

The Silver Lining



As A Hart For Water Panteth

July 1996

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15



Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22

As A Hart For Water Panteth...

As the Hart upon the forest floor appears out of nowhere, searching for a cool drink to revive himself from the dry thirst of the day; so does our soul cry out to our Lord for His reviving that brings us comfort in the Spirit. How often we have cried out, "Lord I cannot go on," only to find ourselves recipients of God's divine Grace and the encouragement from the Holy Ghost. There is that comforter, the Holy Ghost, that can heal hurt that seems to have no end in our life. We need to heed God's Word to partake of that power within us. When there is hurt, the Word tells us to forgive.

There are three words that can do more for healing hurt than anything else, and they are "I forgive you." There are, however, some prerequisites that even our Lord and Saviour asks of us when we go to Him asking forgiveness, which are a repentant heart and confession of sin. We cannot go to anyone, yet alone our Saviour, and say "I accept your forgiveness." Who of us would dare say to our blessed Lord when we felt convicted of the sin in our past, after all He went through to bring about remission of sin, "I accept your forgiveness." We believe the Lord wants the one who has committed sin to say, "I am sorry, will you please forgive me?" Have you ever had someone say, "I am sorry that you feel that way about me." Is that really saying "I am sorry" or is it saying "I am sorry that you feel the way you do"?

Forgiveness extricates us from someone else's nightmare and allows one to live in a state of grace. Why is it when forgiveness yields so much peace, that we find it so hard to forgive someone who may have hurt us deeply? Sometimes it may be pride on our part, or sometimes we may not feel the other party is repentant, or sometimes we may have a measure of wanting to get even in our heart. None of these are good reasons, however we should recognize that they are valid reasons, so we can take steps to correct the straying of our heart. If we judge the one who has hurt us and seek revenge, we are going up against the scripture. We read, "*vengeance is mine, saith the Lord*" (Romans 12:19). So a humble heart will strive, by the grace of God, to forgive without being told, "I am sorry," by the one who hurt. "*So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.*" (St Matthew 18:35). We

know from experience and the Word that a lasting healing comes when both sides are repentant and ask for forgiveness.

Some may think forgiving means saying I was wrong and someone else was right. Just because we forgive someone does not mean that the Lord will excuse their actions if they indeed were wrong. Once we forgive, we have pulled the knife of hurt out of our side and then we can live in God's peace anew. As for the one who hurt, he or she will have to deal with their problem before God either here on earth or in heaven.

Forgiving helps us make peace with our past and helps us get on with life. While we are turning ourselves inside out with hurt and maybe bitterness, the one who hurt us doesn't feel a thing. If we would go to them and tell them about the hurt they inflicted in our life, they may turn around and say, "I didn't realize I hurt you." Sometimes hurt is accidental, but other times the hurt comes from betrayal, deceit, lies, and false accusations, which are all a lack of love. There should never be premeditated hurt in any life, such as thinking "I will get even with that brother or sister by committing a certain action or deed which would cause harm to come to them either physically or spiritually." Could it ever be named amongst the brethren that a loved one tried to sabotage another? We pray that there is more love in our hearts than that.

Forgiving is good for the body as well as the soul. When we relive past hurts over and over again, it is bad for our health. Simply remembering an incident that made us angry or hurt has proved to be stressful to the heart. Negative feelings that cause stress have also been linked to high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, and increased susceptibility to other illnesses.

While hurt can be inflicted in minutes, it often takes great lengths of time to forgive. When we are hurt, we initially experience anger, sadness and shame. Then we try to make sense of what happened or to figure out the mitigating circumstances. Ultimately, we need to learn to see the person who did the hurting through God's Word. Once we see the one who hurt through the light of the Word, the hurter becomes the one who is flawed, weak, sick, or ignorant.

To err is human, to forgive is divine. The act of forgiving is not something we can

do on our own, rather we need God's divine grace to accomplish it.

We don't need to think that forgiving means forgetting. Sometimes forgetting comes with complete forgiveness, but it is not a prerequisite. There are acts of being hurt that should be remembered so we can plant them in the recesses of our mind and heart praying that we do not someday become the hurter.

If we think we have hurt our spouse or friend, it would be well for us to humble ourselves and admit our short coming and ask for forgiveness. That is the ultimate way to a mutual healing, for it is the way the Lord has taught us in the Word. "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" (I John 1:19). We surely err when we say to a brother or sister in faith, who has come to us with a heavy heart caused by hurt we may have inflicted upon them, "I am sorry you feel that way about me, I guess I will just have to carry it." That only casts the burden for hurt on the one who was hurt by us in the first place. The Word teaches us to say, "I am sorry I hurt you, will you please forgive me?"

We have a great responsibility to forgive as well as doing our part to be forgiven. The adversary is doing all he can to discourage us and sidetrack or even derail our precious faith in God. We need not let the old devil get the best of us, because we have grace from God and He promises to give more grace to the humble.

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

July 1996

Pleasing Others for Their Edification

The idea of pleasing others for their edification covers a wide range of activities and brings to mind many different thoughts. The concept is simple enough for the most newly born to begin practicing, and difficult enough to drive the most mature and seasoned believer to his knees. The immediate rewards for pleasing others can be as small as a casual thank you, or as far reaching as a life-changing repentance. And, of course, we have no assurance of an immediate reward at all. Indeed, for the well disciplined believer, there should be no thought of reward, other than the satisfaction which comes from pleasing the Lord.

To gain a deeper understanding of the subject before us, a thorough definition of the word edification is in order. It refers to the process of spiritual growth or spiritual strengthening. To edify means to make one stronger in the things of the Lord. It also refers to building up, to instructing and improving, especially for good example.

The benchmark scripture of our study is surely "Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification" (Romans 15:2). Here the Apostle Paul focuses the teachings of previous messages of following the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another.

This verse challenges the efforts of a Christian to be greater because the requirements seem to be a little higher. Now we are reminded that we must give up our own pleasure in order to please our neighbor, but this is where the demands of the scripture jostle hard against the selfish desires of human nature with friction as the likely result. Do we have sufficient grace in our lives to lubricate that friction? We who have put on Christ are now given opportunity to show just how much we appreciate what Christ has done for us by how willing we are to please others. Can we forebear with others or yield to their wishes at those trying moments when our desires clash with those around us?

Understanding that we are always to

edify or strengthen each other spiritually is really a cornerstone of our faith. All through the epistles the theme recurs. "Let all things be done unto edifying" (I Cor. 14:26). "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (I Thess. 5:11). We are reminded that not everything that is lawful is edifying (I Cor. 10:23). Knowledge tends to cause pride, but it is charity that edifies (I Cor. 8:1).

These scriptures all set the tone for a life of sacrificial yielding of self. But this tone reaches its highest pitch when the extra qualification "to please his neighbor" is added. This is where man's natural pride is most likely to come to the forefront because often we do not like to think that our neighbor has a right to interfere in our personal decisions. Those of us who are reared in a democratic society may, without realizing it, have accepted the notion that large areas of our lives are outside the proper domain of churchly influence. This is one of the chief reasons why church discipline and close brotherly concern one for another are so hard for some to accept. To those unfamiliar with the scriptural foundation for these practices, accountability to each other will seem like a license for busybodies in other men's matters. The scriptures, however, allow for no such confusion of purpose. In I Peter 4:15 a busybody is denounced on the same plane as a murderer or a thief!

In recent years, an increased emphasis has been placed on asserting our rights as individuals and being "true" to ourselves. Increased emphasis is placed on teaching that we should all "assert our rights" and "be true to ourselves." Acceptance of these concepts will bring us headlong into collision with our text "Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."

In this teaching there are two distinct areas of emphasis which can be overlooked in a casual reading. First, in using the word "neighbor", the Apostle points out the great likelihood that the person we must please

may not be our Christian brother or sister. This neighbor might be a very disagreeable person - one we would rather avoid as much as possible. It could be someone who delights in finding and broadcasting every real or imaginary fault in us, and it is almost certain that at some point in our lives, we will have extended contact with someone who makes it a point to belittle those things we hold dear. This type of person will scoff and scorn at every attempt to help himself come to a positive attitude toward the faith we love so much. Here, in our time, is the patience of the saints. This is where we must bite our tongue and suffer some of these indignities in silence. But there comes a time in such relationships that we must call to mind the other area of emphasis - let us please our neighbor for his good to edification. Perhaps after much longsuffering, there comes that point when we can no longer please our neighbor and have it be for his good. At this point, there can be no more attempt at merely pleasing our neighbor, if what pleases him is to get us to participate in activities that are unacceptable for believers. We have applications of Old Testament teachings dressed up in their New Testament exhortations. "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit" (Pro. 26:4-5). Through a proper understanding of our text and by God's gracious Spirit, we may understand when and where we answer a fool according to his folly, not by cleverly conceived one-line put downs, but rather, "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (I Peter 2:15). "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:16).

These last verses show us that a consistent practice of good works and good communications will enable us to fulfill our scriptural obligations of self-denial and pleasing our neighbor for his good to edification.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Helping Small Congregations to Grow

The primary purpose of the Mission Committee is to help spread the message of the gospel of salvation. Thousands of Bibles continue to be distributed for this purpose. In addition to Bible distribution and other means of reaching the lost, we assist in building churches, not only in the U.S., but also abroad.

Jesus left instructions

Just before he departed this earth to return to heaven, Jesus left this instruction to his disciples...

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." ACTS 1:8

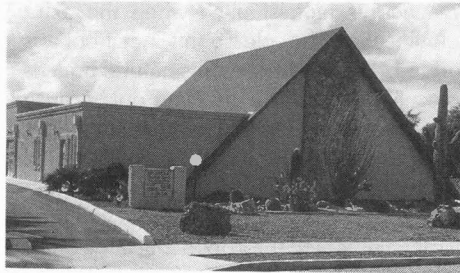
With this thought in mind, we seek opportunities to carry out our Lord's directive within our local church bodies first, and then as much as we are able to the rest of the world.

How congregations begin

The first European brethren who came to the U.S. were mostly farmers. The natural result was that congregations grew first in rural areas. However, as technology increased over the years, many young brethren attended college to train them for the changing circumstances. Those with a college education often find employment within the corporate structure. This leads them to cities, some of which are apart from any of our churches.

In these circumstances, the Mission Committee supports services on a schedule, sending ministers from established congregations. The hope is that these groups would grow large

enough to support a small church. This has happened a number of times through the years. We are supportive of these new congregations, and intend to run several articles on specific locations. The goal is to encourage singles and families seeking employment to become a part of one of these churches. The following article about Tucson, Arizona is one of a series of articles that we will print in this column.



Tucson, Arizona

In 1945 the first worship services in Tucson were conducted in a home by Elder Bro. Ernest Graf from Akron, Ohio. In the fall of 1965, a regular church was officially organized. A new church was built in 1969, with an addition in 1989. There are Sunday School rooms, and all other facilities necessary. In 1973 a new fellowship hall was built.

Membership has fluctuated over the years, and presently there are 21 members and 13 in Sunday School, with children ranging from infants to college age. The Tucson church extends a hand of welcome to anyone who is considering relocation. Also, if you have loved ones in the area, the brethren in Tucson would be happy to visit with them. Addresses and phone numbers to contact are listed at the end of this article.

Surrounded by a wealth of natural beauty in a high desert valley and ringed by mountains, Tucson has a warm, dry climate with comfortable winters. It is the second largest city in Arizona (after Phoenix). There are

fine educational opportunities, including the University of Arizona. The cost of living in Tucson is about average for the nation.

Because of the exodus from the industrial states to the sunbelt, the population has grown almost tenfold in the last 40 years to 405,000. In the last decade Tucson has added 20,000 manufacturing jobs. The city has industries based on regional mining (of copper and other minerals) and the manufacture of electronic and electrical equipment. It is also a market, processing, and shipping center for cattle and cotton raised in the area.

Some of the employment opportunities located in Tucson are AT&T, Rockwell, Microsoft, Phase Shift Technology, Maxserv, Matrix, American Transtec, Granite Construction, Borderland Construction, Asarco Mission Mine, Hughes, Three Five Systems, AOL, Vanguard Automation and Photometrics.

Health services are plentiful and include the University Medical Center, Tucson Medical Center, Carondelet Health Services and Columbia.

The Tucson congregation and the Mission Committee invite you to give this area consideration if you are seeking employment or contemplating relocation. The counseling elder for Tucson is Bro. Jon Kokanovich from Phoenix. The brethren will work together to assist in any transition. Please contact the following ministering brothers from Tucson for more information:

Bro. Loren Knapp
6850 East 4th St.
Tucson, AZ 85710
520/298-6729

Bro. Curtis Kaufman
2311 South Palm Springs Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85710
520/298-8450



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

Situation in East Europe continues to worsen

Our close relationship with the brethren in former Communist East European countries has helped us understand their past and empathize with their present situations. Communication today is enhanced by using improved phone connections and fax machines. What we are learning is not good news. Other charitable organizations say the same. The shift to a free market is very painful, and this has a direct effect on our brethren.

Austro-Hungarian empire

At one time, the Austro-Hungarian Empire covered a large geographical area. It helped shape and influence what has become known as Eastern Europe. Over the years, borders often changed, and ethnic peoples found themselves living in nations no longer called by their former names. By way of contrast, as the USA expanded, each state became part of the union. The American experiment in free enterprise and democracy is unprecedented in the history of the world. Just as the Hungarian and East European peoples are a product of their history, we are a product of ours. It is impossible to understand one another without keeping this in mind.

The faith spreads East

In the middle of the last century, two Hungarian brothers became converted in Switzerland through contact with Bro. Samuel Froehlich. They returned to Budapest, spread the gospel message, and others became converted. From this small beginning, the faith we embrace spread throughout Eastern Europe. The number of brethren, called "Nazarenes", at one time was estimated at 80,000 souls. A book on this subject is being

published, and will be available to our brethren when finished.

Impact of Communism

Life has never been easy in these lands, but the years of communism were particularly hard. Many lost their lives to persecution, and although the flame of faith flickered, it was not extinguished. After the collapse of the system in 1989, interaction between countries became easier, and the brethren helped one another. The Mission and World Relief Committees are also assisting in this work.

Struggle for democracy

When governments changed, the entire system and life style also changed. Because there was no stable government, people lost faith in the value of their money. The result was rampant inflation. Recent information from Ukraine says it is 300% per year. Romania is also having serious problems, and the situation in Yugoslavia is far from settled. We have brethren in each of these countries.

Because the Hungarian people never fully embraced the communist system, this made their change to capitalism a little easier. However, even in this land, inflation is somewhere around 35% per year. In most European nations, families receive child support payments from the government. However, in Hungary this has not increased for over two years. There are many large families, and children are becoming more poorly clothed as time goes by.

Sea container shipment

This year we had a unique opportunity to assist the Hungarian children. Our church in Tremont, Illinois installed new furniture in the sanctuary, and the brethren in Forrest built a new facility. About 70 pews

from these two churches became available, and a need for them exists in Hungary. The Mission Committee agreed to pay the costs of shipping them to Europe. Fortunately, there was still a lot of room in the 40 foot sea container. Many brethren worked together to find items needed in Hungary to fill it. The Hungarians told us that their greatest need was for shoes and clothes for children.



Sea container being loaded with church pews, shoes, clothing and food.

The Lord opened the way, and we were able to purchase over 1,900 pairs of high quality shoes as closeout items from several sources. The average cost of these shoes was less than \$5.00 per pair. Such items would have cost at least 5 or 6 times that amount in Hungary, and would not have been of equal quality. We were able to buy children's clothing in much the same manner. World Relief works with a charitable organization in Illinois called "NAEIR", from whom we received over \$25,000 worth of new clothing at no cost. It is by God's provision that such a thing could happen.

Brethren loaded and shipped the container from the Goodfield Distribution Center on June 17. It should arrive at its destination about 4 weeks from that date. We thank God first of all, and then our many brethren who participated.



GATEWAY WOODS

We are thankful to be able to report to you that we are now fully staffed. All of the positions have been filled. We thank you for all of your interest over the past months and we want to encourage you all to continue to pray for us. If there is anyone that feels God calling them into His work, feel free to call one of the brothers listed below. Perhaps He is preparing you for future work here.

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

David Bertsch
Counseling Elder
11520 Grabill Rd.
Grabill, IN 46741



GATEWAY WOODS

***We Invite You
All To Join Us!***

**The 20th ANNUAL
Gateway Woods**

Auction and Sale

Saturday, August 17, 1996

Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office @ 219/627-2159 with any questions!

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

The family! An institution established by our Creator. Why? That is what we need to ask ourselves. Are we not members of His very family? What is our relationship to our Father in Heaven? What is His provision for us? What is our responsibility toward our Brothers and Sisters in Christ? How about our own blood fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters? Are we filling our responsibilities to our two very precious families?

Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:50 that, "whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister and mother." Our family becomes extensive in this light. Do we not have a great responsibility toward all mankind, from the least to the greatest? Who are the least? And, who are the greatest? In Matthew 23:11 Jesus said that he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Each individual is precious to God. He has created each one of us particularly. Do we recognize the value of each soul? Do we not realize that they are much like us in so many ways even though visually this is often quite impossible to detect.

We are all part of a family with our own needs and desires. It is a precious unit, the family, that God has provided to help meet our needs and desires. Let us do our part to bring glory to God in our great responsibility toward our families.

We thank God that we can be a part of our residents' extended family and they can be a part of ours. We enjoy contributing to their well-being and helping to fulfill some of their needs. They, in turn, often contribute to our well-being and fulfill a need for us.

August birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Dan McDonough (2), Rob Mueller (3), Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barb Perkins (30). LINDEN - Steve Holmes (18). 200 HAZELWOOD - Wayne Leman (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Sandy Leman

Summer is our busiest time of year at Gateway Woods, and the campus is bustling with activities. Part of each day is spent working, with some of the children having off-campus jobs and others doing work here on campus. We are blessed to have "Top Quality", a landscape company, in operation again this summer. In this work program, the children fill out applications, interview for the job, and work in a real-life learning situation for real wages. Some participate in off-campus landscaping while others do landscaping work right here on campus. Children who are old enough have jobs at various fast-food places or other businesses in the area. Even the younger children work for a few hours each day during the summer.

When the work is completed, there are a number of activities the children can be involved in. Some are learning to play chess; others participate in short plays; some have "classes" in study skills, remedial reading, and remedial math; some are learning Spanish. Older children learn life skills that

- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books**

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

will help them once they are old enough to live independently. There are also programs to encourage children to make right moral choices, and most important of all, Bible studies. Once a week some of the children participate in a service project such as playing games with the residents of a nursing home, helping in the community food bank, or baking cookies for shut-ins. Another weekly activity is swimming, thanks to the generosity of some of our Leo brothers and sisters with pools or ponds. You can see that there is no lack of things to do during the summer; the only lack is enough time to do everything.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who give up a part of their time to help us out. Last month, Bro. Derek Sauder (Tremont, IL), Andrew Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Brad Kaufmann (Morton, IL), and Sis. Jill Gramm (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Terri Gramm (Gridley, IL) volunteered to work with us. We want to thank them for their help.

We were also blessed with willing workers to replace roofs on two of the buildings on campus. The roofing work was headed up by Bros. Joe and Tim Gerst from Iowa City, IA. They were aided by brothers from Bluffton, Bluffton North, Forrest, Latty and some of our Leo brothers. It is encouraging to see the work that can be accomplished in a short time when brothers work together for a common good.

We are greatly encouraged to have the opening for an assistant in

the Schrocks' house filled before Sis. Stephany Moser leaves for China. God is faithful to answer our prayers and He moved in the heart of Sis. Terri Gramm to answer the call to come and work with us here. We welcome Sis. Terri and pray believing that God will equip her for the work He has called her to. Another change in the Schrocks' house is that Cathy G. has left to live with her mother. We wish her the best and hope she will remember what she has learned here.

As we move closer to August 17 and our annual sale, the work for that event is being done. We are glad to see things coming together through the efforts of so many of our brothers and sisters across the country. Thanks to all who are working to prepare for the sale. We hope that many of you who read this will consider coming this year. Since this is the twentieth year that the Children's Home has been in existence, we hope to celebrate with many of you.

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

With temperatures above 90 degrees every day, summer has settled in the south. Summer has also come to the preschool as we have started summer school. Our theme this season is Sun, Sand, and Sea. To make the idea of our theme more concrete, the children now swim every day

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.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

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

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

and are allowed to go barefoot in the sandbox. The Lord has been very faithful by keeping the children safe in this season of sun and fun.

