Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

## "JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY FOUNDATION" Sermon by Bro. Leland Plattner of Zapata, TX

I Corinthians 3

As often as I enjoy reading in this first letter of Corinthians, or think about it, I can't help but think of the sequence that takes place from the first chapter on through to the end. It seems to be describing the sequence of becoming a believer, growing as a believer and then dying as a believer.

At this point, in the third chapter, it is about a third of the way through. He already, early on, acquainted them with God in the first chapter. He is telling them who God is and what to expect from Him. Then he introduces himself and the ministry and qualifies them. He really should not have had to qualify them, but they were in such a state that he was starting at the beginning and walking them through again.

In this chapter, we are becoming acquainted with how the personal life of an individual makes up the church. We know one person doesn't make up the church, but each of us as one person, believing, doing what we can, contributing what we can, and then all these put together collectively makes the church.

Of course, the reverse would be true, also. If one person—and the only one person I can address is me and each of us is like that—but we have to think that if there is something that we have not contributed that we should have, we haven't done what we should have done, we did what we should have done, or sometimes, we get involved saying things that we shouldn't say, it is things like this.

If one person does them, it does cause an effect on the church. But think if every one within the church would be this way, single, falling into these things, what would happen to the church eventually? It would not immediately crumble, but it would be kind of a deterioration until eventually perhaps the number of bodies could be seen there. The group assembled could be seen, but this isn't what it is addressing; it is addressing what is within us.

Is this healthy? If all of these are healthy, then there is a healthy church. If these become sickly, then the church becomes weak.

From this, then he goes on into serious sins, and how it is dealt with. Then there are things such as contentiousness among the brethren and what that can lead to. Then, in the end, he gets into eternity and what happens in the death of the believer.

In this particular chapter, which we will give some thought towards, starting out, he mentioned and uses the words, "babes in Christ". In reality, I would suppose that any of us here, even some who are past the age of three score and ten and maybe served God for many years, might still think of themselves as babes in Christ. I would not be surprised if they did.

I am a little surprised at myself. I thought when I was twenty years old that I was a babe and that by the time I would be forty, I surely would not be a babe anymore, but I was and I still am now. We still have not gained what we can describe ourselves as spiritual adults.

In this, we are measuring ourselves to Christ. We know that we will never meet that complete standard, but it is a goal, isn't it?

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat." (I Corinthians 3:2). That is kind of interesting. We do recognize that being really young in Christ, a newly-converted person, does depend on a diet that differs somewhat from one who has been seasoned in the faith. There are things that we are really interested in.

We are really a babe at the time that we receive peace with God, even before we are baptized.

We are still thinking heavily upon ourself, because when we repented, we were only thinking about ourself. We were not repenting for someone else, we were just interested in our own salvation. "This is why I am doing what I am."

We were thinking pretty much that way. We were not giving a whole lot of thought of involvement with the church or involvement in group things. It was mainly for ourself, to get ourselves at peace with God and you get established that way.

This I think of as the milk. We were fed certain things at that time, not necessarily what other people were telling unto us, but it was that way also. But when we read the Bible, the things that were important

Sermon continued on page 44

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

October 1996

# Light From The Word



Fret Not Thyself Because of Evil Doers

As the world becomes more evil, as sin becomes an accepted way of life and as Satan becomes bolder, it is possible for a child of God to observe the sinfulness of the world and to become quite discouraged. What at one time was regarded as being totally unacceptable behavior, even by the standards of the world, are rapidly becoming accepted by many as just another example of an alternate life style.

The insistence upon the right to almost unrestricted freedom of speech, increased personal freedom of actions and an increasing unwillingness to accept responsibility for self-discipline have made it possible for many to rationalize almost any kind of behavior as being acceptable. Carried to its extreme, almost nothing is outside the bounds of acceptability. Not only are we pressured to tolerate evil, our government is encouraging the total acceptance of multiculturalism - the embracing of all beliefs and practices of those who are from a different culture. While we must be careful that we do not condemn others simply because they are different from us, we must be careful that we do not fall into the trap of deception, embracing idolatry and other forms of sin in the name of multiculturalism and acceptance of diversitu

What is a child of God to do under such conditions? There are a number of responses that will help us keep our courage and faith. First of all, we must not allow ourselves to become so overwhelmed by discouragement that we are unable to respond to these challenges in a responsible manner. We are taught in the Word of God that we should "Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass..." (Psalm 37:1-2).

To help us discern between right and wrong, we must know the source of truth. As Christ was facing His trial and crucifixion, He plainly told His followers of this source. In His prayer to His Father in Heaven for His apostles, knowing that they must carry out the work of spreading the gospel, Jesus said "...Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). The standards of right and wrong are based upon the Word of God and they do not change. To help us deal with the increased evil, we must also realize that this is a fulfillment of prophecy. More than seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah warned that this would happen, and he warned us of the fate of those who allow themselves to be deceived.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! ...which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of Hosts, and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 5:20-24).

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul warned us that "...The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

Corruption and sin are certainly not new. God's people have had to deal with sin and temptation from the very beginning. Early in the Bible we are instructed that "...God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth" (Gen. 6:12-13).

God's people can take courage because He has not put us in the midst of evil without giving us a way of escape (I Cor. 10:13). Although we cannot entirely escape some contact with evil unless we are taken out of this world (John 17:15), we need not be consumed by it.

In dealing with sin, Peter wrote "...the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God..." (I Peter 4:17). If we want to overcome the evils of the day so

our faith can be preserved, so we can find our soul's salvation, and so there will be a faith for our children, we must be willing, even insistent, that evil be kept out of the house of God. If we allow the world to invade and corrupt our faith and have a negative impact on our church, we are opening the door to Satan and ensuring that he will be successful.

