

The Silver Lining

A black and white photograph of a grasshopper perched on a piece of rough, cracked bark. The grasshopper is facing left, with its long antennae and legs clearly visible. The background is a dense, out-of-focus thicket of dry grass or reeds, creating a textured, natural setting. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the bark and the grasshopper's body.

...and there shall be ... Pestilences

June 1996

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

Matthew 24:7



"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Matthew 24:12,13

...and there shall be ... Pestilences

If we could take the pulse of the globe, we would say we are in trouble. The signs of the times are as the Bible warns and they are eminent. We read in Matthew 24 and Revelation, as well as other books in the Bible, that we must take heed that no man deceive us. The Lord is coming again to rapture the Church; will we be ready to go?

In Matthew 24:7, we read of pestilences that are to come in the latter times, and it is sobering to watch the "vital signs of our globe." What is pestilence? If we go to the dictionary, we find that pestilence is "any virulent or fatally contagious or infectious disease specially one of epidemic proportions," and "anything as a doctrine, regarded as harmful or dangerous."

Let us look at the first definition concerning fatally contagious diseases. Do we have any more contagious diseases today than we have witnessed in the past? We have had smallpox, bubonic plague, and other contagious diseases throughout history, so why be alarmed about a disease like AIDS, or virulent diseases from the past that are becoming resistant to modern medicine, as if they were signs of the times?

Beloved, we need not be alarmed about diseases, famines, earthquakes, wars or anything else that God allows to come upon us while we sojourn on this earth. The Word of God teaches us to be watchful and prepared even as the Israelites were in Egypt, for the time appointed is approaching. We do not want to be caught unawares when the Lord comes again so we watch the signs. "...ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

In 1986, a midwest family was watching the signs in the sky, which threatened of a tornado. Many times before they had watched those signs and they had always looked ominous to them then. Each time the signs showed themselves, they made preparation for their safety without incident. However, on that November day in 1986, the tornado struck. By God's saving power, they were spared. What would have happened if they had not heeded the warning signs and continued to work and play without care? What if that careless comment would have escaped their lips, "We have seen clouds like that before and nothing happened, so why be concerned?"

Therefore, heeding the signs is not only the prudent thing to do, it is our duty to

watch and pray. Not because we are scared, but rather because we want to be prepared.

There are signs that God is giving us that should make us look inward at our heart and mind, asking "am I ready?" Listed here are some signs or statistics that add to our concern.

1. The average global temperature is increasing every year. Last year the average global temperature hit a new high of 59.70 degrees, which is the highest in 130 years of record keeping.

2. Weather related damages for the first half of the 1990's reached \$48 billion, compared with \$16 billion for all the 1980's.

3. The world stock of grain is at an all time low. If all production stopped, we would only have 48 days worth of consumption.

4. Putting even more pressure on grain supplies, is the fact that world meat production and the global fish harvest have reached new highs. In Asia, where prosperity and population growth are occurring, it is bringing rapid increases in demand for meat.

5. Despite global agreements to limit carbon emissions, a record 6.1 billion tons of fossil fuels was burned last year.

6. HIV infections (*Pestilences*) jumped by a record 4.7 million, as the epicenter for AIDS cases shifted from Africa to Asia. This is caused by a lack of moral ethic and the huge population in that Continent.

7. World population has increased again with a new high of 5.7 billion.

More people, more hunger; more hunger, more demand; and if the supply is down, there will be great conflict to obtain the food necessary to stave off starvation. God has promised to take care of the Bride of Christ, the Church, during the dispensation of grace, by giving grace to the humble. However, as in the Old Testament, God sent pestilences to prepare His children on earth for upcoming tribulation. If those pestilences come, will we be ready?

The second definition the dictionary gives is very sobering.

None of us know the timetable of God, so we can only watch and pray. The signs of the times are before our eyes. Not just those listed on this page, but many others. Spirituality is on a steady decline. Nominal Christians are on the increase. Humanism is on a steady increase and we can even see a certain "Me-ism" occurring before our

very eyes. Me-ism is a doctrine that can overtake us before we know it. Pestilence is anything, as a doctrine, regarded as harmful or dangerous. "Me, I want to do it my way" and "No one has the right to tell me what I can or can not do" are phrases we are beginning to hear all too frequently, even in the Church. Beloved brethren, if we are not united in spirituality and conviction levels now, in the green tree, how will we ever be united during the tribulation of the End Time, in the dry tree? "....These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14). There is only one group of people in the history of humanity that has been able to wash their spiritual robes in the blood of the Lamb. It is they who lived after the crucifixion, for whom Christ shed His precious blood, and that is us. It is the time of God's dispensation of grace.

In the future, will we see a gradual trend toward worldliness in the Church? Will we see the believer speak out, but not carry through with his speech? As the times get tougher through pestilence, will it make us better or bitter people? Will we draw closer to God, or fall farther away? We have much to be thankful for as we live today, and we must be concerned that as the signs of the times reveal themselves, we will watch so that false doctrines will not lull us into complacency. Will we be ready to go when the Lord returns or death takes us? The words we sing, "I want to be ready" rings in our mind, so what are we doing to be prepared?

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
on God's Word

June 1996

Submission vs. Hypocrisy

Christians are challenged on nearly every facet of their faith in this time when society encourages free thinking and a self serving attitude.

An issue that is so critical that is confronting our precious Apostolic Christian brotherhood today is that of submission. So often we hear it said by someone that if they do not have a conviction about an issue, whether it is doctrine, tradition or custom, then there is no responsibility to submit to that particular issue. This erroneous logic is carried to its ultimate extreme. When souls feel free to ignore an issue, they justify their behavior by claiming that not only do they feel a lack of obligation to submit, but they must not submit because doing so would be hypocrisy. Clearly the Word of God condemns hypocrisy; these people justify themselves and set aside the need to do something that they simply prefer not to do. There appears to be a serious misunderstanding of the meanings of hypocrisy and submission.

Hypocrisy is a pretense, a pretending to be what one is not. Jesus utterly condemned the scribes and Pharisees because they were concerned only with outward appearance while allowing internal corruption. God's children would do well to carefully study the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 23, where numerous times Jesus said "...woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..." because they required the people to do something that they were not willing to do themselves.

Christ condemned the scribes and Pharisees because "...they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (Matt. 23:4). He condemned them because (1) their actions were preventing others from entering the kingdom of heaven, (2) they were practicing extortion against widows, (3) they were spreading false doctrine and (4) they were being outwardly devout while inwardly they were "...full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (Matt. 23:28).

It is important to note that Christ did not say that a clean outside is not important. He did not say that the outside of the sepulchers should not be white. He did not say that they should not "...pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin...". What He did say was "...these ye ought to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23). He emphasized very clearly that outward cleanliness by itself was of no value. Inner cleanliness and devotion to doing God's will are vital, and the absence of these characteristics leaves us without eternal hope.

It would be hypocrisy today for an individual to make outward changes that make them appear to be Christlike while they remained inwardly unconverted, proud, vain and full of sin.

Submission, on the other hand, is the quality or condition of being obedient or yielding to the power or control of another. It is critically important that God's people exercise extreme caution in becoming submissive. Being under the power or control of an evil force is a great spiritual concern and would cause us to lose our salvation. However, Christians often must submit to the authority of our land, when there is no contradiction to the Word of God, even though we would rather not submit. We find ourselves submitting to the power of the government in many areas in which we have no particular conviction. Many people pay their taxes because they are willing to be obedient to the government rather than because they have a conviction that taxes are a good thing.

Although we certainly do not put submission to the government on an equal basis with submission to Christ and the church, we must remember that Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21).

Submitting to the teachings of the church in things that are sometimes referred to as the small and unimportant matters or to those things which are sometimes called merely traditions, can go a long

way toward unifying the brotherhood and preserving the identity that helps keep us separated from the world. Many of our traditions and customs are very helpful in providing a spiritual protection that helps keep us farther from the evil that is so prevalent in the world today. None of us would recommend to our children that they get close to physical danger as long as they don't become ensnared. We advise them to stay far from danger. We should do no less spiritually.

In Ephesians 5:17-21 the Apostle Paul writes "...be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is ... Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." In Hebrews 13:17 he writes "...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." Peter tells us "Likewise ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5). Perhaps there are some who feel our precious faith is too restrictive and places too much emphasis on things of minor importance. Those who have been placed in positions of responsibility in the church will be called to give an account of their stewardship. They must sound the warning and keep their flock in spiritual safety. It is for this reason that loving caution is urged and submission to the teachings of the church is encouraged.

Jesus was very submissive to the will of the Father in going to the cross for our sins. It is clear in the gospels that He would have preferred to not suffer as He did but He said "...nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).

There are undoubtedly things in this life that we would rather not do. The example and teachings of Jesus Christ should serve as our model in helping us submit even in some areas where we would rather do our own will.



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

World Relief health assistance efforts continue in Mexico

In the past few years, medical-dental service to the needy in Mexico has involved about 170 people representing 39 of our churches in a united effort to serve the poor who need it so much. Those who have participated bring personal testimonies of the spiritual benefits they receive while assisting Christ's "little ones".

Government instability

During the three years this work has been ongoing, teams of volunteers have encountered a host of obstacles. As is typical in developing nations, the officials can sometimes create situations difficult to handle. Each group seems to experience different challenges, but so far the Lord has helped to overcome each of them and provided a blessing.

Here in the U.S., we take the security provided by our system of law enforcement for granted. Sometimes we find ourselves reminded by a policeman that we are breaking the law, which we can resent. However, even this is a blessing, because it provides order in which we can function as a society.

Medical-dental projects

In Mexico, medical-dental work team projects near Jaurez are coordinated by a Mexican man by the name of Chito Aguilar, who makes the day-to-day arrangements. In March, 1996, a team of 32 people from 21 congregations traveled to this area to provide medical-dental services to which the poor have limited access otherwise.

Giving God all honor and glory, the team discovered that their entire load of donated supplies, medicines, food, clothing, and Bibles had reached its destination in Mexico before the team arrived. With such a blessing, this trip was one of the most successful in history as pertains to the number of people helped, as well as the benefits received from each individual who participated in the work.

It is only proper to give humble appreciation to the many faithful sisters and brothers throughout our land who have labored to make comforters, bandages, kits, soap, and other items which are more valuable than gold in these impoverished countries. You who did the work will never know how much it helped, but Almighty God knows.

How the local authorities viewed the efforts of our work team

On this trip, a very interesting thing happened. The man responsible for approving the work and the shipment was Sergio Vázquez, elected as a congressman in Mexico City in December, 1995. His campaign promise was to help the poor, and Chito works as his ambassador in the Juarez area. Chito has no political power, but carries identification establishing official approval. This position allowed Chito to expedite the movement of supplies across the border. Again, we want to emphasize how much such authority facilitates bringing supplies into third world nations. It is also noteworthy that Sergio professed no faith in God prior to this visit by our work team.



Providing aid to the needy

After arriving in Juarez on Thursday, March 20, the team found themselves with nurses, farmers, physical therapists, one housekeeper, dental hygienists, 2 doctors, and a ministering brother. Our brethren encourage a minister to accompany each team, and urge brothers who could go to make this known.

What was the benefit?

In this case, the team arrived on Wednesday and worked from Thursday until the end of the next Tuesday. They provided vitally needed medical and dental care to 3,326 local Mexican people, which is a record number. From the viewpoint of the Mexico Board, the World Relief

Committee, and our entire brotherhood, we ask ourselves what did this trip accomplish, and what were its benefits? The statistics of who was helped are already written. Each of us should search the scriptures, especially in Matthew 25:31-46 to learn what our Lord and Savior described as our duty here on earth.

The greatest impact came at the end of the trip when Sergio, the skeptical government official, told Chito that after seeing the witness of our workers, he wished to commit his life to the Lord. We leave this to God, who is the judge of all things. He would have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Just across the river

The Bible, along with many hymns, speaks of crossing the river. Most of those references talk of entering a land of happiness into which the traveler moves with hope and joy. Things on earth are quite different from the bliss of heaven, and crossing a river can mean entering a world with huge contrasts from the one in which we live. This is the case with Mexico, just across the Rio Grande river.

Spanish ancestry

Mexico is the third largest country in Latin America (after Brazil and Argentina) and is bordered by the United States on the north and Guatemala and Belize on the southeast. Ancient empires--including those of the Maya, Olmec, Zapotec, Toltec, and Aztec Indians--flourished there for centuries before the Spanish conquest of 1519. The Europeans who entered and subdued the country called Mexico were the Spanish Conquistadors who claimed the land for their Catholic monarchs.



Modern Mexican society has its roots in the interaction between these two diverse civilizations, the American Indian and the Spanish. The Spaniards, the Indians, and their mestizos (mixed offspring) have shared a land limited in resources and a generally difficult climate. Their history has been characterized by poverty and struggle and by frequent and intense violence. The Mexican family unit is very strong and they are a warm, friendly and passionate people. Many are desperately poor. Today, Spanish is the official language, and 97% of the people are nominally Catholic.

Statistical facts

Mexico has a land area just under three times the size of Texas. The terrain includes high, rugged mountains, low

coastal plains, high plateaus, and desert. The climate varies from tropical to very dry. Mexico is at the same time a land of beauty that dazzles the eye, and tragedy that saddens the soul.

From only about 15 million persons in 1910, Mexico's population grew to 34 million in 1960, more than 66 million in 1980, and 94 million in 1995. Almost half of its citizens are under age 15, and only about 4% are over 65. Over 71% of the Mexicans live in an urban environment, sometimes under distressing conditions. Huge slum areas surround many major cities, with people living in cardboard shacks in or near dump sites.

Health care

Mexican life expectancy is about 10% shorter than the U.S. Health care is available only to those who can afford it, which is a small percentage. There are 11.1 nurses and 0.4 dentists per 10,000 people, compared with 132.2 nurses and 5.9 dentists per 10,000 people in our land.

Infant mortality in Mexico is 43 deaths as compared with 9.1 deaths per 100,000 live births here. 79% of urban residents have access to safe water, but only 51% of rural residents have it available.

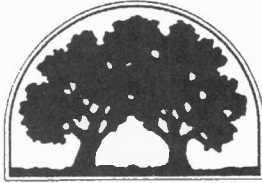
Economic conditions

Mexico has struggled for years with a high foreign debt, and presently inflation is very high. This results in a very unstable Peso, the effects of which the poor feel the most. For a number of years, World Relief has been working in Mexico to address these great needs. While it is true that one can help only a limited number of people, it is a fact that those who receive assistance are grateful beyond measure. As we give thanks to God that we were born in a country with such great opportunity, we recognize that most important is the knowledge of the plan of salvation.

So in the spirit of brotherly love as taught by our Savior, we hope to extend a hand of mercy to the less fortunate and to send the gospel message to all those who have never heard.

World Relief Mexico Board

World Relief activities in Mexico are coordinated by our Mexico Board. Each year, work teams visit the area around Juarez, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. There are two different areas of assistance. One being medical-dental, and the other home building projects. Volunteers are always welcome, and should contact their local Treasurer-Representative for scheduling and details. These projects are also listed in the World Relief "Update" newsletter.



**GATEWAY WOODS
ASSISTANT
HOUSEPARENT
NEEDED**

*When God says Go...
Don't Say No!*

We have an opening for an Assistant Houseparent here at Gateway Woods. If you are a single sister and you are interested in full time service to others, you may be the one God has chosen to come and join our family here at Gateway Woods. The work here is challenging, rewarding, and inspiring. We trust that a mature sister will respond to our need and to the Lord's leading.

Please contact one of the Brothers listed below for more information about qualifications, training, salaries, and benefits for this position.

John Stoller
Child Care Supervisor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219-627-2159

David Bertsch
Counseling Elder
11520 Grabill Rd.
Grabill, IN 46741
219-627-2923

**URGENT NEED
FOR TEACHER**

The Apostolic Christian Preschool needs a teacher beginning June 1. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call for more information: Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205)232-2035.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

Recently I read a daily devotion that said something that we probably all know. "There are many shadows in life but where there is a shadow there must be a light," and we all know that Jesus is that light. If we could just keep our face toward the light, perhaps the shadows would not seem as dark. God tells us that we can put our cares on Him and He will care for us. He also tells us that, "My Grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (II Corinthians 12:9). I'm sure we have all had experiences in life where we needed to rely on God and His beautiful promises.

After 22 years of working for the Home for the Handicapped and two years of helping as a volunteer, God willing, I plan to retire the end of August. During my years of service as Office Manager, there have been many changes. The Home opened in October, 1971, with 52 beds. In 1978, the Home was increased in size to 104 beds. In 1988, we purchased our first computer and Oakwood Estate, a 16-bed home, was built and occupied. In 1990, two homes were purchased in the community. One for four people and one for six. Two ladies moved to a rental home in 1991 and in 1994 Linden Estate was built and occupied by 16 people. In 1995, we sold the 4-bed home in the community on North Main Street and purchased a duplex on Detroit Street and quite a few more computers were purchased. In early 1996, a time clock system was installed and the du-

plex on Detroit Street was remodeled into a 3-bedroom duplex on one side. Rhonda Gerst and Jackie Barton moved from 652 Detroit Street to the two bedroom unit (650 Detroit Street) and in May, 1996, three residents moved to 652 Detroit Street where we have begun a new adventure called CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) which is government sponsored. Soon a new business program will be up and going. If you can read between the lines, you will know what has kept us busy over the years. Our residents here at the Home for the Handicapped have changed with each move. Those who were less physically challenged kept moving on while the residents moving into the Home for the Handicapped have become more physically and mentally challenged. As you can see, there was constant change over the years, but the one thing that has not changed is God's watchful eye over the facilities of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and the staff's love and caring for the residents in each of our facilities. The staff gets to know the residents they work with and makes them feel loved and special. It has been a real blessing to work in a Christian environment all these years. I thank God for this.

We have had a cool (cold) and rainy spring and I have that feeling that we will go from winter to summer. Seems Spring has a hard time happening some years. Our residents have gone on some outings but there has not been much outside activity. Special Olympics was held on May 11 and as you travel around the Home you see residents sporting their medals. They certainly enjoy the Special Olympics contests.

Other moves of residents are: Jane Aberle moved from Linden Estate to 652 Detroit Street; Angie Massner and Anita Schuon moved from Oakwood Estate to 652 De-



**GATEWAY WOODS
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All To Join Us!**

**The 20th ANNUAL
Gateway Woods
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Saturday, August 17, 1996
Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office @ 219/627-2159 with any questions!

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	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1995 —	3,834	3,834
September 1995 —	1,404	5,238
October 1995 —	1,780	7,018
November 1995 —	3,461	10,479
December 1995 —	3,506	13,985
January 1996 —	2,525	16,510
February 1996 —	3,870	20,380
March 1996 —	2,159	22,539
April 1996 —	3,092	25,631
May 1996 —	3,674	29,305

*Repaired Bibles - Song Book -Storybook Shipped - 28

*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.

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

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.

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.

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troit Street; Lois Baumgartner and Sheila Steffen moved from ACHH to Oakwood Estate. Cindy Virkler moved from ACHH to Linden Estate. Mark Mulnix moved to ACHH from Rohmann Plaza, Peoria, IL. We will have two more residents move into ACHH shortly.

July birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH Randy Sieben-thal (3), Gary Feller (5), Michael Oates (18), Dan Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31). OAKWOOD - Chris Knapp (17). LIN-

DEN -Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michelle Maloney (19). At 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Ed Getz (31).

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

Jeff Schumacher

Do we thank God for all things? It seems we often have questions for God about different situations in our lives that don't seem to make sense to us. Sometimes we even con-

vince ourselves that God owes us an explanation. But when situations confront us, either a temptation or trial, do we take time to thank God for it? Do we trust God to bring about good from seemingly terrible situations? Do we look for ways to honor God through our actions when everything in our life seems to be going crazy? Romans 8:28,29 records the promise that we often forget at these times, or it can get so over used that we bristle at the words when we are struggling. In

verse 28 we read, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." The beautiful thing in this verse is that the scripture says ALL things, not just those that make sense to us or the good things, but even the difficult things (if we allow God the opportunity) can bring about good. God's ability is not limited by our humanness, only we are. The purpose is found in the first half of verse 29 where it says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..." Since God has called us and He knows us, He has intended us to be conformed to the image of His Son. The goal of all the situations in our life (good or bad) is to teach us how to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Jesus certainly gave us examples of honoring God in both good and bad situations.