The Lord has also been faithful to us at the preschool by providing a teacher's aide for the summer months. Amber Moore (daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam) is helping in a variety of ways to make the summer months run smoother. Her willing spirit is a blessed addition to the staff.

Blessings in the form of visitors have been bestowed upon the preschool the past month. Sis. Marilyn Walder (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Brittany Maller (Bluffton, IN) and Kristen Fischer (Roanoke, IL) have volunteered this past month. We offer a thank you to these dear souls for being so willing to be used.

The jobs of volunteers are numerous. Duties may range from teaching to light construction work. Because of the variety of jobs, a variety of people are needed. Without the extra help of volunteers, teachers would not be able to take vacations throughout the summer months. Anyone who is interested, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 or the preschool at (205) 233-0591. Please be a willing servant for the Lord.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

We enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. We had a large turnout, including two chartered buses. Saturday evening, we held a singing at Athens church and gathered again Sunday morning for church in Athens. Sunday afternoon and evening was a mixture of singing, fellowship, eating and listening to the Word. It was an inspiring, uplifting weekend. We thank Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Tom Schrenk (Athens), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens), who all participated in the weekend to help make it a success.

We were blessed to have Bro. Dave Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) with us the second weekend in June. We thank him for giving of himself in the Lord's service.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhardt, with their family, have moved back into the Athens area.

We are glad to have them with us again. They will be living in the apartment at the Tennessee Fellowship Area, to fill a need we have there.

We have three souls who have realized the need for God in their lives, and have begun a closer walk with the Lord: Katherine King and Don Ross, and Mark Klaus is also seeking a close walk with the Lord.

As I write this, I am encouraged that there are still souls seeking God. We always welcome visitors in Athens. If you are coming this way, please include us in your plans. Church is held every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

What a blessed evening we enjoyed on May 18 when Henry Volz and Aquilla Barna gave their testimonies of faith. Their message was "Repent and become a child of God!" Their words were spoken in joy and peace was expressed by two seniors. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Elder Bro. Jon baptized them on Sunday, May 19. A fellowship dinner and singing was enjoyed later. Relatives and friends came from out-of-state for Bro. Quill and Bro. Henry.

While we are still rejoicing, Jeremy Ebert has peace and is awaiting baptism. Our Lord's presence is awesome with these last three converts. Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane are his grateful parents. Our soon-to-be brother in Christ relates a love we need more of.

Our new officers were not all

listed last month, as we have a need for more ushers. Doing these duties will be Bro. Robert Baum (3 years), Bro. Brandon Labudde (2 years), Bro. Leon Baumgartner (1 year). Our appreciation for these numerous jobs for our comfort.

Our thanks to visiting ministers, Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). Please come again.

We bid farewell to Bro. Nathan Young as he returns to Cissna Park, IL. May the Lord bless you in your move.

The touch of the Master's Hand was quite evident in several surgery patients this past month. Sis. Dorothy Wenger (wrist), Sis. Toni Bentley (hip replacement), Sis. Lindy (Bro. Alan) Knochel (major surgery) and Floran Klopfenstein (eye). Bro. Floyd Banwart, Robin Lemons, Sis. Gladys Fisher, Bro. Ted Knochel and Bro. Chuck Kieser were on our prayer list. Also, baby Nolan Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy). Please, special prayers for our many caretakers, angels of mercy. God knows who you are. You are very special.

Vacation Bible School was the week of June 14. The theme this year was "Taking a Stand for Jesus". Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) talked on "where" and "upon what I stand", Bro. Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA) on "why so few stand", Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) on "challenges—taking a stand" and "benefits of taking a stand". We truly enjoyed a week that went too quickly.

Our many precious children and grandchildren enjoyed the crafts and singing. They sang for us on Father's Day. Our thanks and appreciation to the many who labored in the vineyard of Vacation Bible School. The Lord knows you by name and is pleased.

Jerry and Sis. June Tooley an-

nounce the engagement of their daughter, Kelli, to Daniel Jeffries. We pray for God's direction as they blend their lives as one. The biggest requirement in any home is God.

We grow spiritually by occasionally going down into the valley of sorrow. Our sympathy to several this month: to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser on his cousin, Bro. Loris Kieser's, death; to Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Shirley Blunier and Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy Blunier on a sister/aunt's death; to Bro. Harlan and Sis. Vivian Ramsier on his sister's death; to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson on cousin, Bro. Tim Hoffman's, death.

We each need to show Christian love before it is too late. The Bible tells us to love one another.

ARIZONA PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

There were no church services in Prescott on Sunday, May 19, so that everyone could attend the baptism in Phoenix of Henry Volz, who has been attending services at our church for approximately three years. Bro. Henry expresses his joy at being able to be called a brother in faith of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are very thankful to our Lord that He continues to call and redeem souls.

On June 9, the children in church outnumbered the adults, when Bros. Joe Greenbank and Nathan Knochel brought their fifth and sixth grade Sunday School class (Phoenix) to Prescott for a weekend of fellowship and fun (hiking, canoeing, and singing praises to God). Ministering Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) also came to assist with the fellowship.

Once again, the Lord has blessed us with ministering brothers and their families who willingly came to serve us this last month. We wish to thank Bros. Bill Dotterer, Greg Gramm (both of Phoenix) and Bro.

Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for their service. Bro. Gerry, his wife, Sis. Ellen, and family stopped in Prescott on their vacation. Thanks for including us on your route. We welcome and appreciate all visitors.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

During the week of June 4 - June 8 we gathered together to enjoy Vacation Bible School for 1996. We had several children from the community in attendance as well as a few from our Phoenix church. We were privileged to have Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) with us during part of our Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year was "God's Faithful Servants". It was a spiritually educational and enjoyable experience for teachers and students alike. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and their time!

Bro. John Stoller also ministered to us on the pulpit on the following Sunday. We thank him for that effort also. It was truly a pleasure to meet Bro. John and Sis. Patsy; we welcome them back anytime.

Sis. Martha Blessman has not assembled with us for some time now and we certainly miss her! Sis. Caroline Zeltwanger has also been absent from us alot lately. It sometimes slips our minds to pray for them when we don't see them for a time, but we need to make a special effort to do so.

Note of Thanks:

Gene and I want to thank all who remembered us during the past weeks with your prayers, cards, gifts and food. It all helped so much. We are glad to report that I have recovered and been healed. May God bless you all.

Gene and Marge Fehr

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Joy Nenadov

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..."

Luke 23:34

Our Saviour who endured rejection, mockings, scorn, pain and humiliation was our perfect example as He uttered these last words on the cross. He looked beyond the torture and pain that man had inflicted on Him, but rather saw their souls that desperately needed salvation. We, as His children, who are striving to follow in Christ's footprints, are instructed to forgive those who trespass against us, and pray for them, though that can seem hard at times. If we trust in Jesus and ask Him for the grace to forgive others, He can take away the hurt and provide a healing peace to flood our souls. May our lives always reflect that of our Lord Jesus.

On June 1 and 2, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) assisted our own Elder Bro. John with the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome our new sisters, Shayna Aberle (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy) and Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae) and our new brother, Joe Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois), into the family of God. May the Lord ever keep and guide these new lambs of the fold. We also thank ministering Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Doug Wagenbach (Escondido, CA) for sharing God's Word to us on that day.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."

Eccles. 12:1

What a comfort to know the Lord has wise counsel for each phase and step in our life. We pray that our new high school graduates will heed these words of our Lord as they seek direction further in their lives. Our prayers and congratulations are for Hope Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis.

Marilyn) and Sis. Rebecca Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi). May the Lord ever direct their paths.

Sis. Molly Stickling (Peoria, IL) has moved temporarily into our area due to employment. We welcome her in our congregation and hope she feels at home here.

May we always remember to thank our Lord for the freedoms we have to serve our God in a quiet and peaceable manner.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huetter

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

Hymns of Zion #291

"And my tongue shall speak of
thy righteousness and of thy
praise all the day long."

Psalm 35:28

We were richly blessed to have ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) visit us recently with his wife, Sis. Lynn, and their children. May God richly bless Bro. Ken for his labors of love.

Sis. Frieda Minger has not been able to attend church because of her illness. We miss her. She was recently transferred from Crest View Manor to Maple Manor Board and Care in Escondido. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will go with her there and put it in the hearts of those who care for her to provide her with the good care she is so deserving of.

God has promised to care for the sparrows and how much more He will His children. We are thankful He continues to give Bro. Rory Strahm enough strength so that he can assemble with us on Sundays. Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Rory.

Steven Bozzay (Bro. Tibor and Sis. Pearl) has graduated from the

Coronado Naval Amphibious Base in San Diego. He became a "Navy Seal", a part of the US Navy special elite force. He will continue on in North Carolina for special Medical Trauma training. Our love and prayers go with him and with all of those who help protect our freedom.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

What a beautiful promise! We will never have to worry that God's compassions will fail and His mercy will cease if we are trying to stay faithful to Him. How refreshing to get up every morning and know His new supply of mercy and compassion is ours!

We are thankful for our visitors this past month. We especially thank the visiting ministers for their service to the Lord and us. They were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT).

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Proverbs 17:6

Thankful grandparents of Carmen Jane Graf are Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher. Carmen's family is Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf, Kenny and Jesse (Akron, OH). Praise God for the delightful gift of children and grandchildren!

We welcome anyone who is traveling in our area to stop and worship with us. We have services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with

a visiting minister the first and third Sundays and pre-recorded services the remaining Sundays. Please contact Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER
Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings across the many miles! We were certainly blessed to share the day with Jody Tanner and George Williams as they joined hearts as one on May 25. Because of their wedding, we were blessed with many visitors. Our young group especially enjoyed the fellowship with all of those who were here. May God bless each one for the effort that was made to be here.

We wish to thank Bro. Eric Huber and Sis. BethAnn Martin for their loving labors as Sunday School teachers. Their terms have ended and they are being replaced by Bro. Mike Martin and Sis. Debi Braun. We wish them God's guidance as they train up our children.

We also wish to thank Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for serving us with the Word of God. We certainly appreciate all of our visitors and especially those brothers who are willing to be used to preach the precious truth.

Our prayers were with Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman as Sis. Leona spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful the Great Physician has shown us His healing powers once again.

We want to extend our warmest welcome to Paul and Sarah Lasnier and their two children, Jean-Paul and Dominique. They spent the past year in Illinois and we are thankful to have them assembling with us again.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherinne Wheeler were blessed with a son, Daniel Scott. His sister, Courtney, welcomes him home. His grandparents are Burton and Margo Wheeler and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl.

May 20 was a joyous day for Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis Moser, with the birth of their son, Matthew Eric. His brother, David, and sister, Rebecca, welcome him. His grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser and Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda Lanz.

On June 8, Bro. Matt and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl were blessed with a son, Joshua Cody. His grandparents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl and Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan Moser.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Brent Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Naomi Luginbuhl's (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay) engagement was announced. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow." (Zion's Harp #37). Bro. Matt Couzens and Sis. Cathryn Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) were united in Holy Matrimony on June 2. We wish them the Lord's continued blessings.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Roberta Foote (Bro. Paul) in the passing of her dear mother. May the Lord comfort as only He can.

We are very thankful for our recovering hospital patients. They were: Logan Garrow (Bro. Ed and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Mildred Donze, Sis. Emma Herzig, and Paul Gruenich (Esther). We trust the Lord will grant them a speedy recovery.

We want to congratulate our graduates and wish them God's blessings in the future. The graduates are: Ryan Abrahamson (Gayland and Charlene), Leah Champ (Guy and Emily), Zachary Eleiott

(Rich and Sis. Joanne), Christie Evans (John and Mary), Tracey Elbert (Bill and Becky), Karen Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou), Robert Hany (Bro. Pete, Sr. and Sis. Jeannie), John Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Erika Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Luann), Kelly Kupferschmid (Bro. Dan and Sis. Terry), Doug LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Reanna Leite (August and Sis. Linda), Jennifer Luginbuhl (Dale and Kathy), Melinda Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Todd Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy), Chad Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy), Eric Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy), Mike Willis (Bro. Ken and Sis. Nancy), and Rhonda Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"...he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully..."

Jeremiah 23:28

A while back my boss asked if my church did such and such. My answer was "No, our congregation is too small." He then said I didn't have to answer, but think about why it isn't growing. I have been thinking and part of the reason is our ministers won't change the message just to attract more people. They preach the truth and hold to the doctrines the Church has taught for years.

Our ministers this past month were Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) conducted a Bible study the Sunday we did not have services. Other visitors this month were from Fairbury and Goodfield, IL; Taylor, MO; Akron, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Lester, IA; and Hun-

gary.

We welcome Marie Koch from Tremont, IL to our congregation. She is in the area for a summer internship.

We are thankful the Lord's healing touch has been with those who have been hospitalized, including Ken Belsley. He had neck surgery and is back home.

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

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself: but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."

Romans 15:1-3

We thank Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month. During the summer months, we don't have many visitors and appreciate those who come and visit us.

We welcome Terry Baer (Princeville, IL) who was recently transferred to our area. We wish him God's blessings and hope he enjoys his time here.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Peter Green (Sis. Claudia) in the passing of his mother, Susanne Green, from Canada. We know that

saying goodbye for the last time isn't easy and pray that God will comfort them.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

On June 2, we voted for various church duties: Bros. Brad Troxel and Ryan Huber (trustee); Bro. Bob Huber (usher); Bro. Jonathon Sutter (sound system); Sis. Joan Kuntz (kitchen chairman); and Bro. Ron Jones and Sis. Nancy Rocke (Sunday School).

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Kay Eisenmann

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL). We want to say a very special thanks to them for bringing the Word of God to us. It is always uplifting to all when we feel the bond we have one with another, from church to church. Many miles may separate us, but God's Word binds our hearts together.

This month we as a nation celebrate Independence Day when brothers were fighting against brothers and slavery came to an end. But is our nation free? Crime is at an all-time high, abortions, and children trying to tell parents that this is the 90's, get with it!

God's Word does tell us these things will come to pass; we just didn't realize that it is our children and grandchildren who have to deal with no prayer in school, etc.

We need to pray daily for our government, for Satan has men in "high places". But remember, God is really in control and with the prayers of believers all over the world, we can do all we can, teaching our

children the truth.

Bro. Ralph Yergler is much the same (Sis. Jeanette). He is mostly in his wheelchair and his speech isn't always clear. They do try to come to church half a day, depending on how he is. Please pray for them and all those who have bodily afflictions.

Bro. Dave Eisenmann had double hernia surgery and is recovering well.

Sis. Edna Meister was called to her Heavenly Home after more than a month of cancer. Bro. Les is thankful her suffering is over and he and his family want to thank each and every one for their many deeds of kindness, love, gifts, phone calls, and mostly their prayers! Bro. Les will miss her as will the family. They had 60 plus years together. May we appreciate our helpmates and remember all those who have lost their helpmates. Let us always remember that God's ways are right.

Just a thought: Who are you a slave to? For if we do not serve God, who is left? For we all serve someone, whether we like it or not!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin

We want to thank Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for sharing God's Word with us on a Wednesday evening. We are always thankful when ministers and families visit us during this time of the year, yet we know when two or three assemble, He will be with them.

Sis. Marie Reardon (George) has recently had surgery. We pray that His healing hand will have her assembling with us again real soon. Sis. Kathryn Schroeder again is back home since her second bout in the hospital. May we always depend on Him and accept His will.

Our graduates are Sis. Rachel Koehl (Bro. Ron and Carol), Sis. Melissa Sabo (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda), and Sis. LeeAndra Schnell (Bill and Regina). May God

bless them as they make their life's purpose the choice of the Lord, as stated in this poem by Helen Steiner Rice.

Life without purpose is barren indeed—
There can't be a harvest unless you plant seed.
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal,
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul.
If we send no ships out, no ships will come in,
And unless there's a contest, nobody can win...
For games can't be won unless they are played,
And prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed...
So pray for a purpose to make life worth living,
And pray for the joy of unselfish giving...
For great is your gladness and rich is your reward
When you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We want to thank all those who have taken time to visit us, especially the ministering brothers for sharing God's Word with us. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL).

Our prayers go with Phil Pavkov who has graduated from college and moved back to Ohio. We will all miss him and hope he visits often.

If you are in Atlanta this summer, please stop in and worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank each one who so willingly gave their love and encouragement during our fire. We have been so overwhelmed by the support we have felt from our fellowship. We pray that God will bless each of you as only He can. May our Lord also continue to be glorified through it all.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine Krieger

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Millie Jepson**

We rejoice with Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen on the arrival of their new baby daughter, Charity Kay Steffen. She was warmly welcomed by her brothers, Jordan, Joshua, Trent and Troy, and her sister, Darcy. The loving grandparents of baby Charity are Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Bern, KS). We pray for God's blessing on this dear family.

Since Belvidere church began Sunday services on July 7, 1991, we have had Sunday School at 10:00 with an adult Bible class. After much prayer and much consultation, the decision has been made to change the order of our services. Services are now: morning service at 10:30; lunch at 11:30; afternoon service at 12:45; with Sunday School for the children. Singing starts fifteen minutes before each service. Please note this change when you visit us.

The theme this year for the Belvidere VBS was "Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (I Corinthians 13:7). We thank Sis. Marlene Mueller for coordinating the Bible School and also Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) for teaching the high school and adult Bible class during the week. The children, including some neighbor-

hood children, showed such delight and enthusiasm for the Bible stories, crafts and other activities planned for them. We thank God for the parents and teachers who have made the Word of God their priority! It takes a lot of work and effort to provide the week of activities, but how inspiring it is to see the children hungry for the Word of God and wanting the fellowship with each other. There are so many other activities provided for children, and even though they may be good, we really need to continue to nurture that hunger for God's Word.

Our many thanks to the visiting ministers last month. We sincerely appreciated Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and their wives for giving of themselves so graciously on our behalf. We have been reminded that we are in a spiritual battle and need to "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:11-12)

When we look around us today, it appears that the "darkness" has become even darker, the abnormal has become normal and it seems as though right and wrong have traded places. We are so thankful for our church, for we find that we also need to nurture our hunger for the Word of God and our fellowship with God's children. Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6).

"We may live in a sad world, but the sad world doesn't have to live in us."

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

We started off our summer vacation in a special way by bringing our friends and families to VBS June 3-7. Our theme this year was "Dare To Be A Daniel" and we were privileged to have visiting ministers each night speak to the Adult Bible Class on a quality of Daniel's character that made him a man of God. Scripture tells us he was a remarkable man and stood out among others. "Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." (Daniel 6:3-4). Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) spoke on the importance of Daniel making good choices at key points of decision. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) reminded us of the supreme importance of consistent, sometimes public, prayer as Daniel modeled three times a day despite threat of death. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) presented Daniel as a man with personal integrity and spoke of how God is always searching for men and women who have developed this character trait by sending their roots deep into reliance on His Word. Finally, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) finished the week off by addressing Daniel's perseverance, a state of his being by which he addressed the circumstances that he found himself in that required great discipline. Through this personal discipline he was able to stay close to God and not be severed from that which he was closest. We pray that each person who attended this week would have the desire to live a life marked by

personal holiness and would ask God to develop in them these character traits modeled by Daniel.

We were also blessed to have special music presented by five different singing groups in the course of this VBS week. These groups were Peoria's In One Accord, and Bloomington's Four His Glory, the Young Men's Group, the Inoue Girls and the third through seventh graders. They each lent a special dimension of blessing to our services as their beautiful voices blended in songs of praise and worship.

Our charity project for the week was a collection taken for our local Children's Foundation Crisis Nursery. The children really demonstrated the joy received through giving to others.

On May 18, Bro. Darwin and Sis. Laurie Steidinger were blessed with the arrival of a healthy baby girl, Brianna Kristine Steidinger. She was welcomed by big sister, Karina. Her thankful grandparents are Donald Steidinger (Fairbury, IL), Alice Steidinger (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie Young (Bloomington, IL). Children truly are a heritage from the Lord.

Our annual Senior breakfast was held May 19 and those graduates honored were Amber Albritton (Charles and Sis. Marcia), Andy Kieser (Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura), Bro. David Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma), Brad Kellenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ann), Leslie Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary), Tim Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev), and Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda). We ask the Lord to protect and bless these young people as they "leave the nest" and that they will hide in their hearts the years of sound Biblical teachings that have been poured into them. We pray that they will draw on this knowledge at points of decision in their now more autonomous lives.