The only way to keep sin out of the House of God is to keep it out of the lives of His people, and we must start with ourselves.

In Chapter 18 of the Gospel of Matthew, we are warned that offenses will come from the world (v. 7). We are instructed to separate ourselves from these offenses (v. 8-9). We are also provided with a plan that will separate us from sin.

In I Cor. 11:28, 31-32, we are exhorted to examine ourselves to assure purity of mind and spirit. If we examine and judge ourselves, we need not be judged by others nor condemned with the world.

Having examined ourselves, we find instruction in Matthew 18 to help our brother if we have concerns about offenses:

"Moreover if thy brother trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he neglect to hear them, tell it to the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Mt. 18:15-18).

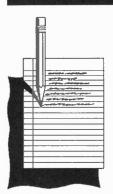
With this loving and compassionate approach available to us for use in dealing with concerns about the evils of the day, we have the opportunity to keep ourselves pure, to help our brother and to keep the House of God pure. We may not be able to eliminate or even have much impact on the evils of the world, but by humbly submitting to the scriptural teachings, we can keep evil out of our lives, out of His Holy church and ensure that salvation will continue to be available to those who come after us.

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, RR 2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561.



# 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



Mission Committee Meeting Report

In the August issue of *The Silver Lining*, we printed some of the many activities and decisions from our last Mission Committee meeting. Following is a continuation of this report, including a letter that we have received since the meeting.

We are making a sincere effort to inform our brotherhood of these activities without appearing to bring praise to men, for we realize that everything we have comes from our gracious God. We are merely stewards of His vineyard. However, without the support of our brethren and friends none of these activities would be possible. We want you to know that your input is valuable to us.

#### European Situation

Last month we reported on the status of the European Building Fund, pointing out that great needs continue to exist. With the contacts we have established throughout Europe, we continue to monitor the changing circumstances.

We would be glad to report that things are getting better for our struggling brethren in Eastern Europe, but unfortunately they are not. Virtually every report we receive from our sources contains bad news. Reports from other organizations such as Christian Aid Ministries, who share in supplying aid to our brethren in foreign lands, agree with this.

The death struggle of Communism

resulted in a large foreign debt in virtually every emerging country. These obligations place a heavy burden on the government, which ultimately is passed on to the people. In many cases, the same corrupt officials who ran the failed system still occupy the same positions in the new one. Neither they nor their people fully understand the factors which make a capitalistic or democratic system function.

Those running the government have resorted to the age old system of printing large amounts of paper money to service the foreign debt and keep the economy running. This action results in continuing inflation. The greater the amounts of paper money printed, the less confidence the people have in their currency. Our brethren continue to feel the effects as inflation soars while living standards decline.

#### Sea Container Shipment

Some months ago, our church in Tremont, Illinois refurbished their sanctuary, and the congregation in Forrest built a new facility. In each case, there were pews and furniture available.

Brethren on the European Board learned that the congregation in Hódmezövásárhely, Hungary could make good use of them. The Mission Committee approved sending them to Hungary. The cost of shipping a sea container is the same regardless of the contents as long as it is not overweight, and we deemed it well to fill the container with items useful for our Hungarian brethren.

Many Hungarian families include eight or more children, and reports agree that living standards are in steady decline as families feel the crunch of rising prices without increases in income. The elderly and children always suffer the most. We learned directly from them what items could be most used, and brethren in the U.S. worked to acquire these items. Time after time, God opened channels to find the wares. By God's grace, and the support of many brethren, the sea container was filled with over 1,900 pairs of shoes, which are desperately needed, plus thousands of items of new and used clothing. The container did arrive, and we have received the following letter of thanks.

#### "Our beloved brethren,

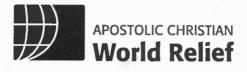
May the Lord bless you and your households in every aspect of your lives! May the Lord of heaven allow you to prosper in your pilgrim life on this earth that you might reach your heavenly goal where eternal joy awaits you!

Dear brethren, on behalf of the church of Hódmezövásárhely, I wish to express our thanks first to our heavenly Father and also to you brethren and the churches that gave us the pews and upholstery fabric. We thank you and those brethren who helped for your labor and your willingness to help.

We further want to thank on behalf of all churches of our country for the clothes and shoes. We truly rejoice over this generous gift! We cannot repay this to you neither can we thank you enough, however, may the good Lord repay you for this with eternal reward! We pray to the Lord of heavens to sustain you and us in every aspect of our pilgrim lives that we all may be victorious in our earthly struggles whereby in eternity we may have joy in His presence.

In conclusion, we send our loving greetings to you and to all your congregations."

The church of Hódmezövásárhely – Elder Jenö Szántó and his wife and daughter



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

# Brighten the corner where you are

As a guide and inspiration to our brotherhood throughout the land, we are printing some of the activities of our congregations on the local level.

#### Elgin, IL

We distribute soup and beans from Bluffton and crisped rice from Gridley to about seventeen different organizations in our area. Our brethren and friends cook and serve food for a soup kitchen in cooperation with a local organization. Over 120 people have participated. We helped remodel part of the Elgin Crisis Center for women, assisting with carpenter, plumbing, electrical, and painting efforts. Sunday School children gather food and clothing once a month for this center. We buy and pack supplies for school and health kits to be used in Mexico and Haiti. The active sewing group includes our sisters as well as young members and friends. A local friend donates time and transportation to pick up supplies at Bluffton.