So once we recognize that all situations (good or bad) give us an opportunity to glorify God, do we thank Him for all situations? Do we recognize each situation (good or bad) as an opportunity to glorify God by our response and obedience to His Word? If you feel these are hard questions, you are right, but they are also the truth according to scripture.

As difficult of an issue as this is for Christians to understand and even harder to practice, imagine trying to teach this to a group of children who do not know the Lord. This is the constant battle being fought by the Houseparents in each home on our campus. They daily have an opportunity to witness to the greatness of our Father in heaven. Please pray that as they face each situation with a child that they are able to look to the Father for their strength through the Holy Spirit.

We held our annual Recognition Dinner in May. This dinner is to recognize the staff who have left and board members whose terms are

complete along with those that are just beginning. The former staff that were recognized this year were Sis. Andria Moushon and Sis. Deb Nuenschwander. The outgoing board members who were honored are Bros. Norm Beery (Smithville), Justin Koch (Champaign) and Larry Herman (Peoria). We pray that God will richly bless these Brothers and Sisters for their service. At the Dinner there is an award to the Sister who has exemplified the virtues contained in Proverbs 31. This year the award was presented to our faithful secretary, Sis. Patsy Stoller.

We were blessed in the month of May with many volunteers as the summer gets rolling along. We would like to take this opportunity to thank: Sis. Lisa Waibel (Bay City), Gloria Volk (Dallas), Sis. Sara Aberle (Alatadena) and Bros. Andy Kaufman (Bloomington), Arlan Miller (Gridley), Rick Kaisner (Peoria), Collin Endress (Peoria), Jessie Schroeder (Roanoke). We would like to welcome our newest staff members, Sis. Janel Frank (Bluffton). She will be an Assistant Houseparent with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter. Bro. Bart Rinkenberger (Goodfield) has joined us for the summer as the Volunteer Coordinator. Bro. Dave Kieser (Champaign) has returned as the coordinator of the summer work program, Top Quality, a landscape company. We are still seeking to fill an Assistant Houseparent position in the Schrock household as Sis. Stephany Moser is leaving this summer to teach English in China. Please pray for the Lord's direction in your life in regards to the current staff opening.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Tricia Tucker**

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

Proverbs 22:6

As the school year winds down to its close, the children are practicing for graduation. Every morning the children are spending a few hours working out their own parts for that special night. During practice they recite the preschool's theme verse, Proverbs 22:6. Little do they know that even after graduation they will still be in training for many years to come.

As May draws to a close, we say good-bye to Sis. Beci Fischer. Sis. Beci has been a teacher at the preschool for almost one and a half years. However, we will still be seeing "Miss Beci" every Wednesday and Sunday as she plans to stay in the Athens area.

With the loss of one teacher, a need is created for another. The preschool will be full this summer with enrollment over forty. Please pray that the Lord will guide someone to fill the position. If you are interested or know of anyone please, contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 or the preschool at (205) 233-0591.

There is also a great need for volunteers this summer. Please consider us in your summer plans. Athens is only eighteen miles from the Tennessee border. If you are traveling south for your vacation, we would love for you or your family to stop in for a visit.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

Today, my oldest son helped me to have a clearer view of how God sees us, His children. Matthew was upset and angry because of jealousy over his younger brother. He was crying and fussing because he didn't feel he was treated fairly. After awhile, I noticed he became quiet and began thinking about what I had explained to him. Soon he realized he had been wrong and completely changed his attitude. I was so relieved and so pleased with how

he had changed his attitude. God is so patient with us, when we fuss and feel we are treated unfairly and fail as Christians. Instead of giving up on us, God waits for us to repent and change our ways or attitude and then rejoices with us once again.

Communion was held in Athens on April 21. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore. This, too, is a time to reflect on our Christian walk of life, and change or turn away from harmful ways, and return to God's ways.

Bro. George Kelley has recently gone to his eternal Home. Bro. George was one of our oldest members of the Athens church. He lived to be in his nineties.

Please keep us in your vacation plans this summer. We always enjoy visitors.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

As times change, with less love and concern for one another, the need to take time to be holy and speak often with the Lord is now, not later.

We are grateful to visiting ministers for encouraging messages when Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) came in April.

The Sunday School had their annual pancake breakfast on April 27 for seniors and widows. Everyone appreciated this special treat.

Our monthly church potluck and singing was April 28. Again, our thanks to the many folks who make all this happen.

Single members served lunch on Mother's Day and did all the work, which was really appreciated by that wonderful group called moms.

Our local World Relief workers have moved their supplies and necessities into their very own room (with cabinets). This and our new kitchen, baby rooms and enlarged Sunday School are all part of our church expansion. A special thanks to many for their labor; God knows who you are and is your Rewarder.

Our graduates were honored at a reception in the congregational room on May 12. They were: Ric Banks, Stephanie Gramm, Kristi Hill, Kurt Metzger and Mike Roth from 8th grade. Bro. David Dotterer, Bro. Mark Dotterer, Sis. Heidi Kokanovich and Sis. Carmen Langhofer from high school. Sis. Willow Beres, Brian Emch, and Sis. Heather Labudde from college.

Grateful parents for these achievements are Marcia Banks, Bro. Gregg and Sis. Denise Gramm, Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill, Ed and Jeanne Metzger, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich, Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer, Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres, Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch (and spouse, Aimee), and Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde.

The Ten Commandments are God's guidelines for a worthwhile life (Exodus 20), for a happier tomorrow.

God's love and mercy were felt by several of our homebound, especially Bro. Ted Knochel (prayer power saved Bro. Ted a hospital stay), Sis. Gerry Beyer was in the hospital for studies, Evalyn Howley and Sherry Roth had outpatient foot surgery, and Sis. Linda Yackley has been on crutches.

Our annual business meeting was held May 8. When we go to church on Sunday and again on Wednesday night, we give little thought to how much time and effort is put in to keeping the business portion running, so we can enjoy the end product — a seat in the sanctuary, Sunday School class, kitchen and

dining room.

Bro. John Gerber deserves our thanks as chairman. A special "thanks" to our board members, Bro. Charles Kieser for his term as secretary, Bro. Herb Knochel, Sr. for his term on exterior maintenance, and other brothers who served. New board members are Bro. Erik Langhofer (secretary); Bro. Bob Farney (outdoor maintenance); Bro. John Dotterer, Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (song leaders); Bro. Larry Labudde (usher); Bro. Els Niemeyer (lunch fund); Bro. Wes Kieser and Bro. Randy Wuthrich (congregational room).

Please pray for all the sick and suffering, the homebound and their caretakers in all churches. Let our Lord know you care!

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, flowers, food, gifts of love, and every kind deed done for husband and father, Bro. Melvin Miller. Your loving and caring has been such a blessing.

In His love, Sis. Bertha Miller and family

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

The ministers who served us since April were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bro. Greg Gramm, and Bro. James Emch (all from Phoenix) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO). May God richly bless them and their families for time they spent to travel and serve our small congregation.

The weekend the two Elder brothers and their wives visited, we also enjoyed a fellowship singing and dinner.

Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena Kaeppler, formerly of the Toledo congregation who moved to Arizona over a year ago, have settled into their new home in Sedona.

Tim Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) graduated from the eighth

grade. Congratulations, Tim!

We have had a very dry spring, with no rainfall for two months. For anyone planning to visit our state, be informed that due to the danger of fire, most of the National Forest and State land has been closed to camping, hiking, etc.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our annual business meeting resulted in the following elections: Bro. Steve Bauer, song leader; Bro. Brad Bauer, usher; Bro. Gene Fehr, usher; Sis. Sandy Bauer, Sunday School; and Sis. Joan Knapp, kitchen chairman. We wish these brethren God's guidance and blessings as they take on their new responsibilities. We also want to thank the outgoing members, Bros. Don Bauer, Paul Knoblock and Scott Baum, and Sis. Lucy Knapp and Sis. Sandy Bauer, for their efforts in the positions they held.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ). We thank these brothers for remembering Tucson in their travel plans. Our own ministers especially appreciate this due to the fact that there are only two of them! May God bless your efforts; please come back soon.

Our Sis. Marge Fehr was hospitalized recently. She, along with her family and her brothers and sisters in faith, anxiously awaited the findings of the doctors and we are so happy to know the report is even better than Sis. Marge had hoped. As we heard Sunday, prayers are always answered and this time they were answered far beyond our expectations. We can only look to Heaven and rejoice!

Sis. Keri Baum and Sis. Nicole Baum have finished a year's worth of school at the University of Arizona and have decided to attend school in Phoenix next year. We enjoyed having them while we did and hope they will visit us in the future.

We wish them God's blessings as they continue their educations.

Tonight, many in our congregation will attend the graduation ceremonies for Doug Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria). May Doug continue to seek the Lord for help and guidance as he starts a new phase in his life. Congratulations!

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School which has been scheduled for June 4-8. It is always a special week that we get to spend together. I hope the kids are as excited as I am!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

Greetings to all in our Saviour's name!

Not long ago a sister sent me an article from a major newspaper telling of how a chip that can be placed under the skin may likely be marketed early in the next century. It told of how it would be on a voluntary basis, but that things have a way of starting out voluntarily but soon end up mandatory. It really made me think of the times in which we live and the need to draw closer and closer to our Lord and to each other as brethren in Christ for strength, courage and support. This sister wrote that as she read this, it made Heaven seem so much more important and encouraged me and all our brethren to stay true to God in ALL trials, so we will be able to achieve that goal. These times need not frighten us, but rather cause us to rejoice as the return of our Saviour is all the more near.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;"

Mark 10:7

There's a perfect peace in knowing that God's will has been accomplished in one's life. It pleased our Father in Heaven to bring together two of His own to be joined as one in Him. On April 21, the engagement

of Bro. Kevin Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann, Princeville, IL) to Sis. Grace Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn) was made known. We pray that the Lord will be the center of their marriage as they serve Him as husband and wife. They plan to be married on July 21, Lord willing.

We likewise ask for the Lord's blessings on the marriage of Brian Crockett (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy) and June Ringger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene, Bluffton, IN) who were married on May 3. May they look to the Lord for everything.

We were privileged to partake in Holy Communion on April 28. It's always a special yet sobering time when we, as the body of Christ, can gather together to remember the agony and death of our Lord and Saviour. We want to thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) for helping our own Elder brother in serving us from the Lord's table. Let's never forget the teardrops of blood in the Garden, the mocking and beatings endured, the nailprints in His hands nor the blood streaming down His side. Let's never forget He did all this for you and for me.

A few dear ones have been hospitalized in the past month. Sis. Martha Slenker is back home again, and Bro. Ted Klotzle (Hildegard) is undergoing some tests for a few more days. We pray for both of their recovery as is according to the will of our Lord.

Sis. Blanche Coldeen fell earlier this month and despite some bruises, seems to be doing well. She's in our prayers, too, not only for healing, but also for God's divine strength and comfort as her only son, Earl McDonald, passed away on May 15 from cancer. May she draw much comfort from the Word of God, through prayer and from her family and church family.

The Lord blessed us on May 8 by sending ministering Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) to us. We truly felt inspired from the message.

We're so thankful unto the Lord

for our fathers who have lovingly raised us to love the Lord. May we count our blessings as we remember our fathers this month and every day of the year. Let's also remember the great love shown to us from our Heavenly Father.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huetter

We were richly blessed to have ministering Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Joan, visit us recently. It was a beautiful day and God richly blessed us in hearing His Word. We're glad that Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan chose San Diego for a little vacation. May the Lord richly bless this dear couple and we hope they come back soon.

How special it is to have a day set aside for mothers and fathers. So often they set aside their own activities, tasks and time to give their attention to their children. May God bless all the parents for their love and care, and may He help them to be a true Christian light and example for their children to look up to, respect and learn from. Loving parents will always be appreciated.

I felt so touched on Mother's Day when one of the younger boys in Sunday School handed me a Mother's Day card with a short note in it. It was just beautiful and made by a girl in Bible Class. It's certainly special to see the appreciation our youngsters have for the mothers and grandmothers.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the

mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."
Isaiah 1:18-20

Even as in the Old Testament times in which Isaiah lived, God is still calling souls today to repent and follow Him willingly and obediently. If we do, He will bless us and if we refuse and rebel, He will punish us. God is not bound by man's laws but He does have boundaries He wants us to live within. Let us willingly and obediently follow Him.

We want to thank all our visitors for coming to fellowship with us. We especially thank Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for his willingness to minister God's Word to us.

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus, the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care
When thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.
He'll lighten the load,
And level the road
And bear thee on hands of
compassion.
Zion's Harp #46

With sadness we report the death of Bro. Wayne Saddler's (Sis. Allison) mother, Beatrice Saddler. Bro. Wayne's parents died three weeks apart, which has left a big void in his family. May we remember this family in our prayers.

Summer is a wonderful time to visit this beautiful country of Canada. We welcome anyone who would like to include us in their travel plans. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for directions and more information.

COLORADO, DENVER
Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings across the many miles! We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) with us to share in Holy Communion. May God bless him for his labors.

Once again we bid farewell to an-

other family. Bro. Ben and Sis. Kris Bauman and their children have moved back to Illinois and are now living in Eureka. May God be with them as they get settled in and make this change. They left behind them some duties to be fulfilled. Bro. Chuck Wiegand is replacing Bro. Ben as trustee and Sis. Naomi Wiegand is replacing Sis. Kris on the World Relief Sewing Committee.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider were blessed with a son, Christian Timothy. His brothers, Samuel and Jacob, and sister, Lydia, welcome him home. His grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser.

On April 21 we partook in Holy Communion which was a blessed event. Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) were with us to assist Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the service. We truly appreciate their labor of love and wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser in the passing of her father.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Sis. Olga Lanz was laid to rest on April 27. Our sympathy goes out to her sisters and brother, Sis. Gertrude, Sis. Clara and Bro. Alvin Lanz, as well as the many nieces and nephews.

Sis. Leah Zahner was hospitalized this past month. We trust the Lord will grant her a speedy recovery.

May 11 was the wedding day of Chad Luginbuhl (Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam) and Lynn Kozuch. May the Lord bless them as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

We wish Sis. Melanie Schneider the Lord's blessings as she moves away from our church and makes her home in Forrest, IL.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

“And will be a Father unto you...”
II Corinthians 6:18

One of my co-workers takes time everyday to check with his children to find out how their day went. While I cannot hear the conversation, I can tell by the tone of his voice he is talking to them. Instead of “Mr. Businessman” he is “Daddy”. How blessed we are to have a loving Heavenly Father who takes time to listen to our cares and concerns whenever we call upon Him.

We extend our sympathy to Ken and Roberta Belsley at the death of her mother. Until just a few years ago, she lived with them. May the Lord comfort them and their children at this time.

Our ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bros. Jerry Isch and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH; Morris, MN; Peoria, IL; and Lexington, KY.

This month we marked the tenth year we have been meeting in this area. For those who have visited over the years, we say thank you and God bless. As our visitors know, we have everyone sign the guest book. We are on our third book

In the next paragraph I ask if you are visiting the area to call one of the brothers. This also applies the weekends services are not scheduled. You may be invited to join us for a gathering in someone's home for a tape or ride along to Philadelphia for the day.

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. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. 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) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”

John 6:53

On April 29, our congregation was privileged to partake of Holy Communion. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Bud with this sacred sacrament. We had a church dinner that evening. We enjoy having Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley visit us and are thankful he is willing to be used on our behalf.

Scott Henniger has recently taken employment in the Chicago, IL area. May the Lord be with him as he returns to be with his family.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5,6

Several from our congregation have had surgery and we are thankful for God's healing hand. Sheryl Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri) is home after successful ear surgery. Sis. Joan Kuntz (Bro. Bill) had leg surgery and is progressing well. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ann Klaus traveled to California where Bro. Bill had lung surgery. He is daily making progress for which we are thankful. They still covet our prayers and may we remember them in prayer asking that God's will be done.

Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Jill Sutter are parents of a precious blessing from God, Kaitlyn Renae. Jesse is excited to have a baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Sutter and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanne Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Our prayers and support are with Bro. Roger (Sis. Judy) Sauder as he undertakes his new duties as minister. May God grant him the grace and strength to preach His Word in season and out of season.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) with us to bring us God's Word.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Kay Eisenmann**

Greetings! At this writing, our dear Sis. Edna Meister (Bro. Lester) has had surgery and is still in the hospital. Please remember them both in your prayers. (*Sis. Edna passed away on May 30, 1996: More details will follow in the next issue.*)

On May 5, we had a church cook-out which we all enjoyed very much, especially as our Sarasota brethren were with us. What a special blessing it brings to us all as we can share our joys and sorrows. What a beautiful fellowship we have! May we ever be a thankful church family! There is strength in fellowship; Satan seems to lose his power and we all know how very powerful he can be.

Father's Day is soon here. Are we thankful for our Heavenly Father? Let our life show it—not just our talk but our walk. Many times it is easy to say, but to do them it takes the grace of God and a willing heart! There are many ideas out there. What guideline do you use to follow in this day by day life of ours? Remember, we all will have a payday someday. Each day we build memories. Make sure they are true ones and you can back them up with the true Word of God!

Summer is here now and children are out of school. Sometimes when

raising a family, we forget to enjoy each and every day. It is when we look too far ahead to the cares of tomorrow that we lose the joy of "today". Remember, one day at a time, so we don't become fearful, and we all need the grace of God to do that!

Our children and grandchildren who have graduated this past month need our special prayers as they make their choices as how to go about making their living. May they all ask the Lord to help show them what is best for them. Let them not be deceived by the big dollar but on what kind of people they are going to work with.

Are we living in the last times? Every day it is the end of time for someone, so may the Lord be with us all, and not let the cares of this life "stress" us, always remembering God's promise to never give us more than we can bear.

As a church, we are all praying that some who are thinking of relocating will please consider our little Ft. Myer's church for their home!

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank each and every one for their gifts, calls and most of all their prayers.

Bro. Lester and Sis. Edna Meister

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera and Mary Martin**

We want to thank Bro. Bill Gude- man (Elgin, IL) for taking time out to share God's Word with us. As summer is approaching, our attendance is much smaller and we would like to encourage brethren who are in our area to take time to visit our church.

Sis. Kathryn Shroeder, Bro. George Reardon and our friend, Bernie Kittl, all have recently been hospitalized for a short time. They seem to be doing some better and we pray they will be able to assemble with us again.

We want to express our sympathy to the family of Terese Maibach

(Alan) at the passing away of her stepmother, Pamela Mastrostefano (husband Edward), from Muskego, WI. We know she will be missed by her family and pray that only He can fill void space.

A day at the park was enjoyed by our Sarasota and Ft. Myers families and friends. It brings many blessings to watch the children play and yet take time to visit with the older brethren so the Faith of our fathers can be embedded into their hearts as the future church.

A ministering brother has reminded us that as summer approaches, we are reminded of Jesus' admonition to His disciples to watch for the end times, even as they would watch the olive tree for signs of summer. One of His warnings was that complacency and false doctrine would abound. What concern He must have had as He prepared for His departure that His disciples would stay true to His teachings, and carry on in the way that He was establishing. How easy it is for us to become unmotivated in reading His teachings, the Word of God. How easy it is to turn to human reasoning and the latest doctrinal "fad", rather than diligently drawing nigh to God through His Word so that He will draw nigh to us in our life.

This truly is the faith of our fathers, something that we may think about on Father's Day. Those of us who have had Christian fathers can appreciate their desire to serve God from a pure heart and a true understanding of God's Word. Thanks especially to our Heavenly Father who loved us so much that He sent His Son to tell us in His own words and His own example, what faith He wants us to have.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for all the deeds of love and kindness you showed to our mother during her illness while at home and at Heartland. We deeply appreciated the memorials, cards, flowers, food, visits and prayers since her death. May

God bless each of you.

Mary Ellen and J.C. Ebach and grandchildren

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp**

Bringing God's message to us this past month were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

As we set aside a day this month to honor our earthly fathers, let us remember that our Father in Heaven deserves the greatest honor that we can bestow.

If you are planning a vacation south this summer, please consider a stop in Atlanta. We have services every Sunday beginning at 10:20 a.m. We meet at the Renaissance Hotel, located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Millie Jepson**

"Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

II Timothy 2:14-15

Elder Bro. Nate Steffen brought out these scriptures on April 28 as Bro. Art Mueller received the call from God to become our minister. Bro. Ron Schambach was also present and reminded Bro. Art of Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." The unity and peace in our congregation left no

doubt of the Lord's call to Bro. Art. It was a deeply moving occasion and we were exhorted to pray for him, his dear wife, Sis. Marlene, and his children. As he took his place on the pulpit with our Bro. Dean Steffen, we rejoiced at the goodness of the Lord.

On May 15, we had the election for Sunday School teachers and trustee. Bro. Bill Schifferer was elected the new trustee. Sis. Sandy Darlington was elected to teach the 4-7 year old children, Bro. Jeff Strunk will be teaching the 5th-8th graders, and Bro. Dave Jepson the high school Bible Class. Sis. Sheila McCoy, Sis. Marlene Mueller and Bro. Bill Schifferer are the other teachers in our Sunday School. May God bless these teachers and our ministers as they purpose in their hearts along with the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

The visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bill Gudeman and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). We thank them for serving us and faithfully preaching the Word of God. We really appreciated each minister, their wives and family members and all the other visitors last month.

"Part-time faith, as a part-time job, will not fully support you."

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

We rejoice with David and Shella Brummitt as God brought them a son, David Benjamin, on April 10. David's parents were the late David and Sis. Karen Brummitt. Shella's father is Mucio Alcocer of San Angelo, TX. This young family lives in Smithville, TX and both David and Shella are in repentance.

A precious baby girl, Alayna Renee, was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Tami Masters on April 23. Her older

sisters are Ashley, 6, and Tiffany, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters and Jim and Anita Allen of Leroy, IL.

Holy Communion was held on April 24 with Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisting Elder Bro. Everett Hari. It was such a blessing to reflect on Christ's love for us as we renewed our vows to Him.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"

Matthew 26:26-27

"A Stitch in Time" was the theme for the Ladies' Spring Luncheon on May 4. It was a great time to reflect on precious memories from the past. We thank the men's group, Four His Glory, for sharing their singing talent with us. Thanks to all who made this day so special.

Our Bloomington-Normal congregation was blessed with the addition of a dear young brother to our church family. Todd Heiniger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen), having found grace unto repentance, gave testimony of his faith and was baptized on May 5. May our Lord Jesus Christ always keep him in the shelter of His love. Thank you, Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), for participating in this blessed event.

The engagement of Bro. Brad Martin and Sis. Kara Menold was announced on May 5. Brad is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jessica of Peoria, IL. Kara is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon of Princeville, IL. We wish them the blessings of Almighty God.

Isn't it wonderful to know we have Jesus Christ among us? The evidence is clear that Jesus is alive. We must put our trust in Him, for He will never let us down. The following song explains this:

Jesus lives. I live with Him.
Death no more my soul shall
frighten.

Now He lives, and at His call,
From death's sleep I shall awaken;
I am glorified in Thee;
This my confidence shall be.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives.
Hence I shall to life awaken.
O what joy this message gives.
How then can my hope be shaken?
For how could our blessed Head
Rise and leave His members dead?

By the bond of hope and love
I am bound unto the Master.
Faith looks up to Him above,
Rests on Him through all disaster.
Even death now cannot keep
From my Shepherd, me, His sheep.
Zion's Harp #120

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Daniel 12:4

In a world and time where technology and knowledge is increasing at a phenomenal rate, where "iniquity doth abound", and the fulfillment of the end-time prophecies is before our eyes, it's nice to be able to trust in the Lord. He is all-powerful, ever-the-same, and an anchor we can hold to in these perilous times. May He give us grace to serve Him better and to maintain our faith in Him.

As summer begins this year, let us pause to remember our fathers and all that they have done for us. Many of us were brought up in homes where God was the center of every action and thought. May we thank the Lord for our fathers that were trying to be the spiritual heads of

the home as the Lord commanded. May we also be thankful that we have a perfect Heavenly Father that we can always turn to with any problem or care.

Ben and Jenny Beaver were blessed with a son, Jeffrey Jordan, on April 20. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Tanner.

On May 8, Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser also were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Erica Helen. May God give them grace to rear her up in the fear of the Lord. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL).

"...Now is the time to know Him, come, sinner, come!" (Hymns of Zion #103). The Lord is still calling souls to Him in repentance. Tyler Joos and Scott Endress have recently answered His call. We pray that the Lord will give them the grace needed to find peace with Him and man in due time. Tyler's parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Scott's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL). We thank him for being with us and invite him to come again soon.

Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia Endress have recently decided to make Bradford their home church. We welcome them and pray that the Lord will bless them as they assemble with us.

It is graduation time again and we want to congratulate those who have achieved this status. The high school graduates are Steven Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky), Josh Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon), Chad Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky), Sis. Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen), Crystal Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane), Lanae Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) and Amy Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky). Those graduating from grade school are Brock Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon), Adam Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Ryan Pyles

(Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky). May God bless them and keep them as they go on to occupations, more schooling, or other pursuits.

**ILLINOIS,
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,
That I may lead this little lad.
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.

Father's Day is approaching. Our culture has set aside one day of the year to mark various groups of people: mothers, fathers, grandparents, teachers, nurses, and so on. These days are a nice time to remember the impact these people have on our lives or the part that we play as the person in that role. In my case, this is the role I play in the life of my son. After seeing Joel playing fire fighter outside one day, our neighbor saw us and spoke to him, asking if that's what he wants to be when he grows up, a firefighter. In a very matter-of-fact tone, he said, "No, I want to be a man just like my dad." It was one of those moments that you probably have to be a dad to understand, and I found it both heartwarming and laden with responsibility. As a counselor to 350 high school students from quite varied backgrounds, I see vivid examples of the impact that the family has on students. It is always good to sit and talk with a student and hear that they have great admiration for their parents. Such words from a child of any age are good to hear, but I think they are to be treasured even more when they come from a person in those adolescent years which are frequently the time of testing the limits of patience and understanding between child and parent. A few years ago, I had a particular student who was one I knew very well. He was receiving failing grades, and his teacher had sent weekly progress reports home through the mail. Af-

ter report cards came out a few weeks later, his father called asking why he had not been notified of his son's poor performance. I assured the dad that reports had been sent and suggested that the son may have gotten to the mail first (a common occurrence). Dad was hopeful that his son would not have done such a thing, and a bit upset at the prospect of it being true. I told that father that I knew his son well and that the son thought his father was the greatest man on planet earth and would try to do whatever it took to make his dad proud of him. Therefore, I would not be surprised if the son had indeed intercepted the reports to save dad any worry or disappointment, for that would have hurt the son more than any grounding. In the meanwhile, the grade did not come up and a failing grade showed on the report card. Dad said he'd have a talk with son. Sure enough, the son had intercepted the progress reports in an effort to keep dad from being stressed. When the dad next spoke with me, he relayed his mixed feelings. He was disappointed that his son had failed math and had taken the mail, but he was also a little amazed at his son's level of admiration for him. He and his wife were sorry that it took this instance for them to really realize their son's admiration, but were heartened by his devotion to them.

"Being a father is a full-time job. That is why some fathers fail. They cannot give their entire attention to it." (Arnold Bennett)

Communion services were held in early May with Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisting our Elder Bro. David Wiegand. We were reminded that as we take of the Lord's Supper, we are standing as servants, awaiting a precious gift from our Heavenly Father.

This month marked the completion of one level of education for many of our college students. U of I commencement exercises were held on Mother's Day, and we had a

number of visitors on that day. Parkland College graduation was held a few days later. Our best wishes are extended to all those who will be moving on to employment or graduate studies. This yearly cycle will be continued as we get a fresh crop of college students in August. We appreciate the enthusiasm, energy, devotion, and youth that the students bring to our congregation. Thank you all for spending some time with us. Always feel welcome to come back.

A housewarming was held for Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan Plattner and sons, Luke and Josh, of Danville. The Plattners moved here from California several months ago and Bro. Paul is employed as a physician/surgeon with Carle Clinic's Danville branch. An outdoor singing was held on a beautiful spring evening.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). Thanks to all of these brothers and their families for sharing their time and efforts with us.

As you make plans for summer outings and travel, remember that you have friends in the Champaign-Urbana church who would love to have you stop by for services on the way to or from your destination. Our numbers are down in the months when most of the students are gone, so we are especially glad for visitors.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

One evening we went into Chicago to meet a cousin and his family. We decided to eat in Chinatown where we had a wonderful family-style meal of dishes, by number more than the six of us eating. Thus, we requested several "take-home" containers. When it was time to

leave (though we could have conversed for much longer), we went outside, waiting for Jim to get the minivan. At that point, Omar—at least that's what I thought he said his name was—came up to us and asked for a quarter. None of us were stunned by the small amount he mentioned, but we were wary of giving any money. I suggested that we could give food but not money, so my daughter aptly noted that I was holding a fair quantity of food. We did give Omar all of it, and he proceeded to go to a bench and eat, as far as we saw. We were convicted by our original desire to refrain from giving to a man who had told us he ate from the garbage and was homeless. How unappreciative can we be? "Lord, Thou has given us so much. Grant us one thing more, a grateful heart." (inspirational plaque)

The Lord has been good to our church in Chicago, which is not so little as it once was, neither in numbers nor in the size of our building. We had Open House for our remodeling on April 28, and we were blessed in our gathering by many from other churches who had helped with various aspects of our project, especially from our neighboring church in Elgin, IL. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) lent their hearts and memories to the Spirit, for special worship services. The history of the church was reviewed in letter, memory, and exhibit. Mini-tours (we're not that large) were available, as was a buffet lunch after church. We are grateful and humbled by the help from all, but especially we praise Him for all of you.

Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) shared a Wednesday evening and a Sunday morning with us recently. We appreciate the travel schedule that brings him to us periodically. May the Lord reward him for his sharing of the Spirit each time.

Graduations are an ending and a beginning. Several have graduated from college: Bro. Mik Bozzay (Bro.

Miklos and Sis. Aranka) now has his Master's in Architecture from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, the same place from which Katrina Schlatter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy) has just earned her B.A. in Spanish. Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean), Katie Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Dan), and Jarod Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) have graduated from high school. Their plans include Valparaiso, IN for Rocky and Parkland (Urbana-Champaign) for Jarod. Bryant Leman (Bro. Jay and Sis. Teri), Jessica Perez and Gabriel Grimm (Jay and Darlene Perez Grimm), and Nathan Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) have graduated from eighth grade. May they live up to all the good said about them and written to them on this momentous occasion, but may they know that only with God—regardless of the multitude of graduation cards which proclaim that the graduate can do anything by him/herself—can it be said that "...nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37). We, of course, their church family have as our responsibility much prayer for their futures—not only kind words.

Gary Halfer has had spinal surgery recently. The Lord has been good and his recovery reasonable. Still, we are prayerful and wish him continued recuperation, including the Lord's healing balm.

I had a conversation with a sister recently in which she recalled a colleague who was good and loving and kind and full of deeds of service BUT could not understand what Christ and Christianity had to do with life. After long discussions, this sister was—very wisely, I believe—led to answer the other in this way: for the colleague, love was God; for herself, and for us, God is love. Idolatry is even more subtle than we sometimes think. Doing good is only the work of man; God alone is good, and only His works to His glory in His time are our portion. And we must know Him and allow ourselves to be

known in order to be truly fruitful and not idolaters. "Therefore let no man glory in men....ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (I Corinthians 3:21a,23)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

For our April Topical Bible Presentation, we were privileged to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) with us. He shared with us the research he had done over a number of years comparing a number of translations of the Bible. He also shared the conclusions of the Elder body to recommend the King James version as the preferred translation to be used in church and for personal use. We thank Bro. Bill for a very insightful evening.

On April 14 and 21, our Bible Class hosted ACYF. What a blessing it was to hear all those young voices praising the Lord each evening.

April 20 was the 80th birthday of two of our dear sisters, Sis. Louise Manz and Sis. Helen Lackey. The twins' birthday was observed with a dinner and program planned by their children. What a blessing to reach fourscore years and still be in good health. May God's blessings be with you both.

God has blessed our congregation with two new babies this past month. Kendall John was born to Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder. He has three big brothers to welcome him home - Cameron, Kyle, and Clayton. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Dort Walder and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb became the parents of Joel Martin. His siblings include Joanna, Micheal, Benjamin and Julia. Grandparents are Sis. Grace Bauer and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. God's blessings to both families.

Our congratulations to Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Kaufmann on their newest grandchild. Katelyn Renee was born to Bro. Jonothan and Sis. Jill (Kaufmann) Sutter of

Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with love.

There is only one God.

There is only one King

There is only one body.

That is why I sing

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with love.

—Bob Gillman

These are the words of a song that represented the theme of our 11th annual Mother-Daughter Dinner on May 10. The program was very inspirational and the food and fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to our seven high school graduates this year. They are Lynette Kaufmann (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy), Rebecca Martin (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pat), Angie Young (Melvin and Marilyn), Gail Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan), Andy Conrad, (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne), Brandon Wilkening (Mark and Sis. Dinah), and Brett Young (Dave and Barb).

Sis. Lorene Rocke was hospitalized for a time with some broken ribs. Sis. Grace Bauer was a surgical patient. We wish them both a speedy recovery as they recuperate at home.

We are always grateful when visiting ministers will share the Word with us. This month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (both of Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We thank them for willingly sharing with us.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

Linda Knobloch

"Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."

Daniel 3:26-28

God, who delivered these three faithful, courageous men, is the same God who can deliver us if we yield ourselves and trust Him. We are rejoicing and thankful that Matthew Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen) is seeking God in repentance. May God help him to build on a firm foundation in Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to our students! Graduating from eighth grade are Sarah Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Rebekah Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn), Andy Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell), Jason Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri), and Benjamin Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle). High School graduates are Sis. Laura Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Sis. Beth Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn), Chet Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat), Isaac Rinken-

berger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), and Bob Wettstein (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy). We pray that they will seek the Lord's will in their future endeavors.

Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) shared the Word with us. Elder Bro. Ervin assisted our Elder Bro. Bob with the reading of the Memorandum of the 1995 Brotherhood Conference. We are grateful for all the efforts the ministering brothers make in teaching and encouraging the flock. May God's Spirit work mightily in all of His children.

Honor Thy Father

F - athers are the "family" man;
important his role in God's
infinite plan;
formed by God from the very
beginning
when He created Adam —
father of all ever living.

A - s Adam, he, too, must toil
everyday
"by the sweat of his brow", fam'ly
needs to allay;
yet always aware of a much
greater need —
wise use of our time that it yields
fruits and not weeds.

T - o trials and tests and
hardships he's prone.
Help he seeks to endure at the
foot of the throne;
knowing God has all the answers;
for problems, solution
so he "asks, seeks and knocks"
without hesitation.

H - is life is a "living" book all well
may read —
in his journey through life — by
his words and his deeds.
He's never too busy to advise,
guide and share
how to find God's "better way" —
unceasing his prayers.

E - xample of love, faith, trust,
hope, understanding;
to correct us lest we on self would
be depending.
Exhorting to walk in accord with
God's Word;
to be "doers" of the same; not
unheeding when heard.

R - espect them then, highly
prize, esteem and love.
Rich gift — a father! from the
Father above.
Learn from his experience;
teachings can make us wise
to attain lasting reward and that
home in the skies.

S - o "honor thy father"; 'tis
commandment of God;
and, He here will bless as life's
journey we trod.
Not just today—each day
remember anew
fathers are a rare gift of God to
me and to you!

—By a sister in faith

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder**

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God;
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

Hymns of Zion #175

Several loved ones have undergone surgery or recently been hospitalized. We are thankful for God's healing mercies on Bro. Bill Banwart, Emma Grimm, Sis. Mabel Anliker and Sis. Pat (Bro. Howard) Schifferer. As our loved ones quietly rest and recuperate, may they find the healing and strength that flows from the heart of God.

Saturday, May 4, Matt Steffen (Elder Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn) and Natalie Sichel (Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Sichel of Crystal Lake, IL) were united in marriage. May God direct and bless their lifetime together.

Haste and seek your soul's
salvation;
Heed the word of God today
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow
way...
Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice with our friend, Carrie Morgan, who has found the grace necessary to heed the Word of God and begin her repentance. May God encourage and help her each step of the way; but also may each of us, as God's children, be a stepping stone for Carrie and never a stumbling block that together we may press towards that Heavenly Home that awaits the true and faithful.

May God comfort Sis. Sandy (Bro. Bill) Kinsinger and her family in the loss of her uncle.

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

Proverbs 11:14

Our faith is so blessed to have faithful watchmen who diligently watch for our souls. We were recently privileged to hear the encouragements, warnings and admonitions through the reading of the Memorandum. It was truly a blessing to have Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) with us as he assisted Elder Bro. Nate and Bro. Ron in the Conference conclusions as well as willingly preaching God's Word in truth and sincerity. Do we really appreciate the safety that exists with the multitude of counsellors in our faith? May we each do our part to uphold all the elements of our faith, whether they seem large or small, that we may not fall but rather be a part of the true faith for Christ to find when He returns.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). May God richly reward our dear brothers who untiringly serve on our behalf.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Psalms 127:1

Sunday, May 19, a ground-breaking service was held for the new house of worship we feel God has directed. As we were reminded, "except the Lord build the house..." our labors are all in vain. We trust that as this building project is begun, that God and not man may be glorified and that when the first service is held in the new sanctuary that God's blessings may be felt and complete unity will be present.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

It is that time of year when several of our young people are completing an important part of their education and making future plans. High school graduates include: Jeremy Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle), Lynwood Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann), Cindy Schifferer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Shirley), Jamie Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen), Brian Welzien (Rick and Sis. Stephany), Nick Young (Morris and Pat), and Bro. Darren Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma). As these young people make future plans for their life, may they also remember to make future plans for eternity, knowing that God will certainly direct them, if they but ask.

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our
strife;
And preach thee, too, as love
knows how,

By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Hymns of Zion #85

As we soon commemorate Father's Day, may we appreciate the examples of faithful earthly fathers. Our love, appreciation, and obedience should not stop there, though, as we have so much to be thankful for with our Heavenly Father. May God help us to do a little better each day than we did the day before.

Collection Reminder: The general collection boxes will be available July 7 and 14 for Silver Lining donations. Thank You!

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Genesis 15:6

As we remember our fathers on Father's Day, let us also think of Abraham, often called the father of faith, who believed in the Lord even at great cost.

What a joy it was to witness the baptisms of four of our converts on April 28. They were Heather Beutel (Bro. Dan, Janet Ulrich), Cheryl Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola), and Richard and Janet Knecht. Janet is the daughter of Sis. Fannie Wiegand.

We rejoiced with Bro. Mike Mangold and Sis. Judy Waibel (Remington, IN) who announced their engagement on April 28. Bro. Mike is the son of the late Bro. Charles and late Sis. Mary, and Sis. Judy's parents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue. May God richly bless them.

A little baby boy was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail Getz on April 29. Brandon Ray has a brother, David, and sister, Jennifer, and his grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis.

Nathalia Getz and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL).

We thank our visiting ministers for the month, Elder Bro. Art Nohl and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR), Retired Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

Our prayers have been with Sis. Ethel Schmidgall (Bro. Harold) who recently had a knee replacement, and Sis. Mary Wettstein (Bro. Jake) who was recently hospitalized for back problems.

Note of Thanks:

We really appreciated the many prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, and visits at the hospital and at home during my illness. God bless you all and thank you.

Bro. Eli and Helen Fisher

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

As we commemorate Father's Day, may we give thanks for the fathers God has blessed us with. The best gift of love we could give both our Heavenly Father and our earthly fathers alike is obedience. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (St. John 14:15)

Best wishes are extended to our college and high school graduates. They are: Denise Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna), Justin Cottrell (Larry and Doris), Luke Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley), Carolyn Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky), Nathan Mashburn (Bill and Sis. Barb), Trent Runyon (Bro. Mark and Julie), Tim Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), Troy Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne), and Lana Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola).

Our college graduates are: Kevin Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores).

May all the graduates instill this prayer in their hearts: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change those things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference." —Author Unknown

On April 27 and 28, we rejoiced as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Isaac Huber (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Walter Edelman Jr. (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta), and Lisa Herr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy).

We want to thank the following Elders and ministers for worshipping with us that weekend and other weekends this past month: Elder Bros. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL).

Our congregation has been blessed with two little bundles this month. Alyssa Danielle was born on April 21 to Frank and Joyce Nestor. Siblings, Blake, Janelle and Ashley, are delighted. Thankful grandparents are David and Elaine Schmid and Isable Nestor (Chicago).

Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman and Jessica welcome Amber Lee, born April 24, to their family circle. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys Slagel and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman (Forrest, IL) are thankful grandparents. May God bless both of these families.

We pray for those who have been hospitalized: Bro. Frank Schmidt (Pearl), Sis. Martha Fehr and Sis. Marie Huber (Bro. Reuben). May God heal them again.

Our congregation bids farewell to Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand and children, Nicole, Justin, Brandon, and Brockton. They are relocating to Wolcott, IN. May they feel God's love in their new home and church.

Sis. Alene Broquard, 83, passed away May 10. She leaves to mourn her sister, Sis. Louise Bach (Bro.

Reuben); niece, Sis. Bonnie Bach; three nephews, Duane Bach (Belvidere), Eugene Denick and Bro. William Denick (Bloomington); two great-nieces and one great-nephew. Our sympathy and prayers to all you dear ones.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, food and expressions of sympathy in the loss of our dear sister and aunt.

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Louise Bach and nephews and nieces

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We thank Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God bless them for their encouraging words of faith.

Although somewhat still handicapped, we are thankful Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown have felt God's healing power and are able to assemble with us once again. May we continue to keep them in our prayers as they progress toward a full recovery.

Also in our prayers is fifteen-year-old Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer) who has been in a coma since being involved in a serious car accident a month ago. May she and her loved ones feel God's nearness and trust in His will as they go through this difficult time.

After spending time in the hospital this month, we are thankful that Bro. Norval Knapp is feeling better. We are happy to have him assemble with us once again.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen Leman in the death of her mother, Sis. Octavia Erb (Francesville, IN). May God comfort their hearts in this time of loss.

We congratulate our high school graduates. They are Melodee Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Kent Blunier (Stan and Peggy), Jason Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy), Kyle Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna), Nathan Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Carrie Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Darren Koehl (Barry and Rosemary), Kevin Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean), Andy Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Sarah Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Michael Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill). It is our prayer that as these young people plan their future, they will look to the Lord for their help and guidance.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

Sis. Emily Stoller, 84, passed away at her home on May 7. She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Bro. Reuben. Also surviving are Sis. Delores Marti and Artie Stoller, Gridley; Sis. Carol Klopfenstein, Peoria; 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

In her obituary she was listed as a "housewife". Certainly this is a significant part of the crowning role for a woman professing godliness. Sis. Emily personified her calling in life in that she was a humble sister in faith, a devoted wife, a dear mother, and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother. We will miss Sis. Emily. She had a quiet and pleasant manner that we all appreciated.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Beth Ehresman became the parents of their second child on March 20. She was named Rebekah Marie. She has a brother, Brian, 2. Grandparents are Gladys Ehresman, and Bruce and Sis. Pat Landis of Morton, IL. We rejoice with this family over their wonderful addition.

It was a blessed time on April 28 when four souls were baptized. Three were from the same family: Bros. Ben and Mark, and Sis. Sarah

Funk. Their parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley of Congerville, IL. Also baptized was Bro. Roger Roberts, Lexington, who only recently began attending our church for the first time. He came under conviction, and soon began to repent. His parents are Lester Roberts, Chenoa, and the late Sharon Roberts.

The testimonies of these loved ones before the church brought honor and praise to Almighty God. It was indeed a holy place on Saturday evening as each soul spoke with deep conviction and reflected a "first love" fervor that manifested God's power. It was uplifting for everyone. May God help us all to be fervent in spirit and upright in heart!

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) on April 27, and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) on May 19.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who sent cards, food, and expressions of support during the illness and passing of our dear loved one. Your kindnesses were greatly appreciated.

The family of Sis. Emily Stoller

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Carl Grieshaber was called Home on April 28. May our Heavenly Father comfort his wife, Sis. Shirley; his daughter, Gayle Gonzales; his son, Michael; his two grandchildren and his other relatives and friends. His cheerful smile will be missed.

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Braker on the birth of their son, Seth Alan. He was born on May 13. At home to welcome him are Whitney and Ashley. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber, all of Morton. May God guide them and provide wisdom

as they rear their precious family.

On May 18 and 19, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptisms of Mike and Jerry Grimm and Joe and Delores Stephens. We never tire of hearing how the Lord works in the hearts of people.

We wish to thank Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for visiting our congregation and bringing God's Word to us.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank our many relatives and friends for the beautiful cards, gifts and expressions of love; and for attending the buffet reception our children hosted for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We will always cherish the memories of this blessed event. God bless you all.

Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Violette Funk

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Cara Nussbaum**

Another school year has come to a close and for 11 students in the Bible Class that means it's time to start a new chapter in their lives. Honored at a special breakfast on Sunday, May 19, were Mark David, Sis. Lena Sauder, Bro. Nick Meister, Kara Elsasser, Aaron Staley, Sis. Penny Geyer, Bro. Kenny Ober, Hans Schmidtgall, Bro. David Sceggel, Bro. Chad Herman and Sis. Kari Meister. We pray that each of them will look to God for guidance as they make future plans and that He will protect them each step of the way.

Bro. Brad Martin (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay) and Sis. Kara Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold of Princeville, IL) have announced their engagement. May God richly bless them as they make plans for their special wedding day, September 22.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They are Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washing-

ton, IL). God bless them for their efforts.

We pray for those who have been hospitalized recently. May God's healing hand be upon Bro. Howard Musselman, Sis. Elsie Stickling, Sis. Ruth Knepp, Sis. Karen Dunbar, and Henry and Edna Binkele.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers while I was in the hospital and since I am home. We want to especially thank the ministers for also remembering my roommates. It was very much appreciated. Thanks, too, for all the beautiful flowers, visits, food, phone calls and cards. It helped pass the time. God bless you all for your deeds of kindness.

In Christian Love, Bro. Walter and Sis. Elizabeth Merkle

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann**

As we look around at the world today, we can see that we may very well be living in the end times. Sometimes this causes concern and possibly fear, yet, we can read that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7) Our Lord instructed us to "take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and the cares of this life, so that day come upon you unawares. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:34,36).

We are thankful that four young souls have come in repentance. They are: Naomi Streitmatter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn), Gwen Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), and also Cyrena and Robert Baer (Raymond and Sis. Janna Lou).

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for

their labour.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9

We have had three engagement announcements this past month. On April 21, Bro. Kevin Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) was announced to Sis. Grace Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn) of Altadena, CA. Sis. Hope Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen) was announced to Bro. Lance Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) of Valparaiso IN on April 28. On May 5, Sis. Kara Menold was announced to Bro. Brad Martin of Bloomington. Bro. Brad's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jessica Martin of Peoria.

We wish to congratulate our High School graduates. They are Bro. Clint Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), Byron Joos (Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda), Andy Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary), Esther Streitmatter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn), Kara Martin (Gerald and Louise), and Jill and Joy Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann).

How comforted we are to know that there is One who knows our deepest sorrow. “.put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?” (Psalm 56:8). We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Harvey Herrmann. Harvey passed away April 24.

We also want to remember Linda Scholl and her two sons, Troy and Trent, at the sudden passing of their husband and father, Wayne Scholl. Wayne passed away May 11. We extend sympathy to his three brothers, Bro. Robert (Sis. Arlene), of Princeville, Bro. Rolland (Sis. Carol), and Bro. William (Sis. Joanne), both of Peoria, and to his sister, Sis. Mary Lou Scholl, of Princeville.

We wish to remember those who are ill and have been in the hospital. This past month they were: Raymond Baer (Sis. Janna Lou), Bro. Ezra Rumbold (Sis. Lucille), Sis. Marie Eberle, Sis. Alvina Streitmatter, and Sis. Julie Dapper.

We want to thank all of our visi-

tors, especially our visiting ministers. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely thank each one who in so many ways helped John to bear his burden until he was carried Home; and since his death, have supported us, his family. The outpouring of love through kind words, deeds, and prayers has been overwhelming, and words really cannot express our appreciation for each one of you. May God richly bless you for each act of kindness, as you have fulfilled the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

The family of Bro. John Leuthold

God looked around the garden and
found an empty space
He looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face
He put His arms around you and
lifted you to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
for He only takes the best
He saw that you were weary and
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never be
well on earth again
He saw the roads were getting
rough and hills were hard to climb
So He closed your weary eyelids
and whispered "Peace be thine."

Author Anonymous

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

This time of year we have a special prayer upon our hearts for our high school graduates—our future church. May the Lord direct and

guide them, and may they always keep Him the center of their lives.

Our hearts were touched as three new babies entered our church this month. Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser are rejoicing at the birth of a daughter, Abigail Shirley. She is welcomed by big brothers, Joshua and Jason. Her grandparents are Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser.

Dalton and Elissa Hodel welcomed home Rebecca Ann on May 13. Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie are the happy parents. Grandparents are Marvin and Sharon Lascelles and Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel.

Jakob Scott blessed the lives of Jim and Cheryl Wacker on May 14. Jakob's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Rudie Wacker and Bev Eden.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Martin are the thankful grandparents of Heathe Martin Achterberg. His happy parents are Scott and Sally Achterberg of East Peoria.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr were blessed again as grandparents with the birth of Emily Ann Fehr on May 16. Her parents are Jeff and Eva Fehr of Roanoke.

We rejoice with Rena Braker (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha), Sarah Hodel (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge) and Brandi Gerber (Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley) as we welcome them as our new sisters in faith.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this month: Bro. Jim Byrd, Bro. Ed Blunier and Sis. Jane Schumacher.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) could share the Word with us this past month. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

“Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him

in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.”

Psalm 148:1-2

How thankful we are for our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Clark Stoller and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dale Frank and John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Doyle Frauhofer and Steve Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), James Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We thank these brothers for their willingness to come and share God's Word with us. May God richly bless these willing servants.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Bernice Frank and Sis. Teresa Beutel. May God continue to be with them and all those who are sick or shut-in, is our prayer.

The engagement of John Schweigert (Dan and Connie) and Barbara Schultze (Doug and Paula, Sibley) was recently announced. We rejoice with them and wish them much happiness.

Whitney Beth was born April 29 to Bro. Jonathan and Rebekah Wagenbach. She has a sister, Nichole, and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister and Simon and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach, who welcomed her home.

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Mark 1:3-4

How very thankful we are for the opportunity to spend a Saturday evening listening to the testimonies of five dear friends who heeded that call of repentance for the remission of their sins and could on Sunday be

baptized and are now our new brothers and sisters in the Lord. We welcome Eric and Brenda Rocke (children of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Kathy Rocke), Darrel and Rus and Terrie Ehnle (sons and daughter-in-law of Ed and Verla Ehnle, Bradford, IL) into the Family of God.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

In a large room four men are standing, each in his own corner. They really desire to come together, but none will come to another's corner. A large beautiful fountain is at the center of the room. Finally someone proposes that they all meet at the fountain. Each one starts from his own corner, heading for that common center. They come ten, then twenty, thirty feet. The nearer they come to the fountain, the nearer they come to each other, each making concessions of location. At last they reach their destination and join hand in hand around the sparkling water of the fountain.

Jesus Christ is the great fountain of life, liberty, and love. The nearer God's children come to Christ, the nearer they will come to each other. Let us all strive to come closer to each other and to God, joining hands and singing “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love”.

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Psalm 133:1

Elder Bro. Ron Messner just returned from spending one week in Haiti with a group of other Elders. He has much to share from his experience there. We are thankful for his safe return.

Guest ministers were Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). Bro. Steve led a Bible Study on “How to Worship Effectively”. We

are so thankful that the Spirit continues to work in our lives, encouraging us to remain faithful to His Word. Thank you, Brothers, for lending yourselves to the Spirit.

On May 11, the annual Spring brunch was enjoyed by women of the church at Morton Fellowship Hall. This was done in place of the Mother-Daughter banquet. Thanks to all the Committee for their hard work. It is gratefully appreciated.

Our annual business meeting took place with each committee reporting. We were reminded of the many worthwhile activities our church is involved in. May God be with those who were elected to new responsibilities.

The annual Bible Class breakfast will be May 19 at Bro. Carl Wyss's home. Each graduate will receive a Bible, and the other grades will receive hymn books.

Sis. Sue Ruppert once again had surgery. She wishes to thank all for their thoughts and prayers. She is recovering at home.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Jaci Gerber

Praise ye in His Sanctuary
Him who does such wondrous
deeds!
Who to His eternal glory
All his ransomed children leads!

Laud ye Him with tears of
gladness,
Praise Him now with harp and
song!
Let us crown Him highest ruler,
Sound the chorus loud and long!

Then rejoice ye in His glory
Who from death to life arose!
Who a white and glorious garment
And rich gifts on you bestows!

Hymns of Zion #235

On the weekend of April 20 and 21, Bluffton was the host for the spring college weekend. We were

blessed to have a large turnout. Special thanks to those of you who participated and to those who did the planning for such an uplifting weekend.

A special thanks to Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for sharing the Word with us this month.

On Friday, April 19, Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner welcomed Garret Lee into their family. He was welcomed home by Alyssa and Jason. His grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner (Bluffton North) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane Tonner.

Chase, Caitleigh and Drew welcomed a sister, Hannah Lea, on May 3. Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger are the happy parents. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger.

May 3 was the wedding of June Ringger and Brian Crockett. Parents of the couple are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Crockett (Altadena, CA). May God richly bless their new lives together.

We pray that God's healing touch will reach those who have been in the hospital this month. They are Bro. Tom Pfister (Sis. Barb), David Baumgartner (Bro. Paul and Sis. Justine) and Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Philippians 4:6

We were reminded in a sermon to spend less time worrying and more time trusting in God and letting Him have the rule over our lives. If we can turn everything over to Him, we will be overwhelmed at the peace that will be ours.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for sharing the message with us. Let us always be prayerful for those who are called to preach the gospel.

Another soul has answered God's loving call in our congregation. Tina Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's blessings.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Jaila Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Aaron Taylor (Dan and Sharon Taylor). May the Lord direct them as they take this important step in life.

On May 5, Bro. Ross Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Kara Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth) were united in marriage. May God always bless them and remain in the center of their lives.

Bro. Truman and Sis. Marge Baumgartner are happy grandparents of a granddaughter, Hannah Elizabeth, born on April 17 to Todd and Ruth Jones. Also, Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber welcome a new grandson, Cody Patrick, born on May 8 to Patrick J. and Tonya Felger.

Sis. Louise Gerber (Bro. Carroll) and Sis. Melanie Gerber underwent surgery this month. We wish to remember these dear sisters in our prayers.

Bro. Everett and Sis. Luella Schladenhauffen celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 21. May the Lord continue to bless them.

"With your Zion's Harp now chiming, Praise the Lord! Let's do our best." Bluffton North hosted a Zion's Harp revision study on April 21. The brothers serving on this committee are Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. John Baumgartner (Sabetha, KS), Bob Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Norman Rocke (Eureka, IL), John Schamback (Rittman, OH), Rod Stoller (Latty, OH), James Sutter (Taylor, MO), Ron Trueb (Rockville, CT), Bob Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Vince Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We wish to thank these brothers for

their time spent in this endeavor and pray that the Lord's will can be done.

Our college students spent a blessed weekend together on April 21 as we hosted College Weekend here at Bluffton North. Our young people heard many good teachings on "Giving your Time for Devotions", "Giving God your Future", "Giving your Time for Others", and "Living Christ's Example". May all of us as brothers and sisters in Christ think on these four topics and strive to focus on them as the main goal in our lives.

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

Hebrews 10:23

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"

I Timothy 3:4

How quickly another year passes and again we find ourselves observing the various holidays Americans have deemed necessary. Father's Day is an important one for the Christian as we ponder the importance of a godly father who has charge over the family unit. The Scripture gives many duties of the father: to teach, to train, to provide, to nurture, to control and to love. Let's be thankful for our fathers and give honor to them as they strive to uphold the faith and do their duty before God Almighty and their families.

Recently we had twelve seniors who graduated from High School and are now embarking on new beginnings. We honored them May 15 at a special program. Although many of them will not be with us on a regular basis, they will not be forgotten. We will continue to pray for them, trusting that they will save

room for Jesus Christ who came to save them from their sins, as they make plans for the future. The Senior Class is as follows: Stuart Gutwein (Bro. Harvey Bob and Sis. Ellen), Matt Werner (Brenda Werner), Melissa Wuethrich (Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy), Nathan Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Phillip Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), Pat Gutwein (Bro. Rod and Sis. Donna), Chris Pardue, Alivia Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene), Chariti Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy), Nicole Rehn, and Becky Davis.

We were sad to hear that Sis. Mabel Wuethrich fell and broke her hip. We trust she is recuperating and gaining strength each new day.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber are thankful for their new baby son, Brock Allen, born April 22. Brothers, Eric and Kirk, welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily Pelsy also welcomed home a new son, Rodney James, who was born May 5. Rodney has one brother, Jonathan. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt and Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Luella Pelsy. We know God will bless their lives with these little boys as they strive to train them up in His ways.

Bros. Ron Shambach (Elgin, IL) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) came this past month and shared water from the life-giving spring of God's Word. We are thankful for faithful brethren who give of themselves for the furthering of the Gospel.

OBITUARY FOR SIS. OCTAVIA ERB

Octavia Erb, 104 years old, passed away at 6:25 a.m., Thursday, May 2, at Parkview Haven Retirement Home where she had made her home the past 17 years.

She was born October 15, 1891, in Tremont, Illinois. She moved to the Francesville area in 1910. She married Herman Erb in 1927 and he

preceded her in death in 1963. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church for 84 years.

She leaves 8 children: three daughters, Carol Bucher and Loma Putt of Francesville, and Helen Leman of Fairbury, Illinois; and five sons, George and Neil Erb of Francesville, Don of Lafayette, Max of Monon, and Glenn of Irvine, California. Other survivors also include 25 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren. Two grandchildren, 2 sisters, and 6 brothers preceded her in death. We so often heard her say, "I was the oldest and the only one left." Her life has been a blessing to anyone that knew her.

Sis. Doris Getz recently lost a brother, Ralph Prettiman, of Walton Beach FL. We pray God will comfort Sis. Doris and the family circle as they have said good-bye to a dear brother.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lauretta Schafer

Missy Baumgartner

Greetings of love in our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our annual outreach was held on April 26 and 27. Several young people gathered to spread the love of Christ and His Word. May God bless everyone who took part to make this a very special weekend.

We want to thank Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) for sharing the Word of Life with us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

As much as half the world's people, all of whom God loves in a marvelous way, do not understand Him at all. These people believe that they are part of the cosmos—the rocks, trees, animals and universe. Many are convinced that this matter cycles around, and that they are part of the cycle. How unutterably glad we can be that we believe in the true and living God. We know we are not

stagnant, going nowhere, but by God's grace we are going somewhere. That somewhere is our heavenly home, and yields us unspeakable joy in our salvation.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jeff Grimm and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). Through the preaching of the Gospel this month we were reminded to serve God 100%, because 99.9% is not enough.

Scott Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) is in the process of converting from the sinful state to a forgiven child of God. Joy fills the hearts of our congregation to have another soul repenting.

"Intreat...the elder women as mothers" (I Tim. 5:2). Sis. Pearl Nuest and Sis. Emma Pfeifer reached milestones in their lives the past month with birthdays. Each sister in faith that we can look to for examples is another reason to praise and thank God on Mother's Day and every day.

Lydia Heiniger is in our prayers as she faces treatment for illness in the future. Ruth Elcock is able to worship with us again after a brief illness.

Karen Heiniger has announced her engagement to Don Pickard from Columbia, TN. After a July 20 wedding, Karen, her two precious children, Jacob and Paula, will reside in TN. Our prayers and love reach out for these dear ones that God will bless them in this new family unit. Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger are parents and grandparents.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Robert Norr, 87, left the hospital in the arms of the loving Lord on April 21. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin...But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus

Christ." (I Cor. 15:55-57). Bro. Bob was a brother who was quietly in the background. For example, when the Zion's Harp was revised, he was instrumental in working with the church to bring the words and melody together for each hymn. He did not receive credit for his diligent work, but that was not his goal. He was also diligent and compassionate in caring for his wife, Sis. Dorothy, for over 23 years, following her disabling stroke. They met in Chicago and lived there the first years of their marriage, before moving to Leo. They were Florida residents for many years following the stroke that changed their lives. In 1986, they moved into a duplex at The Cedars, where he continued to care for her "one day at a time". As time passed, he became very anxious until nursing care was available and the Nursing Home opened in 1994, just in time for a transition. Bro. Bob was "steadfast, unmovable" in his faith and willing to give God the glory. Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Dorothy, two sons, Ken and David, and the grandchildren.

Bob and Sis. Jan Pfister became grandparents again on February 28. Cecelia Renae's parents are Shane and Elaine Chapin.

Retired Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) graciously consented to conduct our May topical Bible Study. He spoke on Spiritual Health. If we are spiritually healthy, we will be joyful and happy. Three things in a diet for spiritual health are the way we think, commitment to stewardship and contentment. Our mind will produce what we sow. (see Romans 12:2)

Stewards: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (I Cor. 4:2). Contentment: "But godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Tim. 6:6). He concluded with this poem by Helen Steiner Rice:

Happiness is something we create
in our mind,
It's not something you search for

and seldom find —
It's just waking up and beginning
the day
By counting our blessings and
kneeling to pray —
It's giving up thoughts that breed
discontent
And accepting what comes as a
"gift heaven-sent" —
It's giving up wishing for things
we have not
And making the best of whatever
we've got —
It's knowing that life is
determined for us
And pursuing our tasks without
fret, fume or fuss —
For it's by completing what God
gave us to do
That we find real contentment
and happiness too.

The Ladies Spring Banquet was held May 11 at the Fellowship Hall. The program following the luncheon was on "Celebration of Life". Many good thoughts were expressed regarding victory over change, anxiety, stress and trials. Our victory is in Jesus.

We were also blessed with visits from Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

We extend congratulations to our 1996 graduates, Bro. Shane Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), Jason Brown (Tom and Pam) who is the grandson of Retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch, and Sis. Beth Hersey (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier). We pray for God's blessings on their future, and that they may set their goals on things eternal.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Robert Norr thank all who kindly shared with prayer, visits and gifts of love during his illness and passing.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Renee Beer - Linda Beer

To The Master Gardener
I am like a garden, Lord
A garden filled with weeds,
Gently with your loving hands
Plant in me your seeds,
Of love and joy and kindness,
Of faith and hope and trust.
Pull out the choking weeds of self,
And those of pride and lust.
With your spirit water me
Till I have life anew.
And all who see this well worked
ground
Will know it's kept by you.
—Author unknown

May our lives radiate the characteristics of Christ, "...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ..." (I Peter 4:11).

April 28 was the wedding day of Bro. Jeremy Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Heidi Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Pam). We wish them many blessings and that Christ can be the center of their union. We thank Bros. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) who shared the Word with us that day.

On May 1, an appreciation church supper was held at our Fellowship Hall for our retired ministers: Bro. Walt Steffen (recently retired), Bro. Elmer Hartter, and Bro. Theo Beer. May God always be very near them and bless them for all they have given over the years.

We miss seeing Bro. Noah Clauss and wife, June, and Bro. Roy Lehman who have been shut in. May they feel courage from God who will carry them through each day.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen are new grandparents of Collin Miller, newborn son of Niles and Kristie Miller. Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer also are grandparents of Brock Huber, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber of Francesville.

Gina Smith (Kevin), daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Carol Hurd, was hospitalized. We are thankful she is

home again and recovering. Bro. Alan Wuthrich is recuperating from a foot fracture.

Congratulations go to our graduates. Graduating from high school are Andy Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha), Jason Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane), and Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda). Sis. Deb (Jon) Haab graduated from Indiana University of South Bend with a degree in dental hygiene. Matt Haab (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol) graduated from the School of Business at Indiana University. May many blessings be theirs and God's direction fill their lives.

Dilemmas in life are fertilizers to your faith.

**INDIANA,
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Marie Gutwein**

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Romans 4:19-21

May we always strive to have the unstaggering faith of Abraham, no matter what trial we happen to be going through in life. Satan gains ground fast when our faith becomes weak. Let's be doing all we can to be "Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." (Col. 2:7).

The students at Purdue are thankful to be finished with the spring semester of classes. Bro. Ben Cook and Matt Pfister studied abroad this spring in Budapest, Hungary. We missed them in our group, but are glad to hear they are now safely home.

Our annual Purdue Singing was

held on a weekend in January, where we enjoyed the fellowship of brothers and sisters representing seven other colleges. Saturday morning the brothers cooked breakfast and we all took part in small group Bible studies on Ephesians 4.

A group of students including Sara Steffen, Mandy Metzger, Bro. Brent Blume, and Sisters Heather Steffen, Janell Anliker and Marie Gutwein, had the opportunity to go on a work team to Haiti over Spring Break. The men in our group put a roof onto a school, and the women sanded and painted in a child care building.

At the end of the year we had our Spring Picnic at the Fellowship Center where new officers were elected. At our last Purdue service, Bro. Neil Widmer acknowledged each of the Spring 1996 graduates: Mindy Neihouser, Samuel Gutwein, Sis. Tanya Nuest, and Sis. Jennifer Nuest (Francesville); Heidi Vaughan, Neil Waibel, and Sandra Waibel (Remington); Sis. Erica Gerber (Bluffton North); Bro. Tom Manz (Junction, OH), and Hani Abughazaleh (California).

We wish to thank each of the ministering brothers who came to make our Thursday evening worship services possible. The many special topics you prepared were certainly appreciated by the students. God bless you for your efforts and thank you to everyone who remembers the Purdue students in their prayers.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Patti Bahler**

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice..."

Romans 12:15

Our church family has many reasons to rejoice. We are thankful that Andria Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) is seeking the Lord in repentance. We also have two converts who have found peace and anticipate baptism this summer. They are

Cheri Frantz and Justin Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda). Our hearts rejoice with these souls who have answered God's call.

On April 28, Sis. Judy Waibel and Bro. Mike Mangold (Eureka, IL) announced their engagement. Sis. Judy is the daughter of Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel and Bro. Mike is the son of the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Mary Mangold. Their wedding is planned for July 14. Our prayer is that the Lord will lead and guide them in their new walk together.

What a blessing it was to partake of Holy Communion. The quiet assembly brought to mind the verse "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10). We were reminded once again of the significance of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) who assisted Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. May God bless them in their many duties and responsibilities and for their willingness to serve.

Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) also shared God's Word with us this month. We thank Bro. John also for speaking to our Bible Class who hosted students from our churches in Latty, OH and Princeville, IL. His topic, "What time is it?", gave each one of us much to think about.

It is with grateful hearts that we report Bro. Harold Schieler is back home again after a short hospital stay. We look forward to having him assemble with us again.

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

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

Psalms 27:1

Craig Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) has opened his heart to the Lord's tender call. We pray that

God will bless Craig's new life in Christ.

It was a privilege to welcome Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) into our assembly on Sunday, April 21. We pray God's blessings on his visit and thank him for the message of truth.

Likewise, Bro. Garry Bucher's willingness to serve our congregation was greatly appreciated. We thank Bro. Garry, Sis. Lois and their family (Valparaiso, IN) for joining us on Mother's Day.

Our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer enlightened us with the Word of Life on a recent Sunday and we express our gratefulness to him.

It has been decided to sing regularly at both the Bremen Healthcare Center and Miller's Merry Manor; first Wednesday of each month at Bremen Healthcare Center at 7:00 p.m. and the third Wednesday of each month at Miller's Merry Manor, Wakarusa, at 7:00 p.m.

A lady's tan London Fog coat, size 12, was left at church in March.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

"Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 1:2)

Our thoughts are with Bro. Willis Feller (Sis. Eunice) due to his health problems. May God grant him continuing grace and renewed strength.

We enjoyed an evening of fellowship together at our Mother-Daughter Banquet. The inspirational songs and readings were a reminder of our duties as moms and daughters, and God's blessings on us as we fulfill these, to those we love so much. Thanks to the committee for all their hours of planning and work on our behalf.

We were privileged to have Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) come and minister to us on the Sunday set aside for our spring program. Others then involved in our program were a group of sisters from Peoria,

IL and a group of brothers from Francesville. The voices blended together in praise to God were truly a blessing to each one gathered there. God must surely be pleased when He hears us use our talents on His behalf.

We are so happy for Bro. Lance Bucher as he has announced his engagement to Sis. Hope Steiner of the Princeville and Indianapolis congregations. The parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher (Valparaiso) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville, IL). We welcome Sis. Hope and wish them abundant blessings.

On Mother's Day we were privileged to have Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) come and minister to us. We know everyone is busy and we appreciated Bro. Neil's willingness to come on a holiday. Bro. Neil's text was St. Matthew 15. Verse 4 says, "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother..." This was perfect meditation for Mother's Day and with Father's Day coming soon, it was a good review of God's commands for our family life.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

O, Spirit of God's strength and
might,
Create in us new life and light;
O, join us all in heart and mind,
That access to God's throne we
find
Within Thy light!
Zions Harp #200

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) here with us on April 27 as we remembered Jesus' death and suffering on the cross for our sins. How thankful we can be for the terrible price that was paid at Calvary. May God richly bless these Brothers for their efforts. Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) also ministered to

us recently. May God bless him as well, as we appreciate his willingness to lend himself in God's service.

Angela Furrer, four month old baby daughter of Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa, underwent open heart surgery on May 7. Our hearts were prayerful on her behalf, that she could be restored to a measure of good health and strength if God so willed. We are thankful to God for His mercy and compassion, and are happy to report that she did excellent, and is now home with her family and is recovering nicely. We pray that God will strengthen and provide as He sees best.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Irene Radcliff and Sis. Dorothy Lehman, as both of them lost a sister this past month. May God comfort their hearts and be near unto them during their times of sorrow.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner

Monica Eisenmann

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

Romans 10:15

Our hearts were uplifted by the message of truth brought forth by our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) this past month.

As the weather gets warmer, our thoughts turn to summertime and the ending of another school year. Our prayers are with those who are graduating. May they all turn their lives over to God and let Him guide them in their walk of life. The graduates from our small congregation are John Beyer (Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb) and Dawn Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail).

Also at this time of year we would like to express our deep appreciation for our mothers and fathers. With Father's Day swiftly approaching, we must not think only of our

earthly fathers, but also of our Heavenly Father who has done so much for us.

Keith Massner (Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn) was married to Brenda Myers (Arnold and Ruth Hohn) on May 4. We wish them much happiness as they walk life's pathway. May they look to God for guidance in their new life together.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the many cards that were sent to me for my 80th birthday. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Blaine Applegarth

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden**

Even though we are enjoying the return of the green grass and flowers, our temperatures in this area remain quite sub-normal for this spring season. We are anxious for warmer weather, yet we are thankful that God is in control and trust that what He provides is what we need.

George Schupbach (Mildred) is in the hospital following surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he recuperates.

We have four high school students who are looking forward to graduation. They are Sis. Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy), Candace Halverson (Roger and Charlene), Meg Butikofer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy), and Nathan Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet). We wish them God's direction as they make plans for their future. So many things in this life seem so important but only one thing is needful. May we be like Mary and choose to be close to our Lord. At the end of this earthly pilgrimage nothing else is really going to matter except our standing with Him.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk**

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let us be thankful for the kind, loving examples they are and for raising us in God-fearing homes. Have you ever wondered what you would be doing or where you would be if you had not had the loving Christian parents you have? We can only thank the Lord we have the opportunity to serve Him.

Visiting ministers include Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We want to thank them for coming to serve us.

Graduating from college this year is Dawn Clark with a degree in Criminal Justice. She is the daughter of Sis. Willa Clark. Graduating from high school is Joshua Funk (Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen) and Sara Clark (Sis. Willa Clark). We pray as these graduates go out into the world or further their education, they would prayerfully seek the Lord in all decisions they make.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We again appreciate all of our visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and his wife, Sis. Joan, who came to assist in serving Communion to our small flock. May the warmth and closeness we felt to the Lord and to our brothers and sisters stay with us through the days ahead.

We extend our congratulations and wishes for God's blessings to our graduates this month. Bro. Tim Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) is graduating from high school. We are thankful he plans to attend COE College this fall and will be able to remain in the Iowa City area. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) is graduating from the University of Iowa with a degree in Biology. Her plans are taking her to Phoenix, AZ. We have appreciated her assembling with us while she was in school here and hope she will soon feel at home in the Phoenix

congregation.

May all who face decisions for their future consult the Master Planner, for He who created us must surely know what is best for us!

**IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold**

"...with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

We rejoice as another dear soul has made a change in her life and has put her trust in God. Sara Metzger was announced to have found peace with God and man and now awaits baptism.

In the month of April, we had two weddings. On the 14th, Bro. Steven Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Joy Feucht (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie) were united in Holy Matrimony. We will miss Sis. Joy as she leaves our area to make her home in Latty with her new husband. Visiting ministers here for the special occasion were: Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), and Bros. Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). April 21 was the day chosen for the marriage of Bro. Ray Luthi and Sis. Violet Knobloch. Again we must bid farewell to a dear Sister as she starts a new life in Lamar, MO with her husband. May God bless them as they begin their new life together. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), and Bros. Alphai Moser and Roy Koehl joined us for the weekend also.

We appreciate the precious Word of God that was brought forth to us by these visiting ministers.

Bro. Ed Roemen (Sis. Arnelia), Sis. Emma Knobloch, Otto Knobloch (Anna), Sis. Elizabeth Nester and Bro. Ernst (Sis. Ella) Metzger all spent time in the hospital this month. We pray for God's healing powers to restore them to

health.

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to our High School seniors. Our graduates are: Sherri Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marlys), Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Justin Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristi), Jesse TeSlaa (Rhonda), Brent Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam), Jane Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie), Amy Ter Wee (Jerry and Mary), Collin Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi), Mychal Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Sis. Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. David and Sis. Margene) and Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky). Those who have graduated from college this spring are: Jami Metzger and Jodi Metzger (Charles and Linda), Bro. Damon Knobloch and Darin Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie), Mark Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy), Aaron Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth), Lon Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Durwin Martin (Ed and Judy), Wes Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn), Joni Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky), Michele Feucht (Ron and Sis. Sandy), Lori Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley), and Craig Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee). Our prayers are with each one as they seek further education or employment. May they look to God for His guidance and direction.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler with the death of his sister, Rachael Park, recently. May God's comforting spirit help them and others in their times of need.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner

Debbie Wagenbach

Our high school graduates this May are Carrie Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen), Megan Massner (Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie), Laura Steiner (Bro. Tom and

Sis. JoAnn), and Sis. Rosalie Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha). Koertland Beyer (Sis. Luanne) will also graduate this year out in Ohio. Graduating from college are Bro. Chad Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra), Ben Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol), Bro. Dave Stoller (Sis. Stefanie), Sis. Karen Eberhardt (Bro. Brent), and Sis. Sharla Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha). Sis. Tricia Metzger finished college in December and has found employment in the Chicago area. As each of our graduates advance to another phase of their lives, may they seek the Lord's guidance and direction that it may be well with them.

Our annual Sunday School election was held the first Sunday in May. Newly elected teachers are Bros. Chuck Massner, Ron Schmidgall, Rick Vierling, and Sisters Linda Gerst and Melody Steiner. Sis. Debbie Wagenbach will replace Sis. Tonya Lanz for the remainder of her term. We appreciate the efforts of our outgoing teachers, Bros. Tom Steiner, Colin Wagenbach, Jerry Wagenbach Jr., and Sisters Cathy Larson and Patricia Steiner.

Molly Mae Lanz is the newest addition to Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz's family circle. Molly's arrival was anxiously awaited by her siblings, Heidi, Kelli, Renee, and Ben. Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) are also happy for another baby in the family.

Regan Lanz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Emma Jean) and Tricia Tapp (Dave and Phyllis Tapp) were married on May 4. May God bless them as they enter this important step in life.

Bro. Floyd Rowell and Sis. Ione Stoller were united as one in the Lord on May 18. May God bless them and their families. Ministering brothers present for the wedding were Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, son of Bro. Floyd) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, son of Sis. Ione).

I recently saw a sign posted at the

local dry cleaning store. The sign said "I talk....I talk, I listen....I learn." Often instead of being so ready with advice, we would be better off to just listen and as a candle, let our light shine in a dark and sin filled world. May God help us all to be a proper light and example, that His name may be glorified.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for all the love and kindness shown to us in so many ways during Bro. Al's open heart surgery in Peoria and since returning home. May God continue to bless our beloved church and precious fellowship with our brethren.

Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand and family

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

Our congregation had a very encouraging weekend with Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) during our Communion services. We appreciated having Bro. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) join us on Sunday and taking part of the services. May our Lord bless them in their work for Him.

We are thankful to God for the speedy recovery of Bro. Russell Wuthrich after a short hospital stay.

Our graduates this year are: Jacki Cruikshank (Lowell and Sis. Billie), eighth grade; Robin Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy), Aaron Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy), Corey and Jamie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn), high school; and Jennifer and Tammy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy), college.

We surely wish God's direction and blessing for each one as they start another chapter of their lives.

A father's love is always there
Through every kind of weather—
A strong, protective promise that
Will shelter you forever.

Our feelings of love and apprecia-

tion are extended to our earthly fathers for their care and guidance here on earth and also to our Heavenly Father for direction to our Eternal Home.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

We were encouraged and uplifted to have Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) in our midst. May God bless him for his willingness to bring forth His Word. We are happy that Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan's son and wife, Brent and Lisa Emch, have found employment in our area and we want to welcome them.

Mother's Day was extra special to two mothers as we witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose Knobloch. There is no greater joy known to a parent than to see their children surrender their life to our Lord and Saviour. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in this important work. Bro. Denton's parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA), and Sis. Rose's parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Nathan Mogler and family and Sis. Elma Mogler and family on the death of Rachel Parks of Davenport, IA. Rachel was a sister of Bro. Nathan and sister-in-law of Sis. Elma.

Sis. Lezlee Leman's grandfather, Clyde Archibald, of Eureka, IL passed away recently and our sympathy goes out to Bro. Dale, Sis. Lezlee and their family. Also, our sympathy to Louis Schafer who has lost another sister, Sis. Rekie Anliker, of Burlington, IA. May each one find comfort and strength in the Lord in the loss of their loved ones.

Hospital patients this past month have been Andy Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie), Alice Marie Metzger, Jean Knobloch (Adolph), and Esther Slagel (Keith). May the Lord be with each one as they continue their re-

covery at home.

Congratulations and God's blessings go out to Alvin and Wendy Wirtz of Gilbert, AZ on the birth of their baby boy, Dakota Dare. Bro. Fred and Sis. Hulda Wirtz are his grandparents.

It was a pleasure to have Bradley Metzger back in our area after spending a year at Okinawa in the Marines. Bradley has now reported back to duty and he is stationed in California. We are thankful to God for His hand of protection over all of our servicemen. Anyone in the area who wishes to write Bradley may use this address:

LCPL Bradley W. Metzger
479-02-6071

1st Tank BN H&F Co. Mant. PLT.
29 Palms, CA 92278

As another school year comes to an end, we say farewell to Sis. Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. Dave and Sis. Margene, Lester, IA). Sis. Elizabeth has been attending a college in our area and will now be returning to her home congregation. We have enjoyed having her assemble with us and wish her God's direction and blessings.

As we approach the day set aside as Father's Day, we have special thoughts of love and appreciation for their care and guidance throughout our lives. For those fathers who have gone on before, we still have precious memories to bless our lives. Thanks be to God for our fathers!

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to everyone who so kindly sent me cards and gifts during my hospital stay in Michigan, and to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit, MI for his very special visit; I will never forget your kindness.

Esther Slagel

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings to all! This month was not a real active month; however, we did have our annual business meet-

ing on May 19. All of the members were able to attend, but two. Our dear Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta is still experiencing a lot of pain and discomfort with rheumatism, which often keeps her from being able to come to church. Please pray for her, especially that she can feel God's nearness and strength. We really miss her enthusiastic and helpful nature. Truly, each member of the body of Christ is an important part of the church in some way or another.

Some food for thought: I recently read in the Gateway Woods Gate Post a saying that is worth repeating. "Reputation is what people think of you—Character is what God knows you are."

KANSAS, BERN Holly Meyer Lori Baumgartner

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our
strife:

And preach thee, too, as love
knows how,

By kindly words and virtuous life.

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death!

Hymns of Zion #85

Oh, how thankful we are for godly fathers that have preserved our most precious faith from generation to generation. So often we take this for granted. I am reminded of the time, when as a young teenager, I attended a family reunion. There was much reminiscing during the course of the afternoon. At one point my grandfather and his siblings shared many of the trials and joys that they had experienced in their lives. I was so impressed by the fact that through it all, most of them had persevered and had kept the faith. But I also remember the terrible hurt I felt in my heart when I realized that there were branches in the family where the faith had not been kept. In those branches the faith was not passed on to the next gen-

eration and the next...I recall feeling the sting of conviction when I realized that I also had a duty to help carry on the faith of my forefathers. As we give honor to our fathers on this Father's Day 1996, may we also remember to give thanks for godly fathers who have gone on before us. We truly do have a most precious faith! We each have a duty to help preserve it.

Father's Day will be extra special this month for those who have been blessed with new babies. Little Michaela Ann was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Strahm on April 20. She has one sister, Malerie, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm. First-time parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey, were blessed with a daughter, Hannah Kay, on April 29. Her grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Eugene and Judy Edelman. On May 2, a daughter, Jacey Rae, was born to Ted and Marcia Rottinghaus (Topeka, KS). Her happy grandparents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Gerald and Paula Rottinghaus (Seneca, KS).

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

Matthew 19:6

On April 21, Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless their union.

The wedding engagement of Stacia Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) and Jeff Bone (Robert and Judy, Mayetta) was recently made known. An October wedding is being planned. May the two of them seek the Lord's direction as they make plans for a lifetime together.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5,6

This is our prayer for each of our high school and college graduates as they begin new chapters in their lives. Congratulations to our high school graduates: Rodney Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou), Jody Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Tabitha Reist (Dave and Marci), Rachel Hundley (John and Sis. Margaret), Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Lisa Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby), and Sis. Lisa Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat). Our graduates from Kansas State University are Sis. Carla Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet), Sis. Natalie Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), and Bro. Larry Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne). Graduating from Highland Community College are Sis. Carmen Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Jananne Menold (Bro. Victor).

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus" was the main topic for the Kansas Youth Fellowship weekend April 20 and 21 in Sabetha. Our junior high Sunday School students and teachers attended. We wish to thank those involved from Sabetha for hosting a blessed weekend.

We have those in our congregation who are battling serious illnesses. We continue to uphold them in prayer. May Bro. Wayne Miller (Sis. Pearl) and his family circle feel the Lord's nearness as his health continues to decline. We are thankful that Sis. Jana Gruber (Todd) is nearing completion of her radiation treatments. Hospitalized as a patient at this time is Harlan Wittmer.

Note of Thanks:

To our friends and relatives who remembered us with letters and cards as we celebrated our 50th anniversary—a humble thanks. God's richest blessings to all.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Tammy Sinn

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

At this time of year we often think of the graduates, those who have completed a set of requirements and will now move on to a new state in life. We extend our congratulations to our high school graduates, David Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Tim Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen), as well as to those gaining various degrees from college, Justin Banwart, Alesha Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta), Daniel Williams (Taira) and Sis. Maria Bahr (Bro. Jerry). As they go forth, it is our fervent prayer that they will each seek God's direction in their lives.

Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) brought forth the Word of Life to us once again. We thank him and his family for assembling with us, and pray that all our ministers may be endowed with an extra portion of God's grace and wisdom.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

As Father's Day approaches, let us truly be thankful for those fathers who have shown us the way of eternal life. May we also remember our Heavenly Father who has made us one of His own.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Ephesians 6:2-3

As we set aside a special day to honor our mothers and fathers, let us recall that several times throughout the Bible God commands us to honor them all our lives. It is such a blessing to have God-fearing parents who have brought us "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4).

To break Thy bread we now have gathered,
In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be Thine.
This promise we, with heart and will;
Give grace our promise to fulfill.
Zion's Harp #25

We were blessed to receive Communion this month and renew the vows we made to the Lord. May the grace of the Lord strengthen each of us to His service.

We also received admonition and encouragement from the reading of the Memorandum. Thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for his labor of love.

Bro. John also showed slides of his trip to India as a board member for RGMMI. May each of us keep this ministry in our prayers.

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth."

Psalms 71:5

Our junior high graduates this year are Tyson Tucker (Stan and Judy) and Sarah Johnson (Shawn and Sis. Lynne). Our high school graduates are Kristen Farney (Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay), Sandy Willson (Bro. Gary and Sis. Janet), Brooke Tucker (Stan and Judy), and Matt Schupbach (Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling).

May the Lord bless each of these graduates and grant each the grace to follow the strait and narrow path.

A special thanks to Sabetha for hosting the junior high fellowship. May the efforts made bring forth spiritual blessings in our youth.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr

On May 11 and 12, Sis. Melissa Frieden (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie) shared her testimony of her coming to know her precious Saviour. Sis. Melissa was then baptized and newly resurrected unto a new life in Christ Jesus. We eagerly welcome her as another heir to God's kingdom.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). We lovingly thank these brothers for their labors.

Rachel Jean Anliker is the name chosen for the new little baby daughter born May 10 to Marvin and Jeana Anliker. Little Rachel had a difficult beginning and was transferred to the Neonatal Unit in Wichita for a few days. With many prayers offered in her behalf, she is welcomed home by her siblings, Marshall and Rebekah. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker and Dennis and Jan Kleysteuber. Our loving congratulations to little Rachel's entire family.

I recently read an article that touched my heart. I wanted to share it, as Father's Day will soon be upon us once again.

A small child eagerly thrust his little hand into the hand of an adult standing near him. "Hi!" he said, grinning shyly up at the "big person". The little hand was smeared with chocolate ice cream and a little doggie hair from recently petting a stray puppy. There was a wart under his right thumb and a bandage around his finger. The adult wasn't sure that he wanted to accommodate this little person's hand into his own, and started to draw away. Suddenly, the most important thing about holding this hand struck

home. He was holding the hand of the future! These are hands that someday may hold a Bible or may pull the trigger of a revolver. These are hands that may gently dress a leper's wound or spin a gambling wheel. These are hands that may someday play hymns on the piano or tremble uncontrollably by an alcoholic mind. The adult gently cuddled the child's hand in his, and smiled tenderly. Right now, that small hand is ours to mold. It asks for help and guidance. It represents a personality to be respected and honored, and whose day to day growth into Christian adulthood is a God-given responsibility unto each of us.

Forgive me for failing to report on the wedding of Brent and Lise Emch a few months ago. The wedding of Brent Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan) and Lise Callen (Wayne and Judy Callen) was held on February 3. The reminder that I missed reporting their wedding was that the couple has recently made a move to the West Bend, IA area. Brent has taken employment in Emmetsburg, IA. We sincerely want to wish the couple our loving congratulations and our best wishes. May God direct and keep them safely.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger

We are thankful for the many reasons we've had to rejoice together. May we strive to not only give thanks when we experience showers of blessings, but also in times of trial and affliction.

James Bradley Edelman was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman on April 18. Emily, Elizabeth, Christina, Wil and Ben are excited to have a new brother. Grandparents are Clifford and Sis. Barbara Edelman.

Amy Dawn Wysong was born on April 20 to Benj and Pam Wysong, Erika and Keith. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice

Wysong and great-grandmother, Sis. Evelyn Wysong.

The engagement was announced of Bro. Ken Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Amy Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). May God further direct their lives together. An October 6 wedding is planned.

Matthew Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) and Tori Michelle Niehoff (Garry and Lila, Topeka, KS) have announced their engagement and wedding set for August 31.

Sabetha hosted the Kansas Junior Bible Class on April 20-21. We appreciated all the visitors and are thankful to the teachers for getting our youth together and to the parents for their sacrifices. Our prayers are they each will learn "What a friend we have in Jesus".

Sis. Helen Strahm reached a milestone as she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Sincere sympathy to Bro. Joseph Menold (Sis. Tillie). His

sister, Ella Menold, passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home on April 22. Further, our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Joe at this time while he is in the hospital.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm have been blessed with fifty years together April 27. May God continue to dwell with them during their allotted years together.

Best wishes are extended to our graduates. We know there are certain actions taken to obtain a diploma in school. Likewise, there is preparation that has to be made in order to "graduate" to the realms of Heaven. We pray that each one will some day obtain such a "diploma". High school graduates include Myra Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Sis. Brenda Grimm (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby), Sis. Christy Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl), Shana Knoblock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann) and Sis. Jenny Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada). Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa) graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in mechanical engineering.

We were grateful to have Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) lend themselves in His service.

May we be submissive to God's will and strengthen the things that remain. "Is it too much to ask...to give up our self will? to forsake the abundance this world offers which will all vanish away? to separate ourselves from worldly appearance and activities?"

We rejoice with Calvin and Marie Weiss who were announced for peace with God and man. Lord willing, they will give their testimonies on June 15.

Father's Day

There are little eyes upon you, and they're watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say.

There are little hands all eager to do everything you do,
And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol ...
you're the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind, about you no suspicions ever rise.

He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and do
He will say and do in your way when he is grown-up like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow,
who believes you're always right,
And his ears are always open, and he watches day and night.

You are setting an example every day in all you do.
For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

—*Author Unknown*

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings:"

Philippians 2:13,14

Dear ones, if we could only heed to these two verses more. I must admit when I first found out I would have to write the Silver Lining article, I must have murmured some. And when I had to get the article in on time and I had some big test to study for, I murmured some more. Soon though, I found out how much these articles are read and how much of a blessing they are to some. I was truly ashamed and very thankful that God continued to work through me despite my murmuring. Now that it has come to my last article, I was about to murmur some more. Only I thought how God could work through someone else and then I did not murmur.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was with us for a Bible study. On this evening we studied second Timothy chapter two. Also with us this semester was Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley-Lamont, KS), and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). We would like to thank all those brothers who were with us this semester to share God's wonderful Word.

As this semester comes to an end, we must face the departure of many dear loved ones. First off, we were all excited to here of the engagement of Bro. Ken Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha) and Sis. Amy Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). We all wish them God's blessings on the upcoming wedding and their life together. Others leaving will be Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer (Sabetha), Sis. Wendy Edelman, Sis. Carla Meyer, Sis. Natalie Lehman, and Bro. Larry Meyer (all of Bern), and Yalana Shuette. We have enjoyed our fellowship with these loved ones and pray that God

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Derek Funk

will direct them in all ways.

We can report that the Spring Picnic was a success. We enjoyed the fellowship with all those who attended and want to thank all those who helped out. The love and support that we receive here is tremendous and goes a long way in helping us be successful in our studies.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

I was busy removing books from my bookcase in preparation for a remodeling project and came across some pamphlets which foretold the end of the world at an exact date. That date has passed and we are still here. Does that mean the end isn't coming? Not at all! It just means we should take seriously the advice from my dear mother, Sis. Lydia Bahr, who despite the fact of having a limited education, used to quote poetry to us children years ago. She often quoted this last verse from "Thanatopsis" by William Cullen Bryant who was a poet of the 1700's.

So live, that when thy summons
comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which
moves
To that mysterious realm, where
each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of
death,
Thou go not as a quarry-slave at
night
Scourged to his dungeon, but,
sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach
thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of
his couch
About him, and lies down to
pleasant dreams.

We welcome Sis. Carol Carter to our congregation in Wichita. We are so happy to share our worship with her as she has taken residence and employment in the city.

Our high school graduate is Liza

Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline). College graduates are Sis. Jennifer Reimschisel and Andrea Nelson (daughters of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel). We congratulate them for reaching these milestones and implore God's direction to them in the next phase of their lives.

Sis. Nellie Lambert and Sis. Ann Warner and their families hosted the Mother-Daughter Banquet on May 11. This annual event is a tradition in Wichita much looked forward to by those who gather to renew acquaintances and to acknowledge their heritage.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

A special thanks to Bro. Earl Gerber and his wife, Sis. Esther, from Forrest, IL who came with some of their family to be with us in May. We enjoyed a meal out on Saturday evening.

Recently our son won a trip to Washington D.C. and represented Kentucky during the National Safe Kids campaign that was held the first part of May. As the sponsor of the group, I also went along and we enjoyed touring the many beautiful sights and museums in our nation's capitol for four days, and church on Sunday. One day as we walked through the Senate office building and observed the state flags and seals by the office doors, a feeling of awe came upon us to think that here were the very people we read about in the newspapers! Names like John Glenn, Robert Dole, and others were on the roster. As we walked away, I put my arm around my son and said that even though these men have power and clout because they are Senators, the best name to have would be that of a "Brother" in our faith because of the grace that God affords that individual to have power over sin. It was a beautiful moment as we walked down Pennsylvania Avenue surrounded with symbols of earthly power all around

us, yet sharing together about our precious faith and what really counts in life—to be a lamb of Jesus.

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

MICHIGAN, ALTO Melanie Kaeb - Michelle Oesch

"Who can find a virtuous woman?
for her price is far above rubies. She
openeth her mouth with wisdom;
and in her tongue is the law of kind-
ness. She looketh well to the ways of
her household, and eateth not the
bread of idleness. Her children arise
up, and call her blessed; her hus-
band also, and he praiseth her."
Proverbs 31:10,26-28

We remembered our moms this past Sunday on Mother's Day and shared a special evening, May 10, with them at our Mother-Daughter Banquet. Our theme was "Mom, you're an angel" and it was a nice way to honor our "angel" who gives so much of herself in love without asking for anything but our love in return.

This year's graduates from high school are Jared Patten (Sis. Brenda), Mark Schutte (Steve and Sis. Sandy), Summer Erismann (Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny), and Laura Blough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie). Also graduating from Michigan State is Sis. Melanie Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne). We congratulate each of them on their efforts and pray for the Lord's guidance and direction as they take

the next step in their lives.

Our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) recently returned from a mission to Haiti and we are thankful for the Lord's traveling mercies. As he shared with us some of his experiences and the poverty that is a part of everyday life in Haiti, we were again reminded of the many blessings we take for granted in our life and the need to have ever more thankful hearts for all the Lord has done for us.

On April 26, we had another World Relief Family Work Bee and we thank all who gave of their time and efforts.

Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) spent time recuperating from out-patient surgery this month and Doug Byam (Marilyn) was also hospitalized and is now at home.

Thought for the month: "There is no telling how far one act of kindness will travel." (Glenn Ridless)

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:23-26

We were privileged once again to celebrate the Lord's Supper with our loved ones of like faith and mind. With us for this most solemn occasion was Elder Bro. Ben

Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) and also Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI). The weekend was blessed by our Lord.

We wish our Lord's blessings and care of our loved ones who have been ill: Sis. Florence Wieland had hip surgery; Sis. Kathryn Wackerle (Bro. Ron) had surgery; Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl) was in the hospital; Jerry Meier (Sis. Edith) also had hip surgery. All are on the mend once again.

Our Lord inspired our ministers with a special tribute to our mothers on their special day and He expects us to honor her all year through. Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and his wife, Sis. Mary, were with us for this special day.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their love and support in prayer, visits, phone calls, food, cards and sympathy in the passing of our dear brother and uncle, Orville.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer and family

Sis. Leah and Sis. Helen Ramseyer

Sis. Lillian Ramseyer and family

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Lynette Moser - Holly Barton

"...Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

Ephesians 5:2

This text presents first the fact of His loving, which should constantly promote worship in our hearts. It then fixes our attention on the fullness of His giving. He "hath given Himself for us." No giving could ever be more complete. The verse then reaches its climax by pointing to the fragrance of His dying. To God, Christ's offering and sacrifice were "an odor of a sweet smell." How infinitely precious to God is the work of Calvary!

—G. Hall

We had opportunity on April 20 to remember Christ's work on Calvary as we enjoyed Communion together. May the thought of what He has done for us ever be "infinitely precious" unto us!

Another blessed occasion for us was hosting a men's singing group, the Mortonaires, the weekend of May 4-5. It was so enjoyable to hear them sing the Lord's praises. We thank them for their visit. We also were happy to have Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and ministering Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) here that weekend.

Congratulations to Bonnie Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City) on her graduation from Eastern Michigan University. We are so glad that she has found employment in our area and will continue to be part of our fellowship.

Sis. Amy Bahr and Bro. Ken Beyer (Sabetha, KS) feel that the Lord has drawn them together and their engagement was announced on April 21. Their parents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them as they look forward to an October 6 wedding.

Sorrow has touched the hearts of Bro. Walt and Sis. Hilda Bauer with the passing of Sis. Hilda's sister. May they also feel the comfort of the Lord's presence.

Spring has seemed very slow in arriving this year in Detroit! We are thankful at last to be seeing some sunshine and blossoms and enjoying warmer temperatures. No matter the weather, we always look forward this time of year to our Woodhaven Benefit Dinner. The dinner and song program hosted by our choir was held on May 19. We again appreciate everyone's efforts and prayers to help make this event beneficial for our dear ones at Woodhaven.

Earthly fathers have a great deal of responsibility. Many of us can be

thankful for having godly fathers, and let us honor them by upholding them in prayer to our Heavenly Father.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Perry Virkler

We are grateful that Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) could be with us the weekend of April 20-21 to assist our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) in reading the Memorandum. We were so lovingly reminded of our duties as a child of God and pray that each of us will strive daily to have a closer walk with Him. May our Elder Brothers continue to feel our prayers and support. A special thanks for their inspiring messages on Sunday. Also this month, we were richly blessed two Sundays with the ministering of Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL). May God be the rich rewarder for all who labor in His vineyard.

Our congratulations to Keith Massner and Brenda Myers as they were united in marriage on Saturday, May 4. Keith's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner (Burlington, IA). We wish them God's blessings in their new married life.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Brent Deragish (Dan and Lola), Wade Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine) and Rick Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb). May they seek the Lord's guidance as they further their education.

As we commemorate Father's Day, let us give thanks not only for our earthly fathers, but also to our Heavenly Father.

WHY GOD MADE FATHERS

God made fathers to be the friend
Each son and daughter needs
To listen to their problems
And encourage brave new deeds...

God made fathers to be a guide
Who's gentle, wise and strong
To answer questions
And to teach them right from

wrong...

And God made fathers to give the
love

That means security
To those entrusted to his care —
His happy family!

—Elizabeth Gerus

Now it is accomplished! I'm no
longer mine;

Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,

For Thou hast created and
purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

The weekend of April 27-28, Carol and I received the greatest joy that a parent can receive by greeting our daughter, Lori, and her husband, Nick Stadel, from Silverton, OR as a sister and brother in Christ. To witness their changed hearts through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit after repenting of their sins, receiving peace and hearing their testimonies, covenant and their baptism was a joy that converted parents pray for. All the glory belongs to our great God in Heaven. A special thanks to our dear Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for their labors of love and for the brothers and sisters that traveled the many miles to Oregon for this special occasion.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Nancy Wulf

On May 4, we heard the testimonies of four young men. On Sunday, we rejoiced to call them brothers as Jonathon Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb), John and Gary Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice) and Dan Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) were baptized. Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) were here to assist Elder Bro. Art. Also with us

that weekend were Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA).

Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) was with us on May 12 to worship with us and share the Word.

Looking forward to a September wedding are Trevor Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) and Jody Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen). May God bless these two as they plan their lives to become as one.

Sis. Sophie Nohl spent some time in the hospital recently.

Pressing on toward the future are high school graduates: Shadow Fehr (Bro. Paul, Jr. and Sis. Pam), Sis. Heidi Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Bro. Mike Feuchtenberger (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Karen), Kevin Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb), Andrew Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Heidi Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Alison Minke (Sis. Bev Minke and Len Minke), Lisa Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), Carrie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel), and Sis. Mindy Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce). Sis. Mindy also graduated from Technical College as did Trevor Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Amy Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn), and Brenda Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon). May God bless and keep each of these graduates as they go out into the world. May they always keep in their hearts the teachings they have learned at home, and stay close to our Heavenly Father, who cares and watches over each of them.

Note: Our new telephone area code is 320.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
Greetings!

STANDING ROOM ONLY
ON JUDGMENT DAY

Last night I had an awful dream
that the end of time had come
The trumpet had been sounded

and life on earth was done.
 An angel stood one foot on land,
 the other foot on sea
 And as I tried to kneel and pray, a
 voice said unto me...
 "There's standing room only, it's
 too late now to pray.
 There's standing room only...this
 is the Judgment Day."
 People filled each church and
 churchyard, just as far as I could
 see
 I heard a pitiful cry for mercy and
 then I realized it was me.
 I saw the Saviour then appear as
 He split the Eastern sky
 I saw tears of Joy on a Christian's
 face and I heard the sinners cry.
 And as I tried to touch His hand
 with one last feeble plea
 I cried again "Have mercy, have
 mercy, Lord, on me."
 I saw a tear come to His eye as He
 turned my soul away
 I didn't know Him yesterday and
 He knew me not today.
 The earth was burning all around,
 the world went up in smoke
 And as the flames engulfed me,
 thank God I awoke.
 Then I got out of bed and got
 down on my knees and you
 should have heard me pray...
 For in my dream I witnessed
 God's great Judgment Day.

—*Author Unknown*

ARE we ready for the coming of the Lord? This is a sobering question and certainly one we should be asking ourselves each day. How thankful we can be that we have opportunities like the reading and exhortation of the Memorandum where we are reminded and warned of the dangers and pitfalls that are out there in the world. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) for sharing these duties here this past month. We would like to thank ministering Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) for being with us during that weekend also.

Our annual voting took place this month. Sunday School teachers elected to share God's teachings are Bro. Dave Schmidgall and Bro. Ed Stoll. Bro. Verl Schmidt and Sis. Joleen Elder are substitutes. Bro. Dave Schmidgall was chosen as Superintendent. Sis. Becky Braulick was elected Silver Lining correspondent. May the Lord be near to guide them as they fulfill their duties.

As Father's Day approaches, may we remember all the love they have shown to us throughout the years and may God bless them for the examples and precious memories they have given us.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Gerry Messner (Bro. Harold), Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Gene), and Sis. Delores Messerli (Bro. Cornelius). May the Lord comfort them in their time of recovery and watch over them as they regain strength.

As a congregation, we offer our prayers and sympathy to Florence Gutknecht (sister to Sis. Mable Schmidgall, Morris, MN) for the passing of her husband, Sidney Gutknecht. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Arnold Schmidt (brother to Sis. Viola Messner and Mary Ann Thiem, Peoria, IL) who also recently passed from this life.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

We rejoice with Bro. Ken Beyer and Sis. Amy Bahr who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI).

Congratulations to Sis. Holly Wales (Don Wales and Sis. Carol Wales) as she graduates from high school and to Sis. Gina Metzger (Bro. Barry) and Sis. Wanda Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene, Sabetha, KS) as they graduate from college. We wish God's blessings for them as they start a new phase in their life.

We extend our sympathy to Mike and Carolyn Geran on the death of her brother, Kenneth Wreath, on May 8. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow.

We were blessed to have Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) minister God's Word unto us on Mother's Day. We appreciate your visit.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martha Kellenberger

Becky Marti

We enjoyed all of our visitors this past month. We especially appreciate Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) being willing to serve us in the ministry.

Bro. Raymond Luthi and Sis. Violet Knobloch were married in Lester, IA on April 21. We welcome Sis. Violet to our congregation and wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

Bro. Dale Marti (Sis. Corrine) was recently hospitalized for surgery. We hope he will be able to assemble with us again soon.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa Luthi have been entrusted with a new daughter. Courtney Rose was born April 29 and joins big sister, Melinda. Happy grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Danny and Nancy Neher.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7

As the end times approach, how are we preparing our lives? We can see all around us how heartache is on every corner, people having a hard time coping with the trials they have. Instead of looking to our Lord for help, they run from their troubles. Oftentimes I wonder how it will be for Christians to cope with

the trials they have as Satan pours out his wrath knowing that his time is short. May we find courage and strength from God's Holy Word and His Holy Spirit as we seek out our Lord Jesus Christ for help as the trials of life come our way.

On May 4, our ladies gathered at the fellowship center for their annual Ladies Spring Dinner. The fellowship and encouragement was a strength to many as they could lift up our Lord together.

Congratulations are extended to our high school graduates this year who are John Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) and Josh Redd (Dean and Gaye), and also our college graduates who are Jason Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Jamie Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann) and Sis. Kris Sutter (Bro. Tim). May our Lord Jesus Christ bless them and be by their side as they go forth with the decisions they make in life.

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge) who had surgery, Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie) who also had surgery, and Dean Redd (Gaye) who was in for tests. May God's healing hand be with each one that they may have a full recovery.

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

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by the hand,
Pilgrims in a desert land.
Weary souls fore'er rejoice,
While they hear the sweetest voice,
Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer come!
Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

Ever present, truest Friend,
Ever near Thy aid to lend,
Leave us not to doubt and fear,
Groping on in darkness drear;
When the storms are raging sore,
Hearts grow faint and hopes give

o'er,
Whisper softly, "Wand'rer come!
Follow me, I'll guide thee home."
Hymns of Zion #220

The theme for this month includes false doctrine and living in the end times. Surely as we go about our daily activities, whether at home, at school, or in the work place, we can readily see the results of false doctrine and the end times. We must totally commit ourselves to God each day and look to the Holy Spirit for our strength and guidance to live in this most perilous time. God will be true and faithful to help us each step of the way if we confide and trust in Him.

We ask for God's guidance to be with Michael and Barbara Virkler, Balston Spa, as they have been given a new baby to care for in this life. Logan Michael was born on April 5 and will also be loved by his sister, Bridget, and grandparents, Nat and Sheila Virkler and Kay Cawley of Ashaway, Rhode Island.

We also ask God to guide and be with Cynthia Virkler and Lewis Courtney, Jr. as they begin their life as one. They will be married on May 25. Their parents are Nat and Sheila Virkler and Eneida Courtney and the late Lewis B. Courtney, Sr. of Baltimore, MD.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings from Akron. In this month of June, let's be especially thankful for godly fathers here on earth. They deserve our honor and appreciation not only on Father's Day, but each day of the year. We can also be thankful that God hears and answers prayers on behalf of the wayward fathers of this life.

Mothers and others in our congregation appreciated the labors of the Sunday School students in serving lunch on Mother's Day.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto have returned safely from a trip to Europe.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

April 28 and 29 was a blessed weekend as we welcomed Sis. Debbie Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) into our church family. Not only are we thankful for the addition of another soul, but also for being able to witness the first baptism in the Columbus church. Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Debbie's grandfather, and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) were with us for the testimony and baptism. May the Lord continue to bless Sis. Debbie with His grace.

This month we thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), along with Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) who have traveled the many miles to share God's precious Word and lend support to Bro. John Grimm.

As Father's Day approaches and Mother's Day is not too far behind us, we must take a few minutes of our daily devotions to give thanks for those mothers and fathers who have so patiently raised us, taught us, loved us, and prayed for us. Only as we grow older and raise families of our own, can we really appreciate our parents' love and concern. There are those of us who did not have the benefit of being raised in a Christian home by believing parents. I thank God often for the wonderful father and mother-in-law that reached out in love to a confused young wife and mother who was searching for "the peace that passeth all understanding". Their love and Christian example helped to light my way. We will honor our believing father in prayer only this Father's Day as he went to be with the Lord four years ago, but we will continue to lift our dear mother up in prayer as she struggles through these last few months on earth with cancer. And we will continue to fer-

vently pray for the unbelieving parents who still have a chance of salvation while the door of grace remains open. We cannot force our beliefs on anyone, but it is so easy to see that we are approaching the end. We can only let our light shine brightly and pray unceasingly for those who are yet standing outside.

We are thankful that prayers have been answered for Bro. Larry Banks (Sis. Nancy) as he recovers from knee-replacement surgery. Pain, which has been present for several years, seems to be diminishing.

An open house was held Sunday, May 5, after the afternoon church service. A brief history of the Columbus church was read by our ministering Bro. John Grimm and an account of the renovation was detailed by Bro. Bill Sauder, chairman of the Building Committee. There were many of the volunteers in attendance who had steadily worked on the construction project. It was a special day for the Columbus congregation.

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

The weather is assuring us that spring is finally here. Clothes are drying in the warm breeze. No store bought fabric softener can compare to the fresh scent of clothes that have been left to dry in God's great outdoors.

We are thankful for a safe trip to Haiti by several Elders including our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter. The deprived conditions under which these people must live have left a deep impression on Bro. Bill and serve as yet another reminder to all of us to be thankful for the many blessings that we in America take for granted.

Randy Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) was baptized and added as a new brother of Christ on May 12. We are thankful for each soul that is obedient to the Lord's call and wish Bro. Randy the grace to

remain humble and resist and flee from the many temptations that the world has to offer our youth.

Bro. Paul Manz (Sis. Sandra) spent a day in the hospital for observation, but thankfully is doing well again.

Our hearts were united as one when Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Bill in serving the Lord's Supper. After prayerfully searching our hearts, we looked forward to this time of partaking of the bread and cup while pondering the significance of this blessed occasion. Thank you to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley for the short time that they could spend with us.

As we look ahead to Father's Day, my thoughts turn back to a sermon emphasizing the close relationship between Abraham and Isaac. The comment was made that Abraham did not just start being a good father the day that he took Isaac up the mountain believing that he was going to sacrifice his son. His parenting and nurturing had begun long before that. Likewise, today as then, our earthly fathers need to begin at a very early age to build a spiritually sound relationship with their children, not waiting for a time of crisis before realizing how many opportunities have slipped away. May the Lord give them wisdom to this end.

OHIO, LATTY Joyce Klopfenstein Kathy Sinn

The Lord has called another soul from time into eternity. Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann) was taken from this life. May God's strengthening hand of blessing be upon his wife; sons, Steve, Jerry, and Bro. Rick (Denise); daughters, Carol, Beverly, Kathy (Doug), Janis (Scott); and other family members.

From our community and the family of Bro. Dave and Sis. Irene Stoller, a soul, Jim McCoy (Portia) was taken from this earth. May the Lord stand by and support the fam-

ily in this time of loss.

Bro. Ralph Stoller has spent time in the hospital. May our prayers unto God intercede on his behalf to restore his body again. Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl) has returned to her home. May we continue to remember her and her family in our prayers.

Julia Parady (Robert and Sis. Sharon) and Jeremy Fohner (Dave and Judy) have planned an August 24 wedding date. May the Lord bless and keep them in His care.

Several members of our congregation have completed years of college. They include, Sis. Melanie Hackenjoos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine), Shane Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Ede), Bro. Doug Nygaard (Annette), and Sis. Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee).

When we receive this issue, our children will once again be out of school for the summer. May we each one take advantage of this time to again draw them ever near to the ways of truth.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

But I prize the friendship highest
Of the one whose heart is true,
Friends who live by truth and
goodness

And who live in Him anew,
Friends whose hearts are up in
heaven

Though their feet traverse this
sod,

Find a place of highest merit
In our fellowship with God.

Hymns of Zion #91

The weekend of April 20 and 21, our Single Group had the privilege of hosting all the Ohio Single Groups. It was truly a blessing to have each one with us for the weekend. The Mansfield Single Group would like to offer their deepest thanks to all those who helped in any way.

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

Romans 5:1

We are thankful that two more souls have found peace with God and man and now are awaiting baptism. We wish to offer our prayerful encouragement to Tami Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) and Stephen Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn) as they have reached this new stage in life. May they ever continue to draw closer to God.

“And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”

Mark 6:12

As often as we hear repentance preached, we are ever thankful when another soul answers the call. We rejoice that Ann Groman is willing to turn her back on the ways of the world and follow Him. May she ever feel our prayerful support as she begins this most rewarding walk of life.

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matt. 10:7

No matter how often we hear this message, may we ever take heed and be ready. We are thankful that Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) and their families were each able to spend a Sunday with us this month. May God reward them as only He can.

“And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

Micah 4:2

We have three high school graduates and one college graduate who

will now be going forth to face a whole new stage in life. We pray that high school graduates, Stephanie Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn), Jared Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Seda) and Sis. Stephany Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev), and college graduate, Bro. Chad Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) will always strive to walk in the paths of the Lord. We know the world can call in many ways and we pray they will only listen to the calling that truly comes out of Zion.

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

Genesis 2:24

On May 19, we heard the engagement of Bro. John Pfeiffer, Jr. (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna) to Sis. Marci Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen, Rittman, OH). We wish them all of God’s richest blessings as they prepare for their life together.

Recently there was a cartoon in our local paper of a little boy praying. The caption read “Make me good. And if you don’t get through to me the first time, please keep tryin’ ‘til I answer.” I had to think of my own life—do I submit to God’s will the first time or does He “have to keep trying”? May each one of us strive to ever do His will.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Linda Schar

Michelle Dotterer

There is much rejoicing among the angels of Heaven, as four dear souls have recently turned their life over to their Saviour. They are Ken Rupp, Sr. (Sis. Lillian), Mike and Kristen Gasser, and Lisa Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat).

Our church has also been blessed with several new babies. Kurt, Kelly, Kara, Katrina, Kristin and Kraig welcomed Kody Jay Gasser into the world on April 17. Kody’s

parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Elizabeth Gasser and Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer.

On April 30, Tresa Joy was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler. “Big” sister, Wendy, welcomes her. Tresa’s grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH).

First-time parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth Bachman. They were delighted to have Gregory Scott born on May 4. Zane and Sis. Betty Bachman and Bro. David and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Smithville, OH) are his grandparents.

Brian Andrew came into the world on May 10 to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori Stoller. His siblings are Matthew, Bradley, Jason and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner.

Bob and Tracy Zollinger have another boy in their family. Nicholas Ryan was born May 12. His brother, Justin, is excited as well as grandparents, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowman (Jacksonville, FL).

It is a special treat to have visiting ministers. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) for preaching the Word of Life to us.

Sadly, we have had a death in our congregation. We extend sympathy to Helen Emch (Everett) on the passing of her sister, Martha Emch, and to Martha’s sons, Ron and Dennis.

Our hospitalized patients were Ken Rupp, Sr. (Sis. Lillian), Sis. DeLores Bauman (Marion), Gregory Bachman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth), Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) and Cody Matie (Chris and Lisa). Our prayers are with them.

As graduation approaches, we

wish to congratulate all those who will be finishing high school. Our graduates are: Sis. Audrey Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Kelly Bauman (Dale and Sis. Nancy), Jason Gasser (Bro. Dale and Janet), Kara Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Eldon Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Shannon Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), Diane Maag (Robert and Martha), Anita Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie, Smithville), Laura Ramsier (Bro. Steven and Sis. Karen), Heidi Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Andrea Saurer (Dan and Sis. Brenda), Myra Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat), and Jennifer Thompson (James and Sis. Joyce). May they all realize the importance of "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We felt the beauty of the "common union" between the brethren as we partook of the Lord's Communion Supper. As recorded in Matthew 26:26-28, "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." It was strengthening to be reminded of our spiritual union with Christ and each other. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) shared with us.

Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) came to be with us for Sunday worship. We appreciate his efforts and praise God for bringing His message to us through the faithful ministering brothers.

We extend congratulations to graduates on three levels. Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) received an

Associates Degree in Medical Transcription from Washington State Community College. Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) completed high school as well as two years of college. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) and Joe Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) finished 8th grade and will be moving to high school next year.

Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) was with us for a mid-week service. It was good to hear the teachings of old applied to our daily lives today. We thank God that His blessing was upon Bro. Todd, Sis. Michelle, and their family so that they could travel to be here.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller

Margaret Blough

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus." (Zion's Harp #16). On April 27-28 we welcomed three new lambs into the little fold at Smithville. Sis. Susan Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda), Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Gina Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) each erected that precious covenant with the Lord. May they always walk closely with the Chief Shepherd.

We were saddened by the death of Chester Greenbank. We wish to extend our condolences to his wife, Josephine, and all of their family.

We've been blessed to have a number of visiting ministers in our area recently as our congregation hosted a Conference Agenda Meeting and the Eastern Elders' Conference. Those that served us with His Word include: Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH). May God add His continued blessing on each one.

It is that time of year again for

graduation, where many eyes will seek to focus on their futures. May each one feel God's guidance in their lives: Matthew Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Ben Maibach (Bro. Ben and Linda), Michelle Moore (Paul, Kathy Strothers), Dana Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay), and Tim Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue).

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

As we remember fathers this month, may we never forget the love of our Heavenly Father.

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."

Proverbs 3:11-12

Those who are fathers can be thankful for the guiding support of the Word as they raise their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

We extend our congratulations and wishes for God's blessings to Bro. Eric Spangler. He has earned his PharmD degree at the University of Toledo and is moving to Iowa City, IA.

God's healing hand is often evident among us. We are thankful that Dorothy Stevens (Bob) is on her way to a good recovery after surgery.

A visiting minister is a special blessing when one of our two home ministers is away. Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) shared in bringing forth the Word on a recent Sunday.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy

God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

Many thoughts come to mind when reading the above quotation from the Scriptures. We cannot fail to think of the fathers in our church many years back, carefully passing on down the faith of their fathers. And the mothers, sitting with little children in church, teaching them to be respectful in God's House and to be quiet when the Word is spoken. We thank them for their good examples. Not every one of us has had the privilege of being raised by church-going parents, but as Mother's Day just passed and Father's Day is approaching, we are all reminded of the acts of love our parents have done for us at one time or another.

As any parent will admit, "Training up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6) takes some doing and is not always easy. How thankful we should be to have the Scriptures for our guidance and direction! "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." (Proverbs 4:1) At this time of year, when our earthly mothers and fathers are remembered, may we always appreciate our Heavenly Father and hear His instruction!

We thank our visitors during this past month who made the effort to worship and sing with us. As always, it warms our hearts and is very much appreciated.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

On April 27 and 28 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadel (Norman and Maryann Stadel, Silverton; and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler, Minneapolis, MN). Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) shared with Elder Bro. Art in this blessed work. May the Lord richly bless him for his willingness to be used in our behalf.

Bro. Lee (Sis. Janet) Kuenzi had

open heart surgery. We are thankful he is home again and able to assemble with us. May the Lord continue to bless his recovery. Alice Gehring (Lawrence) has been ill recently. We pray she will have a speedy recovery.

We rejoice with Carl Schmid as it was shared with us that he has found peace with the Lord. We pray the Lord will continue to grant him grace and guidance as he looks forward to baptism.

We welcome Lisa and Stacy Metzger (Bill and Charlotte, Lester, IA) to our congregation. They have moved here for summer employment.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Isaiah 55:1

Faith Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) has found the grace to begin repenting. We wish her God's grace as she builds her foundation in Christ.

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

Correction: We regret incorrectly reporting the passing of Bro. Shawn Metzger's grandfather, Bro. Loren Strahm, last month. It was his other grandfather, Bro. Phil Metzger. Please forgive!

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL

Christine Kaiser

Kim Kaiser

It is with sad hearts that we submit our last Silver Lining for Dallas and Central Texas. Our family (Bro. Greg, Sis. Christine, Sis. Kim, and Kelly) is moving back up to Morton, IL. While we have much joy in mov-

ing back to family and friends, we leave our Texas "family" reluctantly. All the people we have come to know in the past three and a half years have been a blessing to us. Thanks for the wonderful memories. We will miss you and keep y'all in our prayers. (Sis. Dolores will be taking over the Dallas and Central Texas News.)

Sis. Kim has just graduated from Texas Woman's University. She now has a BBA and will be seeking employment in central Illinois. We wish her God's direction in the future.

Bro. Art Baurer (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) spent a Sunday with Dallas church recently. Bro. Richard Aberle (Sis. LaNae, Altadena, CA) also led services here. We thank them for their faithful service and love. We enjoyed the message and the fellowship.

Lester, IA provided Central Texas with ministering Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores) at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's. Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) visited Everett and Dorothy Martin's home near San Antonio; he brought forth God's Word to those in attendance. We wish God's blessings on everyone who shared our Sunday services with us.

Central Texas services are on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The services are held at family homes in Round Top, Smithville, Austin, and San Antonio. You may contact Bro. Bill Zeltwanger for more information at (409) 249-5102.

Dallas church services are held on the first and third Sundays at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times there are also 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp at (214) 867-4074 for specifics about the Dallas schedule.

Dallas Schedule:

June 16 - Bradford, IL

July 7 - Altadena, CA

July 21 - Tucson, AZ

August 4 - Taylor, MO

August 18 - Bluffton, IN
Central Texas Schedule:
 June 9 - Forrest, IL at Kaisners
 June 23 - Sabetha, KS at
 Brummitts
 June 30 - Lamar, MO at
 Zeltwangers
 July 14- Roanoke, IL at Martins
 July 28 - Wichita, KS at
 Zeltwangers
 August 11 - Peoria, IL at Kaisners
 August 25 - Lester, IA at
 Zeltwangers

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Since November we have received less than 1/4 of an inch of rain. The morning of May 8, we welcomed an inch of rain. Some of the plants God created can store a lot of moisture and stay green during times of dry weather.

Sis. Delores and Bro. Cornelius Messerli spent their winter months in Zapata. This spring they went

back to their home in Winthrop, MN in March. On April 20, Sis. Delores had surgery in Minnesota. She had a right hip total replacement. She is at her home in Winthrop now and getting along good.



Nearer Home Today

We're nearer home today
 than we have ever been before.

As 1996 was born
 we wondered, "What's in store?"

Do you feel regret or victory
 as 1995 is past?

Do you truly believe
 "Only what's done for Christ
 will last"?

Did you make good choices
 or stumble along with the crowd?

Did you humble yourself at the cross
 or was your heart too proud?

Did you do unto your brother
 as you'd have him do unto you?

Did you turn the other cheek
 as he spread rumors that weren't
 true?

Did you murmur and complain
 or brighten the corner where you
 were?

Did you honor father and mother
 and tell them they are most dear?

Did you turn from anger and envy
 and their "first cousin, greed?"

Did you try to gently nourish
 and fruits of the spirit feed?

Did you start each day with prayer
 as you had many things to do?

Did you end the day with prayer
 as the long hard day was through?

Do you hide it in your heart
 as you study God's Word?

Are you looking each day
 for the coming of the Lord?

May great earthly possessions
 be not our life's goal!

May we prepare for Heaven,
 the sweet Home of the Soul!

Remember, it's not what they see
 that makes us a king,

But true peace in our hearts
 are "Treasures Unseen"!

Anonymous

Silver Threads

The Impossible; Turned Simple

Once I lived a life of sin,
Serving Satan, who seemed to win.
By offering pleasures of every kind,
Like thoughts of lust that filled my mind.

Sick of rules I moved from home,
Just like a lion on the roam.
Looking here and looking there,
But finding nothing anywhere.

I knew I had to turn around,
And start my life on firmer ground.
But leave the world and all its fun,
No way, this can't be done!

A hopeless life it seemed to be,
Then God above looked down on me.
With loving hands and tender grace,
He gave me help to change my pace.

I now can see with opened eyes,
How short life is with death so nigh.
And thankfully I try each day,
To live a life the righteous way.

Though Satan still is trying hard,
To catch me with a fallen guard.
But bowed in prayer to the Lord,
He's cut away with the two-edged sword.

Grace is still around today,
To put this Satan far at bay.
By ourselves this can't take place,
Only with God can we win the race.

So friends that linger still behind,
Judgment day just keep in mind.
The choice is given to us all,
Just take the step and heed the call.

Written by a Brother in Faith

My Teen Years

It's not enough to have a
dream
unless I'm willing to pursue
it—

It's not enough to know
what's right
unless I'm strong enough to
do it—

It's not enough to join the
crowd
to be acknowledged and
accepted—

I must be true to my ideals,
even if I'm excluded and
rejected—

It's not enough to learn the
truth
unless I also learn to live it—

It's not enough to reach for
love—
unless I care enough to give it.

Author Unknown

"GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE"

Sermon by Bro. Elmer Witzig of Gridley, IL

Isaiah 55 and II Peter 1

As we could read this chapter together, we could feel within our hearts that the words that the Apostle Peter had written there in his day and time, were words of inspiration from the Almighty God and our Saviour.

We are thankful as often as we can read such weighty and important words that God saw fit and so ordained it that these words were recorded and kept in store for us even yet today. How thankful we should be that God has provided His Word and that He has prepared it so that this beautiful Word of Life could be bound up in between these two covers. None of us could say—who are familiar with the Word of God—that we are ignorant of His will and His desire for us.

Even as the Apostle Peter was concerned and spoke here about the concern of the preservation of the believer in the church. Here it says, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:1). We have often mentioned that we hardly dare to compare ourselves with the apostles.

But I believe that if we have been born again, if we have repented for our sins and have been born again out of water and spirit and become a new creature in Christ Jesus and have faith in the atoning blood of our Saviour who has gone on before us who has prepared the way of salvation, if we believe this, the Word tells us that there is none other salvation other than through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If we have made that experience, we can truthfully say that we have "like precious faith" with the Apostle Peter. "...like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (II

Peter 1:1)

If we claim to have the "like precious faith" as the holy apostles of old, then we have an obligation to perform and we have a high standing. There is no higher standing than to become a child of God.

"As we have become the children of God, then we are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." (Romans 8:17). The Apostle said that "If we (are willing to) suffer, we shall also reign with him (in all eternity):" (II Timothy 2:12)

If we can stop and consider God's great plan of salvation and what it cost Him; He had to give His very Dearest...His only begotten Son into this world as a Saviour and as a ransom. His blood had to be an atonement for the sins of all mankind. The great price that He paid!

Truly God was merciful and kind, was He not? Then He looked down upon us and called us with a holy calling so that we could realize our lost and wretched condition without Him. Then when we called upon Him in our soul's deep need, He heard our prayers and He forgave us our sins and He sank them into the Sea of Forgetfulness.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12). "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." (Psalm 103:13).

Here the Apostle Peter said, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." (II Peter 1:2). That was the Apostle's wish and prayer that grace and peace would be multiplied. Could there be anything more valuable that we would wish one for another than that the grace and peace of God be multiplied in our hearts and in our midst today?

There might be some here today that wonders just what does "grace"

mean. We know when we have new converts, most everyone wishes them the grace of God. We have heard it said already that they wondered, "What do they all mean when they wish you the grace of God?"

Grace has several definitions, but it all sums up in this: It is that undeserved love of God...unmerited love of God. It is a divine power from God to overcome sin.

So when we wish one another the grace of God, we wish one another the power to overcome the enemy of our soul...to fight a good fight of faith against the power of darkness and all evil in this world and time.

"...and peace be multiplied..." (II Peter 1:2). Jesus said, "(My) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." (John 14:27). Any one of us and all of us who have received the peace of God, that peace was the most precious gift that any of us could receive. May we hold fast to that peace. May we follow the teachings of our Saviour and the holy apostles. May we stay close to our Lord and Saviour and give heed unto the Holy Spirit that He has given into our cleansed and purified hearts so that peace can be multiplied.

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:3,4). We all are familiar with the corruption that is in the world through lust. "The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." (I John 2:16).

But here we have "given unto us exceeding great and precious promises..." Oh, there are so many prom-

ises in God's Word! But, first, we must be in order that we might be able to be partakers of those wonderful promises that are contained in God's precious Word for you and for me. We must be obedient to His commands.

Then when we consider this, we who have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, we have reasons to humble ourselves before Him and to stay close to Him. May God give us this grace and this peace so it, too, can be multiplied in our hearts.

Then he speaks of the various virtues which are so essential to the children of God. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." (II Peter 1:5-7).

Now we know that faith is an essential thing. We read in Hebrews that, "Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)." (Hebrews 11:6). First we must believe that God is and "...that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6).

So we can see value in faith. We have to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for our sins and that He "was raised again for our justification." (Romans 4:25).

But there are also other virtues. We have to have..."beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience." (II Peter 1:5,6). It ends up here with charity. We know how the Apostle Paul spoke of charity, or love. We have to have love, do we not?

The Apostle said, "Though I have all faith (to) remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." "I would become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." (I Cor. 13:2 and 1). So we see the value of all these

virtues. If we can have these virtues, then we will not "be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord (and Saviour) Jesus Christ." "But," he said, "he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." (II Peter 1:8,9).

The saddest thing that could happen to any of us would be if we would have forgotten that we were once redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and then would have forgotten that we were purged from our old sins.

He said, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" (II Peter 1:10). The Apostle Peter wanted to impress unto those to whom he wrote and to those whom he spoke of the great value of prizing our salvation more and more. He wanted to impress unto everyone the high standing they had in Christ Jesus and that we would not again lose that which was our first love.

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." (II Peter 1:11,12). How kindly did he remind them here. So today as we are gathered together, we are not speaking this because we feel we are not established in the present truth.

We have a wicked enemy, Satan by name, who is trying to destroy the love and peace. He is trying to destroy all that which is good. He is trying to keep the sinner from coming to the knowledge of the truth. He is trying to disturb the believer.

But these kind exhortations for us are valuable, are they not? How thankful we are that God has so ordained it that men should labor six days in the week; and that the seventh day he should lay aside his

labors and he shall come to the house of worship. How thankful we can be that we have the privilege in our land to worship according to the dictates of our conscience...that we can gather ourselves together...be built up in our most precious faith...be encouraged to battle onward against the power of the enemy.

He said, "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (II Peter 1:15,16). We know what he is speaking of here, do we not, dear ones?

Because we know that in the time when Jesus was here upon earth, He took Peter, James and John up on the mountain. There He was transfigured before them and Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." (Matthew 17:4). Moses and Elias was there with them. Peter said, "Let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." (Matthew 17:4). They vanished out of their sight; then Jesus told them that they should..."Tell the vision to no man until the Son of man be risen again from the dead." (Matthew 17:9).

We know the weakness of Peter in the time when Jesus gave Himself into the hands of sinful men. Jesus told His disciples that all would be offended at Him that night. But Peter said, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." (Matthew 26:33).

Jesus told him that before the cock would crow, he would deny Him thrice. And it came to pass. Peter was unable to do anything of himself. We cannot look down on Peter for that because Jesus gave Himself into the hands of sinful men. He did not supply His grace and His mercy and His strength

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

that hour. But He gave Himself into the hands of sinful men.

But before that, when the apostles were sent out, spirits were subject unto them. They came back and they rejoiced, because the spirits were subject unto them. Jesus said, "...rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20).

But Peter was unable to do anything at that point because he did not have the strength of the Lord and Saviour.

That brings a point to us that if we would try to do something on our own, we also would not be able to accomplish it. But if we rely upon the grace of God, if we will listen to His good and Holy Spirit, if we will follow carefully the teachings and the commands of our Saviour, He will supply us the grace.

Because God's Word tells us that "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6).

So, therefore, may God give each one of us a humble heart...a submissive heart...a heart full of love for Him and for one another. Then we will abide in His truths and in His love.

He said, "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (II Peter 1:17). People heard this voice from Heaven when they were upon the mount with Jesus.

He said, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." (II Peter 1:19). Oh, we believe that the Lord Jesus is coming again. God's Word tells us

so and so we know that it is true. He is going to come again.

We sang in the last verse of the beautiful hymn, "Gratitude for Deliverance". Oh, how we did sing those words together! Did it not create in our heart an appreciation for God's deliverance...an appreciation and a prayer that God will keep all His children from the power of the enemy and that we would be able to welcome His coming? It says, "At thy coming, we would see."

So let us each one ask ourselves this morning, would we welcome the coming of our Lord and Saviour? Would we welcome the time when He would call us from this time into eternity? Or is there something that we would have to set in order first before we would want Him to come? If there is anything that would separate us from the love of God, today God is beckoning and calling.

Even as we read in the forereading, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live;" (Isaiah 55:1-3). Oh, our prayer is that every soul that is gathered here this morning that has not yet made that necessary preparation, come unto the Lord with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, that you would do so.

"Incline your ear, and come unto me..." (Isaiah 55:3). That is God speaking these words. The prophet wrote these words down but they were the Word of God speaking to everyone that hears these words.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may

be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7). We have found it that way, dear ones, when we called upon the Lord, He abundantly pardoned. He had mercy upon us. It is not His will that one soul shall be lost but that all should "come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim. 2:4).

We read in the prophet Isaiah in one place where it said, "...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (Isaiah 66:2)

Oh, anyone who is not prepared to meet their Creator, we would have reasons to tremble at His Word, would we not? But God's Word tells us that "a broken and a contrite heart,...thou (the Lord) wilt not despise." (Isaiah 51:17). He said He will have mercy upon him; and as we look to our God, He will abundantly pardon.

God will have mercy. We have experienced His mercy and His love and we owe Him our all, do we not? We should join in with the Psalmist where he said, "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." (Psalm 116:18).

Speaking of the mercy of God, the Psalmist said in one place, "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children: To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them." (Psalm 103:17-18).

May each one of us be of those that remember His commandments and then by His grace do them.



Report on the distribution of Hungarian tapes in the USA and Canada

To our dear brethren and friends:

We want to express our deep sense of appreciation for the support you gave by purchasing the 5 Hungarian tapes from the several congregations in Hungary that were recently made available. A recent letter from Brother Karoly Kovacs from Szeged Hungary shares the following:

Let the Almighty God bless you. Entrusted by the editorial board and our beloved ministers and elders, I'm sending you your sample issue of the Hymn book launched just now. We often talk about the help which has been an important addition in composing and distributing the book. Please find some information about this labor.

The 20 man committee has spent 42 full Saturdays together busy with the preparation of the hymnal. They continued their deeds at home consuming 60 - 80 days each. Everyone was working free and voluntarily, of course. The committee members traveled 12 - 14,000 kilometers, (7,500 - 8,800 miles) to attend these meetings. Collective expenses of the typographical information, paper and different material cost, less printing charges, are calculated in US dollars. A) Expenses - expenses incurred during the preparation of the song material, machines, copying, motor fuel, etc. \$4,493. Charges of the master original copy piece \$3,946. Printing expenses, material and work for 6,000 pieces at \$6.97 each = \$41,820. for total expenses of \$50,259. B) Income - income was contributions received from the North American churches \$30,000. Amount received from the Hungarian brethren \$22,058 for total US dollars of \$52,058. The result total produced 6,000 pieces bought by the Hungarian brothers and sisters 5,165 pieces complimentary pieces 67 pieces stock kept for the country reserve purposes 768 pieces with a balance on hand of US dollars \$1,800. We believe that with your help the work will be blessed. With love and dearest greetings, Karoly Kovacs.

On behalf of the Hungarian brethren and the Francesville and Detroit churches and especially Brother Wendell Gudeman and myself, from the heart we want to say "thank you and God bless you." Those who have purchased the tapes have remarked how beautiful and edifying they all are. Those of us who have been to Hungary and have had opportunity to hear first hand the inspiring, enthusiastic singing possibly have a deeper sense of appreciation for those wonderful melodies. It is obvious that without all of our help, these beloved brethren would not have been able to complete this momentous task. These hymnals will be used throughout Hungary in the churches, in addition to the wonderful traditional Zion's Harp hymnals, that like our practice here in the US receives the greatest priority. We have a few copies of the tapes remaining which we would like to clean up and we will continue to make them available through July, 1996, and then we would like to bring this edifying issue to a close. The cost is \$25.00 for a set of five cassettes.

Any additional funds we have received, we are forwarding to the Apostolic Christian Mission Fund, specifically to the European Building Program, as we know that there is a great need.

Very gratefully and sincerely, your least brethren,

Wendell Gudeman / Ben Maibach

Wendell Gudeman and Ben Maibach on behalf of the Hungarian brethren and friends





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the third article from excerpts taken from A Treasure of Praise, a history of the Zion's Harp hymnal.

Since 1854, several editions of the Zion's Harp have been published, both in Europe and the United States.

In the decade of the 1920's, the Zion's Harp was translated from the German to the English language. This was somewhat controversial at that time because a large share of the membership were either from Europe or had close ties to that continent. Nonetheless, the monumental task of translation took place.

Bro. Henry Beer, minister from Milford, Indiana played an instrumental role in this effort. As a young brother in faith in 1921, he thought it would be beneficial to translate these songs into English. After translating a few songs on his own, he sought and received encouragement from some of the older brethren to continue on. Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr. of Akron, Ohio especially encouraged translation into English according to Bro. Beer.

Among the first hymns that Bro. Beer translated were No. 47, "Strive Aright", No. 164, "The Image of Christ", and No. 89, "The Seven Words of Jesus On The Cross".

On completing the translation of these hymns, Bro. Beer officially sought and received the sanction of the church leadership to translate the remaining hymns into English. Several other brothers were as-

signed to help with this herculean task. They included:

Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr., Akron, Ohio
 Bro. Edward Grimm, Elgin, Iowa
 Bro. Amos Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio
 Bro. Noah Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio
 Bro. Will Stettner, Elgin, Illinois
 Bro. Jake Stettner, Elgin, Illinois

This was a large task and took considerable time. Each brother was given approximately 50 songs to work on. The two Stettners worked as a team. The Zion's Harp was thus published in the English language in 1924.

In 1958, the Zion's Harp was revised to include music with every text, thus eliminating leafing back and forth between the text and the music.

In order to set in motion a plan to revise the Zion's Harp Hymnal, a somewhat lengthy and deliberative process took place. In the late forties and early fifties, there existed feeling among certain brethren that a revision was needed to improve the hymnal, and make it more practical.

A committee of elders was appointed to oversee the developments of a revision: Elder Bros. Philip Beyer of Croghan, New York, William Stettner of Elgin, Illinois, and Rudolph Graf, Jr. of Akron, Ohio. Elder Bros. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton and Theo Beer of Milford, Indiana also served in an advisory capacity.

Serving on the Song Book Committee (or revision committee) were Bros. Raymond Gerber, Eli Gerber, and John Baumgartner, Bluffton;

Fred Gutwein, Francesville; and Henry Beer, Milford, Indiana; and Jesse Gerber, Latty, Ohio. With the exception of Bro. Beer, who was a minister, all were song leaders in their local congregations.

The task of supplying melodies for all the hymn texts was long and arduous. These brethren applied themselves with diligence and often toiled at night, many times burning the "midnight oil". Prior to publication, the revision committee met with the aforementioned Elders regarding the approval or disapproval of each song. In 1958, editions of the revised hymnal were distributed to the churches.

The Silver Lining (*Volume 9, No. 1*) described the 1958 revised hymnal, "The new book will have a melody with every song, and every song will be on a single opening to eliminate leafing over. The first three or four stanzas will be placed in the staff. There will be some 50 new melodies."

"The book will be 5 1/2 by 7 1/2 inches in size with rounded corners, covered with black sturdite, printed on 40 pound paper. The price will be \$1.75 for white edge, and \$2.20 for gold edge."

Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

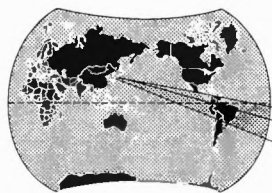
Next Issue:

*A final word about
the Zion's Harp*

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“God’s Society”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We often hear about the depravity of the society at large but what about God’s society? Isn’t it filled with people who say “NO” to all the vices and sinful practices? Isn’t God’s society overflowing with love and self-sacrifice, each esteeming the other higher than himself or herself? Let’s not get down in the dumps about society at large—we are in God’s society and it is a haven of blissful holiness.

We fathers should take the lead in upholding and promoting God’s society. Jesus said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48). The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3).

To lump everybody together is a mistake. Think of all the pure souls, all the redeemed, the saints, the men and women who are virtuous beyond our fondest expectation. What a wonderful society of people who are dead to self but

alive in the spirit, people who know “the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (II Cor. 4:18).

Do you think that the above explanation of God’s society is exaggerated? I’ve wondered, too, why we don’t do better. If those of us who have been born again and have become partakers of God’s grace and His Holy Spirit do not live up to what the Bible teaches, why are we so strict with those who are outside the covenant of grace? Things are better in God’s society, but fellow-fathers, we still have some work to do. Let’s rise to the challenge and completely surrender ourselves anew to our Father in Heaven. We should always take the path which will bring Christ the most glory regardless of personal will or desire in the matter, and influence others to do likewise. This is not a self-pleasing voyage we are on.

On Father’s Day and always, we fathers want to encourage everyone in God’s society to live more closely in accordance with the

teachings of the Bible. Once we give ourselves completely to God, we can just be ourselves and we never have to pretend. We should stand for what is right in a loving and friendly way, without giving the impression that we are better than others.

Many years ago, on a trip to the States, I was asked what I thought was the biggest problem in our American church. Materialism was suggested as a possible answer. However, I responded almost without thinking, “Too much criticism of each other.” I may have been wrong then and it may still not be valid today, but I remember and wonder.

Fathers, will you all join me in thinking and talking more about how wonderful God’s society is, and then join me in doing what we can to make it even more wonderful? Perhaps the world has yet to see what God can do through a group of people who are completely His.

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Girard, OH - 1905

In 1878, a one story frame edifice was constructed to fill the needs of the growing church of Girard. In 1905 the building was raised giving room for a basement and much needed room for growth. Many of the early members came from the Sardis, OH church, which was a stopping off place for early immigrants of the faith. Elder Bro. John Klotzle makes mention of this being the church in which he grew up. This building served until 1965 when a new church was built.

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