"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

We rejoiced with Bro. Scott Martin and Sis. Erin Jennings as they became man and wife on June 16. Bro. Scott is the son of the late Bro. Bill and the late Sis. Jane Martin (Morton, IL). Sis. Erin's parents are Bob and Jamie Jennings, and Carol Jennings, all of suburban Chicago. Our visiting ministers for the occasion were Bros. Wayne Laubscher and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We ask God to bless this young couple as they make Him the center of their marriage, and as they blend their God-given personalities to "become one".

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:7-8

It is around Independence Day that we tend to think of those who gave their life to gain and maintain our freedom. It is good that we honor them, for through them we enjoy freedom of religion and prosperity in this land. God has truly blessed our country and its citizens. But is not Jesus due more honor and praise? He gave His life for all mankind that we might find peace through Him. Surely also, the martyrs, and all those who gave their life to preserve our faith, deserve our appreciation. And what better way to show our thankfulness than to not lose the things in our faith that they died for; that they may not

have died in vain. Therefore brethren "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (I Corinthians 16:13)

Four souls were brought into our church family in Bradford on May 19. They were Sis. Katie Slutz, Bro. Joe Ehnle, Bro. Brad Kieser, and Bro. Brent Kieser. Parents are Richard and Marilyn Slutz, Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser, and Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser, respectively. May God give them grace to build a strong temple for Him upon the foundation they have laid. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL) were here to help out on the weekend and we want to thank them for their labors on our behalf.

Sis. Sharon Elsasser (Bro. Jordan) had surgery this past month, as did Bro. Gary Ehnle (Sis. Carole). We are thankful God has blessed them with a swift recovery.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Imogene Tanner traveled to Colorado this month to witness the uniting of their daughter, Jodi Tanner, with George Williams (San Ramon, CA). They were married on May 25 and will make their home in Boulder, CO. George's parents are Calvin and Kay Williams (San Ramon, CA). We pray God will bless them as they begin their life together.

Our prayers are with the friends and family of Bro. Loris Kieser (Princeville, IL) who passed away this past month. We pray God's Holy Spirit will comfort the hearts of his parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille Kieser, and brother and sisters, Bro. Jerry Kieser (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann (Bro. Harry, Princeville), Sis. Jane Leman (Elder Bro. Marvin), and Sis. Bonnie Kieser, and the rest of his dear family at this time.

We are thankful that ministering Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) were able to

visit and share the Word with us this month. We also invite them to come back soon.

Bro. Weston Stahl, Bro. David Klumpp (Sis. Barb), and Sis. Ann Ehnle were recently selected as Sunday School teachers in Bradford. May God give to them grace and wisdom to plant the seed of truth in the hearts of our youth. Bro. Ralph Joos (Sis. Jenny), Bro. Verle Kieser (Sis. Vonnie), and Sis. Becky Joos (Bro. Robert) are the Sunday School teachers whose terms have expired this year. We thank them for their labors in teaching our future church. May God bless them.

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

“To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

Eccles. 3:1

This has been a month when a number of things seemed to reach their “season”. Just a few years ago, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart sent their youngest child, the little Neil with the big dark eyes, to his first day of kindergarten. Over the years, that young child has become a few feet taller, absorbed a great deal of knowledge in the public schools and Sunday School, matured, and reached the point of graduation from Mahomet-Seymour High School. Neil will be attending the U of I in the fall, so we are glad we’ll still have him in our congregation. We wish him the best as he makes this transition from high school to college.

With the angels in Heaven rejoicing, we had a very nice weekend as Aaron Carnahan gave a testimony of his conversion and was baptized the first weekend in June. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL)

was with us to assist our Elder Bro. David Wiegand. We welcome our Bro. Aaron into our little family of believers at Champaign-Urbana. Our family always has room for one or two more. A part of our family has plucked up their roots in Champaign and replanted in nearby Mahomet. Bro. Eric, Sis. Nancy and children, Abbey and Jarod Schieler, are all settled into their new home, so we had an evening of singing to warm their home. Their address is 506 N. Dianne Lane, Mahomet, IL 61853.

Vacation Bible School was held June 10-14 with a focus on the Fruit of the Spirit. The seeds of truth were planted as each fruit was explained with examples, and craft projects reflected the week’s focus. Each year, the students take up a collection of money that goes toward helping others. This year’s collection was for the local victims of tornadoes. Twenty-four students ages three and up participated in the week’s activities. Many special thanks go to the college students who gave of their time to teach the children. They likely found at least a few of the fruits quite helpful in dealing with a roomful of energetic young students!

Our Bible Class students attended the annual Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship Day at ISU in Normal. This is a gathering of high school students from throughout the state with ministers delivering lessons focused toward the youth. A musical program is prepared by the participating students and presented for parents and friends in the late afternoon. Sitting in the audience at this program, I realized that this mass of students is much of the future of our church and how important it is for those students to take the words they were singing in such songs as “Open the Wells of Salvation” and “Where Could I Go” and make them a reality in their lives. Surely, these young people need

continual prayers not only of their families, but from all of us.

Over the past several years, two houses on the campus of the University of Illinois have been home to many students who attended school here. These houses, San Clemente for the young men and Que Linda for the young women, were not quite like living at the Hilton, but they were much more than just a place to hang a hat. These were places where students found lifelong friends in other students or in Jesus. As is stated in Ecclesiastes 3, there is a time for every thing, and these two houses have met their “time to break down”. Prior to their demolition, a reunion was held for past residents. More than 100 came for a last look at the houses and to renew friendships. The memories of these houses will live on for all those who knew them.

On June 10, Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma (Scherer) Simpson observed their 40th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of John (Orlando, FL) and Leigh (Northville, MI). As a little surprise, many friends sent them cards in celebration of their 40 years together. We wish them many more harmonious years! Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma appreciated and thank all those who remembered them with the cards and many wonderful notes of kindness and good wishes.

A time to heal came as Jane Scott had cataract surgery. She is now seeing the world more clearly, and we are thankful for God’s healing hand on Jane.

Two members of our congregation met with a time to weep as they suffered the loss of siblings in the past month. Sis. Irma Walder’s brother, Bill Bowald, of Eureka, IL passed on from this life to eternity, as did Sis. Ila June Hari’s sister, Sis. Edythe Stock, of Cissna Park, IL. We extend our condolences to both of these sisters, as well as to the other members of their families.

Ministering Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) had a time to speak on our pulpit this past month. We extend our thanks to each of these men and their families for giving of their time and talents to be with us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I was privileged recently to travel again. We visited two of our national parks, Mesa Verde and the Grand Canyon. In each of them, there was much said about their being physically preserved for the good of generations to come. In both there were extensive recycling possibilities for all travelers to be involved in as well. Besides garbage cans, there were clearly marked containers for glass, plastic, and aluminum. Of course, there needs to be more than physical preservation when we speak of our church. The physical building is only a convenient earthly part (and sometimes a symbol) of the more important spiritual essentials which we need within ourselves and our church as a body to fulfill our Lord's commands as Christians. Do we not need to be interested much more in spiritual preservation? Certainly, we need to separate all the garbage from that which is important, whether it is recyclable or usable as is. Daily Bible reading and meditation, prayer time, and spiritual application in our lives are always required. Our commitments to these may require some fine-tuning. Our commitments to our church and its traditions may need to be renewed from time to time. We also should have major commitments to the people in our lives ("No man knocks at my door who was not sent by God"), which, if you react at all as I do, take so much time and energy that I need to ask for MY WILL to be recycled so that I may do His.

Spiritual preservation—is it not more important for our children and grandchildren than seeing cliff dwellings or even the awesome canyon of all canyons? We must be willing vessels for whatever He has us earmarked. "O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful..." (Psalm 31:23).

We have been lifted up by our Wednesday evening visitors, Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), David Graf (Akron, OH) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We are blessed by words from the Spirit at any time, and, because we are each one different, sometimes we listen better to the Spirit when the style or wording is different.

May we always be ready to listen; may these brothers always be ready to speak, rewarded by His opportunities and His gifts of love and nearness.

We are delighted by our newcomers. Kendall Troy was born Friday, June 14, to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager. His big sister, Allison, is SO excited, as are his grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor Bogart (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager (Toledo, OH). May we, their church family, be helpful to this dear family, by our prayers and our support. Many have come to stay, at least for awhile, from other places. Bro. Rick Kaisner from Peoria, and Bro. Tom Koch, Tremont, IL work for the same company. Bro. Rick is here for the summer while Bro. Tom will remain for the fall as he is part of a co-op program. Sis. Janelle Strunk is here from Morton, IL in an internship. Mark Stoller, Gridley, IL is working in our area in insurance. Tom Clauss has come to the city from Remington, IN. We look forward to sharing our worship, our love, and our time with each of them. We pray that they will all feel the Lord at work and enjoy their Chicago experience, whether it is a summer long or a lifetime.

June 16 marks the beginning of travel together on life's journey for Sis. Erin Jennings and Bro. Scott Martin, who were married in Bloomington. Though we know we will now see less of Sis. Erin, we wish this new couple every happiness, every blessing, and all of our love as they, by His will, create a new family in Him.

We live in different places. In Phoenix, the temperature is hotter, the humidity is so low, and the rainfall lately non-existent. Here in the Chicago area, the temperature is not as hot, but the humidity is very high, and rainfall expected on most days in the last three months (or so it seems). Yet, thanks to the Lord, we can live well wherever our home address. We can live lives of Christian fervor, despite heat or drought, despite gloom or the dampness, but we all must drink of His living water. We are to "hunger and thirst after righteousness" for we are promised to "be filled." (Matthew 5:6). In other words, the important point to life is to pursue God and His use of our talents in His service, to the working out of our salvation as repentant, converted souls.

"Faint yet pursuing," we press our way
Up to the glorious gates of day;
Following Him who has gone before,
Over the path to the brighter shore.
"Faint, yet pursuing," from day to day,
Over the sure and the bloodmarked way;
Strengthen and keep us, O Saviour, Friend,
Ever pursuing, unto life's end.
Gospel Hymns #177

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

We are grateful for God's servants who came and ministered to us this past month. Among them were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand

(Champaign, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). May God bless them and their wives for their efforts and willingness to serve us.

May 26 was a special day in the life of Sis. Danell Stock and Bro. Scott Meiss as they were joined in marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Gib and Sis. Kathy Stock and Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Meiss (Peoria, IL). We wish Sis. Danell and Bro. Scott much joy in their life together. May God's presence always be felt in their hearts and home.

"Those we love are with the Lord, and the Lord has promised to be with us. If they are with Him and He is with us, they cannot be far away." (Peter Marshall). These are comforting words for those who have lost believing loved ones. Sis. Edythe Stock left us for her Heavenly Home. We sure will miss her as Sis. Edythe always had willing hands and a cheerful countenance. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Edythe shared 49 years and 11 months together. Our prayers are sure with Bro. Melvin, Sis. Bonita and Bro. Bruce Frank and daughters of our congregation, and Sis. Bev and Bro. John Hartter and family of Eureka, IL.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Henry Schmidt. Henry passed away June 10. We pray God will seem extra close to his wife, Lois, during this difficult time. Lois is a sister to Sis. Dorothy Walder, Sis. Carol Waldbeser, Sis. Marj Rinkenberger, Pete Bauer, and a sister-in-law to Sis. Grace Bauer of our Cissna church.

We look forward to the day when we will never have to say good-bye to loved ones because of death or even to friends that move to other areas. This month we had two dear families move from our community. They are Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin, Jason, Elizabeth, and Micah

who have moved to Wichita, KS; and Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti, Levi, and Lincoln who have located in the Leo, IN area. We will miss them in our church family but are thankful for the memories they have given us. A part of them will always stay with us because of the way they touched our lives while they lived here. "Leave to thy God to order and provide...in every change He faithful will remain." (Hymns of Zion #191). May they feel God's faithfulness during this change in their lives.

A recent surgical patient was Bro. Harry Hoffman. We are grateful to report he is back home. Our prayers are sure with Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen.

We just finished our first week of Vacation Bible School. It is always a special time to get to know the children better and to share God's Word together. We are thankful to Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) who came to talk with our young kids on two evenings. Lord willing, we look forward to our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) being with us this coming week. We appreciate so much the efforts of each one. "For we are labourers together with God..." (I Corinthians 3:9).

Notes 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

The Melvin Stock family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy, love, and moral support. We appreciate the gifts, food, the kindness

shown to us, and the many prayers offered on our behalf during the illness and loss of our beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Sis. Edythe. May God bless each one for their kindness.

Bro. Melvin W. Stock, Sis. Bev and Bro. John Hartter, Sis. Bonita and Bro. Bruce Frank and families

I wish to sincerely thank everyone who remembered me since my fall and injury. Especially the many prayers, the visits of the ministers, family, and friends. Thank you for the many beautiful cards, flowers, monetary gifts, phone calls, singers, and food brought in. All was deeply appreciated. A special thank you to the one who planned the pleasant surprise Sunshine Box and all those lovely gifts. May the Dear Lord touch each heart with His finger of love for your kindness. In humbleness I thank everyone.

Sis. Lorene Rocke

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart - Linda Knobloch

While listening to a Bible Study tape by one of our elders on Redeeming the Time, I heard these good instructions: Sometimes we don't know if a thing is right or wrong. Following are some suggested questions we can ask ourselves: 1) Am I taking into consideration I belong to Jesus and He's taking preeminence in my life? 2) Does my doing this thing glorify God? 3) Can I ask God's blessings on the thing I'm about to do? 4) Does this thing build me up physically, mentally, or spiritually? 5) Can this thing enslave me if I do it? 6) Does my doing this thing give the appearance of evil? 7) If I do this thing, is there a possibility of causing someone to stumble? 8) Am I in doubt about doing this thing? 9) Would doing this thing cause me to be embarrassed if Christ were to come while I'm doing it? 10) Can I

do this thing and receive "Well done" from my Master's lips in judgement?

More good instructions this month were heard from our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). The Bible Class heard Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) talk on the dangers of college and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) on what it means to be a Christian.

We are thankful another soul is repenting. Kevin Knapp, son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp, has answered God's call.

Art Miller (Lena), Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion), and Sis. Lynnette Knepp (Bro. Doug) have all spent a few days in the hospital. Sis. Luella Zimmerman and little Derek Stoller (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay) have casts on one arm due to injuries. We pray God's healing touch to all.

Bro. Mike Zobrist has graduated from nurses training, and we pray for him as he serves others.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

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

Hymns of Zion #73

Sis. Marcia (Bro. Tim) Kellenberger and Bro. Dave (Sis. Linda) Steffen will be soon completing their terms as Sunday School teacher. We appreciate the love and care they have shown to our children. May the seed planted in these tender hearts continue to grow and bring forth fruit pleasing to the Master. Sis. Nancy (Bro. Mark) Wewetzer and Bro. Larry (Sis. Beth) Moore have been chosen to replace Sis. Marcia and Bro. Dave. May we support all our teachers in prayer that they may be good "child of God" examples to our children.

Sis. Martha Greiner, Bro. Delbert (Sis. Jeanette) Schmidt and Tom (Gayle) Rhodes have been hospitalized. May the Lord continue to strengthen each one according to His perfect will.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

The death angel has recently visited the families of Sis. Jeanette (Bro. Dick) Kilgus and Sis. LibbieAnn (Bro. Gene) Moser. We pray that our all-knowing God will be with each family during their time of sorrow.

These souls betrothed before Thee stand:

Thy blessings we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,

And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286

Bro. Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores of Fairbury, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on June 9. May they ever be submissive to the Lord's direction as He guides and blesses them throughout their lifetime together.

Notes of Thanks:

Dear Ones,

I would like to thank each one for the many cards, gifts, prayers and visits you have remembered me with. Your continued prayers and support are much appreciated. May God be the Rich Rewarder of all your loving deeds.

Sis. Helen Liebig

Dear Brethren and Friends,

We want to thank you for the many prayers, your love and support during my hospitalization and since I've returned home. May God richly bless each one of you for your many kind deeds.

Our love and appreciation, Don and Leann Schambach and family

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

On Sunday, June 2, Bro. Bill Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Heidi Plattner (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat) of Goodfield were joined together in Holy Matrimony. Our prayer is that God will bless their union and guide them throughout their lives. We warmly welcome Sis. Heidi to our congregation.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid are thankful for the birth of their second daughter on June 7. Sarah Leigh is the new little sister of Rebecca, and the granddaughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl of Roanoke.

We were inspired by our many visiting ministers this month. They were: Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Dale Moore and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), and Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL).

We extend our sympathy and comfort to Sis. Bev Hartter (Bro. John) at the death of her mother, Sis. Edythe Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and also to Mary Courier (Art) at the death of her father, Howard Kilpatrick (Dakota, IL).

We remember Bro. Leroy Stoller in prayer as he recently underwent hip surgery.

Note of Thanks:

In remembrance of our 40th anniversary, we wish to thank all for your well wishes and special part in our memory calendar. A special thanks to our dear children for their many efforts and love. May God richly bless each one.

Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

America! America!
 God shed His grace on thee,
 And crown thy good with
 brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!
 —*Katharine Lee Bates*

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to stand in the very spot, on top of Pike's Peak in Colorado, where the poet first conceived the words of this hymn. I was moved by the same majestic beauty which she saw there, giving her the inspiration to pen those descriptions of this wonderful country. But also I thought of the stanza which says, "America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control...". This Independence Day, as we give thanks for the freedoms which God has given us, let us pray that He will "mend our flaws" and that our motto "In God we trust" can truly be a reflection of our country and our government.

This union of our hearts...
 Shall stand through grace in
 Jesus...
Zion's Harp #79

On June 9, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores) to Bro. Alan Schambach of Remington, IN (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma, Elgin, IL). They will make their home in the Remington, IN area.

Also on that date, our Bro. Michael Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) was wed to Sis. Holly Menold of Bern, KS (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey). We welcome Sis. Holly to our congregation. May God bless both these couples, and, as He has brought them together, so may they continue to look to Him for grace to strengthen that union in Him.

Special prayers are with Mark Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol)

and Tania Voeste as they were united in marriage on June 1. We wish them the Lord's blessings also.

Ministering brothers who visited us this month were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL); also, Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). Other ministering brothers were here also for the wedding, but did not share the pulpit. We thank each one for being with us.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Richard Walter (Sis. Colleen), Sis. Marie Huber (Bro. Reuben) and Sis. Mary Kaeb (Bro. Dave). We pray that God's healing Hand will strengthen them as they recover from their surgeries.

We were asked to consider the theme of "peace through forgiveness" after we have been hurt in some way by someone. Truly, it is only through complete forgiveness from the heart that we can find total peace. Several steps that I have found to be helpful in healing from hurt are: 1) Acknowledge to yourself that you are hurt; 2) Talk gently to the person(s) who hurt you and give them an opportunity to rectify the wrong; 3) Pray that God will grant you a forgiving love and ease or take away the pain; 4) Accept the healing power that God grants to you; 5) Realize that it may take time to heal, perhaps more time than you expect. Forgiving others is not an option for us, it is a command, for the Lord said, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:15)

Note of Thanks:

May God bless all of you who shared your kindness, prayers, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital and since returning home. Thanks!

Sis. Mary Kaeb

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Melanie Schneider who has moved from Rockville, CT to Forrest. May she feel God's nearness and blessings as she worships with us.

We are so thankful that Carrie Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) has been granted the grace to answer God's call to repentance. May she put her trust in Him as she seeks her soul's salvation.

Sharing God's Word with us this past month were Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), and Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). Also lovingly sharing God's Word with our Bible Class students during Vacation Bible School were Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve us.

Doug Roth (Leonard and Marilyn) and Jody Taylor (Bob and Sheila, Marian, IN) are planning an August 17 wedding. Also planning an August wedding are Stacey Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Tonda Whitehouse (Cindy, Sibley). May these couples look to God for guidance as they take this important step.

June 16 was a special day for Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft as they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless them as they walk this path of life together.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Shane Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Sis. Al-

isa (Bro. Allen) Ricketts. Our prayers continue to be with Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer) as she remains in the hospital at this time. May these loved ones feel God's healing power.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harry and Sis. Til Johnson and family in the death of his grandmother, Emma Mehrings. May God comfort them at this time of loss.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone across the land who offered prayers on our behalf, sent cards, gifts and food since our accident. We so much appreciate the love we have felt at this time. May God reward and bless each one who has done a kind deed in His name.

Bro. Gary, Sis. Jane Brown and family

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Barb Brim**

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

James 5:7-8

What a glorious promise—His coming draweth nigh. Our Father in Heaven, Almighty Husbandman of the earth, is waiting patiently for the fruit to be ripened and the harvest gathered in. How much we should appreciate the time remaining to make ready every soul unto harvest, knowing His coming draweth nigh and the growing season almost complete. Look up and rejoice!

The union of two dear souls in Holy Matrimony was yet another reason to rejoice in Goodfield this month. Congratulations and best

wishes to the happy couple, Sis. Heidi Plattner (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna, Eureka). May God bless and protect your new beginning as one in the Lord.

Summer Bible School was held this month and we would like to thank the ministers, vocal groups, and all those responsible for the organization of this special study time. The topics discussed, Right Choices, Self-Worth, and Relationships, were timely and educational for the entire congregation. Thank you, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), The Mortonaires, Brothers in Faith, the Gridley Vocal Group, and all those whose time and efforts were behind the scenes planning and preparing these Bible studies. Your efforts were a blessing to us all.

Our dear Sis. Rosemary Wiegand is home from the hospital and recovering well from the surgery she underwent this month for which we all send praises Heavenward. We also have a special friend, Chad Wiegand (Mark Wiegand and Bro. Simon and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand), who is in intensive care and would appreciate our prayers during his stay in the hospital.

Hearts were saddened yet joyful that a beloved sister was chosen to join the Heavenly hosts and be wrapped in Jesus' loving embrace. Sis. Kristen Hohulin (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean) left this earthly home to claim her place with the saints. Our thoughts, prayers, and love are extended to Bro. Stan, Sis. Jean and all the family and friends who miss her loving presence in their lives. She lives eternal in your hearts and awaits your arrival. God bless you all.

Thanks are sent to the visiting ministers who labored so willingly in the Lord for us this month. Thank you, Bros. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Kevin Knapp (Sis.

Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), Tom Le-man (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL), for so generously sharing your time and efforts in the Lord with us.

A special note of interest to our church family: Gertrude Alsene, a resident of Eureka Apostolic Home, has repented and found peace with God. She gave her testimony and was baptized at the Home on March 26. Sis. Gertrude is mother to our Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Don) Ott. She is 92 years old and ready for the harvest. Praise His name!

The following poem was sent to me as a token of celebration to the Lord for this great land He has allowed us to live in and the freedoms we enjoy. The author gives all credit to God for this verse.

*...Life, Liberty and
the Pursuit of Happiness*

Fourth of July!
A day to celebrate
Our anniversary date,
Remember why
That you and I
Can live so free
In this great land - United States -
yes, our country!

The Colonies
For freedom they did fight!
From Britain to gain rights.
By God's decree
Gained victory!
The reason why
The Colonies, the Bill of Rights
did ratify.

What was the creed
They sought to institute
That men would not refute;
How did it read,
That men would heed!
This document
Proclaimed them free of Britain's
rule—independent!

'Twas Jefferson
Important Writ did pen

"Life, liberty" for all men.
 Yes, from now on
 For everyone
 Right to "pursuit
 Of happiness". Hence, democracy
 did take root!

"Declaration
 Of Independence", won
 John Hancock and Thomson
 Signed to sanction
 Writ for nation
 To endure tests
 Of time. America, the Beautiful,
 God blest!

On guard she stands
 "Statue of Liberty"
 Portrays "land of the free"
 With Torch in hand
 Beckons all lands:
 (In sincerity)
 Down-trodden and the poor. She's
 crowned with dignity!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

During the week of June 10-14, our church held its annual Vacation Bible School. For five consecutive evenings, guest speakers spoke to the adults in the sanctuary. They addressed five topics regarding the theme, "The Coming of the Lord", "Signs of the Times", "Sequence of Events", "Is Your Heart Prepared?", "Judgment of the Unrighteous", and "Reward of the Believer".

These were all thought-provoking messages. Attempts were made to give definition to many of the Bible's prophecies. Yet, an underlying theme that seemed to enshroud each of the speaker's remarks was "readiness". It is pointless to understand the intricacies of end-time teachings if one does not prepare himself for the Lord's coming. Readiness is the greatest doctrine of the "end times".

Youngsters from ages four through eighth-grade attended special classes each evening. The entire week was a time of spiritual renewal

and warm fellowship. It was strengthening for the congregation.

There were dozens of brothers and sisters who put forth intense efforts all week long in teaching, preparing lunches, and babysitting, etc. Often, their efforts went unnoticed, but surely the Lord noticed, and may He reward them accordingly.

May God bless Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp for their planning efforts for Vacation Bible School. Bro. Tim has served as Sunday School Superintendent for the past year and was responsible for this year's Bible School program.

Those who were recently hospitalized from our Gridley congregation were Sis. Lucille Wagner and Sis. Betty Klopfenstein.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Wayne Laub-scher (Cissna Park, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). We appreciate very much their efforts and may God bless them for their inspirational and informative messages.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

June was a busy month for the Morton congregation. We had a week of Vacation Bible School, the Bible Class traveled to Jamaica on a work project, and we had births, weddings, and several converts. We praise the Lord for His goodness.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jane Kieser welcome into their hearts and home, Scott Alan. Scott was born on May 30. His happy grandparents are Sis. Martha Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Schmidgall (Morton, IL). May God grant them strength and wisdom in rearing their precious boy.

Our Bible Class students had the privilege of traveling to Kingston,

Jamaica to do some construction work at a boarding school for deaf children. As all who have participated in a work team know, the Lord provides rich blessings. Love and fellowship abounded among the Morton group as well as with the students and staff of CCCD (Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf). We thank the Lord for this opportunity.

We rejoice that another Christian home has been established. Sis. Erin Mayo (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail) of Morton and Bro. Ross Wuthrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie) of Roanoke were united as one in Christ on June 15. We thank the Lord for this three-fold cord and may Sis. Erin and Bro. Ross continue to keep Him the head of their home.

Just as we have a new Christian home now starting, we celebrate a Christian home that has been established for fifty years. Bro. Chris and Sis. Emma Knapp recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their family and friends. May they have many more fruitful years together.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), and Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). May God bless them for their efforts.

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 3-7. The children and young people were very eager to learn more about Jesus. Our adult session was blessed by God. The theme this year was "Faith". Monday evening, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) talked on Family Status; Tuesday, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) spoke on Attitude; Wednesday, Bro. Byron Stoller's (Gridley, IL) topic was Integrity; Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) spoke on Thursday on Testimony.

And on Friday, Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) spoke on Heaven. We thank them and may the Lord bless them for bringing the messages.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Two Peoria couples have been blessed with first babies. On May 13, Kourtney Ashton was born to Bro. Brice and Sis. Julie Teubel. Kourtney's grandparents are Bro. Elvin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline Teubel (Lester, IA).

On May 24, Bro. Matt and Sis. Kristi Triplett welcomed Abigail Rose into their lives. Abigail's grandparents, both from Peoria, are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker and Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett.

Bro. Scott Meiss (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Meiss) and Sis. Danell Stock (Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock, Cissna Park, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on May 26. May God richly bless this union of hearts as they begin life's journey together.

We were saddened following the deaths of three dear sisters. Sis. Millie Hoerr, Sis. Ruth Knepp and Sis. Emma Wilhelm have all gone Home to be with their precious Lord and Saviour. May God comfort those loved ones they left behind.

Our most recent visiting ministers were Bros. Ralph Garber and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). May they each be richly blessed as they allow themselves to be used in the service of the Lord.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Francis Meier, Sis. Lydia Hermann, Bro. Howard Musselman, Bro. Lester Stoller, and Bro. Ben Baurer. We pray that God will restore each one to health and strength once again.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them

that call upon him..."

Psalm 145:18

May we never forget that as the trials of this life try to pull us away, we only need to pray.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

May we this month, as we celebrate our nation's birth, do as we are exhorted in I Timothy 2:1-2. "...that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

We read that "...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9). So often we do not understand God's plan but we find comfort in Him who "healeth the broken in heart," (see Psalm 147:3). We remember Sis. Martha Kieser, at the passing of her husband, Bro. Loris, who went Home May 18. We extend sympathy to his children, Bro. Mark (Sis. Cathy), Bro. Tim (Sis. Denise), Bro. Jeff (Sis. Jane), Sis. Marsha Kaiser (Bro. Jerry), Susan Jones (Neal), Sis. Lori Streitmatter (Bro. Ron), and Sis. Lisa. We also extend our sympathy to his parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille, and to his brother and sisters, Bro. Jerry (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann (Bro. Harry), Sis. Jane Leman (Elder Bro. Marvin), and Sis. Bonnie Kieser.

"...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh"

Matthew 19:5

On May 19, the engagement of Sis. Ann Klendworth to Bro. Ben Herrmann was announced. Sis. Ann is the daughter of Jack and Lois

Klendworth of Minonk, and Bro. Ben is the son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann.

With thankful hearts, we welcome four new souls into the fold. On June 8 and 9, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathleen), and Sisters Bethany, Joy and Jill Herrmann (daughters of Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann). "...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." (Isaiah 43:1). We want to also thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Stoller.

On May 17, Candace Sadie was born to Sis. Jill Herrmann. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann.

We want to give our prayerful support to those who have been put in as Sunday School teachers. They are Bro. Roger Herrmann (Sis. Darlene), Bro. Dean Herrmann (Sis. Dawn), and Sis. Janice Martin (Bro. Alan). We want to thank those who have finished their term, Bro. Gale Stoller (Sis. Sonia), Bro. Phil Ehnle (Sis. Barb), and Sis. Betty Stahl (Bro. Lyle).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Leila Elsasser, at the passing of her sister, Lavina Sloan. May she find comfort in the Lord.

We are thankful Sis. Margaret Feucht (Bro. Earl) has recovered from her recent surgery.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

Our visiting ministers who labored among us this month were: Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN)

and Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and also Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL).

We also want to thank our visiting ministers who participated in our June Vacation Bible School. Those who so willingly gave of their time were: Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

We rejoice with our Bro. Jeff Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Jennifer Reimschisel (Bro. Max and Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) as they were united in marriage on June 9. May God bless them as they walk hand in hand through this life.

June 16 was a day of rejoicing for our Bro. Ross Wuthrich and Sis. Erin Mayo as they were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Val Wuthrich and Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo (Morton, IL). We pray that God will richly bless their new life together.

June 16 was also a day of great sorrow in Roanoke as we said "goodnight" to our Bro. Tim Hoffman. Bro. Tim passed away June 13 and we wish to extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Jeanni; his parents, Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoffman (Roanoke); three sons, Bro. Nathan, Bro. Kirk and Brian (all of Roanoke); a daughter, Sis. Kim Maher (Bro. Dan); five grandchildren; three brothers, Bros. Tom, Dick, and Mike (all of Roanoke); and three sisters, Sis. Annie Leman (Bro. Jim), Sis. Linda Harris and Julie Tibbs (all of Roanoke). As we were reminded in the funeral service, how glad we are that this dear family can say "goodnight" and not "goodbye". Our love and prayers are with the family and may they feel how much our Saviour cares for them.

Does Jesus care when my heart is
pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press,

And the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and
long?

O yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief.
When the days are weary,
The long night dreary,
I know my Saviour cares.

Gospel Hymns #751

We also extend our sympathy to our Sis. Lori Wade in the death of her mother, Karen Wade. Our prayers are with Sis. Lori and her family in this time of grief. May they also feel the love and concern of the church and the loving healing power of our Saviour.

Our prayers continually go to those who have been in ill health: Bro. Dick Moser (at his home), Bro. Ed Blunier (Roanoke Nursing Home) and Bro. Earl Bowald (Eureka Nursing Home).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

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

Zion's Harp #79

June 2 was the wedding day of Sis. Ruth Beutel and Bro. Vernon Koch. May God always abide in their house and bless them with His love.

Sarah Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy) and Shawn Lennington were married June 8. We pray God will walk by their side throughout their married life.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner are happy grandparents of Olivia Rose born May 31 to Alex and Diane Paton.

Our thoughts and prayers turn to those recently hospitalized: Bro. Arnold Rassi (Sis. Lydia), Sis. Marlene Kaiser (Bro. Melvin), and Sis.

Bernice Frank.

We are always thankful for those brothers who visit us and help in the sharing of the Word. This month special thanks goes to Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Many hearts have been saddened as loved ones have passed from this life. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Marcia and Bro. Jerry Kaiser in the passing of her father, Bro. Loris Kieser (Princeville, IL); Sis. Melba and Jerry Hangartner in the passing of her sister, Sis. Mildred Hoerr (Peoria, IL); and to Sis. Amy and Bro. Jess Koch in the passing of her sister, Sis. Ruth Knepp (Peoria, IL).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Denise Romersberger Sue Ruppert

Every one of us has responsibilities in life. Perhaps it is providing for our family, working at a career, keeping a home, raising children, or serving others. Most of the time we feel that we are where God wants us to be, and know that God wants us to do our best in whatever we are doing. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" (Colossians 3:23). We also know that God does not want us to worry about things, but rather wants us to trust in Him. "Be careful for nothing; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6). But have you ever wondered just what the difference is between worry and diligence? Where is the line between trying to think through a problem and worrying about it? Where is the delineation between trying to use the talents, intelligence, or perhaps education that God has given you and realizing that only God has the answers? Are we trying hard enough, or are we trying too hard?

I don't have the answers for all

these questions, and I suppose that the answers will be different for everybody. I also am learning (very slowly sometimes) that God uses experiences to teach us His ways and His plan in our lives. Since none of us has the ability to look ahead and know what will happen, we have to look back and learn from what we see. God gives us experiences to base future actions on. So as I contemplate these things, I think of the verse in Romans that tells us "...but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3-5). I think on this verse, and know that I understand it better because of my experiences. I also know that God was right there; guiding me, teaching me, loving me, even as I struggled with all of it, and I am thankful to Him.

There are several members of our Washington family that have had their own struggles. Bro. Fred Wyss was hospitalized after severely cutting his fingers on a saw. We are all thankful that the injuries were not any more serious than they were. His son, Troy, also has a cast on his arm after falling and breaking a bone. Shea Ledford and Joshua Schick both sustained injuries requiring casts, and Sis. Barb Slagel underwent surgery on her wrist. Bro. Harvey Martin was also hospitalized for a couple of days for tests. All are recuperating nicely.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner traveled to Haiti and saw firsthand some of the struggles being experienced by the people of that land. He presented a slide show documenting his trip which was very thought-provoking.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher have opened their home to two foster children. The boys have been

enjoying Vacation Bible School this week, along with the rest of the children. All of the children have devoted craft time to doing World Relief projects.

This year, it is our privilege to host the Vacation Bible School for both the Eureka and Washington high school students in this coming week. The Bible Class also participated in the Youth Fellowship day that was held in Normal.

Bro. Mark Kiefer and family (Denver, CO) visited us and ministered to us. Thank you for lending yourself.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Jaci Gerber

Our 35th annual Bible School program was held on June 14. It was a beautiful presentation of what 456 children can learn to sing and memorize in two weeks. Bible School was a success, thanks to the efforts of many teachers, song leaders, coordinators, aides, volunteers, those who prepared snacks and helped in the kitchen, and the ministers who came and began each morning with thoughts and a prayer. God's blessings to the 52 eighth grade graduates, and may every student who was a part of Bible School this year remember the theme, "Heaven is in my Heart!"

Our church has been abundantly blessed with new babies and new converts.

Those who have begun their walk with Christ are: Allison Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl), Becky Maller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise), Joe Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila), Joel Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne), and Josh Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky).

May 16 was the arrival date of two new bundles of joy. Zachary Tanner was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter. He joins Nichole, Ashley, and Ethan at home. Grandparents are Carl and Betty Macklin, and

Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter.

Luke Thomas is Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Kaehr's new addition. He is welcomed home by Sarah, Jesse, Hannah, Lydia, Esther and Samuel. His grandparents are Sis. Pat Kaehr, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch.

On May 17, Allison Jane was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Becky Stucky. She joins Audrey and Ryan at home. Bro. Steve and Sis. Carol Stucky are the grandparents.

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard welcomed Gage A. David into their lives on May 29. He joins big brother, Colten, at home. His grandparents are Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni Reinhard, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Frauhiger welcome a new grandson. Tanner Reid was born on June 5 to Rob and Deb Moon.

Also, on June 5, Bro. Tom and Sis. Lyn Steffen were blessed with another daughter; Janean Elizabeth joins Jessica and Janae at home. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser.

Lauren Christene was born on June 13 to Matt and Julie Lehman. She is welcomed by her brother, Landon, and grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy Stucky.

Please remember to pray for the loved ones who have been hospitalized this month. They are: Bro. Russell (Sis. Alice) Steffen, Sis. Stella (Bro. Ervin) Aeschliman, Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander, and Gaius Gerber.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who have come and given of themselves. They are Bros. Dave Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). They are welcomed back anytime.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

Ephesians 1:7

We are so thankful for the sunshine God has sent to our area after a very rainy spring! God's power is evident as He changes the weather, so it is possible for Him to change the hearts of men. We have experienced His overwhelming love as He has called so many souls to change the direction of their lives. Carissa Geisel, Tara Byerly, Jason Lantz, Aimee Meyer, Tiffany Cupp, Jenni Frauhiger, Tim Jolloff, Robin Todd, and Chad Smeckens have answered this call and given their hearts to Jesus in repentance. What an answer to prayer!

Our graduate class of 1995 hosted a breakfast for our 1996 senior class at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 19. The graduating seniors, along with their parents, sat up front in church during the morning services. We pray for all these young adults as they begin a new stage of life and hope they will look to God for direction in their lives.

Our Vacation Bible School, consisting of 460 students, was held from June 3-14. What a blessing to plant the seeds in these young, tender hearts. The theme was "Heaven in my Heart" and we pray that everyone involved has a little more of Heaven in our hearts as we continue to fight the battle for Christ in a dark and sinful world.

We're thankful to have Sis. Louise Gerber (Bro. Carroll) back in church with us after her four week hospital stay. Sis. Lora Kieser is recovering at home after surgery at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne. God surely hears and answers our

prayers.

We also pray for those brothers and their children who are leaving for a work-team project in Juarez, Mexico.

As our country will be celebrating Independence Day, let us think of the freedoms we as Christians have been given: a land where we can worship without being persecuted, a church based on the true Word of God, and the opportunity to share God's love with those around us. Let us make use of the time God gives us and shine our lights!

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." (Hymns of Zion #156). On May 19, we gathered together for a farewell singing for Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy Marti, Nicole and Christopher who are making Lamar, MO their home church.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna Putt rejoice in the birth of Thomas Wayne on May 19. His siblings, Erica and David, are happy. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt and Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman.

Jon Eide (Karen) had a brief stay in the hospital. Sis. Elsie Yaggie is thankful once again to return to her home after months in the nursing home.

We are rejoicing with Lon Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) who has turned his back to the world and has found peace with God.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dave Metzger (Sis. Arlene) for the passing away of his father, Robert. Sis. Edith Streitmatter and Sis. Joan Gutwein (Bro. Harvey) laid to rest Jim Wren who was raised in the Streitmatter home.

We sincerely thank our home ministers for their labors of love for the glory of God. Also thanks to Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN),

Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) for bringing forth the Word of Life.

Thought from a sermon: "Quality of our life depends on how we listen to the Holy Spirit."

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Missy Baumgartner
Lauretta Schafer

We are rejoicing and praising God for another good medical report for Bro. Eric Zeller. It has been almost a year since he has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Surely God is good to us. Bro. Eric continues his work as a dentist and continues being the father and husband to his family.

Our high school graduates were Michael Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. LeAnn), Heather Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn), and Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). We wish them God's guidance and protection as they close a chapter in their lives and step out into their next chapter.

Visiting ministers and their wives have been Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Elder Bro. Alfred had us complete a ballot to see whether it would be the time to vote for another minister. The majority vote was "yes". May our hearts be softened and led by the Holy Spirit through the selection time.

In the midst of the summer activities, remember to "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life..." (John 6:27).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

"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 in-

creased.”

Daniel 12:4

There seems to be evidence that Christ's return is very near. When in history has there been such an exponential increase in knowledge, technology, and transportation as in the twentieth century? In America, we are seeing the effects of this change as computers are essential in almost every occupation. Supposedly, these modern inventions save time, but we are busier than ever. A slow-paced lifestyle is envied, and many people are left floundering alone without comfort. Is this individualism and frenzied pace creeping into our brotherhood? Rather, may our love for God and each other glow, undimmed by the darkness teeming about us. The love of God will bind and strengthen us in times of persecution.

We were privileged this month to share Communion and in quiet solemnity remember our Lord's suffering. The Spirit used Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) who encouraged us to gladly bear the cross with Christ.

Lydia Heiniger had exploratory surgery this month. She is in our thoughts and prayers. We are thankful Jenny Massner recovered quickly after her surgery.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Psalms 116:15

Bro. Eli Schlatter, the father of Sis. Mary Gudeman, passed from life into eternity. Though we are glad when loved ones lay their armor down in peace, the living still grieve from loneliness. Death creates a void. It is comforting to know we shall meet him on yonder shore.

“And they twain shall be one flesh...”

Mark 10:8

We rejoice with Christine Heinold and Eric Baim who have joined hand and heart. Christine is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evie Heinold. Eric is the son of Paula Baim. May God bless the home they establish.

Bro. Dan Stoller held a special graduation service for the three graduating from high school: Tara McClanahan, Mindy Heinold, and Sis. Julie Frank. We were instructed to make wise choices and walk the narrow path leading to Heaven. Our youth are so precious and vital to the continuance of our faith. May they find happiness and true peace while traveling the winding roads of life.

God has worked a miracle in the lives of Keith and Ruth Elcock as they experience peace with God and man. This peace shall sustain them, though worldly aspirations crumble. Let us offer them prayers and support.

VBS was an inspiration for everyone, young and old. Elder Bro. Wendall Gudeman discussed the wonderful change God will create in a repentant, thirsting heart. Elder Bro. Nate Steffen compared yesterday to nowadays, revealing the stark contrast in American values. In a rapidly disintegrating society, a safe retreat is on Christ—the solid rock. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter encouraged that once we've started building our spiritual house, devotion and God's grace will help us finish. To top off the week, we enjoyed a Sunday School program, picnic, and singing. Thank you, teachers and ministering brothers, for your efforts of love.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

“Thou preparest a table before me...my cup runneth over.”

Psalms 23:5

We appreciated the messages

from our visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Joe Gerst and his son, Bro. Tim, were among the many volunteers who helped re-roof the utility building at Gateway Woods.

Bro. Jim Williams (Sis. Velma) who has resided at the University Park Nursing Home for several years is very ill at this writing. We hold them up in prayer before the throne of grace.

Bro. John and Sis. Linda Klopfenstein's daughter, Jenny, has returned home from the hospital, but is still receiving therapy. Our prayer is for a complete healing.

We welcome Bro. Les Marti, Sis. Patty, and their two sons, Levi and Lincoln, to our congregation. They moved here from Cissna Park, IL. Bro. Les will be working with Bro. Loren at the new Klopfenstein Furniture Store in Fort Wayne, IN.

The evening of June 17 was the start of our youth Bible School. It is scheduled each evening for two weeks. We praise the Lord for the interest of parents and children, and pray God will bless their efforts as they honor and glorify His Son Jesus.

The children who are home-schooled publish a bi-monthly paper, “Senior Sentinel”, for the older folks, whom they love and respect. Following are quotes they wrote on love of country.

I love my country for it's wealth and freedom — *Brett*

I like America because most people believe in God — *Cecily*

I like America because we have freedom to worship God how we choose — *Courteney*

I like the USA because we're free — *Tyler*

I like my country because we can go to church — *Joel*

I'm thankful for men who based

their life on God's Word and marched on with hearts courageous to make our country free — *Daisha*

I love my country because we have freedom to worship whoever we choose and freedom to distribute Bibles, etc. — *Mandy*

I appreciate my country because God created it! — *Laura*

America! America! God shed His
grace on thee,
And crown thy good with
brotherhood from sea to shining
sea.

America! America! God mend
thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

America! America! May God thy
gold refine

'Till all success be nobleness, and
every gain divine.

(from *America, The Beautiful* by
Katherine Lee Bates - Gospel
Hymns #472)

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We want to welcome Bro. Dean, Sis. Mary and Sarah Lehman as they now worship with us. We enjoy having them as part of our congregation.

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness. Sis. Melba Hunsberger spent time in the hospital and now has moved to the Lakeland Loving Care nursing home. Bro. Theo Beer had surgery and is now recuperating at home.

We were so thankful for Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) spending a weekend with us and speaking to our graduates on the importance of making decisions.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Mary Gerber as her daughter-in-law, Kathryn Gerber, passed away.

The week of June 10 was a special blessing to us as we enjoyed learning about "An Abundant Life" at our Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to all who helped make this week

possible. We appreciated the following ministers laboring on our behalf: Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) spoke on "Faith"; Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) spoke on "Hope"; Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) spoke on "Charity"; and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) finished the week by speaking on "It Will Be Worth It All". We also enjoyed listening to the singing groups that came each night and the many visitors that joined us for the week. The chorus of our theme song reminded us all to continue pressing on. "It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus; life's trials will seem so small, when we see Christ; one glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase, so bravely run the race - till we see Christ."

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

Isaiah 55:6

We are so thankful Joy Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) is seeking the Lord in repentance. We wish Joy abundant grace as she begins her new walk with the Lord.

Three more souls have announced they have found peace with the Lord and with man. They are Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna), Clint Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) and Joel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth). We look forward to hearing their testimony of faith this summer.

Bro. Leon and Sis. LeAnn Kaeb are happy parents of a little girl, Miranda. She was welcomed home by her three brothers.

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to our high school and college graduates. Our high school graduates are Joy Bahler (Bro. Mark and

Sis. Benita), Gabe Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane), Amanda Price (Sis. Jayne), and Justin Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori). Our college graduates from Purdue University are Neil Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue), Sandra Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) and Heidi Vaughan (Joe and Betty). Neil Waibel has already found employment in Reston, VA, so we bid him farewell. Our hearts are with each of these graduates as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We wish them God's blessings and direction in the future.

We appreciate our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler for exhorting us on "Worldliness" at last month's Bible study. May each of us strive to "Come out from among them and be ye separate..."

The week of June 3-7 was a busy one at Remington as we hosted Vacation Bible School for the Remington/Wolcott congregations. Our theme was "Is it Right or Wrong?" We are thankful to the following ministers who gave their time throughout the week. They were Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless each of these brothers for bringing us the Word of Life.

Sis. Edna Meister (Bro. Lester) from Ft. Myers, FL passed on to her eternal reward. She had been ill for several months. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Lester; their son, Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister; and the grandchildren. Services were held June 5 at Remington Apostolic Christian Church.

June 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma, Elgin, IL) and Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores, Fairbury, IL) in Fairbury. We wish them God's blessings and welcome them to our congregation

here in Remington.

We were saddened to hear that Shane Gish was in a serious car accident on June 1. His parents are Joe and Cheri Frantz from our congregation. At this time he is slowly improving and we continue to pray for God's mercy and healing power to be with Shane.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

Father's Day was observed on Sunday, June 16; a day set aside to appreciate the dads that give of themselves so willingly and so unselfishly.

A recent article expressed several thoughts in reference to the significant role fathers serve in the family circle. It mentioned that they teach patience; they teach tolerance; they teach the value of hard work; they demonstrate their love for their children, as well as the meaning of sacrifice, by using ingenuity and persistence to help their children achieve goals that sometimes seem out of reach. A God-fearing father is truly a cherished gift from our Heavenly Father.

On Memorial Day weekend, our congregation was nourished with that spiritual manna by visiting ministering Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). We are thankful for all of our visitors and pray that God will be their Rich Rewarder.

We praise God and are thankful that Bradley Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) has committed his life to our Lord and Saviour in repentance. May God bless this dear family.

Funeral services for Bro. Dan Clauss, age 99, of Bremen were conducted on Sunday, June 9. He died at the Parkview Haven Nursing Home where he had lived since 1987. His wife, Hazel; a daughter, Doris Reinhard; and a grandson, David Clauss, preceded him in

death. Survivors include a daughter, Martha Hershberger; and a son, Glenn "Bud", both of Bourbon. Also, ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two step-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Kathryn Graf and Esther Marquart, both of Ft. Wayne; and a brother, Noah, of Goshen. We extend our condolences to this family in their loss.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

We were created by God to be His instruments of praise. He is causing everything that happens to us to work out something good for us. Yet, the recent deluge of rain day after day, without any sun, seemed to almost make us forget these comforting thoughts. I Thess. 5:18 reminds us, "In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." On those dark rainy days in our lives, we need to remember that God is faithful—He is a God who cannot lie.

We've had two guest ministers who used their talents for the Lord and to our benefit: Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). Our apologies to Bro. Arnie for neglecting to mention him last month.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the story of the talents. In this parable, the master is pleased with his servants who use their talents for him. He praised and rewarded them, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21). These brothers were faithful in using their talents and I know God will richly bless their faithfulness.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Sherice Bahler

"As the hart panteth after the

water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

Psalm 42:1

Sometimes in life when trials befall us, it is hard to remember that our hearts should continually be seeking God's grace and peace. Let us be more fervent in our striving for His perfect will.

We continue to pray for little Angela Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) as open heart surgery is being planned for her again in the near future. She has really been through a lot in these first five months of her life. With God's grace, we pray that all will go well for her and that He will provide the comfort that her family needs at this time of trial.

We were thankful to have Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) with us on May 26. We also ask God's blessings on the ministers that came to be with us for our Bible School which was hosted in Remington this year. These ministers are truly servants of God when they bring forth the Word in all its fullness.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Edith Massner

We were very grateful for the visit of Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). He brought to us the precious Word of Life in simplicity.

Bro. Dick Taeger and Sis. Dixie Messner will be our new Sunday School teachers this fall. We extend a special thanks to Bro. Curt Eberhardt and Sis. Ingrid Buster whose terms expire.

A dear little girl, Madelaine Rose, was born to Matt and Monica Eisenmann on June 6. Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann are the happy grandparents. May God bless them all.

Marisa Rowell and Thomas Sulentic were married June 15 in a beautiful park setting. Parents of

the couple are Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell and Thomas and Christy Sulentic. We certainly wish the Lord's blessings on their marriage.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..."

II Cor. 13:5

As we await Holy Communion, we have been exhorted to examine and prove our own selves. Not another brother or sister, but our own selves. We were richly reminded how we can become so overburdened with the cares of this life, and so tired that a soft answer can become an unintended harsh response, which causes offense and shows forth a poor Christian example. May God help us to be content with less if the want for more is causing an extra strain; and to remember the words of the Psalmist, "Cast thy burden on the Lord and he shall sustain thee." Again, the words of a precious hymn come to mind.

If the world from you withhold of
its silver and its gold
And you have to get along with
meager fare.
Just remember, in His word, how
He feeds the little bird
Take your burden to the Lord, and
LEAVE IT THERE.

If your body suffers pain and your
health you can't regain
And your soul is almost sinking in
despair,
Jesus knows the pain you feel, He
can save and He can heal
Take your burden to the Lord, and
LEAVE IT THERE.

When your enemies assail and
your heart begins to fail
Don't forget that God in heaven

answers prayer;
He will make a way for you and
will see you safely thru
Take your burden to the Lord and
LEAVE IT THERE.

When your youthful days are gone
and old age is stealing on
And your body bends beneath the
weight of care;
He will never leave you then, He'll
go with you to the end
Take your burden to the Lord and
LEAVE IT THERE.

Our thoughts and prayers remain
with George Schunbach (Milledale),
who remains in the hospital follow-
ing more surgery.

Our thanks to the Winthrop Bible
Class for recently hosting our Bible
Class students. May these times to-
gether be a blessing to each one and
bring forth much fruit to God's
honor and praise.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Our visiting ministers recently
were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger
(Gridley, IL), and Bros. Beirne
Messner (Morris, MN) and Jim
Kaeb (Bern, KS). We want to thank
these brothers for their labors.

Stand Firm

Ye soldiers of the cross,
Why should ye doubt or fear?
Ye cannot know defeat or loss,
With Christ, our Captain, near.
Lay hold upon the sword,
Turn not to left or right,
And standing fast upon His Word,
Be victors thro' His might.
Be brave, be firm, be strong,
Be fearless in the fight;
The night of battle may seem long,
But sweet the morning's light.
We soon shall see the day,
When all our toils shall cease;
When we shall cast our arms away,
And dwell in endless peace.
This hope supports us here,
It makes our burdens light;
'Twill serve our drooping hearts to
cheer,

Till faith shall end in sight.
Stand firm, be not afraid,
Courageous, not dismayed,
For one with God must always
win,
Against the hosts of sin.
Hymns of Praise #3

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We extend warm
thanks to all of our visitors this
month, including ministering Bro.
Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and his
family. May God bless him for shar-
ing God's Holy Word with us.

May 23 was a red letter day for the
Ron and Audrey Landherr family.
After months of planning and an-
ticipating, they were finally able to
welcome Noah, an active, bilingual
4-year-old boy from Guatemala into
their home and hearts. His engaging
smile and winsome ways make it
easy for all of us to get to know and
love him quickly. His older brothers
and sisters, Chris, Heidi, Jeff, Matt
and Laura, are happy to welcome
him into their family.

We were reminded in a recent
sermon that we are to be "peace-
makers" and not merely
"peacekeepers". One may keep
peace by avoidance, but to make
peace requires an active role of mak-
ing an uncomfortable or potentially
discordant situation right, and re-
quires a humble attitude. We were
also reminded of how our Father
expects us to be forgiving. Using the
Biblical example of the servant who
was forgiven of a large debt by his
master and then was unwilling to
forgive a small amount owed to him
by another, we were lovingly re-
minded of how great our debt of sin
that has been forgiven, and how God
surely would expect us to forgive
anything we have against another.
May God grant to each of us the
humble hearts and childlike spirits,
as well as His grace, to live to His
glory each day.

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

As we pause this month to be thankful for our freedom in this land of America, let us remember also to give thanks most of all for the freedom from sin that is available to us through the shed blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Heather Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary) has heeded the call to repentance, and is at peace with God and man. We rejoice with her.

On May 25, Todd Metzger (Keith and Mary) and Angel Holloway were united in marriage. We pray that God will bless them. Keith and Mary also welcomed a new grandson into their family. Travis Michael was born to Bart and Kathleen Metzger on June 7. Travis has three sisters: Rachel, Mary, and Courtney.

McKenzie Lynn was born to Ken and Renae Leuthold on June 1. Big brothers, Nathan and Jason, are excited for a baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie Metzger were blessed with a son, Brooks Matthew, on June 8. Whitney and Brendan are the siblings. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Metzger and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr (Morris, MN). May God be near these parents as they seek to be an example to their precious children.

Sis. Lori Moser (Bro. Rick) was hospitalized this past month. We miss seeing Lou Moser (Tina) at church. Lou suffered a heart attack and then a severe stroke. He is making progress, but is still hospitalized at this time. He hopes to begin rehabilitation soon. Our prayers are with him.

Our high school Sunday School students and teachers enjoyed a Youth Fellowship weekend in Winthrop, MN. We appreciate the efforts of the Winthrop congregation in making the weekend possible.

May God bless our Sunday School teachers and grant them wisdom for their important task.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold were thankful to be able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22. We pray that God will continue to bless them.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our dear children, grandchildren, families, and loved ones from near and far for sharing their love and best wishes with us to make our 50th anniversary such a special day—one we will always remember with precious memories and cherishing thoughts. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold

IOWA, PULASKI**Lisa Knecht**

"...that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city..."

Titus 1:5

We want to thank Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) who came to support and take part in the ordination service of Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara) on June 2. We pray Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara, along with their young family of five, can feel God's strength and power.

We appreciate all the ministering brothers who also came to be with us: Bros. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL).

This is the first time since 1905

that Pulaski has had a resident Elder. We are thankful God saw fit and provided for us.

Our heartfelt thanks are given to Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Sis. Karoline) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) for their many years of dedicated service for our congregation's spiritual well-being.

Ye shepherds, Who the Lord does love,
And through the Spirit from above,
Proclaim to men salvation,
How much the Lord to you has willed,
Who at His blessed kingdom build,
It is beyond expression!
Therefore, therefore, be ye faithful!
How delightful! God with pleasure
Will impart the crown and treasure.

Zion's Harp #210

IOWA, WEST BEND**Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart**

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Elma Mogler, Kurt Metzger, and McKayla Metzger (Wendall and Nicole). We are thankful that Kurt is home again. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one as they submit to medical treatment. May our Heavenly Father grant their return to good health.

We are rejoicing as do the angels in Heaven as we heard that Elizabeth Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) has found that peace that only God can give. We are looking forward to her testimony in the near future.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy Knobloch on the birth of their daughter, Andrea Kay, born May 22. Big brother, Jordan, is happy for a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Orvie and Sis. Loretta Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Albert and Sis. Laverne Butikofer (Elgin, IA). May the Lord be with this family as they seek His guidance in bringing up their children according to God's

Word.

Paul and Emmy Banwart are happy for another grandson, David Paul, born June 7 to Dave and Anne Jergens. His brother, Casey, welcomes him with open arms. We wish them God's blessings, also.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Banwart are now residing at the West Bend Care Center. Our prayers are with them as they adjust to their new surroundings. May God be with them and bless them in their new home.

The weekend of June 8 and 9, our Bible Class traveled by bus to the Winthrop, MN congregation for the annual Youth Fellowship weekend. We want to thank all the brothers and sisters who spent much effort and time into the planning, so that the students and the adults could enjoy such a weekend. May God bless them, and it is our prayer for each student that they may always remember the teachings that they have learned in their youth.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

At our annual business meeting in May, we decided to start English services at Tokyo church twice a month starting in June. They will be from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday of the month. They are for anyone interested in attending an English service, and we welcome any visitors that happen to be in the Tokyo area. Regular Japanese services always start from the usual 10:30.

On June 16, we enjoyed being with guests from the States. Bro. Andy and Sis. Kris Aberle (Tremont, IL) were here looking for a place to live, as Bro. Andy is being transferred here with Caterpillar this August. We pray for God's leading and peace as they seek to make a home here for several years, and we warmly welcome them into our congregation.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner Holly Meyer

"It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon."

—Abraham Lincoln, 1863

What joy fills our hearts when we think of the faith of our founding fathers, and may we daily, even hourly, thank God for the freedoms we are blessed with in our nation. I don't think we can ever be too thankful, when we think of the Christians being persecuted for their faith around the world.

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

Matthew 19:6

We have had two weddings in our congregation this past month. Yalana Schuette and Michael Edelman were joined together on May 25. Their parents are Darrell and Sue Schuette of Sabetha, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman. June 9 was the wedding day for Sis. Holly Menold and Bro. Mike Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Parents of this couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). May God bless these two dear couples as they establish their homes.

Celebrating their wedding day plus 50 years have been Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer. We want to congratulate them on this milestone and pray for God's blessings in the years to come. It was a joy to have their whole family worship with us on their special weekend.

We are so thankful for our visit-

ing ministers this month and always. Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) was here on Memorial Day weekend and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) visited our congregation for the wedding of Bro. Mike and Sis. Holly Steidinger.

Our love and sympathy go to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner due to the death of her father, Bro. Dan Sinn, of our nursing home in Sabetha. He was originally from Fort Scott, KS and our prayers go out to that congregation also.

Hospital patients have been Harlan Wittmer and Greg Grimm. Sis. Pearl Stoller and Sis. Anna Ulmer have been surgery patients. May they feel our prayers and receive comfort from the Great Physician.

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

Psalm 127:3

Rejoicing over the birth of their first child are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Helen Edelman. Marvin James was born on May 19 and has brightened their home and the hearts of his grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman and William and Helen Fehr (Forrest, IL).

Our congratulations go to Staci Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) who has graduated from K.U. Medical Center with a degree in Physical Therapy. May her work glorify Thee as she helps those in need.

Reminder: The Silver Lining collection will be taken in the month of July.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Tammy Sinn

The week of June 3-7 we held our Vacation Bible School. The following Sunday, the children presented us with a program of what they had learned throughout the week. We appreciate the efforts of all who attended and hope that the seeds that

were sown will bring forth fruit in the coming years.

On June 17, we laid Bro. Danny Sinn (Sabetha, KS) to rest. He lived all but the last few years of his life in Fort Scott. We extend our love and sympathy to his children, Sis. Waneta (Bro. Eldon) Plattner (Bern), Betty (Kansas City), Elder Bro. Charles (Sis. Karen), Sis. Ruby (Bro. Gerald) Grimm (Sabetha), and Bro. John (Sis. Carol). Though death always brings sadness, we are thankful that we can rejoice in a victory that has been won.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.
Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of
grain?

Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46

Harvest!! The Bible teaches so many lessons about harvest, and as I sit on the combine and look out across those golden heads of wheat, I can understand why. The ripe heads are bowed low as the heads and hearts of the Child of God should be bowed low in reverence and humility awaiting the coming of our Lord. The empty heads stand up straight and tall like those of the world who are empty without the love of God in their hearts. The weeds and/or tares are there to make it a struggle for the wheat to grow, and as in this world, sometimes the weeds and tares choke out the wheat that has little or no root just like the struggles and temptations of this life choke out the effectiveness of a good Christian light if

we do not have our root system grounded in God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The most important lesson? To stay grounded in God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world that we may be (ripe) when the Great Harvest of this world takes place and the Lord calls us Home forever!!

Our hospital patients this month include Bro. Huber Farney, and Sis. Edna Reed. Sometimes, our loved ones may be too ill to have us visit for long amounts of time, but they can always use our prayers for God's loving presence and for His healing touch.

It was our appointed time to have Friendship Manor services this month, and the singing was beautiful, due to the wonderful turnout of helpers. May God bless everyone who gives of their time for the Lord's work, whether it be preaching, teaching, visiting, working in the kitchen, singing, supporting the different services at church or the Rest Home, and if unable to do any of the above due to health reasons, praying for those who do. We need to encourage each other in love so that Satan cannot discourage a soul and cause them to give up.

We held a one-day Bible School in May with each of our Sunday School children inviting a friend to spend the day with them to learn about Jesus, make crafts, and share in singing games, and refreshments. It was a blessed day for all of us!!

The 4th of July is just around the corner, and let's not forget what that day stands for: God granted freedom to live as we wish, worship as we wish, and make our own choices. May those choices always include God, for He does not make mistakes!!

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Best wishes to Sis. Wanda Grimm

(Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) who graduated May 18 from Kansas University Medical Center. May God protect and guide her as she begins her career in occupational therapy.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

Colossians 3:18-19

On May 18, Dan Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta) was united in marriage to Cheryl McClain (Phil and Alice). Bro. Loren Edelman (Sis. Marjorie) and Sis. Jeanne Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) were united as one in Him on May 26. June 1 was the wedding day for Wayne Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Carrie Edelman (Gary and Marilyn). We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to these couples.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Sis. Christy Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). We are thankful the Lord has directed their lives to be united and pray for God's continued guidance as they plan for a lifetime together.

Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) have shared with us from the Word of Life. We appreciate their labors in our behalf.

May God be near Bro. Joseph Menold (Sis. Tillie) who remains in the hospital. We pray for healing and strength as it is His will.

Though I must endure affliction,
Yet I feel my Lord's affection,
He is here my strength in life,
And helps me in ev'ry strife.

Zion's Harp #157

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 2. We thank each

one for their time and efforts to make it a special time of fellowship.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Bro. Charles Daniel Sinn who passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home June 13. He is survived by a daughter, Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald), from our congregation.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the Word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,

Leading to eternal fire;

Seek the everlasting treasure,

Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

We are very thankful there are souls answering the call of God to repent and pray many more will seek Him. We rejoice with Kurt Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl), Kent Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) and wish them a double portion of God's grace as they seek peace with God and man.

It was a joyful time when we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new brother and sister in the Lord, Bro. Oliver and Sis. Marie Weiss. They are an inspiration to our assembly. May we continue to pray for them and each other. We know God hears and answers prayers.

We pray for our beloved Elders during the upcoming Brotherhood Conference. May they ever feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The wedding of Sis. Jennifer Reimschisel and Bro. Jeff Hodel (Roanoke, IL) took place on June 9. Our church was filled with relatives, brethren, and friends who witnessed the exchange of wedding vows and were exhorted to pray for

this union. Visiting ministers that day were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS).

Not only is Sis. Jennifer leaving our congregation, but not our hearts, so also is Bro. Patrick Funk who has moved to Delaware to pursue the work for which he trained in college. But God is good to us. He has brought Bro. Cory Metzger to Wichita for employment and Brandon Emch who has a summer job here. Both young men are from the Lamont-Gridley congregation. Also, Sis. Jodi Reimschisel is able to be home for a short time from her studies at the K U Med Center.

Whole church Bible School activities have been planned for three Wednesday nights in June. Our first session on June 12 was on Mexico. Present plans call for Elder Bro. John Lehman to present his slides on India the following session, and the final topic will be on Haiti.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel have sold their home near Rose Hill and will be building near Augusta. While they are in limbo as far as residence is concerned, they can be reached by leaving messages at this number, 316-524-4953.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

We were blessed to celebrate the joining of two souls in the unity of marriage. Bro. Kent Andryewski and Sis. Jody Schambach. Parents are Norm and Sis. Linda Andryewski and Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schambach. We wish the two of them our Lord's blessings and guidance.

We were saddened with the passing of our dear Bro. Elias Schlatter after a lingering illness. Our prayers are with his loved ones left behind: his wife, Sis. Ella; and daughter, Sis. Mary (Bro. Don) Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN); and also the grandchild-

dren and great-grandchildren. We have confidence he is in a better place and is resting peacefully.

We were blessed to have with us on the day of the wedding many visitors from many places and also ministering Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI).

We wish our graduates of the 1996 class our Lord's blessings and hand of love and protection on their onward journey in life. The graduates are Terra Arnold (Sis. Yvonne), Brooke Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda), Clint Knochel (Gary and Cindy), and Michelle Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn Jr. and Sis. Maria).

Two new baby boys have come to the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Berg, Elise and Jacob; twin boys, Noah and Levi. We wish Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie the Lord's blessings and helping hands in the care of their added family.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Lynette Moser

The biggest challenge we face as Christians is taking the strength and beauty from our faith and applying it to our every day life, when we don't have the fellowship and clarity we have on Sundays. As we seek for Biblical advice about daily living, there are many scriptures to turn to. My favorite is always, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8). The main message seems to be that even though we see and hear many things, it is our decision what we think about. So we are encouraged to control our thoughts.

June has been a busy month here in Detroit. Our congregation is con-

tinuing to grow. I have had the good fortune of being able to write this almost every month. Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer have moved to the Detroit area from Kansas and we are looking forward to having them in our congregation here. Bro. Greg Schlatter has joined us for the summer as well. We also have one very tiny addition as Blake and Lauren Ringger welcome the addition of a new baby sister, Paige Victoria, into their home. Parents, Bro. Vonn and Sis. Janelle, have a busy household now with their growing family.

The spring of the year brings graduations as well, which can also be thought of as commencements as students start on the next phase of their lives. Kristin Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay), Becky Kujawa (Bro. William and Sis. Darlene), and Bro. Scott Reardon (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) celebrated their graduations and our prayer is that God will guide them and watch over them as they go on to the next step.

We rejoice with Tom Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) as he feels the peace of God in his heart. He was announced for peace and will be giving his testimony in August.

The participation of the body of believers in the activities of the church is greatly appreciated. We had our annual business meeting this month and great appreciation was expressed for those who have been active over the last year and encouragement was given to those who are beginning their service.

We pray for the swift recovery for Chuck Leman as he had surgery and is home and doing well.

We also express sympathy and join in the sorrow of those who have lost family members. Dorothy Leman (Chuck Leman) is mourning the loss of her sister (Sis. Mildred Haerr, Peoria, IL). Sis. Joyce Germaine and Sis. Pat Baran have also lost family members. Our prayer is that God will provide them comfort in their loss.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

We are thankful that Sam Moser has professed peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony of conversion, witnessing his baptism and greeting him as a brother in Christ.

A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Natalie Lehman, Sis. Kristen Lehman and Brenna Aberle (Bern, KS) and Bro. Phil Conrad (Cissna Park, IL), who are all in the Minneapolis area this summer working on their internships. We are enjoying their fellowship.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther Lienemann (Linus) in the passing of her sister, Betty Walsh (Grand Rapids, MN).

We wish to thank the Winthrop congregation for hosting the Annual Youth Fellowship (Senior and Junior Bible Classes) the week of June 8-9. May they be richly blessed for all their love and hospitality.

Our congregation was richly blessed this past month with four visiting ministers. Those with us were Elder Bro. Leroy Messner and Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We thank them for the many precious teachings. May the Lord richly bless them and all our ministers who are so giving of themselves.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

THIS BE OUR CREED

Each day let's do a golden deed,
Some kindness show to one in
need;

Let's try to lend a helping hand,
A listening ear to understand.
Let's try to spread some sunshine
where

We see a brother bent with care.

With loving thought and friendly
smile

Let's strive to make each day
worthwhile.

Let's try to cheer some lonely
heart

With hope and gladness we impart.
Just little things can mean so
much

A card, a call to keep in touch.
May every kindness that we do
Reflect our Lord's love shining
through.

If you and I will live this creed,
Each day to do a golden deed,
We can change sunny skies from
gray,

Make flowers bloom along the way.
Let's try....let's pray so we might
say:

"This be our creed" each passing
day.

—*Beverly J. Anderson*

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we
give..."

Author unknown

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Nancy Wulf

Linda Schmidgall

What a wonderful weekend we had when our Single Group hosted many churches from coast to coast on Memorial Day weekend. It was truly a blessing to see and visit with so many of like mind and faith. We want to thank all those who came and made it such a blessed and memorable weekend.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Adam Zeltwanger and Sis. Christy Grimm have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they make plans to become one in the Lord.

We would like to remember those who have had recent stays in the hospital. May Bro. James (Sis. Hildy) Koehl and Sis. Sandy (Bro. Gary) Fehr feel the healing and

comforting hand of the Lord.

Again we were visited by faithful servants, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bro. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) who were willing to share the Word of God with us this month. May the Lord reward you richly.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of John Goll, Jr. who passed away June 12. May the Lord comfort Helen, her four daughters and son and their families in their time of sorrow.

LOST and FOUND:

A cream colored London Fog jacket with navy blue lining in the hood. The size is a large-regular.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
Greetings!

Sunday School is over for the summer and teachers and youth enjoyed their annual picnic this past month. May they keep in their hearts what they have learned this past year and look forward to meeting again in August.

We also have two graduates from high school this past month: Mandi Redmann (Jane and Darrel) and Jessica Berskow (Joy and Jeff). Jeff Messner (Duane and Mona) graduated from college. May each one of them look to the Lord for guidance in the days to come.

Winthrop hosted the Youth Fellowship Weekend (Minneapolis, Lester, West Bend, Morris, Elgin, IA and Iowa City Bible Classes). The theme this year was "Is My Name Written There". Ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) was the speaker Saturday night and many good teachings came forth. A special thanks to Bro. Larry and also Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis.

Millie, Elgin, IA). The whole weekend was a blessing for all who were able to take part of it in any way.

We wish to extend a special thanks to all who worked so hard to make this weekend possible.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brent Kellenberger**

"And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed."

Luke 5:16

Upon completing a five day wilderness canoe trip, I had to reflect on the life of Jesus, and how He also found peace and seclusion from the pressures of the world. A trip such as this allows time to sort out our fast-paced and increasingly complicated lives. It brings me little joy when I observe those who are older than me, and they say "life only gets more complicated and hectic." (When I see their desks and calendars, I know they aren't just trying to scare me.)

We know Jesus was a mortal with the same physical and spiritual needs that we have today. Jesus worked hard on this earth, and He was wise enough to know when He needed a break. At these times, He retreated into the wilderness to pray. Let us never become too weak from study or work, for it is then that Satan will come with his strongest temptations, as he did with Jesus during and after forty days of fasting.

In our daily walks of life, it is very important to focus on many things, such as our driving (so we don't kill someone), our prayers (so they aren't meaningless), and even washing dishes (so we don't cut ourselves or break something). To wrap up a week of Vacation Bible School, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) came to give us and the older kids a talk on friendship. The words he spoke on from Proverbs helped us

focus on what friendship is, and the different types of friendships we have. "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." (Hymns of Zion #91). We pray that God will bless Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara and their family for the effort they put forth. We also want to thank the teachers who volunteered for the week.

We are very thankful toward Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy) and family for their timely appearance. May God bless and continue to guide you in the ministry.

A new addition has arrived in our church! We are thankful for the birth of Taylor Christine, daughter and first child of Bro. Barry and Sis. Gina Metzger. Grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Sis. Marge Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

We are saddened by the departure of Sis. Renee Hari from the Kansas City area. She has returned home to Silverton, OR and will be missed after attending for over two years. We trust that everything will go well for her, and that she will return to visit.

Finally, we want to extend our sympathy to Betty Sinn due to the loss of her father, Bro. Danny Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS).

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti
Martha Kellenberger

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Kevin, Sis. Kathy, Nicole, and Christopher Marti as they have moved "home". They have been assembling in Francesville, IN these past two years while Bro. Kevin completed his degree at Purdue. We congratulate him and wish him well as he pursues a career in civil engineering.

It's always uplifting to have visitors in church and especially so

when we have ministering brethren from a distance. We want to thank Bros. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) for their efforts on our behalf.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Peter Schrenk

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

Psalm 40:1-2

We would like to wish God's blessings on Bro. Thadd and Sis. Molly Walter who moved to the Bloomington-Normal, IL area this past month. Just as we are saddened to see them leave, we rejoice as Bro. Doug Mangers moved to the St. Louis area in March after accepting a job with McCarthy Construction. He has been a real encouragement and a welcome addition to the young group here.

We held our business meeting on May 4 and elected Bro. Doug Mangers and Bro. Jon Ginzel as our new Sunday School teachers. That evening we were also blessed to partake of Holy Communion which was held by Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and the next day they read and expounded on the Memorandum.

Visiting ministers these past two months were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for giving their time to visit us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

On May 26 our congregation had the privilege of witnessing the marriage of Sis. Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) to Bro. Todd Bryant (Donnie and Nina, Havanna, IL). May the Lord Jesus Christ always be the center of their household as they begin their lifelong commitment together as one.

The weekend of June 8 and 9 was a special one as yet one more soul was added to the fold. How encouraging it was to hear the testimony of Bro. Joe Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) on Saturday night and yet witnessing the completion of his conversion through baptism on Sunday. It is a wonderful joy to see our Lord Jesus Christ is still performing miracles today in converting souls, enabling them to lay their old life down and begin a new one in Him. May you find strength and courage through our Lord Jesus Christ each and every day of your life, Bro. Joe.

Special thanks goes to Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for sharing God's Word with us and helping our Elder Bro. Roy with the testimony we had this past month.

On June 14 and 15 (Father's Day weekend), there was fellowship and fun for those who wanted to gather at Mark Twain Lake for a campout. As we had the privilege to sit around and listen to how our precious Lord has worked in each one's life, it was truly an encouragement. How thankful we can be for God's Holy Spirit to prompt us to share the experiences we have in life with one another.

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

Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) were with us on the weekend of June 9. We had a covered dish meal and singing on Saturday evening, and on Sunday, Elder Bro. Ed and Elder

Bro. Duane served us Holy Communion. May we each strive to work together in God's service in the days ahead.

Our sympathy is extended to members of three families in the past month as loved ones have been called from this life into eternity.

Sis. Minnie Taube's son-in-law, Newton (Ruth) Mellnitz, was taken from life unexpectedly after having a heart attack earlier in the day.

Margaret Steiner was called from life following hospitalization and some time of failing health. We are happy that Margaret could look to her Lord for strength and help in her final days. She was a sister of Sis. Loretta (Bro. Floyd) Graves.

Sis. Pernal Virkler has been relieved of her bodily afflictions and taken to her awaited Home following several years of residence at the Extended Care Facility in Lowville.

May God be with the members of each of these families and may they look to Him for comfort in their time of sorrow.

Our best wishes go to our college and high school graduates this month. May each of them look to God for guidance and help in their future if it be employment or further education. College graduates are Kris Beck (Louis and Janet), Holly Graves (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda), and Mark Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor). High school graduates are Brian Farney (David and Paula), Sis. Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor), Misty Hirschey (Mike and Judy) and Nicole Lawton (Fred and Linda).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Edna Sturtzeas as she has moved into an apartment at Brookside Senior Living Community in Lowville.

We are happy to have Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer Mangold and Andrew assemble with us from time to time. Bro. Matt has taken employment in Rochester and their address is 12 Campfire Road North,

Henrietta, NY 14467.

Reminder: August is collection month for Croghan-Naumburg Silver Lining subscriptions. Donations will be accepted the first two weeks of August.

OHIO, AKRON
Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser

The blessings of Christian fellowship is one of the many joys that God's people have as encouragement along life's way.

We appreciated our guests who came for our "Family Weekend" for the Memorial Day Holiday weekend, as we enjoyed all our visitors from several locations.

Even amidst all our rainy days, our Sunday School picnic, which is for all our church, turned out well. The rain held off all afternoon for the children to be outside.

We appreciated visiting ministers, Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

We would like to extend to you a sincere invitation to include Akron in your vacation and/or travel plans whenever it is convenient.

We welcome our visitors to assemble with us on Sunday and also on our Thursday evening mid-week services. We appreciate the many nice visits we have had in times gone by and would welcome more of these refreshing times in the future.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

"That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place."

I Kings 8:29

Our church dedication was held Sunday, May 19, and we praise God and give Him all of the glory and honor that this special day held for the Columbus congregation. We are thankful for the many Elder Brothers who attended to help with the dedication: Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL).

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

Matthew 26:26-28

Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) were present to serve the Lord's Supper the weekend of June 8. We thank each of them for their labors of love and words of encouragement.

We have been pleased to see so many visitors during the last month, including ministering Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and his family who spent a Sunday with us. We benefit so much from the fellowship of those families who pass through on vacations or weekend trips and encourage anyone who will be traveling this summer to stop and visit us in Columbus.

Our benches were filled with young brothers and sisters from Ohio and Indiana one Saturday evening for a weekend of worship, singing and fellowship.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

"Waiting is to be our earthly schooling, which here with our first breath takes its start." (Zion's Harp

#244). This hymn has special meaning for our Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy) who, after a long period of waiting, received the phone call stating that there was a kidney available for him. After undergoing the transplant in Indianapolis, IN, he continues to make progress in his recovery at home. We pray for a full recovery if it could be God's will.

We extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Maburn and Sis. Julia Hale whose daughter, Dorothy Rhonehouse, lost her battle with cancer. May the Lord comfort the hearts of this elderly couple and their family. Several days after the funeral, Bro. Maburn was showered with cards wishing him blessings on his 90th birthday. We are so encouraged by his warm smile and handshake as he greets us in the lobby after morning services.

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) spent a few days in our area and lent himself in the ministry on Sunday. May God bless his efforts.

Sis. Sue Gasser (Bro. Roger) has been hospitalized. May the Lord lift up this dear couple and give them patience as Sis. Sue's progress has seemed slow. With God all things are possible.

Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty, OH) is repenting. We rejoice with him and pray that many more, young and old, will pause and consider their standing with the Lord. We wish Neil much grace.

Bro. Pete Hurd (Sis. Helen) had outpatient surgery and is healing well. We trust that he will soon be back to his usual activities.

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn
Joyce Klopfenstein

Congratulations to all our graduates. They are Sis. Shelli Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria), Jay Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Katie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie), Luke Offerle

(Terry and Pat), Josh Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori), Kylee Stoller (Bro. Don and Gail), Tim Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn), Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Ashley Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice), and Jeremy Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen). We pray they will seek God's guidance as they make plans for their futures.

Our prayers are with Betty Stoller and Sis. Janet (Robert) Williamson as they both have had surgery this month.

We were privileged to have our children attend a week of Bible School and learn more about our Lord and Saviour. They presented a program with songs and verses of what they had learned.

We rejoiced with Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller as their son, Neil (Junction, OH), has answered the call of the Lord. We are thankful for every soul that chooses to answer the call and follow our Lord.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this month. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) with us. May God bless them and their families for laboring for us in the Lord.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

Our annual church clean-up day was held June 1. Much fellowship was shared by all who worked together to make our Father's house sparkle. May the physical cleaning of building and grounds remind each of us to keep our own "house" clean.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Wally Ramsier (Sis. Helen) and family at his sister's passing. May each of them feel God's comforting arms around them during this time.

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

Mark 16:15

How thankful we can be that there are still brethren who are willing to fulfill Jesus' teachings. This month, the Word was brought to us by the following brethren: Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), and Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). We pray they will always feel God's blessings for their earthly service.

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

Acts 2:38

What a Father's Day we shared as we watched four souls be baptized and be sealed with the Holy Spirit. Our new sisters and brothers are: Sis. Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev), Sis. Tami Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb), Bro. Chad Griffey (Paul and Bernie), and Bro. Stephen Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Ann). May these four young people ever strive to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance and continue to be a shining light all the days of their lives.

We also wish to welcome Sis. Melani Eyerly (Bro. Dave and Sis. Edna) who is now making her church home with us. May she truly feel a part of our congregation.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Michelle Dotterer

Linda Schar

Three new members were added to our congregation on June 9. Sis. Anita Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie, Smithville), Sis. Heather

Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), and Sis. Laura Ramsier (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen) are our new sisters in the Lord. Assisting Elder Bro. Henry with this important work were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH). Also ministering unto us in the last few weeks were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH).

Grant William came into this world on May 22. Randy and Deborah Saylor and Matthew welcome their new son and brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bill Saylor (late Sis. Norma) and Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik.

Bro. John Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH) and Sis. Marci Miller have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller.

Also announcing their engagement are Bro. Irvin (Bud) Walker (Akron, OH) and Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber. May both of these precious couples seek God's direction and blessings in their marriage plans.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized recently: Sis. Pat Rufener (Bro. Jim), Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Cheri), Sis. Adena Rock, and Sis. Bev Rufener (Bro. Glen). May they feel God's healing hand.

Our dear Sis. Norma Saylor passed away on May 31. Her husband, Bro. Bill, and children, Randy (Deborah), Sis. Vicki Pelfrey, and Peggy Cogar (Jim), surely need our prayers and support. Also grieving are Sis. Norma's brothers and sisters, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Harlan (Sis. Vivian), Bro. Wallace (Sis. Helen, Mansfield), Bro. Robert (Sis. Inez, Smithville), Bro. James (Sis. Dorothy, Smithville), Gladys, Sis. Eleanor, and Sis. Arlene Ramsier.

OHIO, SARDIS**Renee Miller**

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:"

Matthew 24:32

Summer is well under way here in Sardis. This summer we again hear of many with travel plans and we look forward to seeing distant brothers, sisters, and friends as we visit or are visited.

Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) served our congregation on the rare occurrence that all three of our home ministers were away on the same Sunday. We appreciate his willingness to come as well as the other visitors that helped fill our church and our hearts.

After arriving back home from a recent work team experience in Jamaica, it was difficult to settle into the routine of normal daily life. The blessings felt on the trip were enhanced by the realization that keeping God as the central focus is sometimes the hardest in just common day-to-day life. We felt God's presence mightily when we witnessed those who are poor, compared to our standard of living, praise the name of Jesus with smiles that reached their eyes. Even in the periods of life we go through that do not seem especially momentous, remember to place God first in our daily routine and always shine our light for Him. God uses us in His own way which we certainly cannot always understand.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE**Julie Maibach - Edith Miller**

Visiting ministers that have labored in our congregation during the past month were Bros. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). May God bless them

for their efforts.

Our high school graduates and their parents were recently honored with a breakfast, at which time they were also presented a Bible. We trust they will use this Book as a daily guide for their lives in the future.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 4

This must have been the thought of Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich as their daughter, Anita (Rittman, OH), was baptized and became a sister in faith at the Rittman congregation.

We are always amazed how the Lord looks down from Heaven and searches out those who seek for the truth. We welcome Ray Hendrix to our congregation. He has expressed a desire to become right with God and man, and we certainly wish him an abundance of grace as he begins this pilgrim journey. May God richly bless him.

Our prayers go out to Stephanie Hofacre (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene), as she was recently injured in a farm accident. Also

hospitalized during the past month have been Harold Beery (Sis. Rhea) with heart problems, and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer (Bro. Andy) for surgery.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sis. Dorothy), and Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez) in the sudden passing of their sister, Sis. Norma Saylor (Rittman, OH).

OHIO, TOLEDO**Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter**

We were reminded of the death and suffering of our Lord as we partook of Holy Communion. We thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for assisting our Bro. Walt

Rager with this service.

Congratulations to recent graduates from the University of Toledo. Mark Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy, Junction) earned a degree in accounting, Sis. Elizabeth Reinhard (Bro. Doug) earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing, and Bro. Wendell Spangler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn, Junction) earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Bro. Wendell will continue working toward a degree in medicine. May God guide them as they seek employment in these areas.

We always appreciate hearing the Word of God. Serving as a recent messenger was Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). May God bless him for his willing service.

OREGON, PORTLAND**Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg**

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

*(Fourth stanza of "America"
by Samuel F. Smith)*

As our country celebrates another Independence Day, we must remember to thank God for the freedoms that we enjoy. We have been blessed to have been placed in a land whose founding fathers recognized the need to look to God to establish this country. We need to continue to pray that those in authority will also realize that God indeed is our great King.

We look forward to having many summer visitors worship with us as they vacation in the northwest.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Peggy Schulz**

We are beginning to enjoy the blessings of summer company.

Among our visitors thus far has been Elder Bro Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate his willing service and pray the Lord will bless him.

Our annual graduation potluck was held on Sunday, June 2. Our high school graduates are as follows: Sis. Jackie and Sis. Jodie Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Kari Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn), Kristi Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Kyle Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen), and Jeremy Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann). Bro. Aden Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) has graduated from college. We wish these graduates the Lord's blessings and guidance as they enter a new chapter in their lives.

Sunday School elections were held this past month. Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene) is finishing his term as teacher and also superintendent. Sis. Linda Hari has also completed her term. We want to express our thanks to them for their love and efforts on behalf of the Sunday School children. Bro. Lynn Kuenzi has been chosen from the existing teachers to serve as our next superintendent. As our younger classes have been increasing in size, it was decided to split the preschool and kindergarten class. Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) was elected to assist Sis. Shirley Sinn with the preschool class. Sis. Richelle Kuenzi was elected to assist Sis. Cindy Metzger with the kindergarten class. Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick) will be filling Sis. Linda's position with Sis. Diane Sinn in the third and fourth grades. Bro. Richard Kraft (Sis. Marianne) will be taking Bro. Loren's place with Bro. Terry Kuenzi in the Bible class. We lend our support in prayer to these newly elected brethren. May the Lord bless them as they are spent in His service.

We welcome Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro.

Dale and Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) to our congregation. She is pursuing summer employment in our area.

July 8 and 9 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our newest sister in faith, Amanda Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda). Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) shared in this work with Elder Bro. Art Metz. We sincerely appreciate the effort he put forth to come and serve and feed the Silverton flock. May the Lord reward him both now and in eternity.

We rejoice with Eldon Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) as he professes to be at peace with God and man following a sincere repentance. We look forward to hearing his testimony.

On March 23, Chad Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) and Megan Massey (Anita and Mike Massey, Wilsonville, OR) were united in marriage. We wish them many blessings from above as they walk down life's road together. My sincere apologies for omitting this from the previous news.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bob Kuenzi (Sis. Linda) in his recent illness. May you feel the Lord's nearness in added measure in the coming days. Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi (Bro. Richard) has recently undergone surgery and we pray the Lord's healing power will give her a speedy recovery.

Little Mathis Robert was born on June 4 to Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri Kuenzi. He is looking forward to becoming acquainted with his big sister, Annaliese, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA).

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"Ye shall walk after the Lord your

God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."

Deut. 13:4

Our dear friend, Megan Rader, answered the Master's call in repentance. We are thankful to God that another dear soul has turned her heart to the Lord.

On May 18, we held our annual church spring cleaning and many attended and helped. We thank all who participated.

Keith Baer (Ed and Connie) graduated from high school and we wish him well as he prepares to attend college.

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

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:21

This past month, we were deeply saddened at the sudden death of our dear Sis. Kristen Hohulin. We grieve with and extend our deepest sympathies to Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean, Jon, Bro. Ross and Sis. Heather and all of the other precious family members. Although at times like this we may not understand God's reasons, we ask Him for grace and strength to trust in His master plan. May comfort also be taken believing that Sis. Kristen is in Heaven, and the love and memories she shared with all of us will live on.

Love Lives On
Those we love are never really lost

to us—
 we feel them in so many special
 ways—
 through friends they always cared
 about and dreams they left behind,
 in beauty that they added to our
 days...
 in words of wisdom we still carry
 with us
 and memories that never will be
 gone...
 Those we love are never really lost
 to us—
 For everywhere their special love
 lives on.

—By *Amanda Bradley*

We were very blessed to welcome the following visiting ministers: April 21, Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein (Congerville, IL); May 5, Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH); May 19, Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier and family (Indianapolis, IN). Services on June 2 were canceled in loving memory of Sis. Kristen. Many other visitors from Bluffton, IN; Goodfield, Tremont, Peoria, Gridley, IL; and Elgin, IA also worshipped with us. We thank all of you for your efforts in being with us and pray that God will bless you and your families.

We plan to hold services (Lord willing) on July 21 (Latty, OH); August 4 (Remington, IN); August 18 (Champaign, IL); and September 1 (Sarasota, FL). Please contact us if you are in the area. We are a small congregation and truly appreciate your support in worshipping with us. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

Note of Thanks:

Silver Threads

Two Sides

There are two sides,
 The Good and the Bad,
 The Dark and the Light,
 The Sad and the Glad.
 But in looking back over
 The Good and the Bad
 We're aware of the number
 of Good Things we've had.
 And in counting our Blessings
 We find when we're through
 We've no reason at all
 To complain or be blue.
 So thank God for Good Things
 He has already done,
 And be Grateful to Him
 For the battles you've won.
 And know that the same God
 Who helped you before,

Is ready and willing
 To help you once more.
 Then with Faith in your Heart
 Reach out for God's Hand
 And accept what He sends,
 Though you can't understand.
 For our Father in Heaven
 Always knows what is best,
 And if you trust in His Wisdom
 Your life will be blessed.
 For always remember
 That whatever betide you,
 You are never alone
 For God is beside you.

*Submitted by a Sister from North
 Fort Myers, FL*

We want to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all the love, prayers, cards, food, flowers, memorials and phone calls during the loss of our beloved Kristen. We have truly been comforted and encouraged by your many acts of love. May God bless each one of you.

The Stan Hohulin family

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL Dee Rapp

Sunday, June 16, was the farewell service for Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser, Sis. Kim and Kelle, having already made the transition to Morton, IL. They filled a void in Dallas with their many talents. Bro. Greg led our singing and Sis. Christine wrote for the Silver Lining and taught Sunday School (when there were children). They will be missed. We wish them God's blessings as they return to Morton and want to remind them not to put God back in that box!

In this past month, many of you have graduated or know someone who has. It is a blessing to see our youth enter into a new phase of life and we hope they realize what a

great concern we have for them. I would like to pass on these thoughts, which are good for us all to remember. 1) Never stop learning, 2) Have respect for leadership, 3) Remember your heritage, and 4) Always trust in the Lord. If you place these thoughts in your heart, they will act as a buffer as you go out into the world.

Father's Day has also been celebrated. In thinking about our fathers, I was reminded of the qualifications for a bishop in the Bible listed in I Timothy 3, Titus 1:5-10. They are also applicable for our fathers. To name a few, blameless, husband of one wife, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, gentle, apt to teach, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, etc. These are the things we anticipate our fathers to emulate as they lead their family in Christ's love.

Services this past month were provided by Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). Thank you, brothers.

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 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We are harvesting some figs from the tree in our yard. It is interesting to read in the Book of Samuel that figs were a staple article of diet at the time 1000 BC.

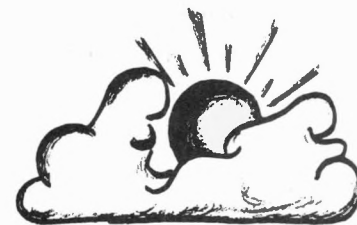
One of our trustees and his wife, Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller, from Latty, OH are at their home here in Zapata for a few weeks. We are enjoying the time they are spending here. We would welcome more visitors.

Perhaps Today

It is the hope which lends excitement to the most mundane of days—
The phrase which gives perspective—turns frustration into praise—

“Perhaps today” He will return to earth to claim his own;
Perhaps today I'll see His face and “Know as I am known.”

But when the day is past and I'm still here—I do not sorrow.
I close my eyes in faith and say,
“Perhaps tomorrow!”



Written by a Bluffton, IN Sister

The Cost of Conversion

Separation From The World

At the end of his second missionary journey, the apostle Paul visited Ephesus. This strategic city was the commercial center of Asia Minor. Ephesus was a religious center as well, famous especially for its magnificent temple of Diana, a structure considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The practice of magic and the local economy were clearly related to this temple. Paul's effective ministry began to seriously hurt the traffic in magic and images, leading to an uproar in the huge Ephesian theater.

Paul wrote the letter "to the Ephesians" during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 60-62. This letter focuses on the believer's responsibility to walk in accordance with his heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. Ephesians was not written to correct specific errors in a local church, but to prevent problems in the church as a whole by encouraging the body of Christ to maturity in Him. It was also written to make believers more aware of their position in Christ because this is the basis for their practice on every level of life.

Some of the key verses in Ephesians are found in chapter 4, "*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"

Most Ephesians considered Jews and Christians to be "haters of humanity" — anti-social. They refused to participate in any of the many festivals, games, and theatrical shows, for these civic events were usually in honor of some god and often included sacrifices.

When the whole town turned out to celebrate the anniversary of a temple with food and drink, dancing and flowers, Jews and Christians stayed home. Furthermore, they would not eat with normal folk because all the meat came from temple butchers. They also liked to meet in small, private groups where "who knew what" went on. Jews were tolerated because they merely followed the religion of their ancestors, but Christian conversion was something that separated them from the rest of society.

A man with ambition could go only so far in sympathy with religions like these. No one who would not offer incense to the emperor's guardian, say a blessing over a civic sacrifice, or contribute money for a temple could hold public office. A meeting at one's trade association almost always included a rite for its patron god. And one could scarcely do business with a man while refusing to eat with him.

While Paul emphasized in Ephesians chapter 2, as he did in Romans, that we are saved by grace through faith and that it is not of our own works, he also stressed that this faith could only be maintained by making right choices in life. In short, conversion to the believers in Ephesus meant rejecting family, friends, business associates, and a whole way of life. Paul advised in chapter 5, "*Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*" **Conversion was not to be undertaken lightly.**

Two thousand years later, little has changed. We live in a society in America that is diametrically opposed to the Christian walk. We have an adversary who, "*as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking*

whom he may devour." We, like the believers in Ephesus, must make wise choices concerning our association with the world. In His Holy Word, from Genesis to Revelation, God has revealed His will concerning these choices. As he instructed his chosen people, Israel, to remain apart from the world, He also instructed His church in the New Testament to "come out from among them, and be ye separate." Following are several verses on this subject that may be of benefit:

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; **and to depart from evil is understanding.**

Psalms 1:1-3 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.** 2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 106:34-40 They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: 35. **But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.** 36. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. 37. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, 38. And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed

Cost of Conversion continued...

Cost of Conversion continued...

unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. 39. **Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.** 40. Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

Matthew 16:26 **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

John 15:18-19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19. **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* 2. **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

1 Corinthians 3:19 **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.**

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. **Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the**

whole lump?

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?** 15. And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16. And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17. **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;** and I will receive you, 18. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Ephesians 5:6-8 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7. **Be not ye therefore partakers with them.** 8. **For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

1 Timothy 6:10-12 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11. **But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.** 12. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2:21-22 **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.** 22. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

Hebrews 11:24-25 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25. **Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;**

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to **keep himself unspotted from the world.**

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that **the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

1 Peter 4:2-4 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4. **Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:**

2 Peter 1:4 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.**

2 Peter 2:20-22 **For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.** 21. For it had been better for them not to have known the

way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

1 John 2:15-17 **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.** 17. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Friendship with the World.

Friendship is a choice, and the act of choosing is a sword that cuts two ways. We cannot choose a friend without at the same time choosing an enemy. If we choose holiness, we reject sin, and vice versa. We understand now what James meant when he said, "the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4)

The Jews said to Pilate, "If you release the man (Jesus), you are no friend of Caesar" (John 19:12). We are known not only by our

friends, but also by our enemies. Pilate and Herod were bitter enemies until they both rejected Jesus; the rejection of their common enemy, Jesus, forced them into each other's arms of friendship (Luke 23:12).

We see now why God becomes so heated when His people get chummy with the world or idols or with the mammon of unrighteousness. To accept *them* is to reject *Him*. Friendship by its very nature denies a universal, all-inclusive embrace. Friendship is selective. It thrives on exclusive choices. So it is natural that God, who desires the warmth and love of our heart, should become "jealous" when He sees us consorting with those who hate Him.

Jesus Christ is constantly looking for friends. When He called Judas "friend" in the moment of his betrayal, He was revealing an innate yearning. Even for those who oppose Him, the door of friendship is always open, but always, of course, on the conditions He lays down. Judas was a friend in invitation only. I must go beyond; I must be a friend to Him in reality. The *condition* of being Christ's friend is to "do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14). The *honor* of being His friend is to talk to Him "face to face" in sublime intimacy (Exodus 33:11).



“THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS”

Sermon by Bro. Pat Zaugg of West Bend, IA

Isaiah 59:16-21 and Luke 17

We, dear ones, in the day and time that we live, we have that desire from within to be with the Saviour, to be gathered together around our precious Christ, the One who went to the cross of Calvary and brought salvation to each of us and brought salvation to mankind.

That same salvation still is available today to those who would seek it and would desire it. The scripture that we read together in this morning hour touches many different subjects, really. I had to think of two things that stood out as I went through—faith and forgiveness.

Sometimes, when we come to the pulpit and a particular scripture or a particular subject would open, it really doesn't come as a surprise for those of us who would happen to be parting the book. I had a real feeling that forgiveness would be something that God wanted us to read and talk about today.

How important is it, dearly beloved, that we as the household of God are able to forgive each other? How important is it, dearly beloved, that we as the household of God are able to forgive others that would not be of the household of God, but would somehow be a thorn in our side or be a trouble or a torment to us?

If we are going to be Christians, if we are going to be children of God, if we are going to have a home in Heaven someday, dear ones, there can be no other way, but that forgiveness will be a part of our life. It would be real

and true and not something that we would practice just with our lips, saying that we are able to forgive.

But, it would be something that would come from the heart...a willingness. Maybe that willingness to forgive would come from a desire from within so that we would want to be able to forgive.

Being children of God, sometimes, it is hard for us to even forgive ourselves whenever we would fail and whenever we would fall short. Something that we maybe need to keep in mind is that whenever God forgives us, we have to be willing to accept that forgiveness and to carry on.

We have to be willing to allow God to grant a peace unto our heart. We have to be willing to humble ourselves enough to know that there is nothing that we can do that we would ever deserve to be forgiven, but it is just by the great mercy and love of God that He is willing to.

Let us talk a little bit about one another. It says here, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.” (Luke 17:3). There are times when this scripture is fulfilled. Sometimes someone would be in error and we would visit, kindly, and there is the saying that they are sorry and there is forgiveness there.

I think, dear ones, that it is more important that we understand that if we are the individual that did the trespassing, that

we would have a heart within us and we would be willing to ask for the forgiveness.

You know, it is really pretty simple if someone comes to us in a repentant heart and asks for forgiveness. It is pretty easy to forgive them, isn't it? There is not a problem there.

How about when someone comes to us? We have maybe been cross, maybe been short with our words, maybe have not been as kind as we should have been and not as Jesus would have been. Maybe when just a little something is mentioned to us, do we repent? Are we sorry? Or do we say, “That is just kind of my nature; I am just kind of that way.”? Dear brothers and sisters, this scripture speaks to me.

Then, how about if the individual never says that they are sorry? Was Jesus here saying that we do not have to forgive those individuals? No, there is no license, dearly beloved, given here for that. Those are the times that maybe are even more precious to us as believers, when someone would hurt us or trespass against us and would just go right on their way. Maybe they even understood that they hurt us, but would never come and say anything to us. Oh, when we can forgive them, that is when the true blessings begin!

Do we have a choice whether to forgive or not? No, we do not. If we do not forgive, then we are not God's children. If we do not forgive, then we do not have a home in Heaven. If we do not forgive,

then our sins come back upon us and we become as unconverted people.

Then how do we forgive? How did God forgive us? How did Christ go there to the cross and pay the debt that we owed?

You know, when we think of all that God has forgiven us, it becomes a lot easier to forgive one another. When we remember that we were out there on Calvary and we were nailing those nails into the hands of Jesus and into His feet, and as they were being driven in, Jesus was repeating, "Forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

When we think of that kind of forgiveness and that we are supposed to have the mind of Christ, then it should be so easy for us to forgive one another. But, sometimes it is not quite as easy as it should be. Dearly beloved, let us be diligent.

The scripture started out by saying, "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." (Luke 17:1-2).

If I am not mistaken, dearly beloved, the scripture as it is put forth here, the word offences, I believe, means that we would cause someone to fail. Let us read that again and think about it. "It is impossible but that offences will come." (Luke 17:1).

There are different kinds of offences, dear ones, but if we would cause another brother or sister to fail, or if we would cause, even as it says here, one of the little ones

to fail, what would our lot be? It says, "It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea." (Luke 17:2).

So our little ones that have gathered with us today, the little ones that are down in Sunday School, what do they see when they see the church? What do they see when they see the body of believers?

Hopefully, they see a body of believers that is walking heavenward. Hopefully, they see a body of believers that are willing to separate themselves from the world and from sin and live in righteousness.

As this scripture goes on to say, do they see a body of believers that is willing to say they are sorry and repent to one another? Do they see a body of believers that is willing to forgive? That is really what the scripture is about here this morning. Do they see a body of believers who can live in love, harmony and unity? They should! They could! I certainly hope that they do! Do they see a mom and a dad that work together as a godly team? The scripture really speaks to all of us, and especially to me.

Then He went on talking about faith. It is going to take faith to be able to forgive. It is going to take faith to walk as we should walk. Oftentimes, we plead with God that He will increase our faith. How much faith is it going to take?

It says here in the scripture, "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey

you." (Luke 17:6). A mustard seed isn't very big, but how big is our faith, dear ones?

As we live, Satan would continually try to destroy our faith. We understand that faith cometh by humbleness and submission. Faith cometh and it grows by being diligent in service.

Faith isn't one of those things where we can get a whole bunch of a commodity and tuck it away in our back pocket someplace and pull it out whenever we need it. No, that isn't the way it works. Faith is acquired day by day as we walk here below. It depends on how diligent we are, how faithful we are, and how sincere we are.

Faith is something that, as unconverted individuals, we had almost none of, but as God began to work in our lives and in our hearts, we really do not know how it happened, but our faith began to increase.

So many of us who have been converted for some time fall into kind of a rut that things are okay now. We have reached this certain plateau and this certain place in life, so, spiritually, we can kind of just sit back and watch the world go by and do our little bit now and then and everything will be okay. Then we find ourselves slipping backward if we fall into that line of thinking.

Our faith—Jesus said here if we have just a tiny, little bit of it, we could command a tree to be plucked up by the root and planted in the sea. If we had just a tiny bit of faith, forgiveness would come automatic. If we had just a little tiny bit of faith that God would provide for us each

Sermon continued...

day, our walk would be really quite easy. But our faith is weak. We need more faith and we need to be diligent that God would increase our faith.

We have then the account of Jesus talking about the servant that plowed in the field and was feeding the cattle. When he would come in, I am sure that he had toiled a long time out there that day, he probably was really ready for a little rest. But the master wanted this individual, who had worked all day, to prepare some food and then serve him so he could eat and drink.

Jesus asked, "Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:9-10).

Oh, dear ones, this is such a precious scripture. How do we look at serving the Lord? Do we think that we do a lot for God? Do we think that this last year we just went out of our way in servitude to our great God? Do we think that we have been just pretty humble and just pretty obedient to God and He should really be pleased?

I hope those are not the feelings of anyone here today because we are unprofitable servants as we live here below. Even if we try as hard as we possibly can, we're still going to fail. Even if we put forth the utmost of effort, we are not going to walk in the way that God would really want us to walk completely.

Whenever we have given our

all, dear ones, we have only given that which is our duty to do. We are God's. Remember, dear ones, the day when you knelt there at the cross and you laid down your life as a sacrifice to Him? We didn't give just part of ourselves, did we, dearly beloved? We gave our all. We told God to come and live within us, work with us and to make us something that He would be pleased with.

Do we remember, dearly beloved, that nothing was too great on that day? He asked many of us to do many different things and we went about our way diligently seeking out the will of God. Is it still that way, dearly beloved? Is our all still on the altar? Do we still feel that we are just unprofitable servants even after we have done what is our duty to do? I feel, dearly beloved, that we have come into a time when for most of us, we have a hard time even doing that which is our duty to do.

There is the human side of us that maybe is always looking for just a little easier way to try to get to the kingdom of God. As the world around us seeks a much easier way to serve God (I do not really want to go into that), I think that it has an effect upon the church and upon us as God's children as we would, from time to time, think, "Do we really need to do this or do that?" "Do we really need to unconditionally forgive?" "Do we really need to follow after our Saviour exactly in His footsteps?" Yes, dearly beloved, we do!

We have here the healing of the ten lepers. I believe that another great affliction of our society—and it has a little bearing on

the church—is thankfulness. How thankful are we, dear ones?

How thankful are we that we are children of the King? How thankful are we that our names are written there on those pages white and fair?

How thankful are we (as we read the scripture in this morning hour) of the coming of the Son of Man when two shall be grinding together and the one shall be taken and the other left? When the two men shall be in the field and the one taken and the other left? When two are in the bed, the one taken and the other left? (See Luke 17:34-36).

How thankful are we this morning, dear brothers and sisters, that we are ready to go? How thankful are we that we are redeemed?

It would have been very easy for God to not have granted us the grace that He did grant us on that day when we started to repent. We could still be languishing in sin without hope. We could still be in the position where we would know that damnation and hell would be our lot.

How thankful are we that we are redeemed? Our actions show forth our thankfulness. Lot's wife really wasn't very thankful for the deliverance from Sodom. She didn't make it.

If we are not thankful for the deliverance that we have received—the deliverance from sin, ungodliness and hell fire, then we are not going to make it either. We pray together that God would put within us a great thankfulness for what He has done for each of us.

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the king-

dom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21). The kingdom of God. Does Jesus Christ dwell within our hearts?

There are different kinds of kingdoms that we can talk about. We can talk about a kingdom where there is a king and then there is the people who are under him that exists on the earth today—an earthly kingdom. We can talk about faithful servants of the king and those who serve the king half-heartedly. When we apply that to our spiritual walk of life, what kind of servants are we?

Then we can talk about the kingdom of God that dwelleth within us as believers. We did not put it there. We did not say all of a sudden one day, "I am going to go out and acquire the kingdom of God and bring it to me." But we did put forth some work and effort to become servants of the king.

That kingdom, dearly beloved, will follow us wherever we are upon this earth. That kingdom within us will be something that will bubble up and grow. We will become more fervent in our service to that King. The kingdom of God that is within us here upon

this earth, will someday be changed and we will be part of the heavenly kingdom—that kingdom eternal around the throne!

How is it going to be in Heaven, dear ones? I love to think about that. It seems like the more that I think about how it is going to be in Heaven, the less I really know about how it is going to be. We know that there isn't going to be a need to have faith anymore because there will be sight. We are going to meet our Saviour and bow down before our great God.

There is not going to be any tears in Heaven, because God is going to wipe them away. I think even more than that, there isn't going to be a need for any forgiveness in Heaven. Think about that, loved ones.

How often as we live here below, do we need to be forgiven? How often do we, as weak individuals, fail our great God and one another? In Heaven, we will never have to get down on our knees at night beside our bed and pray that God would forgive us where we failed in that day, because when we get to Heaven, dearly beloved, we are not going to fail anymore.

We are not going to have to make use of that shed blood of Jesus. No, God is going to make us as the angels. We will not only,

dearly beloved, be likeminded on that day, but on that day God will give us a robe of righteousness and we will shine. We will shine from within a purity and a holiness.

We think about the thankfulness we have sometimes here upon this earth. We think of the thankfulness of the leper that we read about this morning hour. I don't think any of us know what thankfulness is about here upon this earth, but I think that when we gather around that throne someday, we are going to be so thankful.

We are going to know that the few things that we have done here upon this earth that have been commanded us, they are going to seem as nothing. We are going to know that we are unprofitable servants here upon this earth for our God. We are going to be so glad that we have done that which was our duty to do. We are going to be thankful, rejoicing around the throne.

May our thankfulness grow here upon this earth that our faith would be increased and our holiness would become more perfect. Remember, dear ones, we are not searching for an earthly kingdom. On that day, when Jesus comes, we want to be ready.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the final article concerning the Zion's Harp hymnal. The following includes the entire first chapter of "A Treasure of Praise" which depicts the simple splendor of the songs we sing each Sunday and Wednesday evening during our worship services.

It is a beautiful Sunday morning. The sky is sunny and clear. The springtime air is mild and mellow, and together with nature's fresh, appealing fragrance, it creates an atmosphere that invigorates one's soul and being.

Such a setting is often evident when driving to the house of God on a Lord's Day morning. And while the richness of God's handiwork—in the form of the air, the sky, and the sun—is readily manifest and a delight to behold, yet another wonderful experience awaits the child of God upon entering the sanctuary of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Hymn singing has already begun and the time soon elapses to nominally four or five minutes prior to the beginning of the morning worship service. At this time, nearly all the people are very orderly seated in their places. It is peaceful, solemn, and quiet. The heart takes on a calm repose as the assembly centers its thoughts on the sublime and the divine—on Almighty God.

Often, at about this time, a beautiful song is sung which succinctly depicts the essence of the day and sets the stage for the ensuing worship service. It is entitled, "Morning Hymn" and is also known as "Oh, How Lovely Is The Morning". This beautiful song begins in resonant splendor as brothers and sisters in Christ unite their voices in praise to God—and an obvious joy fills the heart. Not only are thoughts of God conjured up within the mind, but the beauty of the day serves as a poignant reminder of the presence of God's love and power. It is a moment when one is truly glad he is in church on Sunday morning.

Adding to the beauty of the moment is the fact that the singing is done in "a capella" fashion, that is, without accompani-

ment of musical instruments. The natural beauty of the voices which ripple across the auditorium are blended together in a mellow, four-part harmony and this truly sets the tone for a worship service that is both dignified and eloquent in its simplicity.

The overall atmosphere is one of holiness and reflects the calmness, gentleness, and richness of God. The absence of instrumentation, in this particular instance, tends to symbolize a relationship to God that is best nurtured when lacking the weight and clutter of material things. In this case, the lifting of voices are completely natural as God gave them, and are not necessarily made comely by a material object.

The particular song mentioned is both inspirational and devotional. *It goes:*

Oh, how lovely is the morning,
When it is begun with God.
Joy and thanks our hearts adorning,
As behoves a child of God.
Waking after night so fair,
In the Maker's gentle care,
Rising without grief or sorrow,
To a new and joyful morrow.

Then, in verse two:

Let our eyes be raised to heaven,
Where the sun is shining bright,
And on hill and dale and meadow,
Is dispensing life and light;
But far more than sun in space,
Beams the Saviour's kindly face;
Truth and kindness, peaceful nearness,
Shine out in eternal clearness.

The above song, so complete in depth and substance, is an excellent example of the overall beauty of the songs contained in the Zion's Harp. "Oh, How Lovely Is The Morning" has always been a favorite. It is especially cherished on mornings of clear and sunny skies, but equally so perhaps on each and every day. Why? Because a morning is always lovely "when it is begun with God".

Countless other songs in this hymnal provide rich lyrical phraseology that have

served to inspire the brethren during worship services. Some of these phrases go:

"He reconciled my wayward spirit
Through His own blood and gave me
light", No. 220

"My Lord, an offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee", No. 163

"Rise, oh soul, and break the bondage",
No. 183

"Who is Lord like Thee, sweet repose for
me", No. 19

"Our song of praise to God ascend,
And there with angels voices blend",
No. 7

These verses are typical of many others appearing in the Zion's Harp. Strong, vivid, and meaningful lyrics are the rule rather than the exception in this songbook, the official and cherished hymnal of the Apostolic Christian Church. It is a book that is deeply appreciated.

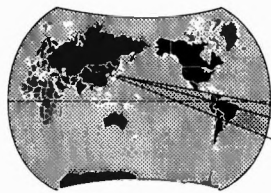
To say the least, the Zion's Harp is a classic. God is to be praised for allowing and preserving such a noted collection of songs for the brotherhood. The many words and phrases were written by men who had, not only a close relationship with God, but a keen insight into everyday life, and into those things which tend to inspire and uplift the seeking soul.

Too, this songbook is comprehensive and provides songs for all occasions: not only for joyful and happy times, but for times of sorrow and gloom as well. It also provides for reverent and serious times such as repentance, baptism, and holy communion. The verse and prose are ideally suited for whatever situation arises.

The historical background of this hymnal is a firm testimony to the talent that lies unseen behind the composition, both in the hymn texts and hymn tunes. Even though today's brethren know little about the back-

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光



“A Borrowed Axe”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Do you own the Holy Spirit? What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit? This question has arisen in my mind since I read II Kings 6:1-7 in our Tokyo church last Sunday.

The sons of the prophets were cutting down trees along the Jordon River in order to build a more suitable dwelling place. They were using an axe and unfortunately, the axe head fell into the Jordon River. Elisha cut down a stick and cast it into the river where the axe head had fallen, and even though it was made of iron, the axe head came floating to the surface of the water.

I reasoned that this axe head can represent the Holy Spirit who works through the Word of God. An axe can be used to cut down and clear out a jungle, the underbrush and all. Likewise, the Holy Spirit works in our lives to cut down and clear out everything which is not for God's glory nor for our spiritual

welfare. Such things include whatever is not good for our minds and bodies, as well as the sins with which we are all familiar. The Holy Spirit would like to cut out a self-righteous attitude and a lack of respect toward others. Selfishness should also get the axe.

What happens if we are careless and neglect the Holy Spirit? He drops out of sight and it takes a miracle to get Him back.

One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to build us a better dwelling place, now and in eternity. We are not supposed to do anything that might harm our body, and to do everything we know which would be good for our body. I Corinthians 3:16-17, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

II Corinthians 5:1 speaks of our present house and our eternal house. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” We conclude that the Holy Spirit is in the construction business.

The sons of the prophets were using the axe to build themselves a better dwelling place and things went along well until one of them was felling a beam and the axe head fell into the water. This would be cause for alarm under any circumstances but it was doubly bad because it was borrowed. II Kings 6:5, “He cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.”

It can be said that God has loaned us the Holy Spirit and He should be treated with great respect and with great care. We don't own Him, but rather He owns us, if we permit Him to take possession.

希望の光

... Remembering continued

ground and development of the Zion's Harp, nonetheless a rich and full history surrounds this great book.

The Zion's Harp covers a span of five centuries, from the 15th to the 20th. Aristocracy is included in its history. In fact, the person leading the initial effort to collect the first hymns was a Baroness. Moreover, a noted hymn writer whose hymns were included was a Count. Many other hymn writers were devout men of God trained as theologians in leading German and Swiss universities.

Also, a few of the tunes included in the hymnal were composed by such musical lu-

minaries as Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, and Rousseau (however, they did not compose specifically for the Zion's Harp). But, perhaps the greatest thing of all is that a good many of these authors were men who surpassed the banal plane of nominal Christianity, had repented of their sins, and were converted men in the truest sense.

Interestingly, this hymnal contains a song written while the author was in a prison cell. Lacking adequate paper, he wrote on the prison wall. Moreover, another song was allegedly written during the culminating phases of the Thirty Year's War in Germany, and it graphically depicts the spiritual feelings of that era.

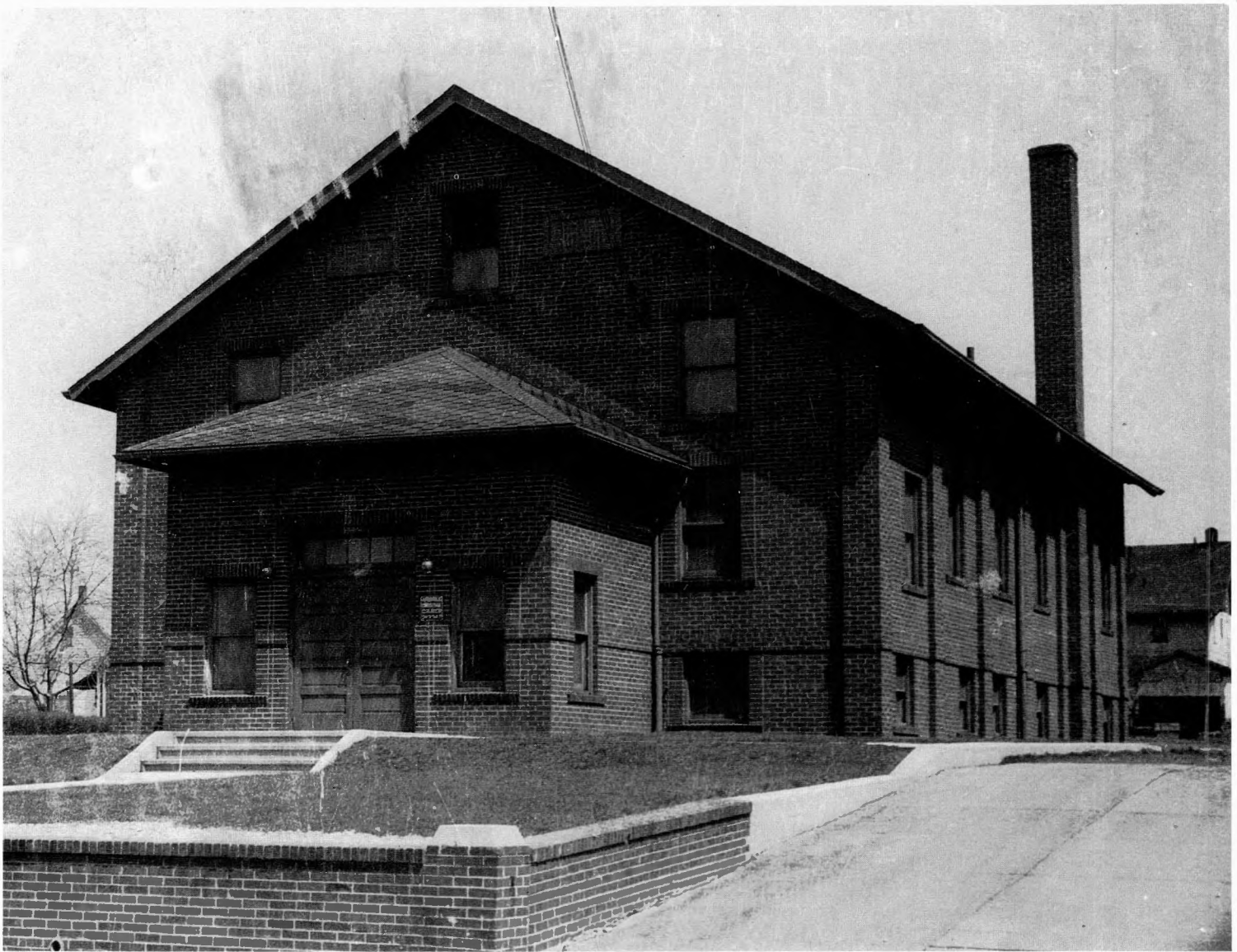
In essence, the Zion's Harp hymnal has an expansive lore of history, and was made possible by men with a wide and notable array of talent. It is a book of measureless depth, written by the best of musical scholars and it serves very well the singing needs of the Apostolic Christian Church. It is deeply cherished.

The early fathers of the brotherhood many times simply referred to this book as “hymns for meetings of believers”. It is nothing less, and nothing more. It is a sea of musical eloquence.

By: Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The simplicity of worship



Akron, OH - 1894

Brethren were drawn to Akron because of the industry, which was centered around the Ohio Canal. The early economy initially centered around coal and grain.

The first church building was a wooden structure accomodating one hundred people. Akron's history is filled with touching stories of faithful brethren who through the ages kept the faith secure for those to come.

In 1968, a new church was built on a location which was less susceptible to the turmoil that occurred during that time of unrest in the larger cities of our country.

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