#### Wolcott, IN

We have a local soap making project which involves not only our own congregation, but workers from Francesville, Remington, LaCrosse, and Valparaiso. Sunday School students are involved in this work which goes on for twelve weeks in the winter months. Our sewing group involves workers from both Remington and Wolcott on Monday evenings and Tuesdays during January and February. Some of our brothers are responsible for well drilling work in Haiti in conjunction with our neighboring churches. We try to involve our youth as much as possible, and have seen spiritual as well as material blessings result.

Local farmers furnish cull hogs to food pantries through a local locker plant. The work brings us closer to each other as we try to help the less fortunate, and we have found that when one is involved, a commitment to serving God does indeed result.

#### Washington, IL

We assist in the Faith, Hope, and Love Mission in Peoria, as well as work on local projects such as painting, construction, cleanup, food

distribution, and furnishing supplies when needs arise. Our Bible School students substituted World Relief projects for crafts during this year's session. We help the Christian Aid Ministries warehouse near Roanoke with sorting and packing clothing on an ongoing basis. Since we are close to the Goodfield Distribution Center, we try to assist in the work there when needs arise. Our sewing

projects include: pre-natal kits, school bags, health kits, comforters, quilts, jumpers, and children's clothes.

#### Bluffton, IN

The two Bluffton congregations cooperate in running the Bluffton Distribution Center. We also participate in local projects as listed below: reroofed a house for an elderly lady with 40 volunteers; rebuilt the inside of a fire damaged house for an elderly lady; partially reroofed a house for another person south of town; provided food and clothing for a young family who lost everything in a fire; replaced a heating system for an older man living alone; installed a new ceiling for a handicapped man living alone.

#### Champaign, IL

We donate food to a men's shelter and help serve meals at a center for homeless persons once a month. Students and others buy and deliver food to the Empty Tomb organization. Our sewing group makes kits for our distribution centers, and we also have clothing drives for the same purpose. Many in our congregation

> also do volunteer work at hospitals and the Red Cross.

#### Peoria, IL

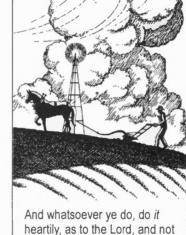
We assist Faith, Hope, and Love Center, which is a halfway house maintaining residence for released prisoners to help establish them once more in the home, community, and work place. We also work with several missions, such as Peoria Rescue Mission, a place providing

shelter for homeless men; South Side Mission, which helps females from broken homes, abusive spouses, or single mothers. We work with Friendship House in distributing food to the poor, and jail ministries on a daily basis.

#### Detroit, MI

COLOSSIANS 3:23

Our local efforts include distributing food, such as beans and potatoes to soup kitchens and relief organizations. Our sisters and friends sew comforters for distribution through the Bluffton Distribution Center. We also have a program of distributing Bibles and New Testaments to individuals.



unto men.

SILVER	LINING



# **Work Team Dates**

February 21-March 1, 1997

HAITI-PALM GROVE

February 28-March 8, 1997

HAITI-PALM GROVE

March 7-15, 1997

HAITI-MEBSH

Coordinator: Phil Isabell

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer

RR # 2 Box 69A

Elgin, IA 52141 319-426-5486 home

319-426-5585 office

319-426-5586 fax

RR # 2 Box 69A

Elgin, IA 52141

319-426-5486 home

319-426-5585 office

319-426-5586 fax

16746 S 380 W

219-261-3541

219-261-2860 fax

Remington, IN 47977

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer

### HAITI



January 10-18, 1997 HAITI-MEBSH Les Caves Area

Coordinator: Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 330-939-4591

January 31-February 8, 1997 HAITI-MEBSH Les Caves Area

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

> <u>February 14-22, 1997</u> HAITI-MEBSH Les Caves Area

Coordinator: Jim Walter 26 Timber Ridge Fairbury, IL 61739 815-692-3158 815-692-2851 fax

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Central Illinois has enjoyed a beautiful summer of moderate temperatures and sunshiny days. The residents of ACHH have enjoyed the outdoors just as many of you have. There were scheduled activities such as swimming once a week at the Morton Park District pool, horseback riding with Central Illinois Riding Therapy and bowling practice for the Special Olympics bowling tournament. At the tournament, five residents qualified for the regional tournament which will be held in October at Rockford, IL. We also enjoyed many outdoor picnics and ice cream outings.

We have had a nice amount of participation from our church fam-

ily. A group of residents were invited for the weekend to be with the Forrest congregation. Our residents enjoy renewing acquaintances from Forrest on a yearly basis as this outing has been going on for many years. We always remember our brother and former resident, Dave Metz, when we think of the Forrest church. Coming up for another group of residents will be a weekend

## JAMAICA



January 2-10, 1997 JAMAICA-CCCD At Montego Bay This work team is filled.

January 2-10, 1997 JAMAICA-CCCD Deaf Village This work team is filled.

February 14-22, 1997

JAMAICA-CCCD Kingston (Scheduled for spring break at many colleges)

For information call: Harold Witzig 308 N 2nd St Morton, IL 61550 309-266-6263 309-266-8575 fax

#### - NOTICE -

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

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. 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

invitation to the Remington, IN church. A Hazelwood resident, Bro. Frank Kyburz, who originated from Remington and who recently passed away, is lovingly remembered for his wonderful outlook on life. Also, Bro. Ed Getz, a Hazelwood resident comes from that area of Indiana. Doug Steffen's family came to ACHH to sing for us and were greatly appreciated. Also, Rich and Millie Dreste invited a group of residents to their home for a meal. May the Lord richly bless each one of you who added to the happiness of one who is weaker than yourself.

Residents also have been going in groups to community activities.

They enjoyed the Ringling Brothers Circus in Peoria, IL. Such sights and wonders to see! We are looking forward to attending the Pumpkin Festival for tasty pork chops, some rides and listening to the Banjo bash. Most of our residents will attend the parade. We always watch it from Apostolic Christian Restmor's front yard.

ACHH was also host to a large ice cream social, September 7, to celebrate our 25th anniversary. ACHH opened October 1, 1971, and we thank the Lord for His grace throughout these past 25 years. Family, staff and residents were all invited and participated in wonderful ice cream and light-hearted visiting.

November birthdays for all facilities are: ACHH - Susie McGinley (1), Kathy Knapp (5), Tom Manley (8), Kay Ellis (9), Bernice Heiniger (11), Sam Sigulas (13), Janet Worner (17), Kristie Furrer (18). OAK-WOOD - Rhonda Pullen (4), Keith Weyeneth (4), Marian Funk (20). LINDEN - Ken Clauss (2). HAZEL-WOOD - Alan Unsicker (15). CILA -Jane Aberle (14).

#### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Bridget Zollinger

Summer seems to be over after the auction. Volunteers head home, school starts, and houses adjust to new routines. At the beginning of September, Gateway Woods staff hosted a pancake breakfast during the Grabill County Fair. We served breakfast to about 1,000 people over three mornings.

Other changes at Gateway Woods include saying good-bye to Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson as they return home to Bay City. We thank them for their work of faith and labor of love. We also want to say farewell to Bro. David Kieser who was our Top Quality Vocation Program Coordinator and to Bro. Bart Rinkenberger who was our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. Thanks to both of you. May God bless you. We welcome Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer and their son, AJ, as they join our staff as the new Alternate Houseparents. Fiechter's say goodbye to Joel K. and the Graf's wel-

#### 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

#### come Penny S.

Working at Gateway Woods, I realize the number of people that come through and see what we do as a staff and how we react. "...among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life." (Phil. 2:15-16). So often a child responds to what they see rather than what they hear.

We are thankful for the many volunteers who have found time to come help out and shine their light.

They include: Bros. Bryan Kellenberger (Bloomington, IL), Brian Blume (Wolcott, IN), Rob and Joe Honegger, Sis. Aimee Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Sis. Dawn Dick (Bluffton, IN), Bros. Kevin Hodel and Zach Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Benji Weyrich and Jeff Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City), Arlan Miller and Sis. Megan Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Todd Sauder and John Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Thad Heinold (Cissna Park, IL), Sisters Tanessa Leman, Tricia Gutwein, and Deana Overmeyer (Francesville, IN), Carol and Elaine Graf (Altadena, CA), Margie Heinz (Champaign, IL), Renee Miller (Sardis, OH), Wendy Witzig (Morton, IL) and Tessa Schambach (Bay City, MI).

Our counseling Elder Bro. David Bertsch was nominated by one of our staff members to receive the Robert E. Pollitt Memorial Award that is presented each year by our state children's home association, IARCCA, for distinguished service to children. We just received word that Bro. Dave will be this year's recipient here in Indiana.

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

Romans 8:28

This is a promise we are so thankful for that God reminds us over and over again that He is in control.

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

September has brought the official beginning of school. We have been studying the letters A - D, the color blue, and Bible stories found in Genesis. Our lesson themes this month have been community helpers and safety.

Dentists, doctors, farmers, construction workers, and firemen have been the topics of our instructional time. We try to teach the children what each person does and how they help us. One day while explaining that policemen are our friends and that they only capture "bad guys", one boy asked when they would capture the devil. What a day that will be when Satan is finally captured.

We also took a field trip to the police station, fire station, and the hospital so the students could see the community helpers first hand. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day, and we were able to eat a picnic lunch at a nearby park.

The Lord also blessed us with two volunteers. Mike and Sis. Janet Campbell (Leo, IN) were our helpers for two weeks. Not only did they help with the children but also completed many repairs. The Preschool needs volunteers of many different abilities. If you or anyone else you know would like to volunteer, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 or the Preschool at (205) 233-0591.

The last weekend in October marks our semi-annual board meeting. We would appreciate your prayers for us and for the brethren traveling to the south as many decisions will be made concerning the preschool.

#### ALABAMA, ATHENS Pam Moore

In this past month, we in Athens were able to witness the most important event that can take place in the lives of two special people. On Saturday, September 14, we listened to the testimonies of Katherine King and Don Ross. I was uplifted as they related how steadfast and unmovable their faith in God is. On Sunday, we witnessed their covenant and baptism of faith. We thank Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein and his wife for traveling the miles from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to help Elder Bro. Lavoyd with the testimonies and baptisms.

Bro. J.R. Hall was hospitalized in the past month, and is thankful for his excellent recovery. Thank you all for the thoughts and prayers sent his way.

As always, we welcome everyone to join us for church services. They are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

*Note:* Silver Lining subscription donations are due in October for Athens.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

II Cor. 13:5

As we listen to the Elder Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings, you can hear and feel our church shepherds' love and concern that we know Jesus is our hope and salvation.

Jesus has a plan for our life; therefore, let us use the tools He gives us and fight the good fight. Ephesians 6:13-17 will help you get a "start" on your tools. Ephesians 6:18 and Psalm 119:11 are two "musts"!

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

September 8 was a beautiful day as we gathered for funeral services at the church for Bro. Ted Knochel who passed away September 5. Bro. Bill Dotterer had services, assisted by Bros. Greg Gramm, Ken Lawson, and James Emch. Internment was at East Resthaven Cemetery. Our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Madeline; sons, Bro. Alan, Bro. Darby, Theodore; daughter, Susan; and many other relatives. Many relatives and friends from out of state came to join the family. May you each find comfort in our dear Lord.

On August 25, Sunday School resumed. Our children's enthusiasm is a big "thank you" to each teacher. What blessings for everyone.

We enjoyed encouraging messages when Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) visited us this past month.

At this writing (Sept. 12), our dear Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich is in Yugoslavia. The Elders at Banatsko Novo Selo invited three American Elders to address their overall needs. Because He lives, the Word must be heard and a place to hear it. Praise God our forefathers persevered in our behalf, as others are doing yet today.

Our hearty thanks to Altadena for hosting our junior and senior high school Sunday School classes. Our youth are our future church. We are grateful to the many brothers and sisters who made this gathering so enjoyable.

"Where He leads me I will follow." Thus, how could we not rejoice as two dear families leave us for employment. Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum and children, Brendon, Katie, Hilary, and Lacy, moved to the Indianapolis, IN area.

Bro. David and Sis. Dawn Duckworth and sons, Tyler and Dallas, are in Princeville-Bradford, IL area.

Dear ones, we miss you and ask

God's blessings for all of us. We await your visits.

Behind the clouds, the sun peeks through. Christopher and Anita Carven and family, Jesse, Curtis, Jamie and Erin, have moved here from Detroit, MI.

Congratulations to Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna Knochel on their 40th wedding anniversary. May the Lord bless you with many more years together.

On August 25, the engagement of Sis. Jill Dotterer was announced to Bro. Larry Meyer of Bern, KS. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne Meyer (Bern, KS).

May the Lord direct their paths as they plan a November 24 wedding and start a Christian home.

There is no greater love than God's love. Rebecca Dotterer answered His call "Come unto me" and her joy is our joy. Oh, how wondrous to see yesterday's Phoenix babies repent and believe. Her parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer.

"I need Thee every hour" and your prayer power, too. Hospital patients were Bro. Alvin Laukhuf, Sis. Margaret Bradford, Sis. Irene Emch, foot surgery; Bro. Dick Beery, eye surgery; Ella Trent Gibboney and Sis. Julie Hoerr, major surgery; and little Nolan Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy) had an outpatient medical procedure.

We give thanks that Bro. Alan and Sis. Edith Freed were in church as was Sis. Esther Harmon, Lex Beres, and Sis. Kathie Labudde.

Much good and comforting comes from our monthly World Relief meetings. They were busy sewing and tieing quilts, among other projects.

Bro. Dick Beery, Bro. Herb Knochel, Bro. Jim Ringger, and Bro. Bob Hill worked from August 29-September 5 on installing water and sewer lines at the Navaho Christian Foundation Children's Home north of Winslow, AZ. May God bless you for the hard labor to make life easier for His needy folks.

In your August Silver Lining, inside front cover, is an article on "Forbearance". Please read; if you are too busy, start in the 7th paragraph, 11 lines from end at word "If". What truth regarding God's instructions.

Keep God in your heart, but give His love away.

#### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Four young adults from our Bible Class, along with the Tucson and Phoenix classes, went via chartered bus to Altadena over Labor Day weekend for fellowship with the California churches. We extend many thanks and a wish for God's blessings for all involved in hosting the weekend, and to the teachers, who organized and chaperoned. Our Prescott participants appreciated the opportunity and had a good time.

Those of us remaining in Prescott over the weekend had a blessed weekend with many visitors from Phoenix and also ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla) and his family, who came all the way from Francesville, IN to serve us. God's blessings to them and the other ministers who served us the last month: Bros. Bill Dotterer, James Emch and Ken Lawson, all of Phoenix.

Brian Crockett (Altadena, CA) returned to our area to finish his final year at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He brought with him his new bride, June (Ringger). We welcome them into our fellowship and wish them a marriage blessed by God.

#### ARIZONA TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Our Sis. Martha Blessman fell and broke her hip recently. She underwent surgery and is recovering at this time. Our prayers are with Sis. Martha that the Lord will keep her in His care.

Bro. Greg Gramm was with us recently to share the Word over the pulpit. We are especially appreciative of visiting ministers as our two ministers must "work" every Sunday. Thank you, Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise, for your visit!

The same weekend, our Senior Bible Class traveled to Altadena, CA for a special weekend of activities. We were fortunate to be able to catch a ride with the Phoenix Sunday School on a chartered bus for which we are most thankful! Our love and appreciation go out to the Altadena and Phoenix churches for making our weekend so wonderful!

We are enjoying 80 degree weather which is mild for mid-September, following our mild pattern for this summer of '96. We are all caught up on our rainfall and the sun has returned full-time! Our mornings and evenings are cool and crisp, a sure sign that we have survived another summer.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

The Lord told the shepherd, Take care of my sheep! For they are now grazing Where water runs deep.

They also are close by The forest so dense, Where lurking in darkness The enemy's hence.

They'll wander away If care is not taken; Though innocent, they Should not be forsaken.

Gird up now your loins

Take your staff and your rod, Keep them all in your sight And your heart stayed on God.

Though they'll never full know The extent of your cares; Nor how often the night long Is filled with your prayers.

But keeping them fed Upon God's Holy Word, Will keep the attacker At bay and not heard!

Then soon past the depths And the dangers they'll go; Led safe from Above And the shepherd below.

During the past month, we were blessed by the visit of three shepherds, Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr, Eugene Marti and Arthur Metz, and ministering Bros. Duane Metzger and Paul Gasser. Their labors were appreciated and many prayers answered as they brought forth God's Holy Word for our benefit and edification. The Altadena Sunday School (Sr. and Jr. Bible Classes) hosted the Phoenix, Tucson and San Diego Sr. and Jr. Bible Classes during the Labor Day weekend. It was a special blessing to meet and encourage our youth.

A post-wedding reception for Brian and June (Ringger) Crockett was held, giving us the opportunity to wish them the Lord's blessing upon their recent marriage.

The tapes of the recent General Conference were played and we once again could be encouraged and exhorted by the inspired presentations stemming from God's Holy Word.

Sis. Judy Crockett is thankful for the many prayers offered as she confronts the discomforts of chemotherapy. Sis. Martha Slenker has been able to worship with us periodically. Bro. Nathan Moser and Sis. Blanche Coldeen are confined to rest homes. They are thankful, too, for prayers as they derive strength from Above as each day proceeds.

We are thankful to have Bro. Mike Howell attending our assembly as part of our congregation.

#### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic

In the past month, our congregation was blessed by the loving labors of Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Curt Kaufmann (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA).

The annual Sunday School picnic was held in a lovely park near the coast. It was a delightful evening for both the adults (teachers and parents) and children as they enjoyed the fellowship and fun.

Our Bro. Rory Strahm was hospitalized for over a week, but thanks be to God, he is home now and doing better. We pray that God will continue to grant him new strength and courage each day.

#### Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all of those who sent cards and gifts in remembrance of our father, Gary Strahm. May God bless your caring, loving hearts.

Bro. Rory Strahm, Sis. Sherise Varga and family

#### ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

#### Isaiah 53:6-7

There is not any of us that do not need salvation from God; we have all gone astray. But there is not one of us Jesus didn't die for. What an example for us that Jesus willingly, obediently, and without complaining bore our sins on the cross. May we continue to strive to be more like Him.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) willingly gave of themselves to preach God's Word to us. We thank all the visitors that came to support us.

We invite anyone interested to come and fellowship with us. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for directions and more information.

#### COLORADO, DENVER Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings across the many miles! We are thankful to have had with us visiting Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA). We were blessed to have them share God's Word with us.

We would like to welcome Thomas and Marisa Sulentic to our area. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Tom and Chris Sulentic (Conesville, IA). We wish them God's blessings and look forward to getting to know them better.

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

Les and Lisa Luginbuhl were blessed with a daughter, Micaela Lynn, on July 26. Her sister, Courtney, welcomes her. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl and Rose McMann.

August 3 was a joyous day for Timothy and Debra Hill, with the birth of their son, Derek John. His grandparents are Richard and Mary Hill and Bob and Sis. Lorraine Dombek.

We were privileged to have visiting Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) in our midst this month. We wish him God's blessings for his labor of love.

We are thankful for our recovering hospital patients. They are Bro. Wilbur Schneider (Sis. Marge) and Sis. Anne Gerber (Bro. Loren). We pray that God will grant them a speedy recovery.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house..."

Deut. 6:6-7

In the past fifteen years, most of my associations with children have been through church, Sunday School or church sponsored child care centers, places where talk of the Lord was a regular activity. This was brought home to me recently as a co-worker and I were discussing a mutual friend. He made the comment, "She must really love the Lord". A granddaughter of another co-worker reprimanded him, as eight-year-olds often do, "Don't talk like that." In one voice we said there was nothing wrong with his comment. How sad, this child must only hear the Lord's name used in vain.

This month we welcomed Sis. Heidi Kaeb from Alto, MI. She is in the area for a four month internship.

Brothers bringing us the Lord's message this month were Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for serving us. Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Rockville, CT; and Alto, MI. Remember, fall is a nice time to visit—smaller crowds.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Barry Steffen (Washington, D.C.) and Sis. Dorene Gudeman (Philadelphia, PA) was announced. May God bless them with a long, happy and fruitful life together in the Lord.

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 will 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) 724-4470 (Please note this is new).

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

Psalm 37:1-3

God tells us we should not fret, nor be envious against evildoers. The dictionary definition of fret is "to irritate, vex, annoy, worry..." Do we let those who are workers of iniquity and who disobey God's Word worry and annoy us, or do we pray for them?

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:6-9

On September 14, we were learned of the betrothal of marriage of Bro. Aaron Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne) and Sis. Gretchen Hanson (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan) of Champaign, IL. We wish them God's blessings and direction throughout their engagement as they plan their wedding and future together. We welcome Sis. Gretchen to our congregation and look forward to having her with us.

We were thankful to have Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou) from Gridley, IL with us. May the Lord bless you for your willingness to serve us.

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

We were saddened at the passing of Bro. Dick Moser from Roanoke, IL. He and Sis. Erma spent some time with us in the winter months. They will be sorely missed. We are glad we have so many good memories to hold in our hearts. Their daughter, Sis. Jeannie Hoffman, also lost her husband. May God be with these dear sisters in those lonely hours ahead, and we as a church need to remember that sometimes all we can do is reach out and hold those who have such hurts. Remember, Jesus often touched when He healed, and the greeting with a kiss—these are all ways of expressing "care" that this world has no idea of!

God always has a reason for whatever He allows. Who is in charge of your life? Someday we all will face God, and no one can hide from the face of God. If we are His children, why would anyone want to? Let's try harder to keep our brotherhood loving and caring people, peculiar in what and how we are caregivers, for this world is in real need of it. It seems that people have become "me first and God help the rest". How sad!

God first put man in the garden of Eden and then man disobeyed, so God had to cast man out. We all know God's law never changes; not like the laws of our land does. Satan rules in high places because he puts fear in men's hearts so they no longer trust in God. If we would just read in His Word, there is where all those beautiful gifts God gives to those who will listen and obey!

We all need to ask ourselves, what is the most important thing in our daily walk in this life? Let us hope it is our salvation! Do you know what your reputation is in your town on the job? How important is a good name? Remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus—God didn't even give the rich man a name! Most importantly, is your name written in the Book of Life? May God give to each and every one a desire to obey His Ten Commandments!

We are looking forward to our winter families return!

Our visiting minister this month was our Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), who is always welcome, for we enjoy him and Sis. Billie. We know it takes special effort to visit other congregations. We are always thankful for God's traveling mercies!

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb,

- That went astray in the parable Jesus told.
- A grown-up sheep that had wandered away
- From the ninety and nine in the fold.
- Out on the hillside, out in the cold
- 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought
- And back to the flock, safe into the fold
- 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought...
- And why for the sheep should we earnestly

Hope and pray?

- Because there is danger, if they go wrong,
- They will lead the lambs astray.
- When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
- 'Till the lambs are as wrong as they.
- And so with the sheep we earnestly plead,
- For the sake of the lambs today.

If the lambs are lost, What a terrible cost Some sheep will have to pay!

We want to welcome Bro. Chris and Sis. Dana Leman who have moved from Chicago, IL; Betty Kaufman from Phoenix, AZ; and Jennifer Wales from Kansas City, KS who have recently moved to our area. We are always grateful for new residents who choose Sarasota as their church.

We appreciated the visit from Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III and family (Atlanta, GA) and thank him for sharing God's Word.

#### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We are thankful for two visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). May God bless these brothers for giving of themselves on our behalf.

Our services are held every Sunday, beginning at 10:20 a.m. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

#### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Millie Jepson

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Psalm 16:11

We climbed the height by the zigzag path And wondered why - until We understood it was made zigzag To break the force of the hill.

A road straight up would prove too steep

For the traveler's feet to tread;

The thought was kind in its wise design

Of a zigzag path instead.

It is often so in our daily life; We fail to understand That the twisting way our feet must tread

By love alone was planned.

Then murmur not at the winding way.

It is our Father's will

To lead us Home by the zigzag path,

To break the force of the hill. —Anon.

We gathered together at the Wednesday evening services in September to hear the tapes of the Elder Conference. There were many exhortations and encouraging words, and we were reminded that we are marching to the beat of a different drum than the world is giving to us. We need to remember that as with David, "the battle is the Lord's" and without Him we can do nothing.

The visiting minister this past month was Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). We thank God for his faithful ministry to us and we also thank each sister, brother and friend who traveled to Belvidere with him. We had such a pleasant weekend with you all! We appreciate the love and support of all the other visitors this month, too. May God richly bless you.

#### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco

Our annual cookout was held at Comlara Park on August 16, where the young and old participated in singing hymns around the campfire. We thank everyone who came to make this event so special.

August 18 was the Sunday set aside for our Student Welcome, where new college students and their families came to get better acquainted with us. It was an enjoyable day, and we are so thankful to all who took time out to worship the Lord with us.

Suzanne Gudeman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan) was united in marriage to Renaud Subra in Paris. He is in the French military, and they will be making their new home in France. Their address: 54 Port Saint Sauveur, 31000 Toulouse, France. We wish them much happiness in their new life together.

Jeff Leman and Janet Bell were married in Peoria on August 24. They are making their home in Oklahoma City where Jeff is in Family Practice residency. Janet is an RN. Their address: 6601 Edgewater Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

We wish to welcome Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall to our Bloomington-Normal congregation. They have three children: Jolynn, Alissa, and Timothy.

We also wish to welcome Bro. Tim Martin who has moved here from Morton, IL and is making our church his home.

We wish to thank the following ministering brothers for visiting us this month: Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

Christian Eric is the name given to Eric and Retta Knobloch's little boy who was born August 22. He was welcomed home by his older brother, Adrian. Happy grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen and Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch.

Bro. Don and Sis. Glady Kaufmann are the happy grandparents of the adopted son of Russ and Nancy Schwartz. His name is Jordan Solani from Legaspi City in the Phillipines.

Bro. John and Sis. Sue Grusy have an addition to their family, Austin James, who was born August 29. Jeremy, Jordan, and Brandon all welcome another little brother to play with.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany welcomed Julia Gale to their family on September 6. Matthew and Alexis are thrilled to have a new bundle of joy to love. Grandparents are the late Sis. Marcella Hany (Gridley, IL), Phil Thames (Mackinaw, IL), and Kay Thames, who is in Russia at this time doing missionary work.

Also born on September 6 was a second daughter for Bro. Randy and Sis. Ann Anderson. Little Rebecca Lynn had to undergo surgery as soon as she was born. She is at home now after a successful operation. The hospital staff said they have never seen a baby heal from that surgery as quickly as Rebecca. We thank our great God for this miracle. Rebecca's older sister's name is Rachel.

Sis. Millie Vogel has been in the hospital. May the Lord's healing hand be upon her.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley Steffen have moved to the U of I for Sam to begin medical school. Sis. Shelley will be employed as secretary to the principal at Urbana High School. Their new address is: 502 Fairlawn Dr., Urbana, IL 61801.

#### **Mexico Mission**

*(by Lisa Staker)* I had the opportunity to spend one week in Mexico with Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold this past July. I would like to share some of my impressions with you.

Marshall and Jan live in Ixtlan which is about two hours east of Guadalajara, Mexico. They live in a small home that is also the church. Basically, what they are doing now is spreading the Word and building relationships. They have church services on Sunday and Thursday. On Sunday, they start with Sunday School at 11:00 and divide into two classes. They usually have 25-30 children that attend. Scripture memorization is stressed, and the children are given a series of five verses to memorize. After the students memorize a series, they recite them to the church and receive different rewards. A favorite reward that the children love is the health kits that many of us have participated in making. The regular church service is held at 5:00 and 40-45 people usually attend. Currently, there are eight converts, with six being candidates for baptism.

A large part of what Marshall and

Jan do is build relationships. Not only do they share the Gospel, but they also spend time helping to meet the needs of the people. They give reading and writing lessons during the week. Often they will take people into town and to the doctors as needs arise. They definitely set an example by their way of life. Marshall and Jan frequently commented that they live in a glass house. During the day, there are often children peering in the windows or standing at the door observing how they live.

Marshall and Jan continue to wait for the Lord's direction and an open door to begin a ranch for orphaned boys. The need is so great in Mexico and this is a tremendous opportunity for our church to spread the Word and help those in need!

Words cannot adequately describe the beauty of the ministry in Mexico. I would like to encourage the Church to lift Marshall and Jan up in prayers, especially as they are seeking out God's will on the purchase of land for the ranch. Also pray that God will continue to bless their ministry and that the hearts of the people will be softened and receptive to the Word.

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing."

#### Luke 15:4-5

What a Saviour! He not only seeks us when we go astray, but laid down His life for us at Calvary before we were even born. May we take care to stay within the safety of the flock and the sheepfold, keeping our Good Shepherd in sight for He will never lead us astray.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." *Psalm 23:4* 

<sup>d</sup>Our dear Bro. Ed Guingrich passed away this month and we thus extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Sis. Doris. May the Lord comfort her heart and the hearts of Bro. Ed's children: Bro. Richard (Nancy) Guingrich (Peoria), Norman (Cheryl) Guingrich (Chillicothe), Wayne Guingrich (Sparland), John (Gwen) Guingrich (Chillicothe), Bro. Dan (Sis. Sandy) Guingrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. David Guingrich (Peoria), Sis. Becky (Bro. Dennis) Pyles (Bradford), Sis. Carol (Bro. Harold) Hohulin (Goodfield), and Sis. Judy Cottrell (Eureka). We are praying for them and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed in our congregation, but we know he is now with the Good Shepherd and are comforted by this thought.

Bro. Marvin (Sis. Dianne) Knobloch has not been assembling with us due to recent chemical burns for which he recently received skin grafting. Robert and Jean Ehnle have also been absent recently due to Robert's illness. Our prayer is that the Lord will extend His healing hand unto them and that the Holy Spirit will comfort them at this time.

Sis. Becky (Bro. Larry) Endress has recently met with an accident and broke her leg. We are thankful she has been well enough to come to church. May the Good Physician continue to bless her with a complete and quick recovery in the days to come.

We thank the ministering broth-

ers that visited our congregation recently. Bros. Dale Stoller and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) were all with us this month. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

#### Notes of Thanks:

I thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and visits during my stay at the hospital and while recovering from my burns at home. The love and prayers were deeply felt from the ministers and the congregations. We thank God for His promise of blessings to those who give a cup of cold water to someone in need of a drink. May He bless each one of you for your prayers and love.

Bro. Roy Ehnle

The family of Edward Guingrich would like to express our deep appreciation for the many acts of kindness and love shown to us during his illness, hospitalization, and passing to be with the Lord.

May God richly bless and reward each one for the thoughtfulness shown to us during this difficult time of sorrow and loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Good-bye Note to Grandpa

Grandpa, you were so dear to me Always there on bended knee... By my side in rough and good

times

- Showing your love lending nickels and dimes...
- I'll never forget coming to the farm Thru sunshine or snow - oh, what
- a charm!
- You told me stories of your growing-up years
- The wars, the Depression, raising children, and the tears...
- You also told stories of farming and fields
- Showing the love you had for what

God yields...

- Thru crops or drought you made it through.
- And now resting in peace you can leave it for God's crew...
- We'll take care of Grandma, the farm, and your things
- And someday we'll all meet you on heavenly wings...

I'll Always Luv You! Janel

#### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, The last of life, for which the first was made; Our times are in His hand... —Robert Browning

In last month's article, I wrote about our summer visitor from Florida, Bro. Aaron Webb, going back to Florida and stated that we will miss him and invited him back. This month, it seems that we will continue to see him from time to time for years to come. He and our Sis. Gretchen Hanson (daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan) have been engaged and plan to be married on May 25. We will miss having our Gretchen with us, but we know that she will be loved and cared for.

The school year has started up again with the return of students representing twenty-two churches. The annual new student picnic for students and their families, as well as the local church, was held on September 8. Although needed rain moved the picnic from the park to the church, it was well attended. The following week, the annual fall picnic at Illini Grove attracted about 100 people to enjoy a beautiful evening together. Student group projects scheduled for this year include continuing programs that have been established for some time. These include the Empty Tomb food distribution to needy people in the local community and Bible distribution to anyone on the U of I or Parkland campus desiring a Bible in their native language. The students will also be taking part in College Weekend activities and a good deal of travel to other churches throughout the year. We welcome these important people, our student population, back (or to) Champaign-Urbana and hope they always feel "at home" with us!

One of our students has made the decision to not be one of the lost sheep any more, but to come back to the Shepherd where it is safe. Matt Ginzel, whose home congregation is Peoria, is a graduate student and has been attending with us for the past year. We welcome him as he makes this life-changing decision.

We were prayerful for the family of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner as we got news that their oldest child, Caleb, was in the hospital with Kawasaki's disease. After a stay of several days, Caleb is back home and regaining his strength. Close monitoring of Caleb's health will be necessary for several years as a result of his illness, but everyone is thankful that his health has been restored.

Activities for the local folks included listening to the tapes of the Conference and the annual church cleaning. Sunday School has resumed, with new teachers, Bro. Rick and Sis. Rachel Meyer, and Sis. