welfare of others in commercial interactions. As one's reputation declines in this regard, it also extends over onto the church and brings a measure of reproach to God's people as well as to the Lord Himself. This is a difficult "reputation" to shed. We must all take care to guard against becoming salt that has lost its savour (Luke 14:34).

A good measure of our Christlikeness in business occurs after we complete a retail transaction. If we purchase a refrigerator, an automobile, or even a small, everyday item, what do the store salespersons say about us when we leave their place of business? Or, what do store clerks think when they see us coming into their business establishment? Do we live our life in a manner that others can see the light of Christ in us, or are we seen and remembered for our worldly selfishness and overbearing self-centeredness? We must all take great care in evaluating our lives in this regard, because we all engage in a type of commerce almost every day. Knowingly or unknowingly, we are building a reputation in the minds of those who observe us. We must continually remind ourselves that we are to be a good light for Christ.

In all of this, if we are persistent and

insistent in driving a hard bargain for "a better deal", we should realize that at life's end what little gain or advantage we have achieved amounts to only a pittance and surely will not be worth reflecting a bad light or bringing reproach to Christ's name.

Rather our motive along life's way should be to glorify God and to realize that we are a part of Christ's body, the church. As such, we exist together as a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, and a peculiar people" (I Peter 2:9). In the business realm, our dealings should exude from the fact that we are as a city "set upon a hill which cannot be hid" (Matt. 5:14). We are to shine forth in a positive manner for all to see.

The businessman also has a duty to eliminate any tendencies to be overly competitive in his dealings which may lead to misrepresenting the quality or value of the product or service that he is providing to the customer. He should be upright and charitable and ensure that the customer is satisfied. The seller should stand behind his product, treating the customer as he would like to be treated, both in price and service. Both believing sellers and buyers should avoid covetousness at all costs. They should realize that life is soon over and a better home beyond the river Jordan awaits the true and faithful.

In commerce and business, we can be effective vessels for Christ if we truly set our affection on the things above and not on the things of the earth (Col. 3:2).

Let us never forget that, spiritually, he who loses his life shall find it (Matt. 10:39). As we surrender our own will each day to God and focus on the things we cannot see, instead of selfishly dwelling on the things we can see, we can glorify God in business and in His church, reflecting the Holy Spirit's power. Doing this will glorify God, thus fulfilling the reason we exist as believers here on earth.



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

Yugoslavia

A Land and a People in Travail

As the faith begun by Samuel Fröhlich in Switzerland spread across Europe in the last half of the 19th Century, churches sprang up in many lands. Often congregations, whose members in Eastern Europe were known as "Nazarenes", formed near the Danube River. This major stream begins on the south edge of Germany and flows through Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia, finally draining into the Black Sea as it traverses Romania.

The Danube turns south in the area around Budapest, Hungary, making a turn eastward near the city of Osijek, which today is in Croatia. It flows by Novi Sad and Belgrade, two major cities in present day Yugoslavia. One finds most of the Yugoslavian churches in the area east and north of the Danube. There are a few congregations west of this river in the Croatian regions of Baranja, Slavonia, and Krajina.

Large Numbers of Members

During the period from around 1875 until shortly before the Second World War, the number of believers in Yugoslavia was as high as 30,000. In spite of hardships and difficulties, the faith grew and flourished. Romanians, Hungarians, and Slovaks were a part of the overall membership, the majority of which is Serbian. At one time there were 260 churches with around 300 elders. However, it is to be noted that south of the Danube there was great persecution from State Church. 1,500 members once lived in this area, but were severely persecuted. Many of them were beheaded, and the Nazarene faith almost became extinct in this area.



Building blocks for a new church

Wars and Persecution

When regimes changed in their country, the Nazarenes north of the Danube came under severe stress and persecution. Because the brothers would not take up arms in the military, many were imprisoned or even killed. Today, their total membership is around 10% of the highest number. Life was never easy in this part of the world where many people lived off the land. As pressures of varied forms fell upon them, death and attrition reduced their number. Many of those who were able to do so, fled the country to the US, Canada, and Australia. Human suffering was and still remains a fact of life for these struggling souls. At one time they had around 130 churches, but as a result of war and communism, some were lost, and others fell into disrepair.

A Complex Situation

The history of Eastern Europe is full of strife, which continues to this day. The political situation throughout the troubled country is very hard to understand, and even harder to try to explain. An embargo lies upon the entire region which made up the former Yugoslavia. It is this embargo which affects most Nazarene believers today. Not many of them are in the actual war zone, although there are about 110 in eastern Baranja and Slavonia whom the brethren expect to be forced to flee their homes. There are also somewhere around 300 in Krajina who have been subjected to the desolation of war, and several have been killed. Many homes and other buildings have suffered damage. The brethren in this area are being assisted as much as possible through various channels. Hoping that this brief history helps the reader understand their background, we would like to share present day efforts at helping our suffering brethren.

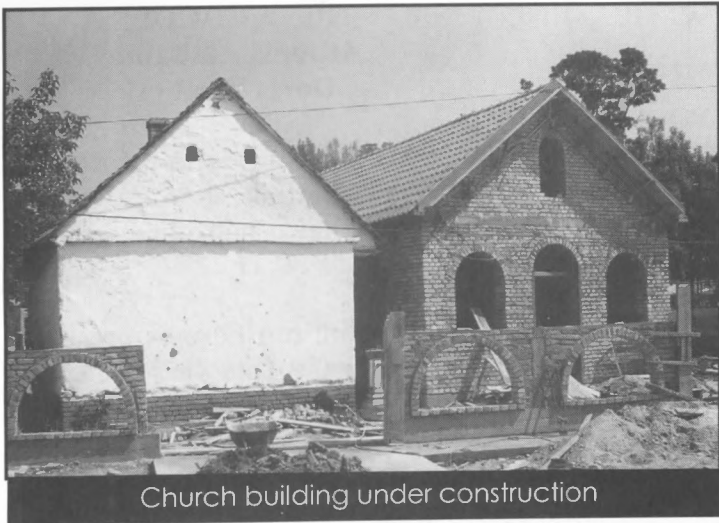
Meeting in Szeged, Hungary

Early in September, 1995, several brethren from the US met with four elders and one deacon from Yugoslavia in the church at Szeged, Hungary. Both the World Relief and Mission Committees have been sending funds into this country for years. The brethren gave an excellent accounting of the use of these funds, plus shared their current needs. The brethren from the USA had attempted to get visas to enter Yugoslavia, but were unsuccessful, which is why this meeting took place only a few miles from the border.

The Spiritual Aspect

Most of their churches were constructed over 80 years ago using a form of unfired clay brick similar to the adobe construction in the southwestern portion of the U.S. The roofs were thatched with reeds, a common construction method still being used. Due to the shrinkage of the congregations, and the lack of funds to maintain them, the church buildings became very dilapidated. During the period of decline, around 30 of these were sold, and the funds used to renovate the existing ones. This did, however, naturally result in a quenching of the faith. The brethren decided that for the Church to survive, they must reverse the trend, and began a program of rebuilding their houses of worship.

In a town not far from Belgrade, there were 11 elderly members before the present political crisis began.



Church building under construction

However, due to the efforts of ministering brothers, this congregation now has over 110 members, most of whom are young. Even today it seems that the church prospers more under stress than in wealth.

There was a full report given at the Szegeed meeting showing where these repairs were made, and at what expense. Because of space limitations and our own lack of knowledge of the geography, we will not attempt to name them all here. However, to date about half of the buildings have been restored, with funds coming from our Mission Committee. They estimate additional costs of repairs to be about \$100,000 for 14 sites.

New Church and Vehicles

Plans are being made to build a new church for one congregation of over 100 believers, with many young people and an average attendance of 130. Building permits and plans are already in place, with some material in hand. They estimate their needs for this purpose to be about \$250,000.

Because of the severe problems of public transportation due to the embargo, the brethren are trying to supply private means to bring the scattered people to services. To date we have furnished funds to buy six vehicles, with a seventh soon to be acquired. The elders feel an urgent

need to buy vehicles for three more congregations at an estimated cost of \$75,000.

Hymnbooks and Bibles

Working in cooperation with the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene), the Mission Committee has funded printing of *Zion's Harps* in the Serbian, Slovakian, and Romanian languages. There is a request for \$2,000 additional to fund Bibles, which we plan to supply them.

Humanitarian Needs

Approximately 3,000 brethren remain in Yugoslavia. Perhaps the greatest problem facing them is the large influx of refugees from Bosnia and Croatia. The U.S. news media reports on this daily. The elders said that currently over 200 needy people are receiving aid from the \$8,500 we send them monthly. They requested increasing this to \$10,000 per month, which was approved as a request from the European Board to the World Relief Committee at the December meeting.

In the month prior to the Szegeed meeting, over 200,000 Serbs fled as homeless refugees from Bosnia. The government has asked to use Nazarene churches as housing for these unfortunates, and our elders replied that when the Orthodox churches were opened for this purpose, they would do likewise. This has not occurred as yet. They are very concerned about caring for the 110 potential displaced brethren referred to earlier, because their meager resources are taxed to the limit. They requested an emergency fund of \$10,000 immediately, which was allotted to them in Szegeed by the US and German brethren.

Heating for Winter

The elders requested about \$14,000 to be used for fuel for around 200 persons this winter. Some of our members have taken refugees, whom they did not know, into their homes in the spirit of love. The brethren stated that it is impossible to keep their hands closed in such a disaster, and our Lord and Savior taught us that way, to shine our light among the people of this world. They do stand ready to give housing, food, and clothing to those whose needs exceed their own.

In Summary

Words fail to describe the feelings which result from being witness to such accounts of true human suffering. The total needs of our anguished brethren exceed a half million dollars. This, of course, is a lot of money, but when we look at ourselves in the light of God's word, it does not seem to be impossible to reach. One especially touching moment in the discussions was when Elder Karol Hrubik said that they had presented us their **needs**, not their **wants**. He also said that no matter what we did, they would continue their struggle to survive, and trust the Lord for His mercies. May God reveal to each one of us what our response should be to this plea for help.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"What will you say to Jesus when you see Him?" This was a question that came up at a recent Bible Study with some of our residents when the second coming of Christ was discussed. One participant said, "I believe with my whole heart that Jesus will come back to earth some day." Another person got really excited to see Jesus and said, "I didn't know Jesus was coming back."

Some of the answers of the group to what they would say when they see Jesus were these:

"I love you, Jesus."

"I like to be saved by you, Jesus."

"I like to serve Jesus."

"I love Jesus."

"Thank you for dying for me."

"I'm glad you had my Dad up there."

Another part of the lesson was about Heaven. Many of the people in the class have family members in Heaven and the following discussion brought tears to our eyes. Here are some of the answers of the group to the question, "What will Heaven be like?"

"a beautiful shore"

"a beautiful place"

"in the sweet by and by"

"in Heaven with God the Father"

"streets of gold"

"be happy with the angels"

"no wheelchairs"

"the door will open"

"I'll be able to walk"

"We'll see Lisa"

"I'll see my Dad"

"God and Jesus will take us to Heaven"

Deep love for Jesus, strong faith in God and living hope in His Word were so obvious during that Bible Study. What a joy it is to share Christian life with one another

while we are still waiting for Jesus.

With the winter season approaching, there will be more activities held inside. A group of young people will be coming to tour the Home. Various entertainment groups will be scheduled for our residents, and swimming will be inside at the Eureka College pool.

December birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Delores Wieland (15), Anne Carrescia (30). At OAKWOOD - Phil Fehr (18). At 200 HAZELWOOD - Doug Clauss (23).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ed Graf

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

In the last two months we've announced the hiring of Bro. John Stoller as our Child Care Supervisor and Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson as Alternate Houseparents. We rejoice now as they are here on campus and can begin walking on a new path in the service of our King. It is truly exciting to see how the Lord works in hearts and lives to bring workers to this ministry.

The staff and children also rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller as they welcome their first grandson into the family. Their daughter, Sis. Sandy Koch (Bro. Nate), of Tremont, IL gave birth to Gabriel James in early October.

The Schrock family is glad to welcome Ashley A. into their home. May God grant Ashley the grace to make the necessary changes in his life and return to

his home. We pray this for not only Ashley, but for all the children who reside here at Gateway Woods. We pray for them to experience the transformation which comes from our Lord.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:2

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Doris Fischer

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

Proverbs 20:11

The children here at preschool have learned this verse recently, as it corresponded with our "E" week. We teachers have been busy assessing the children's abilities as we prepare for parent-teacher conferences. We anticipate having these conferences again in the spring and reporting the progress the children have made. It is always amazing to see how quickly and easily preschoolers learn!

October was a month busy with not only parent-teacher conferences, but also a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch. The Pumpkin Patch is a Christian family's farm that provides farm and fall related activities as an alternative to all the horrors associated with Halloween. Our trip made a long day for us, but the children's enjoyment of things that are wholesome and good was well worth a busy day.

Also in October we held our an-

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Bibles Distributed — Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1995 —	3,834	3,834
September 1995 —	1,404	5,238

*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.

nual fund-raising Trike-A-Thon. The parents collected pledges and the children learned about bicycle safety. Then on the day of the Trike-A-Thon, the children got to bring their tricycles to school and ride them around a course we set up in the parking lot. After being postponed because of rain, the next day turned out beautiful and the Trike-A-Thon was a success.

Near the end of October, our board met to discuss the concerns and needs of our preschool. We wish to thank each of these broth-

ers and their families for their willingness to lend themselves to this duty.

In November, we will be studying Nutrition and Thanksgiving, as well as the color brown and letters I through L. What a blessing it is that we have a holiday set aside for the sole purpose of thanking God and recognizing Him as the Giver of all good and perfect gifts!

ALABAMA, ATHENS

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

Pam Moore

Athens has experienced the birth of two new babies this past month. On September 25, Stonewall Jefferson Sizemore entered this world. His happy parents are James and Sis. Nancy Sizemore. His older brother, James (Gator), and sister, Allie, are excited to have a new baby brother to help care for.

Carolyn and James Lewis have a new little baby boy, born October 13. Carolyn is the daughter of Sis. Correne Williams. The baby has had to stay in the hospital, and they request your prayers. His brother, Brad, hopes to welcome him home soon.

John Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris) and Holly Jones (Gerald and Carolyn Jones) were united in marriage on September 23. We pray for God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

A Sunday School teacher's meeting was held on October 15. As a need for more teachers in our Sunday School was realized, four new teachers agreed to share their time, talent and their love for God. They are: Sis. Doris Fischer, Sis. Barbara Coulter, and Sis. Nancy Sizemore, with Sis. Doris Moore as a substitute teacher. We appreciate their willingness to help.

As I sit outside in the beautiful fall weather to write this article, I thank God for the welcome change of seasons. I realize that even though we may have experienced a trying and difficult "season of our life", God gives hope as God also begins a new season in our lives.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in

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 Ersekcsanad churches
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- 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.

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learning."

Proverbs 9:9

What a blessing for we believers in the Apostolic Christian Church to hear the tapes from the Elder Body summer Conference. There were many teachings on true faith and encouraging Bible references to guide us on the heavenly highway. "Are you a sermon, clear and consistent?" God is watching, be ye holy.

Bro. Herb Jr. and Sis. Laurie

Knochel are happy parents of Kristen Marie, born on September 18. Kristen is receiving love from Andy, Natalie, Tyler, and Bethany. Her grandparents are Bro. Herb Sr. and Sis. Johanna Knochel and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger.

Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) came to minister to us on October 1. We are most grateful to you.

Welcome back to Phoenix, Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton and

children, Sam, Mary Beth, T.J., and Katie. May the Lord bless you.

Our prayer list has included Sis. Shirley Mohrman (twice), Floran Klopfenstein, Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Emma Sanders and Millie Stickling (twice), as all have been surgical patients.

May our Lord comfort and heal each of you.

Sis. Josephine Martin (late Bro. Glenn) is happy for a second grandson, Johnson Christian Lacey, on September 27. His parents are Ken and Elizabeth Lacey. Grandma flew to Tennessee to visit.

On October 1, we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Nancy Dotterer to Bro. Matt Rocke. As the Lord directs our young folks in employment, Sis. Nancy lives in Congerville, IL. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Phoenix) and Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke (Eureka, IL). The wedding will be in Congerville on Thanksgiving weekend. We pray the Lord's blessings and direction as plans are made for a Christian home.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away - yet we are grateful. Our sympathy to Bro. Melvin and Sis. Bertha Miller on the death of Bro. Paul Rumbold, a brother-in-law.

We also extend sympathy to Bro. John Kaufman on a niece's tragic death in Oregon; and to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda on their niece, Angie Huber's, death in Francesville, IN. Bro. James and Sis. Gina also went to Francesville.

Sympathy also goes out to Bro. Leon and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner on her uncle, Bernard Metzger's, sudden death in West Bend, IA.

For comfort, we each must go to the Lord. Yes, kind words and prayers are comforting.

We extend God's love to you all.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Autumn is God's beautiful handiwork in color. As you approach Prescott Valley and Prescott on Route 69, some of the mountains are buttercup yellow, interspersed with brilliant orange. The state's vegetation department's "updated" name for this ground cover is "Yellow Blanket".

Since a national magazine listed Prescott as a good place to retire and California's earthquakes, the area's growth has been tremendous.

We extend sympathy to Doug and Susan Schmidgall on her grandmother's death in Iowa.

Our thanks to Bro. Greg Gramm and Bro. James Emch for coming to preach to us. (Second and fourth Sundays are via phone conference calls from Phoenix.)

If your plans include Arizona, we welcome you at the Odd Fellow Building on Whipple and Sunset. At the junction of Hwy. 69 and US 89, follow Gurley Street (Hwy. 69) west through downtown Prescott to Gail Gardner Way, turn right, continue to 4-way stop at fairgrounds. Proceed straight through the stop until you reach Whipple Street. Turn right at Sunset. The Odd Fellow Building awaits you. Phone (520)445-4253 or (520)445-2164.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Bro. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and his family were with us for Sunday services recently. Bro. Loren and Bro. Curt always appreciate assistance on the pulpit. Thank you, Bro. Gregg.

Bro. Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) was also a support to us this past month. He was with us for a Wednesday evening service. We certainly appreciated his serv-

ice on the pulpit.

Sis. Martha Blessman has been placed in the hospital again. Our prayers are with Sis. Martha as she recovers. We miss you!

Our prayers are also with Robert and Angela Wilson who were united in marriage on October 7. Angela is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. May God richly bless their new home.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held October 15. The numbers were small but the benefits were huge! Thanks to all.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

When peace like a river, attendeth
my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast
taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this
glorious tho't
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it
no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!
Hymns of Zion #55

Greetings Dear Ones.

Oh, can I remember when I could sing this song for the first time and truly mean the words which were said, "It is well with my soul." After the struggles of repentance had ceased and peace had flooded my soul, it was indeed a cause to rejoice and to give God thanks, honor and glory for His goodness to me. All we who have experienced this peace with God and man can testify to the greatness of the love of God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and of the joy of having all guilt removed from our life. What

beautiful assurance to know that "as far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us" and that those sins have been thrown into God's sea of forgetfulness.

Two dear souls, Rebecca Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi) and Joshua Martinez, have expressed finding this peace and are now awaiting provings and baptisms set for later in October. May they feel the Lord's nearness and guidance as they start on the pathway that leads to Heaven.

There is yet room, our Lord is not content,
Though many guests are there.
He calls to all with love and kind intent
His feast with all to share.
And by His loving interceding
He calls all men with earnest pleading.

For yet there's room,

For yet there's room.

Hymns of Zion #129

Jesus, our true Shepherd, after tenderly calling and searching has found two more of His precious lambs and with loving, merciful arms is gently carrying them to His Fold. Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. Lanae) and Joe Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) have fled for refuge to the foot of the Cross in repentance. May they feel God's divine grace and strength as they look to Him. Let us keep them in our fervent prayers.

Throughout life we experience the sadness of parting as well as the joy of receiving again. We will miss Sis. Lisa Steiner very much as she has moved to the Central Illinois area. May she always feel the guidance and direction of our loving God in Heaven. Come visit us soon, Lisa. On a happier note, we want to welcome back Joe Klotzle who has spent time in South Bend,

IN and now will reside back here in California. He is a great addition to our congregation. Welcome back, Joe!

As our dear brothers labor to keep our church building maintained, we're thankful there are willing brothers to do this. We want to thank Bro. Doug Aberle, who has diligently served as Trustee and has now completed his term. Bro. Virgil Graf has been elected to take the open position. May God bless both brothers, as well as the other Trustees, for their labors of love.

As we approach the national day of Thanksgiving, may we pause to remember the bountiful blessings given to us by God, our Creator. Even though the nation recognizes this one day that is set aside, may we ever thank and praise our Lord daily for what He has done for us.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here
below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly
host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost.

Hymns of Zion #95

We praise God and rejoice as three dear souls have joined our small congregation in Kitchener. We welcome Bro. Wayne and Sis. Alison Saddler and Sis. Marisa Wirz. We are thankful we could hear a testimony of how God is working in their lives.

We praise God also for our visitors. We are thankful they willingly take the time to travel the many miles to visit and minister to us. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Dwight

Stoller (Latty, OH) for ministering the Word of God to us.

We welcome all visitors. Please contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for directions.

COLORADO, DENVER

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings across the many miles! We would like to express our thanks to Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) for being willing to be used to preach the truth. We enjoyed having him here in Denver and wish him God's richest blessings.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) as they feel God has led them together. They plan to be married on November 26 in Congerville, IL.

Once again, our small congregation has felt saddened, as we bid farewell to Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathe Hasty. They have felt the Lord directing them to move back to Congerville, IL. We will certainly miss their smiles and determination. We pray God will continue to provide for them and protect them.

As we come upon the season of giving thanks, let us all remember to be thankful for the many blessings God has given to us. Let us also remember those who are less fortunate and do our best to be cheerful givers.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

September 19 was a joyous day for Craig and Tammy (Dombek) Robertson with the birth of their son, Tristan Emery. His sister, Brittany, welcomes him. His grandparents are Bob and Sis. Lorraine Dombek.

On September 26, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan Virkler welcomed their new little blessing. A son, Seth Clifton, was born to them. His sisters, Rachel and Sarah, welcome him. His grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Virkler (Croghan, NY) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Cindy Garrow were blessed with a baby boy on October 5. His name is Logan Bernard. His grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Marie Garrow and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.

Two new souls were added to the fold on October 1. Bro. Matthew Couzans and Bro. John Garrow gave their testimonies on September 30 and were baptized the following day. We wish them much grace to walk this new path of life. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted in the testimonies and the baptisms of the dear souls. We appreciate his labor of love.

Ministering Bros. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Croghan, NY), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL) visited in our congregation this month. We wish them all God's blessings.

We have several hospital patients this month. They are Bro. Lenny Luginbuhl (Sis. Irma), Esther Gruenich (Paul), Sis. Rose Erismann and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl (Bro. Ken). May God be with them and grant them a speedy recovery.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Sis. Emma Ruch was laid to rest on October 12. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

What a blessing it is to meet and greet loved ones of like faith. This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City,

MI), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH). We thank these brothers and all who traveled with them for visiting us. Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH; Eureka, Morton and Peoria, IL. We hope others will come soon and see the beautiful leaves and enjoy the area now that it is less crowded.

Services are usually 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. However, in November and December there will be NO service the FOURTH Sunday of those months. 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
Mary Ann Klaus**

In the midst of our busy and stressful lives, it behooves us to make time for fellowship and rest. This is just what 100 people from our three Florida congregations did in October at our "Lakewood Weekend" in Brooksville. It was a family-oriented time of Bible lessons, singing praises, and peaceful relaxation in cabins and lodges among the trees. The children especially enjoyed their freedom to explore the wooded grounds. The women, since meals were provided, were blessed to be able to be "Marys"! We are thankful that the Spirit worked through the ministering brethren, including Bro. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sis. Sandra,

Sarasota, FL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). This year marked our sixth annual participation and we look forward to more fellowship with Sarasota and North Ft. Myers next year!

We thank Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Kay, North Ft. Myers, FL) for coming to share God's Word with us in this past month. May the Lord continue to bless you and your willingness to serve.

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

It saddens us here at North Ft. Myers to say our earthly goodbyes to one of our church family. William Heckel, 78, went home to his rest on October 8, after a brief illness. He left behind his loving wife, Louise Sauder Heckel, Lehigh Acres, FL; and a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Lyman Baier, of Newfields, NH. Also surviving is a brother, Andy Heckel, of the Denver area; and three sisters, Sue Lamneck of Rittman, OH, Julia Stammler of Windsor, Ontario, and Lydia Davis of Sarasota, FL. The funeral and burial were at Mansfield, OH. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to these family members. Bill will be missed very much by our small congregation.

Bro. Richard Sutter and his wife traveled from Ft. Lauderdale to share God's Holy Word with us. We do so appreciate those willing to be used to further His Kingdom.

We had our annual church trip to the Lakewood Retreat the weekend of the 15th. Once again, we came away refreshed, renewed, and strengthened to battle with Satan and his host for the souls of men.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera and Mary Martin**

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
 In the hearts of man today
 Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
 And bear fruit for harvest day.
 He who gathers not at harvest,
 Will a beggar be at last,
 Therefore rise today and labor
 Gathering golden sheaves with
 haste!
 Hasten gladly to the labor.
 Consecrate to God your heart.
 Say this day unto your Saviour,
 "Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46

As we approach the time when we set aside a day for Thanksgiving, let us ponder on the blessings that our Lord has given us and strive to gather fruit for that great harvest day when we stand before our Maker.

After a summer season with small gatherings, we are welcoming back our Snowbirds as they return from their homes from the north. We also want to welcome Sis. Wendy Schambach who is attending our congregation while working as a traveling nurse in our area.

Many in our congregation enjoyed the weekend of fellowship when our Florida churches met at Lakewood Retreat.

Recently, we had a surprise gathering for Elder Bro. Doug Sabo and his wife, Sis. Linda, as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who lent themselves in God's service, including Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), and Jeff Streitmatter III (Atlanta, GA).

The Planter

One man plowed an open field
 And planted winter wheat:
 His labor lasted a year, until
 The harvest was replete.

Another wanted his work to endure
 His lifetime through, and so
 He planted a tree of oak, and then
 With pride he watched it grow.

Another planned for eternity:
 With diligence and manner mild,
 He planted a true and noble
 thought
 In the heart of a little child.

—*Wilma Burton*

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). We appreciate your labors of love.

A lot of good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all at our annual cookout on October 15. We certainly thank those who gave of their time to make this gathering possible.

We encourage anyone visiting or just passing through the area to come and worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit, just south of the airport. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (770) 381-1395 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Millie Jepson

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

thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100

It has been said that "Thanksgiving was never meant to be limited to a single day." We hope that we will always be a thankful people. As we gather in our various churches on Thanksgiving Day across this land, we trust that our singing will make a joyful noise unto the Lord as our hearts praise Him for His goodness and mercy to us.

We thank God for Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN) and Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN) as they traveled the miles to minister in Belvidere this past month. Also, Bro. Ron Schambach and Bro. Gary Anliker came from Elgin to share the Word of God with us. We appreciate their willingness to serve and bring us God's truth.

Last month we heard the tapes from the Elder Conference with the many teachings and exhortations. We appreciate the Elders' concerns and thank them for their loving service to us. Elder Bro. Joe Braker concluded with the statement that "Jesus is the answer." May our love for our Saviour grow stronger each day.

The innermost life of the true
 Christian shineth,
 Though outwardly darkened by
 trials at hand:
 What they have received of the
 kingdom of heaven,
 No one but themselves can in
 truth understand.
 What no one perceiveth, what no
 one receiveth
 Hath filled and enlightened their
 mind and their spirit,
 And led them to heavenly honor
 and merit.

In outward appearance they have
no attraction,
A sight for the angels, despised by
the world:

But in their hearts dwelleth a
lovely collection
Of treasures to garnish the crown
of the Lord.
The wonder of ages, their true
heart engages
To love and adore their great King
in His brightness,
And greet Him at last in their
garments of whiteness.
Zion's Harp #58

"In their hearts dwelleth a
lovely collection." There is no
doubt that thanksgiving is in that
collection of treasures.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

We were blessed this month
with two visiting ministers. Bro.
Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) was
with us on October 1 and Bro.
John Stoller (Leo, IN) on October
8. The Holy Spirit both encour-
aged and challenged us through
their messages. We thank God for
the blessings we received through
their ministries and for the safe
travel He afforded them.

On October 11, Elder Bro. Ev-
erett Hari presented a topical Bi-
ble Study on "Holiness Living"
with the theme verse of II Corin-
thians 7:1 - "Having therefore
these promises, dearly beloved, let
us cleanse ourselves from all filthi-
ness of the flesh and spirit, perfect-
ing holiness in the fear of God."
We were encouraged to pursue ho-
liness in our everyday lives, focus-
ing both on the inner and outer
attributes of a child of God. In
order to live this life worthy of our
calling, we must set aside daily
quiet time devoted to study and
prayer. This is not optional in our
quest for personal holiness.

Through prayer, scripture reading
and the subsequent meditation on
the passage, we give the Lord an
opportunity to open our eyes to the
truths He wants to reveal to us.
"All scripture is given by inspira-
tion of God, and is profitable for
doctrine, for reproof, for correc-
tion, for instruction in righteous-
ness: That the man of God may be
perfect, thoroughly furnished unto
all good works." (II Timothy 3:16-
17). As we ask and allow Him to be
Lord over our time, talents, and
travels, we can only then progress
in our living out a life charac-
terized by holiness.

We enjoyed the Christian fel-
lowship we experienced with our
B-N church family at the October
15 potluck and hymn sing. This
truly is just a foretaste of the fel-
lowship we will one day have in
Heaven with God's saints.

Our thoughts and prayers go
out to Sis. Ruth Lowery at the
sudden and unexpected passing of
her daughter, Marilyn DuBois, of
Bloomington on October 9. We
pray that we, as her church family,
can be a source of comfort and
encouragement as she grieves this
tremendous loss.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath
blessed us with all spiritual bless-
ings in heavenly places in Christ:"

Ephesians 1:3

As Thanksgiving Day nears
each year, the world seems to take
the emphasis off of the blessings of
God by marking that day as the
beginning of the Christmas shop-
ping season. Let us remember
that we are spared from so much
evil and tribulation by God's
shielding hand! Let us be thankful
every day for God's goodness, and

pause long enough from the
world's hectic pace to count our
blessings and properly thank God
for them.

A new baby boy, Clayton Louis,
was born to Bro. Robb and Sis.
Kelly Kieser on September 29. He
has an older brother, Andy.
Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and
Sis. Wilma Kieser and Charles and
Judy Geary of Wyoming. Our
prayer is that, as he is a blessing
from God, he will come to serve the
Lord in due time, if the Lord will
tarry.

Our special prayers are with
Bro. Ben Ehnle (Sis. Audrey) and
Sis. Esther Streitmatter (Bro.
Leroy) as they mourn the loss of
their brother, Albert Ehnle. May
the Holy Spirit be their comfort in
the days ahead.

Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN)
and Don Manz (Junction, OH) vi-
sited our congregation this month
and preached God's Holy Word.
We thank them for coming to be
with us and invite them to come
back soon.

"I will instruct thee and teach
thee in the way which thou shalt
go: I will guide thee with mine
eye."

Psalms 32:8

On September 24, the Bradford
congregation gathered together
for a farewell singing for Bro. Alan
and Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch.
They have felt led by the Lord to
make their new church home in
Princeville, and we wish them
God's richest blessings as they
continue on life's pathway. We
also extend a warm invitation to
come back to visit us soon.

"For I am persuaded, that nei-
ther death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come,
nor height, nor depth, nor any
other creature, shall be able to

separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Note: We would like to remind the Bradford congregation that in November we will be collecting Silver Lining dues.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Luke 22:42

College Weekend was hosted by our students on the weekend of October 7 and 8. The theme of this two-day gathering of young people from the college church communities of Illinois and Indiana was "Submission". The program consisted of six ministering brothers speaking on various topics related to submission. Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) spoke on "Humility Before God", followed by Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) speaking on "Christ, Our Perfect Example" and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) on "Trusting in the Holy Spirit". "Perfect Love in Relationships" was the topic of Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), followed by Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) addressing "Supporting Authority" and "Submission in our Daily Walk" respectively. Afternoon discussion groups were led by Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and ministering Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). In the evening, the students from the five college groups represented (Illinois State, Purdue, Ball State/IPFW, Illinois Central and the U of I/Parkland)

presented a program of songs. Nearly three hundred people registered on Saturday, and many stayed over for church, singing at nursing homes, and an afternoon meal on Sunday. This is always a big weekend for our students when their turn comes to host College Weekend, and it was a blessing for the rest of us in the church to have so many young people assemble with us. These efforts were obviously blessed by the Father and will not go unrewarded. Special thanks go out to all those who helped make the weekend activities a successful one of learning to submit to the will of God.

On October 14 and 15, we welcomed the choir from the Indianapolis church. It was truly a blessing to fellowship and share an evening meal, then hear saints raise their voices in praise to the Lord as they gave a program on Saturday evening. On Sunday, ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich shared the Word with us and the choir sang a few more songs following the afternoon service. In addition to the ministers mentioned above, others who visited this month were Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). It is unusual that we had so many visiting ministers with our congregation in the span of one month! We thank them for being submissive to the Spirit and giving of their time to share with us.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

Romans 13:1

Other church activities this month included a housewarming for Jerry and Sis. Ila June Hari and the annual Sunday School Hayrack Ride. The Haris moved from

Cissna Park to Urbana, and we are very pleased to have them as an addition to our church. Jerry and Ila June now live where Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder used to live. The Walders have relocated down the road a bit to a new home in the village of St. Joseph. The annual Sunday School Hayrack Ride was once again held at the home of Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers in rural St. Joseph. A good portion of our present congregation, as well as some families who once attended our church but have since moved to other places, had a very nice time at the wiener roast, singing, and hayrack ride.

This month's new baby joined the family of ministering Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy (Zehr) Waibel. Seth Duane was born on October 1 and is welcomed home by his two sisters, Hannah and Leah. The girls will surely be great cradle entertainment and later great influences on Seth's life. Best wishes go out to the Waibel family.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

There is a kitchen, I am told, where a small note reads: Good things are the enemies of the BEST. Since Mary chose the better part, yet I, too, often act like Martha, I am reminded that the Lord does not reward us for how busy we are nor for how many things we have accomplished. Instead, He examines the heart and its motivation.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;

and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

Psalm 51:10-13

We are all indebted to ministering brothers who will visit other churches, knowing they will be called upon to read and expound upon His Word. In Chicago this past month, we are grateful for the visits of Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Don Wagenbach (Chicago, IL).

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

Once again, we have sung farewell to a dear couple. Bro. Matt and Dorothy Strahm have moved to Sabetha, KS and we miss them. Bro. Matt had served for a number of years as Chicago's representative on the Elgin Resthaven Board. Both hold special places in our hearts, for their humbleness and for their laughter. We know they have many relatives in Kansas, but they also leave a whole family back here in Chicago. Bro. Matt and Dorothy, may "the Lord bless thee, and keep thee...and make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace (Numbers 6:24-26), as He willingly did here, and may He sometimes put in your hearts to come back to visit. Our love and prayers be with you always.

I marvel at this new computer before me, probably outdated already in some ways, but still incredible to me. I have much learning to do, though, even with this word processing program. One thing I am very aware of, however, is that it will do exactly what I give it the command to do. I

wonder if our Lord does not sometimes wish we as a church body could be as obedient as my computer and its program. He gave us our free will, but He also wants for each of us the abundant life here and eternal life hereafter.

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture...I am come that they [we as sheep] might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:9-10

He gave us teachings which emphasize love, obedience, and submission, exemplifying them to the highest degree in His own life and death.

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 14:21

To that end, He gave us the model of the Apostolic church, where there is safety in the counsel of the brethren.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter...Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company...And they wrote letters by them..."

Acts 15:6,22-23

Nevertheless, we are in the world. From where Christ writes of this in John 17:15, He continues, praying for our sanctification and our unity. He grants us glory, His love and His presence, but not for us only but "for them also which shall believe on me through their word." (John 17:20). I am

truly convicted. I want to be no millstone around another's neck, no stumbling block for one who watches me. Lord, remind me, "all things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." (I Corinthians 10:23). May I, and you also, if you would, please strive, as Paul finishes the chapter, to "give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." (I Corinthians 10:32-33).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer

Anna Marie Reutter

"O Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Psalm 107:1,8-9

Our blessings are countless, as we come into this Thanksgiving season of the year, both material and spiritual. This past month we have been blessed with many ministering brethren, namely Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL), and Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly, Bloomington, IL), and also Bros. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Kenneth Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN), and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN).

On October 1, the blessings of our Bible Class and teachers were

evident as they spent part of the Sunday in Washington, IL with other ACYF students and teachers, for a time of learning and fellowship. We thank our ministers and Sunday School teachers for their efforts in teaching God's Word.

Our congregation has been enriched with two more souls who have been added to our body of believers. The weekend of October 14 and 15 we heard the testimony of John and Tresa Maul and witnessed their baptisms. Parents of this new brother and sister are Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul, and Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell of Fairbury. We are all thankful and rejoice with these families.

Bro. George Bauer has undergone tests at the hospital for a brief time. Bro. Melvin Stock has been able to assemble with us again after some months of absence, as well as Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann.

One of our ministers go to Fairview Haven in Fairbury on a monthly basis to hold services there. This month, Bro. Wayne Laubscher with song leader, Bro. Joe Walder, and a small group to help with singing, gave of themselves to bless the residents there. We miss those of our congregation who reside there. They are Sis. Laura Bauer and Sis. Clara Vogel. Sis. Lydia Eisenmann, Bro. Ezra and Sis. Edna Feller reside in apartments adjoining Fairview.

Periodically, we have services at Heartland Health Care in Paxton. October 15 was the day that Bro. Tom Stock, along with a small group, including song leaders, Bro. Bruce Frank and Bro. Rod Steffen, gave of themselves to bring joy to the residents there. Sis. Lydia Moser and Sis. Anna Hari reside there.

We have others from our congregation in various church homes. Bro. Paul Hodel, Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder are at

Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. At the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria, Sis. Helen Knapp has made her home for a number of years. Then there are former residents from our congregation who are residing there. They are Sis. Katherine Knapp and Sis. Marian Reutter. Sis. Kathryn Rudin is residing in a nursing home in Elgin. Perhaps we could write a note of encouragement to these dear ones or remember them often in prayer.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Arlene Banwart
Linda Knobloch**

"...rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous,"

Philippians 3:1

Rejoicing in the Lord is not only something we are instructed to do; it is something that is our privilege to do.

Rejoicing and being thankful for the every day blessings of our lives turns the dullest day into a bright, sunny day within our souls. There is always something to be thankful for. Start with the blessing of comfort - a warm house, a comfortable bed, clean healthy water from the tap. Move on to a country at peace, to nice neighbors and friendly clerks in the store, to family and friends who love and care about you. And then, every day, we have the ultimate, crowning blessing of salvation...Jesus loved me enough to die for me, and I am a Child of God. When heavy trials press us down, we can think, "It won't last forever. I have a home in Heaven waiting." This thought can carry us through many a dark, dreary moment.

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

our Lord Jesus Christ." We are a privileged people to have this instruction, for if we follow it, our lives are pleasant indeed!

A sister shared these thoughts with me, and I pray they can be helpful to many of you at this Thanksgiving season and always.

With joy in our hearts and open arms, we welcome Bro. Dick and Sis. Katie Hasty back to our Congerville congregation. They had lived in Denver, CO for seven years.

We are thankful to hear that LeAnn Stahl (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma) has received peace and are looking forward to hearing the testimony of her faith on November 5.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Gudeman in the death of her father, Bro. Levi Pfister, of Leo, IN. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Jake and Sis. Marion Miller in the death of her sister, Sis. Ada Mae Schrock, of Elgin, IL. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

The engagement of Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Matt Rocke of Denver, CO (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev, Eureka, IL) was made known. We pray God's nearness to them as they plan a November 26 wedding.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all who sent me best wishes, cards, prayers, and our children for hosting our big family for my 86th birthday. It was all appreciated. My love and greetings to you all.

Bro. Alvin Schrock

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Renee Anliker
Debbie Sauder**

After the toil and trouble,
There cometh a day of rest,

After the weary conflict,
Peace on the Saviour's breast;
After the care and sorrow,
The glory of light and love;
After the wilderness journey,
The Father's bright home above.

After the pain and sickness,
The tears are all wiped away;
After the flowers are gathered,
No more of earth's decay;
After the deep heart sorrow,
An end of every strife;
After the daily crosses,
A glorious crown of life.

—*Geo. C. Stebbins*

It was with sadness that we bid an earthly farewell to Sis. Ada Mae Schrock on September 25, yet we have the assurance that she embraced a true faith and awaited that eternal rest. There is deep pain, sorrow and vacancy as our loved one has journeyed around the corner and out of our mortal sight, but what blest anticipation that if we are ready and prepared, we again may be with those who have gone before, eternally. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Mel; daughters, Sis. Julie (Bro. Jeff) Kellenberger, Sis. Sara (Bro. Jeff) Dietz;; sons, Bro. Stan (Karen) and Grant (Jan); grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Sis. Betty (Bro. Willis) Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Sis. Marion (Bro. Jake) Miller (Congerville, IL), Sis. Judy (Bro. Richard Klopfenstein), Bro. David (Sis. Emma Lou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Mel (Sis. Leona, Forrest, IL), and Bro. John (Sis. Wava). We also want to remember Sis. Lucile Knupper in the loss of her brother. May we each do our part to help bear the weight of each cross our brethren are called to bear.

Hospital patients this month have been Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) and Bro. Ken (Mary) Lindoerfer. We are thankful they each are able to assemble with us

again.

On September 30, Glen Kellenberger (Bro. Elvis and Sis. Marilyn) and Lori Lester (Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Lester of Macomb, IL) were united in marriage.

Two other couples have also made their engagements known: Mathew Steffen (Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn) to Natalie Sichel (Edgar and Patsy Sichel of Crystal Lake, IL), as well as Dan Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay) to Stephanie Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma). We entrust each of these couples to a faithful Creator who can guide, direct and bless, if they (and each of us) are willing to do as we are bidden. God be with them as they plan and begin their new lives together.

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

Luke 15:10

Yes, there is joy in the presence of angels but also in the household of faith as one more sinner has acknowledged the need of a Saviour, turned her back on the world and begun to seek the Lord in repentance. We trust Jolene Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) can willingly forsake all and lay a firm foundation of faith, being that pliable piece of clay in the Master's hand that her life may become a fit vessel for the Lord.

We are so fortunate to have a precious faith, faithful brethren to look unto and times when we can leave the world outside the door and truly enjoy precious fellowship together. Our Sunday School hosted the annual pancake breakfast, which all enjoyed very much. We love and appreciate our young people and fervently pray they may find grace to dedicate their lives to service for the Master. The

annual pig roast was also enjoyed by young and old. There are many efforts that make these events possible. How thankful we are that God knows all that is done and rewards accordingly.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

The world we live in leads a very busy schedule and we often find ourselves much more involved in life than what we care to be. Yet, the child of God often pauses and asks themself "what is really important and what are we really here for." We quickly are able to put things back into perspective and take a quiet moment to meditate and think on what our Heavenly Father has truly done for each one of us. As the world spends one day in a state of "thanksgiving", let us be so grateful that every day we have the opportunity to thank our God for "His unspeakable gift" as well as all He has abundantly bestowed on you and me.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each one for your visits, cards, gifts of love and above all, your prayers in the passing of my dear daughter, Peggy McKenny. May God bless you all.

Sis. Helen Banwart

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

We rejoiced with Bro. Matt Rocke, currently of Denver, CO, as his engagement was announced to Sis. Nancy Dotterer of Congerville on October 1. Bro. Matt is the son of Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke of Eureka, and Sis. Nancy is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer of Phoenix, AZ. We wish them our Lord's blessing and continued guidance as they plan their wedding.

We appreciated the opportunity to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Alan Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber) and Eric Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) on October 8. Our prayer is that they will always be thankful for their salvation and continue to be led by the Spirit all their lives. We were thankful for the services of Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) as they spent that weekend with us.

Sis. Kathryn Schumacher passed away on October 4. She lived many years and was a wonderful Christian example of faith, gentleness and love. We extend our sympathy to her children, Sis. Lorine Stoller (Eureka), Evelyn Frantz (Peoria), Sis. Shirley Leuthold (Princeville), Phyllis Kaufman (Cissna Park), Bro. Lloyd (Washington), and Dale (Metamora). She was preceded in death by her husband and three sons and one daughter. Services were conducted by Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

May God be the comfort for Bro. Gene and Sis. Carroll Zobrist. Bro. Gene's stepmother, June Zobrist Lawrence, of Peoria, passed away on September 26.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall had a new little son on October 11. Philip Jon is baby brother to Marla, Doug, and Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall, all of Eureka.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Janet Knecht (Richard) and Regina Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Friedora) who both recently underwent surgery. May God be their healer.

As we approach Thanksgiving, may we lift up our voices often in prayer and in song giving thanks.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,"

Psalm 92:1,2

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Thanksgiving is more
than a day in November
That students of history
are taught to remember,
For while we still offer
the traditional prayer,
We pray out of habit without
being aware
That the Pilgrims thanked God
just for being alive,
For the strength that He gave
them to endure and survive.
Oh, teach us, dear God,
we are all Pilgrims still,
Subject alone to Your guidance
and will,
And show us the way
to purposeful living
So we may have reason
for daily thanksgiving.
—Helen Steiner Rice

May God bless you this Thanksgiving Day with the spirit of praise and thanksgiving unto Him.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's
ways.
Hymns of Zion #135

Our congregation was blessed to hear the testimonies of four souls who have sought the Lord in their youth. October 8 was the baptism day for Dana Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna), Amber Huber (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Angela Herr (Bro. Gary and Sis.

Cindy) and Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cherie). We welcome our new sisters in faith.

We also rejoiced that weekend when another soul answered the call to repentance. Lana Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) has made the decision to offer the Lord her youthful days. May His grace be with her as she seeks to surrender all to Him.

In youthful days His blessing seek,
With heart that's tender, true and meek,
And while the years draw on apace,
You'll praise Him for His love and grace.
Hymns of Zion #135

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

Genesis 2:18

We are thankful that the Lord has revealed His will that Sis. Martha Fritz (Washington, IL) should be a help meet for Bro. Lloyd Moser. Their engagement was announced to us on October 15. May they spend many joyful years together in His service.

First-time parents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger, have been blessed with a little boy, Clayton Richard, born October 9. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller and Brooke welcomed a new little bundle, Seth Roger, on October 13. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr and Chris and Betty Miller (Congerville, IL).

Give faithful servants ever
Who have but one endeavor,
Thy Gospel to proclaim;
Who heed Thy Spirit holy
And strive and labor solely,

O, Lord, to glorify Thy name.
Zion's Harp #207

Again, we were visited by faithful servants who were willing to share the Word of Life with us this month: Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). May the Lord reward you richly.

Eternity dawns! Earth recedes
from my view;
Weeping friends, now farewell, I
must bid you adieu;
I'm resting in Jesus, His merits I
plead,
Fear ye not, for my God shall
supply all your need.
Gospel Hymns #158

Eternity has dawned for our Bro. John V. Fehr who passed from this life on September 23. He was 74 years old. May the Lord comfort his wife, Sis. Katharine, with that reassuring promise "my God shall supply all your need." (Philippians 4:19)

We also extend deepest sympathy to Mary and Robert Edelman and James in the death of Mary's brother, Gordon Loughran; and to Nita and Keith Moser and family in the death of her sister, May Ruehle. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Our prayers are also with Margaret Kelson who met with accident and Sis. Dorothy Hoffman and Cherie Kaisner (Robert) who were in the hospital.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all for the overwhelming outpouring of your love, compassion and deeds of kindness shown to us during the illness and passing of our loved one, John Fehr. Your prayers, visits, floral

tributes, food, cards, calls, gifts of love and memorials are all deeply appreciated. Every expression of care and concern during our time of sorrow will long be remembered. May God bless each of you in a special way.

*Sis. Katharine Fehr
Brothers and Sisters
Nieces and Nephews*

Thought for the Day: The devil has two master tricks. One is to get us discouraged; then for a time at least we can be of no service to others, and so are defeated. The other is to make us doubt, thus breaking the faith link by which we are bound to our Father. Look out! Do not be tricked either way.

—G.E.M.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100:4-5

As we report the news this Thanksgiving season, we realize we have much to be thankful for.

We are thankful that four souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. It is our prayer that Heidi Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Matthew Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette), Shara Dotterer (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy) and Kelli Adams (Sis. Sharon) will be granted much grace to build a firm foundation on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

We are thankful for ministering brothers who have visited us this month. May God bless Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bros.

Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Stoller (Leo, IN), and Don Manz (Junction, OH) for lovingly sharing God's Word with us.

We are thankful Sis. Lydia Sohn could be relieved of her earthly cares and peacefully close her eyes in death. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Ida Hari (Fairbury, IL), her son, Leroy (Lombard, IL), grandchildren, and daughter, Sis. Lucille, who has so devotedly cared for her mother over the past years.

Also feeling a loss are Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona Steffen in the death of his sister, Sis. Ada Mae Schrock (Elgin, IL). May God's comforting Spirit fill the emptiness felt by these loved ones.

We are thankful that Ashley Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Sis. Debbie Nussbaum, and Sis. Lavonne Lanz have all returned home after spending time in the hospital this past month.

We are thankful that on Sunday, October 15, we could witness the wedding vows of Bro. Brent Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Sheila Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill). May they look to God for guidance as they walk this path of life as husband and wife.

We are thankful for the arrival of a sweet baby girl. Kristen Lee has joined the family of Bro. Keith, Sis. Nadine, Ashley, Arlen and Kyla Edelman. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions

that we desired of him."

I John 5:14-15

Could any confidence be more blessed than the confidence we share through Jesus Christ and His ability to lead our lives, not only on this earth, but straight through the Heavenly doors of splendor when we joyously pass on to glory? What great expectations we inherit when we ask for His will in our lives. Rejoice!

Our prayers and entreaties of mercy were heard and answered this month as four young souls were added to the flock of Jesus Christ. We rejoice with their families as the Lord's promise is fulfilled in their children's lives. Greetings and many blessings to Sis. Jodi Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Joan Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary), Bro. Brandon Knapp (Bro. John and Sis. Pat), and Bro. Trace Brim (Sis. Barb) for your confidence in the Lord and His righteousness.

Hearts were saddened at the sudden passing of Wade Hinrichsen and we extend our most heartfelt sympathy and prayers to his grandparents, Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene, his dear parents, and the entire family.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

Isaiah 40:29

May He comfort your souls and increase your strength in this time of sorrow. God bless you all.

We extend many thanks to the visiting ministers and their wives for sharing the Lord's Word with us this month. Thank you, Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Bev, Bloomington, IL) for your assistance in performing the provings and baptisms we were blessed with. Thanks also to Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO),

Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) for your efforts on our behalf.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the prayers. Without wonderful people like you behind me, my surgery would have been very difficult. As it was, I was calm all the time, even when they were drilling the hole in my head. I know prayer is powerful and can travel great distance. The relief I have received is truly a gift from God. Thank you all.

Sis. Sandy Hohulin

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, letters, food, and words of encouragement given me after my surgery. God bless your many acts of kindness.

Sis. Verla Wiegand

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We have been blessed the past several months with souls turning to the Lord in repentance. Recently, we welcomed three new brothers into the congregation: Bros. Roger Funk, Richard "Buck" Henry, and Jeff Hock. We rejoice with them and pray that God will continue to richly bless them.

On October 7, four more young men were added to the fold: Bros. Michael Dohman, Kyle Wettstein, Jon Baner, and Brad Stoller. May God's Spirit guide and sustain them throughout life's journey.

Little Whitney Butikofer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kaylene) was hospitalized for kidney surgery. Sis. Viola Hany was hospitalized. Bro. Alwin Funk was in the hospital but is now at a nursing home in El Paso. We pray for God's nearness for those who are ill.

The grain harvest is now over. There is always such an urgency to speedily get the crops out of the

field while conditions are optimal. The harvest's duration is short.

Do we go into the spiritual harvest with the devotion and haste expended in the physical harvest? While there is still time and conditions are optimal, are we expending our utmost energies in the spiritual harvest?

The fields are "white unto harvest" (John 4:35). Let us work in this harvest, and may the "yields" be pleasing unto our dear Heavenly Father.

Visiting ministers on October 1 were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). On October 8, we were glad to have Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

Note of Thanks:

My thanks to all my dear friends and relatives who remembered me with cards and gifts on my 85th birthday. It was wonderful to hear from so many! May God bless you all!

Martha Stoller

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

The wedding of Sis. April Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry) to Bro. Brad Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris) of Roanoke was held on October 1. We wish them God's richest blessings and continued guidance as they make their home in Roanoke.

Morton hosted the Illinois Potluck on October 19. It was a blessing to fellowship and meet loved ones from around the state.

Austin Lee Braker was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky Braker on October 15. He was welcomed

home by his big sister, Stephanie, and his brother, Chad. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber, all of Morton. Children are a blessing from the Lord and it gives us hope for the future to see babies born into Godly families.

We wish to express our appreciation to our visiting ministers and their families. They were Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Henry Binkley would like to thank those who have visited, sent cards and prays during his continued disability.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

We are so happy for Sis. Shannon Elsasser and Bro. Jeremy Zimmer (Bluffton North, IN), as they are experiencing this love. They were married on October 8. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Vickie Elsasser and Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl Zimmer (Bluffton, IN). May God richly bless this union.

On that same day, Sis. Debbie Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch, Bradford, IL) was announced to marry Bro. Duane Steidinger (Francesville, IN). Bro. Duane is the son of George Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). We ask a special blessing upon them.

We rejoice with the parents and families of three precious new babies. Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky

Marx are experiencing a double blessing in their twins, a boy and a girl, named Lucas and Lexie. Lucas and Lexie joined Katie and Zachary at home. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett and Loretta Marx of Peoria.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer welcomed their fifth child, a little girl named Rebekah Corinne. Rebekah's siblings, Bethany, Joseph, Joanna and Daniel, are thrilled with their new little sister. Rebekah's grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann and Laszlo and Helena Kummer, all of Peoria.

We are always pleased to have visitors to Peoria. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Frauhiger and Bob Meyer and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (all of Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). May God bless them for their labor of love.

Lost and Found: An Olympus camera, superzoom 70, zoom 2000, left at Peoria church several months ago. If anyone has lost this item, please contact Sis. Martha Wagenbach at (309) 692-3431.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:"

Psalms 92:1

Thanksgiving should be a condition of the heart and mind, not just a day. We have many reasons to be thankful. It seems we find it easier to count our trials than to "count our blessings".

We were privileged to hear the testimonies, and witness the baptisms of our new brothers and sisters on September 23 and 24. Those

confessing peace were Bro. Troy Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin (Bro. Ike and Sis. Donna). We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for his labor during this blessed weekend.

We would like to thank all of our visitors this past month, especially those in the ministry. Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) were with us. May God bless them.

"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

We have been blessed with three new converts this past month. They are Andy Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie), Ryan Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon), and Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy). May they feel God's guidance as they begin their walk in Christ.

With thankful hearts, we welcome little Daniel Norman Feucht. Daniel was born October 13 to Mark and Paula Feucht. Along with older brother, Joshua, Daniel was welcomed home by grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht and Norman and Pat Stahl.

On October 15, the engagement of Sis. Renee Baurer to Bro. Steve Schlipf (Gridley, IL) was announced to the congregation. Sis. Renee is the daughter of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol Baurer, and Bro. Steve is the son of Sis. Marjorie and the late Bro. Elmer Schlipf of Gridley.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Shirley Leuthold (Bro. John) at the passing of her mother, Sis. Kathryn Schumacher. Our sympathy also goes to the Chris Martin family at the passing of their

brother-in-law, Bernard Metzger, of West Bend, IA and to his wife, Alice Marie (formally of our congregation). May they feel God's comforting Spirit.

We continue to pray for our loved ones suffering bodily affliction, that God would heal according to His perfect will. Those who have been hospitalized this past month are Sis. Katherine Stahl, Katherine Baer, Sis. Mildred Endress, and Bro. John Leuthold.

Note of Thanks:

Ezra and I want to thank the ministers, friends, and relatives for all the prayers, telephone calls, visits, cards, flowers, gifts and food received while in the hospital and since Ezra has returned home. May God bless each one.

*In Christian love,
Ezra and Lucille Rumbold*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

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

Psalms 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer in the birth of Alexa Lynn on October 8. Luke, Jacob, Elizabeth, and Jesse welcome Alexa home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp are the happy grandparents of Lucas Ryan, born September 27 to Dave and Missy Knepp of Geneseo, IL.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Sis. Cynthia Aeschli-man in the passing of her brother, Bro. John Fehr, of Fairbury.

On October 1, two new Christian homes were established. Here in Roanoke, we witnessed the

marriage of our Sis. Kim Hoffman and Bro. Dan Maher. May God bless their union of hearts.

In Morton, our Bro. Brad Hartter and Sis. April Kruse were united as one. We would like to welcome Sis. April to Roanoke, and we wish them both God's love and blessings as husband and wife.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Eric Givens and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere "Thank You" for the many cards and gifts on our 50th anniversary. Your love and kindness has truly made it a golden memory for us. May God bless you all!

Bro. Dick and Sis. Mardell Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

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

Hebrews 13:17

On Sunday evening, September 17, Bro. Charles Sauder was ordained an Elder. Participating in the ceremony were Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). Other area Elders were also present.

It is a weighty task to take on the responsibilities of an Elder and to oversee the spiritual welfare of the flock. It is our prayer that the Lord will give Bro. Charles the necessary grace to carry out the duties laid upon him.

On October 8, a special singing was held for our retiring Elder Bro. Dan Koch, in recognition of his 29 years of faithful service. We so appreciate the sacrifice of time and energy he expended in his obedience to God's call. Our prayers will continue with him. May God richly bless him for his labors.

We thank visiting ministering Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. We are always thankful for brothers who are willing to minister to us.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Curt Musselman (Pat) who has again spent time in the hospital. We pray that he can feel God's nearness and the comfort of His love.

God has blessed Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi Koch with a precious little boy, born October 8. Gabriel James is their firstborn and the happy grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Patricia Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene Kaeb are the happy grandparents of little Barrett Lee, born September 30. His parents are Dennis and Michelle Kaeb.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, gifts, and food during the time I was in the hospital and during my recovery.

Sis. Ruth Frank

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Washington was privileged to host ACYF on September 24 and October 1. It was good to see the church filled with young people who represent the future of this church. We appreciate the efforts put forth by students, directors,

teachers, parents and others who helped in any way. We pray that the young people will remember the hymns and inspirational messages as they go forth in their daily lives.

Sis. Jessica Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol) was announced to be engaged to Bro. Phillip Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally), all of Washington. It is so special to see the hand of God working in their lives.

Sis. Martha Fritz, sister to Bro. Ed Fritz, was announced to be engaged to Bro. Lloyd Moser of Fairbury, IL. We pray that God will bless them with love and contentment as they walk together in their lives.

Hospitalized this month were Myca Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna), Seth Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marty) and Sis. Sue Rupert. All are home and doing well.

The congregation extends sympathy to the family of Sis. Kathryn Schumacher. She was the mother of Bro. Lloyd Schumacher, and grandmother of Sis. Jean (Leuthold) Streitmatter. She lived a full life and will be missed by all of her loved ones.

Conference tapes were played instead of three Wednesday evening services. We are thankful that the Brothers who spoke were given God's inspiration, and the Elder body works so diligently to keep the church following the will of God.

The visiting minister this month was Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). We thank him for his message and willingness to allow the Spirit of God to work through him.

The following was given to us for submission. The message is an important one:

The Most Effective Prayer

"Lord, if I am wrong, please show me where I'm wrong!" I will

never forget the night I prayed that prayer! It was Labor Day weekend, about a year and a half before my divorce. I was having a disagreement with my husband about something I don't even remember. I do remember that I was convinced that I was not wrong, but got out of bed and down on my knees to pray that prayer because I couldn't sleep. Then I went downstairs and opened the Bible. The rest of the night, my whole life flashed before my eyes. God answered my prayer thoroughly and immediately. I began a deep repentance that completely changed my life. But, it was twenty years too late!

My friend, if you are having any kind of difference with anybody, please pray that prayer TODAY, before it is TOO LATE for you, too! God is faithful, and knows exactly what you need in your life. Allow Him to work in your heart.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone who attended our 50th wedding anniversary open house. Also, we are very appreciative of the many cards and gifts we received. We will treasure the memories. And a very special thanks to our children and grandchildren who made it all so special. God bless all.

Eugene and Kathryn Funk

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

"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

We rejoice with Kent Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) who has turned his back on the world in answer to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Doyle and Sis. Lisa Weil welcomed Jacob Michael into their lives. He was born on September 26 and joins Justin, Joshua and Jonathan at home. His grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch welcomed their first granddaughter on September 29. Kelsey Lynn was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer (Bluffton North, IN).

Let us continue to be prayerful for those who struggle with their health. Those hospitalized were Sis. Mary Gerber (Bro. Sylven), Sis. Elizabeth Schwartz (Bro. Kenneth), Bro. Richard Yergler (Sis. Lillian), Elizabeth Fiechter (Bro. Gary and Sis. Stacey), Jenny Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Dale Reinhard (Sis. Martha).

Our prayers are with the family of Bro. Alphie Reinhard who went to be with the Lord on September 30. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Lucille; and children, Bro. Clem, Mrs. Leon Gerber (Sis. Pat), Bro. Vic, and Bro. Gene.

Our sympathy is also with Bro. Tony and Sis. Brenda Kipfer as they grieve for their stillborn daughter, Sierra Sky.

We want to thank Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Bro. Bob Meyer Jr. (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Gospel with us. We appreciate their willingness to serve and invite them to visit us again.

Our high school Sunday School students spent Sunday, September 24 fellowshiping at Camp Mack; and on October 14 and 15 they spent an enjoyable weekend hosting the Peoria, Washington and Goodfield, IL students. Thanks to the Sunday School teachers and superintendents for providing the opportunity for these students to build lasting friendships with a common bond.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Psalms 95:2-3

In this Thanksgiving season, we are thankful above all for the plan of salvation that we may have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Luke 15:7

We rejoice that Ashley Drayer has made a new beginning in her life through repentance and grace from God the Father that her heart can be changed. Parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jan.

Bro. Jeremy Zimmer and Sis. Shannon Elsasser (Peoria, IL) were united in marriage on October 8. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl Zimmer and Bro. Jim and Sis. Vicki Elsasser (Peoria, IL). May God guide and bless them as they walk together as one.

On September 27, Mitch and Therese Steffen welcomed Nicholas Andrew into their home. Grandparents are Mark and Donna Weber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steffen.

Krista Sue was born to Russell and Jennifer Mounsey on September 28. Grandparents are Vernon and Becky Stone and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Rosemary Mounsey. Krista joins a sister, Kayla.

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer with their new baby girl, Kelsey Lynn. Kelsey was born September 29, and joins a brother, Bret, at home. Grandpar-

ents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Phyllis Bucher (Bro. Nile), Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice), and Sis. Melvena Gerber as they spent time in the hospital.

Services have begun, every other week, for students attending Indiana University at Bloomington, IN. A rotation, similar to other mid-week college services, has begun involving several Indiana and Illinois churches. The brothers, sisters and friends attending, appreciate the support from the Word and the loving fellowship. For further information and location of services, please contact:

Bro. Lance Pfeifer (812) 331-8973 or Bro. Rob Cupp (812) 331-8589

On Sunday afternoon, October 15, a prayer dedication was given by Bro. Bob Meyer Sr. at Christian Care Retirement Community, asking God's blessing and direction for the new special care unit.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

Eccles. 3:14

What a comfort to remember that whatever happens to us, God is in control. We have no better choice but to trust Him as He designates our paths and leads us to the valleys and then up to the mountain tops. This is very real to us in Francesville as we have laid to rest a sweet girl of 17 years. Angela Dawn Huber left us on October 5, after being seriously injured in a car-truck accident. She

will be sadly missed by her parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon, two brothers, Chris Jr. and Adam, and two sisters, Sis. Shannon and Sis. Tonya. Great-grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber. We express our sympathy to the entire family circle as well as to Angie's many friends. May God be glorified in this tragedy on earth.

Our Bro. Keith Putt went home to be with the Lord and we extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Lorna, and to his three sons, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Paulette), Norman (Sis. Mary) and Marshall (Caroline), and their families. Although Bro. Keith was granted long life, we know Sis. Lorna and the family will find a void in their lives and we trust God will give daily grace and strength.

We have joy to report as three souls found the grace to repent and were recently baptized. Darrel Allen (Ron and Sharon) and Kevin and Kathy Marti are now our brothers and sister in the Lord. We rejoice with their families and know God will be faithful as they look to Him for daily grace and strength.

Bro. Duane Steidinger (George of Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Debbie Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen) of Peoria, IL are thankful and happy to announce that the Lord has led them together and they plan to be married. What a joy to find each other, and may God guide them as they prepare to walk the road of life together.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt are rejoicing in their new bundle of love. Trevor James was born on October 11. Trevor has one brother, Joel, and one sister, Jenna, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann Gudeman and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt. Great-grandmothers are Sis. Elizabeth Schambach (Elgin, IL)

and Sis. Lorna Putt.

Our Sis. Catherine Niehouser was recently hospitalized and we are thankful she is now home and gaining strength. Jim Albrect has spent many days in the hospital and we trust that God will give him grace sufficient for each day.

Once again, we extend our thanks to those who came to visit us and share the life giving Word. They are as follows: Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), and Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). "Thank you" just does not seem like enough to give to those who give so much of themselves for the edification of His Church. As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, may we let the Lord teach us to be more thankful, and may we show our appreciation by not murmuring or complaining. We extend the same "thanks" to our home brothers, who serve us faithfully. May God be their rich rewarder.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our thanks to our wonderful friends and family for the food, flowers, memorials, and visits after Keith's death. A special thanks to Dr. Louck, Jasper Co. Hospital, Bob and Bobbie Ulbricht, Carol Bucher, Diane Doolin, Judy Gutwein, Rosie Pfladderer, the ministers of the Apostolic Christian Church, the Sextet, the ladies who served the dinner, and the ushers. Your kindness meant so much to us and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

One of our fondest memories will be the evening the Apostolic Christian Church singers came to Keith's hospital room just hours before his passing. We thank God Keith could experience that bless-

ing and are thankful he is at peace in Heaven. Thanks again to everyone who gave such comfort and help to us.

The family of Keith Putt

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Sandy Lichtle

Lauretta Schafer

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." It's exciting for our little church family to report not just one but two births and within two days of each other. Justin William was born to Bro. John and Sis. Sandy Lichtle on September 17. Justin has a big sister, Stacey, and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kahr (Bluffton, IN) and William and Mary Lichtle of Decatur, IL.

Ashley Elizabeth was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier on September 19. Ashley has two brothers, Daniel and Seth, and three sisters, Sarah, Emily and Anna. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marj Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier (Leo, IN).

We are grateful for God's protection and mercy that we have no deaths to report from the accident on September 27 when our young people were traveling by van to Camp Mack. The van hit the median and overturned. Those injured included Daniel Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann) with a broken nose, Robby Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Connie) with stitches on his arm, and Joel Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) with a sprained ankle. The driver, Bro. Eric Zeller, experienced a seizure while driving. Hospital tests revealed an inoperable, malignant brain tumor. Bro. Eric is now receiving radiation treatments. We ask for your prayers for Bro. Eric and his wife, Sis. Ginny, and their children, Sis. Andrea, Aaron, Joel, Mark, Michael, Suzanne, and Ka-

tie.

Others experiencing God's healing powers are Sean Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn) who broke his leg in a football injury and Sis. Kim Bucher (Bro. Jim) who had shoulder surgery on October 9. We are all looking forward to that new heaven and new earth where there will be "no more pain, for the former things are passed away."

October 1 was our annual Sunday School picnic. It is a time for fellowship for young and old. Many church families live 15-20 miles from each other and meet only at church. The extra hours of being together strengthen life-long friendships for our young people.

We appreciate our visiting ministers. On September 24, Bro. Bob, Jr. and Sis. Ann Meyer, and Bro. Bob, Sr. and Sis. Lela Meyer (all from Bluffton North, IN) were with us. As our Bro. Ron Bollier was called from the pulpit to go to the hospital for the van accident, even though Bro. Bob, Sr. is retired, he had the afternoon service. God provides so well for our needs. On October 15, Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) was with us. Thank you, Brothers, for being willing to travel and serve.

On October 14-15, our choir traveled to Champaign. It was a joy to fellowship with our brethren and to sing praises together. We appreciate the love and hospitality shown to us.

Jim Perl, brother of Sis. Paula (Bro. Lee) Nuest (Latty, OH), is turning his back to the world and committing his life to the Lord. Jim and his wife, Joy, and their son, Gage, have moved to Indy from the Latty area. They want to make our church their church home. We are grateful.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

Believing that the Lord has led them together, Bro. Owen Gude-man and Sis. Nicole Dahlhauser have announced their engagement. We wish them many blessings and much joy! Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gude-man and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser (West Bend, IA).

Thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN).

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, we are reminded of our many blessings. One is reminded of the laborers which are needed for the Lord's harvest, which season is never-ending.

Hark! the Master calls for reapers;
Rich and ripe the harvest see.
Idle not but quickly flying.
Answer, Lord, send me, send me.
Spread the gospel invitation;
Speak a warning; breathe a prayer.
All around you men are dying;
You can find them everywhere.

Gospel Hymns #800

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Levy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently with a reception. They have submitted a note of thanks:

Thanks so much for remembering us with cards, prayers and gifts as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. May God bless you with His nearness.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Levy

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

This past month we welcomed visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Philip Stettner, and Bros. Steve Ringger, Steven Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) presented a topi-

cal study on "Our Hope in these Perilous Times". We were truly blessed to have them and their wives visit.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner came to help Bro. John Stoller in a labor of love as we listened to the testimonies of Scott Klopfenstein and Wendi Pineas on September 30. On October 1 they were baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus. We rejoice with our new brother and sister.

Following the October 15th service, we sang a farewell hymn for Erick, Sis. Wendi and Erika Pineas, as they make a move to Dallas, TX. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.

We extend our sympathy to Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman in the death of his brother, Ralph.

We all enjoyed the special numbers presented by Bro. Denny Meyer, and his sisters, Sis. Becky Gerber and Sis. Rhonda Fiechter, and their children from Bluffton, IN. They joined us at our family singing on October 15. We appreciated their effort to come and be with us.

Bro. Bill Klopfenstein was hospitalized for a severe infection in his right arm. Following two surgeries on the arm, he transferred to St. Anne Nursing Home where he is receiving treatment. He was able to have a leave and attend church service.

"...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

The Call for Reapers

Far and near the fields are teeming
With the waves of ripened grain;
Far and near their gold is gleaming
O'er the sunny slope and plain.

Send them forth with morn's first
beaming,
Send them in the noontide's glare;

When the sun's last rays are
gleaming,
Bid them gather ev'rywhere.

O thou, when thy Lord is sending,
Gather now the sheaves of gold;
Heav'nward then at evening
wending,
Thou shalt come with joy untold.

Chorus: Lord of harvest, send
forth reapers!
Hear us, Lord, to Thee we cry;
Send them now the sheaves to
gather,
Ere the harvest time pass by.
—J.O. Thompson

INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Judy Longcor

Thy Spirit, Lord, is with us here,
Oh, precious, holy blessing!
Which on our pathway us doth
cheer
With love and peace caressing.
Thou sendest light in darkness dim
And warmest us with love's bright
beam,
With food and drink dost nourish.
Oh, stand by us with word and
deed,
And by Thy Spirit do Thou lead
Us on our pilgrim journey.
Zion's Harp #204

We are thankful for four dear souls who have sought the Lord in repentance and now have found peace with God and man. Marc Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy), Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat), Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) and Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie) are looking forward to the time when they can give their testimony of faith.

After the past several years of illness, our dear Sis. Flossie Hartter (Bro. Elmer) was called to her Home on high. Sis. Flossie had a special place in our hearts and

we'll miss seeing her at the nursing home. We want to extend our sincere sympathy to her faithful husband, Bro. Elmer; five daughters, Sis. Beverly (Bro. Dwight) Troxel of Decatur, Virginia (Don) Hoover, Clarann (Phil) Campbell of Milford, Connie (Dick) Casto of Ft. Myers, FL, and Doris Hartter of Phoenix, AZ; two sisters, Thelma Crow, Syracuse, IN and Melba Rensberger of Milford; and three brothers, Bro. Glen (Sis. Kate) Price, Everett (Sis. Leona) Price, both of Milford, and Robert Price of Elkhart, IN.

We also want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Gerber and Tillie Kasbaum in the passing of their brother, Al Graff, of Ft. Wayne, IN.

We are thankful that Bro. Theo Beer and Sis. Melba Hunsberger are back assembling with us after spending some time in their homes.

Bro. Ray (Sis. Paula) Haab spent a couple of days in the hospital. We are thankful he is back home and able to be back working again.

Sis. Millie (Bro. Phil) Beer had surgery this week and we are thankful she got along well; she will be returning home to recuperate soon.

We rejoice with Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab and Dale and Sherry Brannock of Syracuse on the birth of their new grandson, Trevor Robson, born to Jill (Haab) and Brian Brannock of Indianapolis. Trevor has two big sisters at home, Kayla and Chelsea, to welcome him.

We were blessed with visiting ministers this past month, those being: Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God continue to guide each of

these brothers in their labor of love and may we each do our part to support them in prayer and in obedience.

Recently the children and I read a book about the Pilgrims and their hardships as they came to America, and the time of illnesses, hunger and the bitter cold winter they all endured. These people were thankful to come to America where they were going to build a colony "for the glory of God", working together making and obeying laws for the common good. They were thankful for the food the Indians brought them and how they taught them the new way of planting corn. Even though these people suffered much in coming to America, and then being blessed with a rich harvest, they decided to invite the Indians to feast with them and offer prayers of thanksgiving to the Maker for a bountiful harvest. We truly are blessed people. May each day of our lives be a time of thanksgiving for all the blessings God has given us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,"

Psalm 92:1-2

Then in verse four it says, "For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work:"

When this issue reaches you, Thanksgiving will be upon us. It is impossible for me to praise God enough for all the good He has done for me, and all of us. May our "thanks" to Him take priority over that delicious turkey we all enjoy.

Many of the residents from our Morton Home visited us one week-

end. We enjoy them very much. I hope we are the inspiration to them that they are to us.

Two of our congregation had "special" birthdays this month. Loren Wilson (Sis. Velma) reached milestone number eighty. It was quite a surprise to him when he walked into a reserved room at a restaurant and saw thirty of his friends seated at a table. Loren is "special". It was a joy for all of us to show him our love. He hasn't been well for a couple of years, but he seemed to take the occasion in his stride. We wish him God's special blessings.

O what is forty? In life this is a
time most joyous
When children bring his heart
delight,
And if good fortune is attendant
His children he can rear aright.
Hymns of Zion #131

Bro. Phil Isabell (Sis. Diane) enjoyed his 40th birthday lately. He, too, was surprised by many friends awaiting his arrival at a special restaurant. He says he wants to thank everyone for their loving goodness for this special birthday. It really meant a great deal.

How about it the rest of you 80-year-olds...don't you agree he is just a kid yet?!

Thought in closing: Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us. (Paine)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

Our annual fellowship weekend was enjoyed with visitors from various congregations. Bro. Frederick Knapp (Sis. Marjorie) from the Congerville, IL church blessed our congregation with the precious Word of God on that occasion.

We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer

for his faithful service to our congregation, and appreciate his recent Sunday visit and inspiring ministry.

A singing shower was given for Bro. Jeff Dotterer and Sis. Lynn Martin who are engaged to be married. They will be establishing their home in Indianapolis. We wish them God's blessings as they share their fellowship with the Indianapolis congregation.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:"

Psalm 50:14

Greetings to all. During this time of Thanksgiving, we realize that we have so many blessings, but we are most thankful for the Father and His Son, our Saviour, and our faith. We pray that God is being felt by all of us in this time of our lives.

On the weekend of September 17, we had our "Invite a Friend" weekend and were blessed by the presence of dear brothers, sisters and friends. Thanks to all who came and shared the day with us.

We want to thank our ministering brothers for coming and sharing God's Word with us this month. They were: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). The Lord continue to bless your ministries and give you health and traveling mercies.

This month we have begun listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. We are hearing many good teachings and we thank all you dear Elder brothers for your many efforts in preserving our heritage.

Our prayers are with Shannon

Lamb (Randy and Luan) and Ryan Gaddis (Don and Sis. Dawn) as they are waiting to have surgery. Also hospitalized this month were Bro. Willis Feller, who is assembling with us again, and Sis. Aldene Frieden. The Lord heal and strengthen you both.

The Lord willing, until next month, may He watch between us all.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

John 14:16-17

On September 27, we were thankful to listen to Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) give a Bible topic on "The Heart of Man...God's Temple, or Satan's Workshop?" May we all strive to keep our hearts open to the will of God, and closed to Satan's temptations.

October 5 was a special day for Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie Lehman, as little Leah Linda was brought into this world. Leah was welcomed home by big brother, Benji. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Mae Lehman. We pray that God will bless their precious little family.

IOWA, AMES
Tricia Metzger
Nicole Dahlhauser
Kay Kellenberger

The semester has reached a mid-point and each of us continues

to work to be motivated in our studies here at Iowa State. We were richly blessed to have Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) share the Word of God with us on September 24. We thank him for his service to the Lord and us. We also enjoyed having company from the Fairbury, IL single group. Although the weekend quickly passed, it was very uplifting for all. Church services were also held on October 8, and our appreciation is extended to Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word here in Ames. A special thanks to all who have made an effort to assemble with us for tapes on Wednesday nights. May God bless you for your efforts.

We also would like to extend our best wishes to Sis. Nicole Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen, West Bend, IA) on her engagement to Bro. Owen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). May they feel God's guiding hand as they plan their upcoming wedding and life together.

On October 15, Bro. David Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Stefanie Marti (Bro. Ervin and Teresa, Oakville, IA) were united in marriage. We would like to welcome Sis. Stefanie as she joins Bro. Dave here in Ames. May God bless them as they walk the path of life together.

The invitation again goes out to all who would like to join us for services here in Ames. Services are held in the basement of the First Star Bank at 405 Main St. Contact the coordinator, Bro. Dave Stoller, at (515) 233-8153 for questions concerning dates and times.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Aren't we pleased when we are thanked for some deed or favor we

may do for another? It just makes us feel good to know that it was appreciated. Our Heavenly Father wants us to be thankful and show our appreciation to Him, too. In fact, in I Thessalonians 5:18 we are reminded "In EVERY THING give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." It does not come naturally for us to give thanks for trials, pain, and other misfortunes, but when we commit our lives unto the Lord and truly want Him to be in complete control believing that He knows best what is best for us, then we must have faith and trust that even the struggles that we are asked to endure are for our spiritual growth and eternal welfare and give God thanks.

Thanks to God for my Redeemer,
 Thanks for all Thou dost provide!
 Thanks for times now but a
 memory,
 Thanks for Jesus by my side!
 Thanks for pleasant, balmy
 springtime,
 Thanks for dark and dreary fall!
 Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
 Thanks for peace within my soul!

Thanks for prayers that Thou hast
 answered,
 Thanks for what Thou dost deny!
 Thanks for storms that I have
 weathered,
 Thanks for all Thou dost supply!
 Thanks for pain and thanks for
 pleasure,
 Thanks for comfort in despair!
 Thanks for grace that none can
 measure,
 Thanks for love beyond compare!
August Ludwig Storm

We want to thank Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer (Tremont, IL) for taking the time to come and share their slides of the Holy Land with us.

Also, a special thanks for our three visiting ministers this past

month: Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

We are enjoying beautiful fall weather. God's handiwork is shown to us by the beautiful painted landscapes. We are enjoying fall picnics, bonfires and wienner roasts.

The Bible Class enjoyed spending a Sunday with the Taylor, MO congregation and other area Sunday Schools. Many thanks to the Taylor Sunday School teachers, students, and congregation for hosting this gathering. Many lasting relationships and memories are made during these youthful years and outings.

Visiting ministers the past few weeks include Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). We want to thank these brothers for their messages from the Lord. We also appreciate their wives who accompany them and their families and all the visitors. The fellowship we enjoy with these loved ones is a blessing many "worldly" people do not understand or enjoy.

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

Gospel Hymns #712

We have finished listening to the Conference tapes. How thankful we can be that we have loving Elders who give of themselves so willingly on our behalf. If we but heed the loving admonitions, directions and guidance, we surely have a greater hope of meeting our Lord and Saviour.

Harvesting has started in our area. We check each field to see if the grain is dry enough to harvest. My mind wandered to God's harvest. When He returns for His harvest, will we as the grain be ripe and ready? Or will we be unfit as the weeds and tares?

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We appreciate all who assembled with us this month, including Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). Activities this past month included hosting a picnic to welcome our students, listening to the Conference tapes, and holding our annual meeting. At this meeting, the "rotation" of duties was accomplished - a process with which others from small churches are familiar. We thank those who have given of themselves over the past year(s) and appreciate the willingness of the others who have assumed these duties, often after only a short break from them.

After a cold, blustery, rainy season, the beautiful blue skies, brilliant leaves, and cool but sunny skies are so welcome. While our brethren involved with agriculture look forward to the harvest, may we all be making ourselves ready for and anticipating God's harvest. The author of "Come Ye Thankful People, Come" addressed both harvests with thankfulness. (*See Silver Threads*)

"...Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

The harvest season is upon us this time of the year and we are thankful that we have been blessed so abundantly. We want to remember our loved ones as

they gather in the crop and that God will be near them and keep them safe.

God's Word was so beautifully brought to us this past month with messages from visiting ministers. We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). May God bless them for being willing to be spent on our behalf.

A beautiful baby boy has come to join the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger. His name is Matthew Fredrick and he joins brothers, Scott and Gregg, and sisters, Abby and Maggie. His grandparents are Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Esty Metzger and Louis and Tina Moser.

We are thankful that Elizabeth Peasley has been announced for having found peace in her heart with both God and man as she awaits baptism.

Our prayers go out to those who spent time in the hospital this past month. We are glad that Sis. Paulina Knobloch, Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily), and Dalton Ver Beek (Tim and Sis. Becky) are once again at home recuperating from their illnesses.

With heartfelt sympathy we wish to remember loved ones who have experienced the loss of family members. Let us remember Bro. David and Sis. Marge and Elizabeth Peasley on the death of their father and grandfather, Clarence Peasley. Our thoughts are also with Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Sis. Elizabeth Nester and Sis. Iola Knobloch with the passing of their brother, Bernard Metzger, of West Bend, IA.

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner and their son, Tyler, as they have moved into our area and will be

attending services here.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We are thankful for visiting ministering Brothers this past month. They include, Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). May the Lord bless them and their families for their labors of love.

Sunday, October 15, was the wedding day of Bro. David Stoller to Sis. Stefanie Marti. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Theresa Marti. May the Lord bless them and keep them as they walk the path of life together with him. They will be making their home in Ames.

On September 14, Walt and Annette Brown (Lebanon, PA) became first-time parents to a precious little daughter. They have named her Mackenzie Jean. Thanking the Lord for her safe arrival are her grandparents from here, Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst. Her paternal grandparents are Morgan and Jean Brown of Allentown, PA.

Lord God we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh and soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from Heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our need to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent
Our souls to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts
Thy love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and pow'r
Upon our pilgrim way,
And lead'st us by Thy hand
To heaven day by day.

We sing our heartfelt thanks,
Thy truth and love adoring.
For guidance and for light
Thy Spirit we're imploring.
Our hearts we offer Thee
For life and ev'ry day,
That with Thy grace we tread
The straight and narrow way.

Zion's Harp #13

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein

We appreciated our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife (Oakville, IA) for being with us on a Wednesday evening this past month.

On October 7, Dan Wiegand and Heather Humphrey were united in marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand and Mike and Sharry Humphrey. May God be near them as they become one.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we surely have many blessings for which to be thankful for.

What Am I Thankful For?
What am I thankful for this year?
What blessings come to mind?
My dear friends and relations,
So loving and so kind.
Each time I see the sunrise,
And the beauties of the day,
The unexpected little joys,
I find along the way.
What am I thankful for this year?
The small and furry things,
The hope that keeps me going,
The peace believing brings.
I have so much to thank God for,
I don't know where to start,
I only know He walks with me,

And lives within my heart!

Grace E. Easley

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our deep appreciation for all your love, prayers, cards, gifts, visits and food; also the expressions of sympathy during the years of illness and death of our loved one, Bro. Richard Teubel. Your love and support helped to sustain us through the difficult times.

May God richly bless each of you for your love and caring.

In Christian love,

Sis. Wilma Teubel and family

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

The weekend of September 23 and 24 was special to us as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three souls. We welcome Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer Fehr and Sis. Sally Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice). It takes us all back to the time when we made our covenant with God. May they always feel God's love and direction in their walk of life. Here to share in this most important work, along with Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm, was Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). Also here that weekend were Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). May God bless them and their families for the time spent with us and traveling the many miles to be with us.

Our congregation was deeply saddened when God called a loved one from this life so quickly. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Bernard Metzger: his wife, Alice Marie; sons, Kurt and Wyan, of West Bend, and daughter, Beth, of Fort Dodge; brothers, Emil, Bro. Arnold and Bro. Silas of West Bend; sisters, Sis. Marie and

Sis. Darlene of West Bend, Sisters Elizabeth Nester, Zelma Knoblock, and Iola Knobloch of Lester, IA. May this dear family look to our Lord Jesus Christ for comfort, help and strength at this sad time and in the time to come.

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain

In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

He'll lighten the load, and level the road,

And bear thee on hands of compassion.

He's gentle and kind, Rich blessings thou'll find,

His Word gives thee peace everlasting.

Zion's Harp #46

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized recently: little Emily Banwart (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sandy), surgical; Sis. Katie Ludwig; and Bro. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille). All are recovering at home. We pray for God's healing and blessing on each one.

We have two families in our congregation that are blessed as first-time parents. Our best wishes and congratulations go out to Bro. Jordon and Sis. Ann Grimm as Nathan Jordon made his appearance on September 27. Happy grandparents to share their love with Nathan are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm, and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr. Great grandparents are Bro. Clifford and Sis. Rosine Grimm, Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, Sis. Nima Fehr, and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz.

Congratulations also to Joel and Wendy Schmidt as they welcomed a precious baby girl, Harrison Greer, on October 7. Happy grandparents of Harrison are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt, and Steven and Martha Williams of Burlington, IA. May both of these dear parents ever look to God for

direction as they raise these precious gifts from Him.

On October 1, we were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Nicole Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) to Bro. Owen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) from the LaCrosse, IN congregation. We pray that God will draw them closer to Him and each other as they plan their life together.

Although any time is the season for giving thanks to God, at this time of year especially, with Thanksgiving Day approaching, we can count our many blessings and be thankful that the Lord truly does provide.

We thank Thee now, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And, what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Matthius Claudius

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman

Lori Baumgartner

November is the month in which our government has set aside a day of giving thanks for the blessings we have received during the past year. Thanksgiving Day is a gentle reminder to each of us that we truly do need to thank our Heavenly Father for His rich blessings rather than taking them for granted. It seems so easy to thank our Father for the things we perceive as blessings, but do we also remember to thank Him for the "hidden blessings" that we perceive as "thorns in the flesh" or as crosses in our lives?

My heart was deeply touched when I recently read a portion of a book on the life of Fanny J. Crosby, the blind woman who has written the words to several of our hymns

in the Hymns of Zion. She was genuinely thankful for her blindness. When Fanny was six weeks old, she had a serious illness that affected her eyes. Several years later, a medical specialist told her that she would never see again because her eyes had been given the wrong treatment when she was an infant. She wrote that if she could ever meet that old doctor who had made the fateful blunder she would say, "Thank you, thank you, over and over again, for making me blind. I verily believe it was God's intention that I should live my days in physical darkness, so as better prepared to sing His praises and incite others so to do. I could not have written thousands of hymns...if I had been hindered by the distractions of seeing all the interesting and beautiful objects that would have been presented to my notice." What an outstanding lesson in thankfulness!

We are happy to announce the engagement of Michael Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Yalana Schuette (Darrell and Sue, Sabetha). A May wedding is being planned.

Requiring hospitalization this past month was Bro. Dwight Rokey (Sis. Anita). We are thankful he has recovered from his illness.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Matt and Dorothy Strahm, formerly from Chicago, IL. May they feel at home in our congregation.

We have finished listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. We appreciated the kind exhortations by our Elder brothers. May we feel renewed zeal in striving to be a "True Believer".

On October 14 and 15, our senior Bible Class students and teachers attended Kansas Youth Fellowship weekend in Wichita. We wish to thank the Wichita congregation for their labors of love.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalm 75:1

In this season of thanksgiving, we give God special thanks for being with Bro. Chuck Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) as he spent some time in the hospital.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Thanks and Prayer

Oh, Son of God, to Thee we sing!
Unto Thy throne of grace we bring
Our song in chorus, full and clear;
Incline to us Thy heart and ear.
To Thee we sing!

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God,
That on the cross beam Thou hast bought
For us salvation, peace and grace
With Thee in heaven's resting place!
We give Thee thanks!

We now rejoice, Lord Jesus Christ,
That Thou from death and grave didst rise.
Thou livest now, Oh Lord, and we
Hope Thou wilt take us unto Thee.
We now rejoice!

Oh, Prince of Life, we are Thine own,
The flock Thou guidest from Thy throne.

And we ourselves and all award,
Forever unto Thee, Oh Lord!
We are Thine own!

Zions Harp #199

Sometimes, when we sing the

words to our precious hymns, we don't always give them the feeling they deserve. But, when we set them down on paper, and see the heartfelt love and joy the song writers had as they wrote the beautiful words, we, too, come to realize how much gratitude we owe to our Heavenly Father for all the blessings He has given to us in our lives here on earth. How very thankful we should be to live in a country where serving the Lord is still a freedom, and where a day of "Thanksgiving" is set aside to remember God's goodness to us as a nation; but as the children of the Living God, our thanks and praise should be offered every day, all day long, as long as we live.

We would like to thank the Wichita Bible Class for hosting our Youth Fellowship in October. It was a time of enjoyment with those of like faith, and we truly appreciate the efforts of love shown to our youth and teachers!

How thankful is my heart today
For all the love that's come my way,
For family, friends and all who care
To remember me in time of prayer.
How thankful is my heart today
For a land that's free to work and play
Where I can be the best I can,
And cast my lot with any man.
I'm free to choose the path I trod,
And free to serve my Lord and God
In a land where everyone is free
Regardless of their pedigree.
I'm thankful for blessings I receive
Because God knows that I believe...
How thankful is my heart today
For all the love that's come my way.

Clay Harrison

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) was our visiting minister this past month. We have thankful hearts for our brethren who minister God's precious Word.

Hospitalized was our dear Sis. Dorene (Bro. Eldon) Metzger. Sis. Dorene is recovering remarkably as a surgical patient. We are grateful for God's healing touch upon her.

The engagement of Brent Emch (Bro. William and Sis. Susan) to Lisa Callen of Madison (Wayne and Judy) was announced recently. A February 3 wedding is planned. We join together in sharing their happiness and concern for God's direction as they plan their lives together.

We truly rejoice with the new grandparents in our congregation. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger were blessed with a new grandson born to Philip and Stephanie and Colin Parker. Also born to Julia and Todd Pyle on October 21 was little Aubrey Nicole. A delightful new granddaughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker. Congratulations!

Note of Thanks:

May the dear Lord share His richest blessings with all who showered me with over 80 beautiful cards for my 80th birthday. A surprise greatly appreciated!

Sis. Edna Somerhalder

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

We welcome Sis. Amy Bahr (Detroit, MI) while she is pursuing higher education at Kansas State University..

"Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation."

Acts 15:31

We have recently finished listening to the Conference tapes.

May we be drawn closer to God. We appreciate the kind words of exhortation.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and their families. This month we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Darryl Stoller, James Kaeb and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May each one be blessed for their labors in bringing forth the Word of God.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:7

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald) and Sis. Alma Aberle who have been hospitalized.

"All the way my Saviour leads me..." We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Jeanne Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) and Bro. Loren Edelman (the late Clemens and Sis. Marjorie). We ask God to further direct their path as they plan a spring wedding.

Bro. Joseph and Sis. Tillie Menold have felt God's blessings as they recently observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sis. Matilda Steiner observed a milestone in her life when she reached her 90th birthday.

On October 14, our Bible Class traveled to Wichita, KS. May God enrich each teacher who gives their time and effort to be an example to our youth.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to say "thank you" to all my family and relatives and friends who have sent beautiful cards and gifts for my 90th birthday.

May God richly bless one and all for their kindness and love.

Sis. Matilda Steiner

A special "thank you" to our family and friends for the anniversary cards, visits and gifts on our special day.

May God bless each one.

Bro. Joseph and Sis. Tillie Menold

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The Bowers family successfully surprised Bro. Phillip with a birthday reception for his fortieth birthday on October 1. His twin sister, Ruth Long, who shares his October 3 birthdate, was instrumental in planning the celebration which was shared by his church family as well as his extended family. We are all uplifted by the example of Bro. Phil's continuing faith and cheerful countenance in spite of the many obstacles of his handicap.

This past weekend, October 14-15, the Wichita congregation hosted the Kansas Senior High School Fellowship weekend. The Lord blessed us with cooperative weather so we could meet at the rural home of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel on Saturday afternoon. Through the willingness of the brotherhood, we were able to house our visitors and make new acquaintances in the process. We were blessed to have such a cooperative group of young people with us for the weekend and pray that they will remember the experience. Our spiritual theme was Christ is the Rock and the Power of Prayer.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Ann Farney who learned this weekend of the death of her brother, Bob Oesch, of Mansfield, OH.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Greetings from Lexington! A special thanks to our many visitors this past month. We enjoyed brethren from Phoenix, AZ; Smithville, Junction and Rittman, OH; Morton and Roanoke, IL; and Minneapolis, MN. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Tom Hoffman and his wife, Sis. Kathy, from Roanoke, IL and Bro. Merle Hartzler and his wife, Sis. Bonnie, from Rittman, OH. We appreciate your labors and fellowship.

On behalf of the Lexington Sunday School, we would like to thank the Columbus Sunday School and Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks for a great weekend of fellowship. They hosted our students for the weekend in October and everyone enjoyed the hayride, singing, fellowship and church services. May God richly bless your efforts. As we left, I reflected upon the fellowship and how that some of these children were the third generation of Apostolic children to become acquainted and carry on a friendship that began with their grandparents. I realized even more how important these Sunday School outings really are. These precious lambs are the future flock!

Lastly, the Lexington congregation has sold the building that has housed the brethren here for many years, and our last service in the old building on Locust Avenue will be December 3. We are currently looking for a new location in the country and we solicit your prayers in this weighty matter. Services will be held in temporary quarters; however, we do not have the place selected. A letter will be sent to the churches announcing our temporary meeting place of worship in the very near future. If you plan to visit and have not heard of the location of services, please call Bro. Lester Huber (606) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (606) 273-8574 or Bro. Doug German (606) 224-8710.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Jane Grawburg

Our Sunday School picnic was a great success this year. Thanks to Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough who hosted us, we enjoyed an afternoon and evening of activities and fellowship with our children. A special treat every year is launching balloons with the children's names and addresses on them and asking whomever receives them to send a letter back to us. In the evening we have a hayride for those who want to go and singing around a bonfire.

Dennis Koehl was hospitalized this past month. We're so glad he is able to be with us again.

We're so glad Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst of Iowa City were with us last weekend. It was so nice to have them again and we thank Bro. Joe for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

We were blessed to have Holy Communion this month. What a beautiful gathering of God's children, all of like minds. We were blessed to have with us for this occasion Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for this most solemn occasion.

We wish our Lord's grace and blessings and guidance in the commitment of two lives to follow our Lord down the pathway of life on earth as one. The engagement of Bro. Kent Andrejewski and Sis. Jody Schambach was announced. Parents are Norm and Sis. Linda Andrejewski and Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schambach.

We are very happy to welcome Sis. Tina Wackerle back home in our congregation once again and wish her the Lord's blessings and

guidance in her new endeavors.

We need the prayers of those we love. We especially need to send prayers to our Father in Heaven for our loved ones who have sickness in mind, soul and body.

We were happy to have a visit from Judy Bittner. It was so nice to see and visit with her once again after so many years of being apart. It is so good that our Lord brings old friends together now and then.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton
Lynette Moser

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!
Netherlands Folk Hymn

As we near the Thanksgiving season, we try to imagine the trials that at times must have overwhelmed the pilgrims. Their thankfulness must have been deep and heartfelt as they celebrated a successful harvest. As we go gro-

cery shopping and find plentiful ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner which can be prepared with the help of stoves, microwaves, blenders, food processors and ovens, we need to make a conscious effort to not become apathetic in our appreciation for God's rich blessings.

Our small church here in Detroit has much to be thankful for as we review the last year and see that God has treated us kindly in many ways. The Woodhaven nursing home rummage and bake sale was a success. This would truly not be possible without all of the time and effort of the congregation here in Detroit and the other congregations in the area. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who was involved in making this a success.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was with us as we heard the testimonies of Alison and Wayne Saddler and Marisa Wirz who are joining our fellowship from Kitchener, Ontario. We welcome them into our fellowship. Our church has also been blessed by listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference on Wednesday nights.

As we have many prayers of thankfulness, we also pray for healing for Bro. Jim Barton and Bro. Joe Szilagyi who have both been in the hospital in the past month, but are both home convalescing now. We also share our sympathy with Sis. Vi Barton and Sis. Martha Szilagyi who lost their brother, Louis Koprince, this month.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Perry Virkler

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:"

Psalm 92:1

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here when we pause to give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest and our many blessings. May we always keep the spirit of thanksgiving each day throughout the year.

My heart is filled with thanks,
Lord,
For the harvest You bestow,
Not only for the grains and fruits
That You have caused to grow,
But for the harvest of the soul,
The good things that I feel,
The closeness of my family,
The friendships that are real...
And thank You, Lord, for planting
These seeds within me, too,
A thirst for knowledge, cherished
dreams,
A faith that's deep and true.
Alice Joyce Davidson

We were grateful for the many spiritual teachings brought to us by our visiting ministers. With us this month were Elder Bros. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bros. Alhai Moser and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Our prayers are with Sis. Rachel Kent (Darcy) as she is undergoing medical treatments. May she feel God's strength and nearness.

Our congregation extends a warm welcome to Craig and Sandy Bentz and their daughter, Jennifer, who moved here from Vista, CA. We also welcome back Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke who are living in Menomonie, WI for a period of time. We hope they all feel the warmth of our fellowship.

For every sorrow there is gladness;
For every burden, sweet relief;
For every trouble tinged with
sadness,

There is a peace beyond belief.
These blessings come from God's
good hand;
Sometime, somewhere, we'll
understand.

J. Harold Gwynne

My dear mother, Vivian A. Virkler, of 91 years passed away September 29. It's very hard to give up someone you love dearly...but we know that time will heal a broken heart. The many expressions of sympathy extended to Carol and I from friends and brethren were very comforting. We have such a precious faith. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder
Linda Schmidgall

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

Psalm 100:4

We are *thankful* for many things this month.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger are *thankful* their daughter, Michelle, is turning her back on this wicked world and seeking her Saviour in repentance.

We are *thankful* that God has been with our surgical patients, Sis. Marian Moser (Bro. Chris), Bro. Albert Joos (Sis. Edith), Sis. Hildy Koehl (Bro. Jim) and Alex Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl). Others in the hospital were Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wallis) and Bro. Aldean Luthi (Sis. Charlotte). May God heal these loved ones as only He can.

Bro. John and Sis. Esther Schaefer are *thankful* for their 50 years of marriage God has granted them. May God continue to bless them.

Thankful first-time parents, Bruce and Penny Schmidgall, welcomed little Samantha Ann on October 6. Samantha's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corine Schmidgall.

It has been very wet in the Morris area and the farmers are struggling to get their crops out. We also have those who are struggling within themselves and just pray that God will call them unto repentance while it is yet the day of grace.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who brought food to our home, sent cards, gifts and flowers. Also, to those who came to visit. Most of all, we thank you for your prayers. May God reward each one.

Your least ones in faith,
Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith Joos

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God,
That on the cross beam Thou hast bought
For us salvation, peace and grace
With Thee in heaven's resting place!
We give Thee thanks!
Zion's Harp #199

As the trees change into such beautiful colors, it brings our thoughts into this Thanksgiving season. We truly do have so many things to be thankful for, especially for what our Lord has done for us. May we cherish this special time that we will be spending with our families.

We recently held our annual pork chop supper and we would like to thank our visitors for sharing the weekend with us, espe-

cially visiting ministers: Bros. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God richly bless them and their families.

This past month we listened to the Conference tapes and are so thankful for our Elder brothers who so eloquently and simply reminded us of the blessings we can receive from living our lives for God.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Congratulations to Corey and Nikki Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) on the birth of their baby girl, Bryce Ann, on September 14. May the Lord bless their new family.

Our hospital patient this month was Gene Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae). We thank the Lord for his quick recovery.

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

With saddened hearts, we bid farewell to Bro. Todd, Kim and Heather Moser as they relocate and make their home in Morris. They will be missed here in Winthrop, but we pray that the Lord will watch over them in their new home and we hope we will see them often.

Note of Thanks:

"Fifty years of Marriage
Fifty golden years of Love
Sharing life together
Sharing faith in God above."

We want to thank everyone who remembered us on our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Thanks for the gifts, flowers, phone calls, and the beautiful cards.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Bernadine Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Joan Fehr & Jamie Marti

On October 1, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) minister God's Word unto us. May God richly bless your labors, Bro. Dale, and we welcome you and Sis. Judy back anytime.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation..." (Zion's Harp #52). We are rejoicing with Dave and Trista Miller as they have surrendered their lives to the Lord.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

Ephesians 5:20

As this Thanksgiving season approaches, may we all be grateful for the many blessings God has so richly blessed us with.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Becky Marti

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,

Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice and are thankful that Phil Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) has started repenting. We wish him God's grace as he works out his soul's salvation.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Sis. Anna Marti and Sis. Vera (Bro. Rex) Frieden.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:18

As we approach Thanksgiving, we can truly say God has again blessed us throughout the past year. May we continue to thank Him for all of His love and blessings.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Thadd Walter

We have had another blessed month in St. Louis as visiting ministers have traveled to share the Word with us. Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) allowed the Lord to work through them and renew our spirits.

The time of thanksgiving is always with us, and during this harvest time we can reflect on the many verses regarding harvest. I think of the combines that throw the chaff out the back after separating the good grain. God's wonderful plan of salvation is all around us, and is especially evident at this time of year. May God's grace and rich blessings be with you all.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

"...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;"

Matthew 9:37

As we can witness the fields around us being harvested of the fruits they yield, may it be that God's fields are ripe with souls ready for harvest also. Our prayers go out to those souls who want to make a new beginning in life, but for whatever reason cannot find the grace to make that first step in repentance.

With much joy and happiness we are thankful that God's field is yielding fruit, as Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) has decided to turn her back on the world and begin a new life through repentance. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless and strengthen her as she seeks His will for her life.

We rejoice with Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp who were blessed with a new baby boy, Joshua James. He will be welcomed home by his big brothers, Jesse and Jared. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

This past month we were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN). How thankful we are for God's Word that was brought to us through these brothers. We pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

October 1, the Bible Class traveled to ACYF at Washington, IL. The blessings were truly great for those who were there, as our precious Lord Jesus Christ was lifted up through song.

On Sunday, October 8, the Sunday School enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at Lake of the Oaks where we had our annual fall picnic. A wonderful time of fellowship was had by all.

Our prayers are with little

Joshua Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa) who was a hospital patient this past month. We are thankful he was not there long and is home doing well.

Sis. Elizabeth Hoerr was transferred from the hospital to Good Samaritan Home in Quincy. She appreciates all the prayers and visits she is receiving.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN- NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh and soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent
Our souls to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts
Thy love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and pow'r
Upon our pilgrim way,
And lead'st us by Thy hand
To heaven day by day.

Zion's Harp #13

At this Thanksgiving time of the year we pause to thank God for all He does supply for our daily needs. If we turn to Him in our time of need, He will give us in abundance of what we need in this lifetime. He has a home in Heaven prepared for each of us at the close of this lifetime if we remain true and faithful until the end of our life-

time.

The Word of God was brought to us through the lips of Bro. Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL). Our thanks go to him and his wife for spending the day with us and for his service to God. We are also thankful to our home ministers who stand before us each week and proclaim the true Word. May God's blessings be with each of them.

Bro. Bernard (Sis. Elvera) Martin was a hospital patient for treatment as was Sis. Louise (Bro. Larry) Purvines who had a complete knee replacement. At this time, Bro. Roy (Sis. Edna) Sturtze remains a hospital patient following surgery and then suffering a serious stroke, and Norm (Mary) Schulz is a patient following hip replacement. It is our prayer to God for each of them and their families that He will supply their every need and grant a measure of good health to them if it is His will.

We welcome Sis. Loretta (Bro. Floyd) Graves back in our assembly after many weeks at home following her back surgery. We are happy that she shows much improvement.

OHIO, AKRON

**Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser**

Mike and Sis. Diane Jarrett are blessed with a baby girl born October 9. They named her Madeline Kay, and she has a sister, Alexa, to also welcome her home.

Sis. Helen Burr was in the hospital and now is recuperating at the home of her son.

We appreciated the inspiring message of Bro. Glenn Riggenbach recently.

Margit Szabo of Hungary, a sister of Bro. Sandor, Bro. Zoltan, and Eugene Bako, passed away. We extend sympathy to them.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Love and greetings from our church in Columbus.

We pray for God's healing graces and a quick recovery for our Sis. Renee Steffen, who suffered a broken arm and sprained wrist in a nasty fall. Also, Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) remains confined at home with severe back pain. Our prayers are with these dear sisters that they will soon be able to assemble with us again.

We are thankful for our ministering Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) who visited us this month and we appreciate their labors of love.

Surely anyone who has taken on a major remodeling project will agree that patience can be sorely tempted during construction. We find this to be so as work continues on our church. Just as we seem to be making major progress, everything must come to a halt until inspections are completed or permits are issued. However, we rejoice each week when we find the slightest addition that wasn't there before. Perhaps this could parallel our own lives as Christians. We are so impatient at times when things don't go quite the way that we planned, but if we will just pause and take the time to reflect on the blessings in our life and what we have to be thankful for, it seems the frustrations melt away. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us so bountifully here in Columbus and we will patiently wait upon Him to provide what is needed to complete our new church.

Natasha, Austin and Celise are excited about the addition of a new sister in the Feller household. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia and their family welcomed Laine Elizabeth into their hearts and home on Oc-

tober 17.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Little Angela Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) spent a day in the hospital last month, and then was able to complete her recovery at home. She appears to be back to normal health for which we are thankful.

A few weeks ago we bid farewell to Bro. Paul Gherian. He has accepted a three month government work assignment in Haiti. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he is separated from his dear wife, Sis. Sharon, and three teenage sons. May the Lord watch between him and us until we meet again.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, many of our readers are burdened with the cares of this life, some so heavily burdened that it takes a great effort to even utter a word or prayer of thanks. But if we do make that effort, the Bible promises a blessing.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Psalm 50:14-15

Something to think about from a recent sermon: Did you know that the words "obey" and "believe" are used interchangeably in the German language Bible?

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

It is very hard not to appreciate the Indian summer we have been blessed to enjoy this year. The warm days, the cooler evenings and nights, the beauty of the changing of the leaves, the harvest almost complete are just a few ex-

amples of how our Heavenly Father has blessed us in the Latty area.

We are thankful that the Lord has heard the many prayers for our hospitalized loved ones this month. Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken), Bro. Roy Rager (Sis. June), and Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori) are all recovering at home following surgery. We will continue to pray that they will gain strength and will be able to assemble with us again. Andy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam) was spared serious injury during an automobile accident. May Andy feel God's healing hand.

On October 3, Haley Rose was born to Sis. Jane and Jim Linder. Welcoming their new sister home are Riley and Abbey. Maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:29,30

May Amy Hopkins (Chris) find her burden growing lighter as she has in repentance turned her soul over to the Lord. We pray that she will find grace sufficient for every day.

May God bless Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) for his labors of love in bringing forth the truth from the Holy Word.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Cari Mann

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at

Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

Luke 24:46-48

Two of the "witnesses" in our congregation are acting upon the preaching they have heard. Our prayers are with Chad Griffy (Paul and Bernie) and Connie Boliantz (Bro. Doug) as they begin the walk that will lead them to eternal life.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

The wonderful peace that only Christ can bring has been granted to Chad Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev). As he awaits baptism, may he ever feel our loving prayers as he continues to draw closer to his Lord.

"And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."

Mark 1:38

We have been abundantly blessed with visitors this past month. Among the ministering brethren, we have had the pleasure of hearing from Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). It is a blessed privilege just to be able to sit under the sound of God's Word and we pray that the brethren who minister to us receive a double portion of that blessing.

Greetings be to you our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord,...
Welcome, Welcome, All ye loved
ones;

Greetings in the Saviour's name.

Hymns of Zion #7

We wish to extend a loving welcome to the following brethren who are now assembling with us. They include: Sis. Barbara Baumann, Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann, Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel, Sis. Heddy Ormischer, Bro. John, Sis. Zuzanna, Bro. John Jr. and Bro. Henry Pfeiffer. May these brethren always feel a part of our church family.

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

Eccles. 3:1-2

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Charles (Sis. Marcella) Sauder, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Bob) Bird and Sis. Wilma McCutchen in the passing of their brother-in-law, Bill Heckel (Louise), of North Ft. Myers, FL. We also wish to express our deepest sympathy to Carol Enderle in the passing of her mother.

Sometimes God lends to us an angel here on earth to show us love without partiality and then He calls the angel back to Heaven. It is with many fond memories that we bid a final farewell to Robert William Oesch who was laid to rest on October 14. There was not a Sunday that Bobby could assemble with us, that he did not try to shake everyone's hand, young and old alike. It did not matter if he knew you or not, he met each one with a smile and a warm handshake. We know that his surviving brothers and sisters, Elmer and Ben Oesch, Martha Oesch and Sis. Emilie (Harold) Went, all of Shelby, Sis. Helen (Bro. Wally) Ramsier of Jeromesville, Sis. Ann (the late Bro. Harvey) Farney of Wichita, KS and Sis. Edith Mayer

of Indianapolis, IN, along with all his nieces and nephews will surely miss his presence. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bro. Karl and Sis. Tillie Oesch; one brother, Bro. John (Sis. Kate) Oesch; and one sister, Rose Munson. May each one of us always try to show the love and impartiality that grants us such fond memories of this beloved child of God.

Just a reminder: When you flee temptation, DON'T leave a forwarding address and DON'T go back to visit!

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Rufener
Linda Schar

October 21 was a wonderful weekend as we welcomed four new souls into our congregation. Our new sister and brothers are Michelle Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel), Doug Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Tony Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette), and Dan Baltic, Jr. (Bro. Dan Sr. and Sis. Betty). Assisting Elder Bro. Henry in this important work were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Bros. Larry Wenninger and Fred Domka also ministered unto us.

Jessica Nicole was born on October 5 to Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill Steiner. Big brother, Jeremy, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH), also anxiously awaited Jessica's arrival.

Recently made known was the engagement announcement of Bro. Milan Baltic and Sis. Amy Ingold. Their parents are Bro. Dan Sr. and Sis. Betty Baltic and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold. May God richly bless them as they plan for a new life together.

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Janet Gasser

(Bro. Dale) in the passing of her mother. May God be with each one who suffers loss.

Several of our loved ones were hospitalized in the past month, including Mary Lou Gasser, Sis. Ruth Hilty, Bro. Heinz Zierau (Sis. Tanya) and Sis. Vivian Ramsier (Bro. Harlan). We pray God will bless each one.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

"...the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof" (I Cor. 10:26), but how blessed we are to be able to enjoy it's rustic, but majestic, beauty. In Sardis, it is somewhat of a given that along with fall there will be a pig roast - a day to spend outside enjoying God's handiwork. Behind those of us who feel it is "automatic" are those we wish to thank for making the day possible. This time that we spend together with our church family is full of special memories. Some aspects vary slightly from year to year but the same elements are always present: willingness of each to take part, excitement of seeing those who come every year and joy in introducing new participants to the activities of the day, respect and appreciation for each other, and love and thankfulness for God.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Margaret Blough
Edith Miller

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!
 Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not.

Zion's Harp #112

During the month of Septem-

ber, we were privileged to listen to the tapes of the summer Conference. We are thankful for our "watchmen" who bring forth these messages. We hope they will feel our support.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller welcomed a new little son into the world on October 6. Corban John will also be loved by siblings, Beth, Holly, Craig, and Sarah, as well as grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH). May God's blessings be upon this family.

Sis. Mildred Hartzler was in the hospital during this past month. We are glad to see her back in church again.

Come ye thankful people, come,
 Raise the song of harvest home;
 All is safely gathered in,
 Ere the winter storms begin;
 God, our Maker, doth provide,
 For our wants to be supplied;
 Come to God's own temple, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home.

Gospel Hymns #823

As the holidays will soon be upon us, may we remember to think not only of ourselves and our families, but also to reach out to those who are especially lonely at this time of year.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

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

Proverbs 11:14

As we have been listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference, we are thankful for the multitude of counsellors who care for us and instruct us.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) recently visited us. We appreciated his service in the minis-

try on our behalf.

Bro. Dave Beard (Sis. GERALYN) was a recent surgical patient. We are thankful for God's healing hand on him and the promise that our Lord will always care for us, no matter what the circumstances of our lives may be.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

Funeral services for our dear Bro. Paul Rumbold were held Sunday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m. Paul N. Rumbold was born June 7, 1915, in Morton, IL and passed away September 20, 1995, at his home in Wilsonville, OR. Our sympathy goes to his dear wife, Sis. Ann; his children, Jerry (Sharon), Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ed) and David (Debbie). Eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as two brothers and one sister, Bro. Ezra (Princeville, IL), Sam (Chillicothe, IL) and Sis. Irene Farney (Morton, IL), also mourn his passing. Bro. Paul was laid to rest in Lincoln Memorial Park, Portland, OR. We will all miss his love and compassion for others—especially children. But after many, many months of illness, we are so thankful he is safe in the arms of his dear Jesus.

We were reminded of the suffering of our dear Lord and Saviour as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) in this important event in the life of a Christian.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL). We thank them for allowing the Lord to use them through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have begun listening to the Conference tapes. We pray that

God will work in all of our hearts as we consider the teachings of our Elder brothers.

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thess. 5:18

We were reminded of these words recently, and as we approach this Thanksgiving holiday, we are a nation and a people that have been so richly blessed. But can we give thanks in everything? Can we still thank our God for the trials and tests that come our way? Are we only thankful upon the mountain top, or do we remember to give God our thanks when we're in the valleys also?

Note of Thanks:

Words fail to express our heartfelt thanks to our Sisters, Brothers and friends for all the kind deeds, acts of love, flowers, gifts, food, cards and most of all, for the prayerful support shown to our family during the illness and passing of our loved one. May God richly bless each one.

Sis. Ann Rumbold and family

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

We were blessed to have Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN) in our midst on September 16-17 for our annual Bible Class weekend. We sincerely appreciate and want to thank him for the time and words he shared with them, for they are our future church. May the Lord richly bless him for his willingness to come and serve them and us in the ministry.

September 23 was the wedding of Jason Snook (Vance and Sis. Liz) and Collette Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy), which took place in West Bend, IA. The

following weekend, a reception was held for them here in Silverton. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they join hand and heart. May they look to Him as they journey through this life together.

During the month of September, Wednesday evenings were set aside for listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. What a wonderful opportunity to be reminded of our duties and responsibilities as brothers and sisters in Christ and to be warned by our dear shepherds of areas where Satan is trying to make inroads into our precious faith.

What a privilege it was to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new sisters in faith, Sis. Sara Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Diane Kuenzi (Urban) on October 7-8. May the Lord richly bless Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL) who assisted Elder Bro. Art in this blessed weekend. On Sunday evening, Bro. Nathan shared with us of his experiences while visiting the brethren in the Eastern European countries.

Our cups have truly overflowed in the past month. On Saturday, October 14, we solemnly partook of Holy Communion, served to us by Elder Bros. Art Metz and Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI). It was an evening that remains vivid in my mind as the love of God flowed abundantly from heart to heart as we greeted each one after the service. Surely our humble hearts were filled with thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the gift of His only begotten Son. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Andy for his willing service on our behalf, and in sharing the Holy Word on Sunday.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Teresa Knecht

and Sandy (Tim) Jones in the loss of their grandfather, Bro. Paul Rumbold (Sis. Ann), of the Portland congregation. What a comfort to know we'll never say "good-bye" in Heaven.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"...O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

Daniel 10:19

On Saturday, October 7, we were blessed to hear the testimony of Kevin Clough (John and Sis. Kathy), as he told us how the Lord worked in his heart. On Sunday, Kevin was baptized and we welcomed him as a brother in faith. We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman. We thank the many visitors who came and made this weekend so special.

We thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

We encourage those who will be 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

As a trav'ler home returning
From some far and distant land,

Thinks of it with bosom yearning,
Ere his foot has touched the
strand.

So amid the noisy pleasures
Of the world the heart oft sighs
For the nobler, higher treasures
Laid up for us in the skies.

Zion's Harp #198

The words to this song came to me as I returned home from traveling. Isn't this the thought of each and every one of us as we walk here below that even though God has richly blessed us, and we enjoy these blessings, our hearts still yearn for that Heavenly Home in the skies?

During my traveling, I had the privilege of riding the subway in Boston, MA. I sat up front and watched in amazement as the subway operator slowed or accelerated according to a green or red signal. I'm not exactly sure what would have happened if the signals were ignored, but feel confident some sort of crash would have been imminent. In our lives, God signals to us; we need to be in tune with His signals to respond accordingly, or we, too, could be headed for trouble. In the subway, I also noticed all of the various subway tracks going in different directions, some crisscrossing each other. Each train, however, followed one specific track that led to its destination. In our lives, we have many tracks or paths that we can choose and follow. Only the straight and narrow track, however, will lead us to our Heavenly destination. Let's choose to stay on the right track! May God help us choose this path if we have not already done so.

This month we were blessed to have ministering Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL). Thanks to both of you for lending yourselves into God's service to minister His Word to us. We also

welcomed many other visitors from Francesville, IN; Cissna Park, IL; Atlanta, GA; and various Ohio churches. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in worshipping with us. Being a small church, we appreciate each and every one of you.

Progress is also occurring in our church remodeling project. A special thank you to our volunteers these past couple of months. They were Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dee Steffen (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane Leuthold (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Joe Gray, Bro. Willis Gudeman, and Jim Tucker (Francesville, IN). May God bless all of you for your labors of love. We certainly appreciate all you have done.

Come visit us in Nashville! Upcoming scheduled services are on December 3 (Bluffton, IN); December 17 (Oakville, IA); and January 7, 1996 (Athens, AL). 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.

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

Services were held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top with ministering Bro. Greg Gramm and his wife, Sis. Denise (Phoenix, AZ). Our afternoon Bible study on Psalm 1 was enlightening to us all. Services were followed by another delicious Sunday meal. The fellowship time on Bill's deck overlooking a valley filled with tall, beautiful pines was very peaceful and uplifting. Thank you both so much for being with us!

The first October services in Dallas were conducted by minis-

tering Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) who visited with his wife, Sis. Jan. Most recently, Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb (Bern, KS) drove down with a couple of their children. The messages and fellowship were wonderful. We thank you for coming. May God bless your efforts and sacrifices.

Dallas church services are usually held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for more informa-

tion.

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

Our visitors this month were ministering Bro. Tom Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL). We wish to thank them for their visit.

How blessed 'tis when we as lambs,
Are gathered 'round our Lord;
In youthful years with tender
hearts,
To hear the Master's words.

Hymns of Zion #73

Three foster children, Frank, Emma, and Rosita, have made their home with Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and Julie Nohl for three and a half years. These three children are now being adopted by another family. We all learned to love them and they will be missed. We hope they will always remember the Christian training they received.

Hungarian Cassette Tape Update

First, we want to apologize to those of you who have been patiently waiting for tapes you ordered. After some difficulty, all the copies are finally ready for sale and distribution. During processing, it was determined that the quality of two tapes could be improved, so they were recorded with more sophisticated equipment available in USA; so, of course, we proceeded and they are all now obtainable for your enjoyment in the USA and Canada.

The beautiful music in these five - 60 minute cassettes are the result of many Hungarian brethren and friends from several congregations joining together for the very special privilege of sharing with the American church hymns that they regularly sing together as only they are capable of doing. A very special reason for all of this is to endeavor to provide sufficient funds so they can publish a new combined hymnal under one cover to be used in all churches and homes where Hungarian is the language. This new book was supported by the Elder body that

also was under their supervision and is to supplement the Zion's Harp used primarily in all their churches. It will be somewhat similar to our Hymns of Zion and Gospel Hymns. It will provide our book to replace many smaller ones now in use.

We were surprised to learn that in some countries in Europe the church cannot afford to furnish song books and Bibles, and individuals are required to buy and provide for their own.

The new hymnal will cost about \$9.50 to \$10.00 to print and they would like to be able to purchase 6,000 and will definitely need 4,000 immediately. This will require an outlay of approximately \$60,000 USA funds. Their hope is to be able to sell these song books to these people for about \$4.50 US dollars as they are concerned very few can afford the higher cost figure. When we were in Europe in November, 1994, they made a plea for our assistance.

Bro. Wendell Gudeman and I, on behalf of our two churches, agreed to try to help them get this good work started with the under-

standing we had the approval of our US Mission Committee and Elder body. This was encouraged and supported.

One of the tapes of young people from Dunavece was the result of a singing we heard after church services there last fall that touched our hearts and brought tears to our eyes and they were delighted to be able to share in this labor of love.

Many of the songs you, of course, will recognize and all of them are a part of their worship and song service and culture. We feel confident you will enjoy and appreciate them all. Those of you dear ones that visited Hungary and heard the beauty and power of their voices will be greatly refreshed and to the many who have not had that privilege will understand at least in part what we have been able to benefit so wonderfully by and also to give your support to this most worthy cause.

*Our gratitude,
Brothers Wendell Gudeman
and Ben Maibach*

Silver Threads

Come Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home;
 All is safely gathered in,
 Ere the winter storms begin:
 God, our Maker, doth provide
 For our wants to be supplied;
 Come to God's own temple, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field,
 Fruit unto His praise to yield;
 Wheat and tares together sown,

Unto joy or sorrows grown:
 First the blade, and then the ear,
 Then the full corn shall appear;
 Lord of harvest, grant that we
 Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
 And shall take His harvest home;
 From His field shall in that day
 All offenses purge away,
 Give His angels charge at last
 In the fire the tares to cast,

But the fruitful ears to store
 In His garner evermore.
 Even so, Lord, quickly come
 To Thy final harvest-home;
 Gather Thou Thy people in,
 Free from sorrow, free from sin:
 There forever purified,
 In Thy presence to abide;
 Come, with all Thine angels, come,
 Raise the glorious harvest-home.

Submitted by Iowa City and Garden Grove Churches

I long had borne a weary load,
 Along life's rough and thorny road.
 And often times had wondered why,
 My friend walked burdenless, while I
 Was forced to carry day by day,
 The cross which on my shoulders lay.

When Lo! One day the Master laid
 Another cross on me! Dismayed
 And faint, and trembling and distressed,
 I cried, "Oh, I have longed for rest
 These many days, I cannot bear
 This other heavy load of care.
 I pray thee, Lord, behold this one,
 Shall I bear both, while he has none?"

No answer came, the cross was laid
 On my poor back, and I was weighed
 Down to the earth, and as I went
 Toiling along, and almost spent,
 Again I cried, "Lord, have I been
 Untrue to thee, is it for sin
 That I have done, that I must still
 Carry this cross against my will?"

BEARING THE CROSS

"My child," the Master's voice returned,
 "Hast thou not yet the lessons learned.
 The burden thou hast borne so long,
 Has only made thee grow more strong,
 And fitted thee to bear for me
 This other load I lay on thee?
 Thy brother is too weak as yet
 To have a cross upon him set."

"God's burdens rest upon the strong.
 They stronger grow who bear them long,
 And each new burden is a sign,
 That greater power to bear is thine."

So now, no longer I repine
 Because a heavy cross is mine.
 But struggle onward with the prayer,
 "Make me more worthy, Lord, to bear."

Submitted by a sister from Roanoke, IL

“JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS”

Sermon by Bro. Mark Gerber of Bluffton, IN

Psalm 92 and Luke 19:1-10

A short story and a simple story. Nothing complicated about it, but really a miraculous story when we think about the conversion of Zacchaeus. In verse nine, Jesus summarized the whole event when He said, “This day is salvation come to this house.”

In a short, simple process, Zacchaeus went from being a sinner, condemned to die and condemned to hell, to becoming saved and having a promise of Heaven. As we think of these two households here, salvation has come to their house also and we rejoice in that. It is a beautiful experience!

As we go through this story and think about this story, there are those of us today who have experienced this conversion. So let us reflect as we go through this and let's think back to the time when we were converted and let us be uplifted. There are times when we tend to forget. So those of us who are converted today and have gone through the experience that Zacchaeus has, let us be encouraged. Those of you who may be with us today who are not yet converted, maybe from this story, it may spark some interest. It might give you a desire to go through the same experience as what Zacchaeus went through.

“And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.” (Luke 19:1-2). That verse tells us some information about what Zacchaeus was. First of all, he was a publican and we all know what a publican was. They were tax collectors. He was a Jew, apparently. The Bible tells us that at the end of the passage, but they were assigned to go out and collect taxes

for the Roman government.

They were crooked and they cheated and I don't think that it was as clean cut as our tax system is, even though our tax system isn't real clean cut. But they were allowed to go out and they had to give so much to the government. Oftentimes, they would overcharge and they would cheat the people and that is how they became very rich.

So he was publican. We read in Matthew where Jesus classifies the publicans with the prostitutes. They were despised. They did not have a lot of friends except in their own gang. This verse also tells us that Zacchaeus was chief. He had a high position. Not only was he a wicked publican, but he was the chief publican. I am sure all of his fellow publicans looked up to him and I am sure that he had a lot of respect in his circles.

Then, the last part of that verse tells us another point about Zacchaeus. He was rich. He had money. So, it seems like he had everything. He had a good paying job even though it was crooked. He had fame. He was the chief publican. People looked up to him. He had plenty of money. He was rich.

So, if we stop at verse two, we get a picture of Zacchaeus. My picture is not very good as I think of Zacchaeus up to that point and time. But then we go on to verse three. You know, Zacchaeus apparently had a need in his heart. Verse three is just so beautiful! It says, “And he sought to see Jesus.” He sought to see Jesus!

We as people exist and try to fulfill our desires. We try to accumulate and meet our needs. We do that, don't we? Especially here in America, we do that in a physical sense. It is easy to meet our needs.

We go out and get friends to meet our emotional needs.

But God created us as a spiritual being. We are spiritual creatures. That is what makes us different than all the rest of His creation. That spirit within us desires to be reconciled with God. We can heap up all the riches and all the fame and take care of every other aspect of our life, but if we do not fulfill that spiritual hunger that is within us, we will never obtain happiness.

I can just imagine that that is what happened to Zacchaeus. He had it all. He was successful. But yet, something was lacking. He sought to see Jesus. He had a spiritual need. You know, when we seek something (we all do that, don't we?) like at home, when we lose something, we go and look for it. “He sought to see Jesus who He was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.” (Luke 19:3).

“Zacchaeus, he was a wee little man.” We all know the song. He was a short fellow. He couldn't, apparently, see over the crowd. Jesus was coming into Jericho and by that time, I am sure His fame was throughout the land. We read in the previous chapter that He was healing people. He healed a blind man as He came into Jericho. People like to see that.

I can just imagine it. Can't you just picture that? Jesus coming in with His disciples, heading for Jerusalem, coming into Jericho, and all of a sudden, the word spread like wildfire, “Jesus is coming! The man that healed the blind and did all of these miracles. Let's go see Him. Maybe He will do a miracle for us!”

Apparently, there was a huge group of people around Jesus and

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

poor Zacchaeus was trying to see Jesus. We have all been there. Remember when we were kids going to parades? When we got stuck behind the big people and couldn't see the people coming through, what a frustration that was!

We were at Disney World not long ago and we were going to watch some show. We got to the place too late and our kids couldn't see and we had to hold them up. That almost ruined the show — holding them up the whole time. That is a frustration.

I am sure that Zacchaeus was frustrated. He had a true spiritual need and he wanted to see Jesus, just like these young people did. They all testified last night that there was something empty in their life and they sought something more than what they had. So these four young people did not just sit there. They did as Zacchaeus did.

I love what the Bible says. In verse four, "He ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him." (Luke 19:4). Now picture this. This is one of the most prominent people in Jericho. I am sure he was dressed "fit to kill" because he was rich. I am sure people looked up to him. But his spiritual need was so great that he did not care what anybody thought.

I can just see him running out ahead. The whole crowd was back here and I can just see Zacchaeus sprinting with all his might, running like crazy because he knew where the crowd was going and he knew of a certain tree down the road that he could climb up into, and he could see Jesus!

He put forth the effort to run. He climbed up in that tree and he didn't care. He had to realize that there he was going to be hanging out of this tree with his nice clothes on and all of these people were going to be coming and see

him up in this tree. Here is Zacchaeus, the man who has everything and the man that is in control of everything, hanging out of a tree with his nice clothes on.

"He ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way." (Luke 19:4). If we have a spiritual need, if we have a spiritual hunger, it does us no good to sit and do nothing.

A couple of weeks ago, I got sick. I got a sinus infection and a sore throat and it was a bad one — one that I got a fever with. I got it at about eleven o'clock at night. I slept all night and when I woke up in the morning, I could not even swallow. I had an infection and I knew I was sick. My temperature was high and I was miserable.

I laid there in bed and I thought, "I don't have enough strength to get out of bed." I was so sick, but I knew that if I wanted to get better, I had to see a doctor. I had a need. I had a great need, but I had to take the effort to pick up the telephone and dial, 824-3500, and make an appointment with our doctor. At 10:30, I had to drag myself out of bed, so I could make it to an appointment at 10:45. I pulled myself up to the hospital and the doctor gave me an antibiotic. I went home and went back to bed, but it healed me!

If I would have sat there in bed, who knows what would have happened. Maybe, eventually, I would have gotten better. But I had to take the effort to do that.

That is what Zacchaeus did. He could have just sat there and said, "Well, I will just sit around here and let Jesus pass by. Yes, I really would like to have Jesus." But his need was so great that he took the effort to run ahead and to climb that tree. He put himself into a position to see Jesus.

I think that all of us need to do that, whether we are converted or

unconverted. There are times when our relationship with Jesus tends to slip. We need to have that hunger and we need to run ahead. We need to put ourselves in a position to see Jesus.

Those of you that do not know Jesus on a personal level, who have not repented as the Scripture says, where are you putting yourself? What places are you putting yourself in? Are you putting yourself in a position to have a personal encounter with Jesus? The Bible tells us that needs to be done. Jesus will not come to us and force us to repent ever. He wants us to come to Him in humility. Again, these four young people have been such an example to us in doing this, as we heard them testify last night.

As that crowd came along, and people were stretching their necks to get a view of Jesus, verse five says, "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." (Luke 19:5).

So, Zacchaeus had a need, didn't he? He took the effort to run ahead and to put himself in a position to see Jesus. He climbed that tree and then Jesus came along. I would have loved to have seen that! There were people everywhere and Jesus came along and approached that tree. We all know our Lord. He had Zacchaeus labeled probably before He ever got to Jericho. He knew that Zacchaeus would be up in that tree. He knows everything!

As that crowd came along and people were stretching their necks to get a view of Him, verse five says, "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." (Luke 19:5). I am not sure Zac-

chaeus expected that.

Have you ever been in a position where you run into somebody who you did not expect to see? I remember just a couple of weeks ago I was in my office, and I walked out to our front office and right there, in our front office, was our congressman who represents us in Washington. He was just right there, face to face. Not that he is any different than you and I, but he is a political figure. All of a sudden, he was just right there...I just saw him.

I am sure that we have all had that experience. I bet that that is what happened to Zacchaeus. I am not sure what he expected when he was in that tree, but all of a sudden, Jesus came along and He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down!"

It is amazing! Those of us who have repented, wasn't there a time in our life when Jesus told us, "Come down. Come, I must abide at your house. I must make salvation come to your house today."? When He called, we had a choice.

Zacchaeus had a choice. In fact, Jesus was even a little bit bold. We probably wouldn't think about doing that, would we? We are a little sensitive about inviting ourselves over. We have neighbor kids and we tell our kids, "When you go to their house, don't you dare invite yourself in. Don't you dare." If the neighbor kids come over and invite themselves in, we kind of resent that a little bit.

So Jesus was a little bit pushy there. He said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house." Sometimes, Jesus works that way. Again, those that may be unconverted today, He may be a little bit pushy because He wants in. He wants into your hearts. But He will never bang the door down, will He? He may be a little pushy trying to get in, but He will always knock.

Zacchaeus had a choice. Jesus was inviting Himself into Zacchaeus' house. Verse six is such a beautiful response—a response that we need to have every day as we interact with Jesus. Verse six says, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully." (Luke 19:6). Isn't that beautiful?

He had the need. He ran after it — put himself into a position to see Jesus. Jesus was faithful. He came that way. Jesus probably could have turned the corner and went down a different block, but Jesus was faithful. He understood that need. He invited Himself in. Zacchaeus immediately made haste — right away! He climbed down that tree and he received Jesus!

It is probably one of the most key things about the Christian faith as we think about the whole process of salvation. The fact that all of us are born sinners...we are all born condemned to go to hell. There will be people that tell us, "No, man is basically good. It is just that society has made him bad." But we all know better. We all know ourselves well enough. If we are really honest with ourselves, we know that we were all born into sin and had a bent to do things wrong. We had a bent to rebel against God.

He made a way. God made a way through sending Jesus Christ and making available through the supreme sacrifice of Jesus, that Jesus paid the price so that we can have fellowship with God. He offers that gift out there. I love what the Bible says, "Zacchaeus came down and received Jesus joyfully." (Luke 19:6).

He opted to take the gift. Jesus gave him the greatest possession that anyone could ever possess, and Zacchaeus grabbed it and took it. Why are we always so hesitant to take things that Jesus wants to

give us or that anyone wants to give us? Sometimes we are just too proud.

I remember one time when I was in the young group, and seeing all these young kids here today is just really an inspiration. I appreciate your enthusiasm and just encourage you to keep walking in the service of the Lord. But I can remember when I was in the young group and we took a camping trip out to Colorado. We went to a grocery store to pick up some supplies for our trip and then, as we were going back to the car, there was another car there with the hood open. There was a lady, a little bit older than us, and she needed a lift. Her car had broken down and she needed a lift to the gas station.

We said, "Yes, we will take you. Come on in." It was right on our way out. I was driving, so she got into the car and we took her down to her son's gas station. It wasn't even out of our way, but maybe held us up thirty seconds. She got out of the car and reached into her purse and she wanted to pay us a dollar. She said, "Here, take this dollar for taking me."

I said, "No, no way am I going to take that. It was not even out of our way. We were just on our way out." She said, "No, take it, take it." I flatly was not going to take it. Gary Ringger was in the back seat and he said, "Mark, take it. Take it and say 'Thank you'." I looked at him and said, "What?" He said, "Take it and say 'Thank you'." So I took it and that opened a wonderful discussion.

The Lord taught me a lesson that day. As we talked about it, he said there are times when people want to give you something and we should receive it thankfully. How that applies to salvation!

Jesus is standing there and He is offering salvation freely — a free

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

gift! We were all there. We all come to the point of repentance and there is always something that is holding us back that we don't want to take the gift. We don't want to just joyfully take it and say, "Thanks".

We are thankful that these four young people have taken the gift. We experienced that last night. They took this gift and they opened it up and they are enjoying it.

"He made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner." (Luke 19:6-7). Isn't that amazing? The Pharisees stood back and they criticized, and they said, "What is Jesus doing with that Zacchaeus? he is the scum of the earth." Again, isn't it beautiful that Jesus is not a respecter of persons?

We are having four baptisms in Bluffton this weekend. As we interviewed the converts, three of the four said, "I just didn't think that I could repent because I just don't know the Bible that well. I am not Bible smart." It doesn't matter, does it? Jesus came to save the sinners. We read that in verse ten.

Verse eight, "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." (Luke 19:8). The sign of a converted person. What was the fourth thing that Zacchaeus did? He gave!

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man. Probably the most precious thing

in his life, up to verse three, was his wealth. That was his god. Then Jesus touched his heart and he gave. He gave his money, willingly. I do not see anywhere here that Jesus told him to give. Do you? He said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor." (Luke 19:8).

If we just go back in the chapter, we can read the story about the rich, young ruler that came to Jesus and asked Jesus, "What can I do to be saved?" Jesus said, "You know the commandments." The young, rich ruler said, "I have done all of this. I have kept them." Jesus asked of the rich, young ruler, "Then, sell what you have, give to the poor and come follow me." (See Luke 18:18-22).

We all know the answer to that story. The rich, young ruler turned away sorrowful because he was a rich man. What a contrast to Zacchaeus! The rich, young ruler was not converted. He did not have Jesus. But once Jesus touched the heart of Zacchaeus, he gave. It was just natural.

It is interesting, too, in that story, Jesus goes on and has a little dissertation about rich men and how hard it is for the rich man to enter Heaven because their heart is with money and it's not with God. Yet, ironically, in the very next chapter, Jesus encounters one of the wealthiest men in the community. It is such a simple process to be saved.

Verse 27 in the previous chapter said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:27). We have experienced that again with these four young ones. Look what they have done. Conversion is some-

thing that is totally a gift of God, a work of Him.

"Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house..." (Luke 19:9).

Verse ten...what a beautiful verse to end up with. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." You know, the Scripture teaches me that it definitely takes effort on our part.

We have to have a spiritual hunger to meet Jesus. We have to put ourselves in a position to see Jesus. Then we have to receive the gift and repent of our sins. Come in humility and repent.

The Bible talks again and again about repenting, which is coming to a point of conversion...coming to a point where we say, "I am nothing. I need to turn. I need Jesus Christ to fulfill the spiritual desires of my heart to receive the gift." Then, the natural out flowing of that is to give.

In verse ten, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10). Jesus Christ did a lot of things when He was here. We read a lot about that this morning when Bro. Paul shared. He healed the sick and He taught and He gave us an example. He just did so many things, didn't He? But what was His purpose? His purpose is in verse ten, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

That was His number one goal. It was back two thousand years ago when Jesus walked and that still is His number one goal today — to seek and to save that which is lost.



IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Keep in mind what the Lord did for us and how much He suffered on the cross for us. He was willing to suffer the cross for the glory that was set before Him. That same glory lays before us and He hasn't asked us to suffer the cross. He has asked us to do a few things. **ARE THESE THINGS TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO ASK?**

- 1. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** us to put aside worldly entertainment, such as TV, movies, organized sporting activities, including skiing, golfing, bowling and such like which steal our time and potentially weaken us spiritually?
- 2. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Brothers to wear their hair short, neatly trimmed, and to keep their faces clean shaven of facial hair?
- 3. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Sisters to wear their hair long, which is scriptural, gathered and put up unadorned (also scriptural) in a modest fashion?
- 4. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Brothers and Sisters to wear modest apparel, refrain from wearing shorts and other scanty or suggestive clothing and to wear everyday clothing that defines our gender?
- 5. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Sisters and Brothers to refrain from using cosmetics, jewelry, or to try to enhance their God-given appearance?
- 6. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Brothers and Sisters to shun membership in worldly organizations whose main purpose is pleasure and social activities?
- 7. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** for our Brethren to avoid the use of drugs that destroy our minds and bodies and worldly music that can so easily disturb our spiritual inner peace?
- 8. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** to hold fast to these traditions, to defeat the intrusion of worldliness into our churches and restore unity, harmony, and peace in our churches and among us?
- 9. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** to hold fast to these traditions to preserve the precious church and faith that we have come to know and love and depend upon so much?
- 10. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK** to keep the promises that we have made that we would be obedient to God and the church for as long as we live?

**ARE THESE THINGS TOO MUCH TO ASK OR
ARE THEY JUST A REASONABLE SERVICE?**

-1995 Brotherhood Conference



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The Faith Spreads

The fervent preaching and carefully following of the Bible's precepts instigated a spiritual awakening that resulted in the establishment of many new congregations in Switzerland during the 1830's to the 1850's.

According to the late Henry Michel, a European minister in the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene), approximately 110 churches were founded in 35 years. He stated these figures in a history presentation at Lake Bloomington, IL in 1947.

A fervor to proclaim a true gospel, to submit unreservedly to the Word, and to boldly rebuke the doctrinal errors of the Swiss state church resulted in spiritually hungry souls responding affirmatively to the gospel's invitation to repent and become converted. Great care was subsequently expended to nurture and care for these new believers. The Bible's pattern of brotherhood and church community was established.

In the early days of the "Froehlich" movement, it was the pattern to send out preaching brothers. If there were more than two ministers at a given worship service, they would be sent out "on the road" in efforts to draw souls. As time progressed, and congregations became larger and more numerous, today's multi-pastorate system developed.

The "spreading" of the Word beyond Switzerland's borders appears to have been Spirit-led as opposed to man's deliberate planning. Froehlich himself was enormously preoccupied with the care of the new churches in his native land. Communicating with

and visiting the new churches - as well as dealing with a troubling schism in the 1840's - drained significant energies from his spiritual fervor. Too, he was continually harassed by the state church. Thus, his personal involvement in evangelism outside Switzerland was limited.

The gospel spread in two directions from Switzerland - east and west. In each instance, it was from "outside" inquiry, and from nations which already had varying religious denominations.

In the mid-1840's, Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich received a letter from a man in upstate New York who formerly had been a member of one of his churches in Switzerland. This man was presently with a group of Mennonites who were having difficulties, and a schism was developing.

The letter requested that Bro. Froehlich come to America to adjudicate their problem. His responsibilities and overall spiritual workload prohibited this possibility. Instead, he convened a special meeting of the brethren in Switzerland and ordained young 29-year-old Benedict Weyeneth as an Elder. Bro. Weyeneth, at that time a single brother, was dispatched to America to meet with the Mennonites in Lewis County, New York.

He preached from the Bible as they did in Switzerland. He emphasized (per the scriptures) the importance of repentance toward God, and baptism by immersion. Almost half of the Mennonites in the Croghan-Naumburg area heard God's call, and left the Mennonite church. Thus, our first American congregation was established in 1847.

Bro. Weyeneth went back to Europe, got married, and subsequently returned to America. He located in Roanoke, Illinois. He was the first American elder. His pattern of ministry was one of almost constant travel and preaching here in America. One spring, his wife, the former Elizabeth Blunier, implored him to return to Roanoke saying, "It's time to plant the crops." He said he was more effective at preaching than farming.

Interesting circumstances resulted in the faith spreading eastward from Switzerland. Young men studying as shop apprentices in Europe would travel through a variety of areas as part of their training. This broadened their experience.

Two young Hungarian men, John Denkel and John Kropacsek, traveled through Vienna to Switzerland and came under the preaching influence of Bro. Samuel Froehlich. They became converted and on returning to their native Hungary, began telling others of their conversion—and their devotion to biblical truth.

Ultimately, a young Hungarian apprentice, John Hencsey, became converted. His humble demeanor, and his sincere devotion to the Word, resulted in his being the major force in the establishing of a church of our faith in Hungary in the 1840's.

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

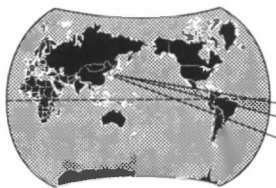
Next Issue:

More about Hungary

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Every Remembrance”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

What will you be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day? It's a tradition in America to be thankful for this year's harvest. We are also thankful for clothes to wear and a place to sleep. Those of us who are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are thankful for redemption. We are thankful for all of nature, the sun, moon and stars. How we rejoice with thankfulness if we can see, hear, speak and think. We are thankful for our church, for our friends, and for our families. And we are thankful for memories — we can remember.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 1, verse 3, it is written, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” He was not with the Philippian believers but he had memories for which he was thankful. This is something worth contemplating and utilizing.

There are two aspects of memories in human relations. One aspect concerns our memo-

ries of others and the other aspect concerns memories which others have of us. The latter aspect is mentioned in I Corinthians 11:2, “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things.”

Sad to say, some memories of others may not be good. We may have been mistreated. We should forgive and try to avoid thinking about those things. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12). There are more pleasant and encouraging things to think about.

We all have many wonderful memories of our parents, our spouses, our children, our fellow believers, and our friends, living and deceased, for which we humbly give thanks during this Thanksgiving season and forever. “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” So many have been so loving and kind and helpful to us. Thank you, and thanks be to God for

your service.

It is easier to be thankful for your remembrance of others than it is to live so that others will be thankful for their remembrance of you. How can I live so that others will have pleasant and thankful thoughts of me? Please forgive me where I have failed. I shall try to do better, by God's grace.

We need to have the fruit of the Spirit in our daily walk of life. We need to respect others sincerely and “Condescend to men of low estate,” (Romans 12:16), remembering that our bodies return to dust until the resurrection and our spirits would be condemned except for the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Will others be giving thanks to God for every remembrance of us, ever after we are deceased? Let's try to live so that will happen, and meanwhile, let's thank God for all the wonderful remembrances we have of others.

希望の光



Fairbury, IL - 1892

In 1892 this white two story structure became the early Fairbury church. The early church had stables and sheds on three sides which formed a courtyard. In 1950 the church was remodeled and in 1965 the congregation moved to the present edifice.

In 1949, the church grew substantially when South Side began worshipping with the Fairbury congregation.

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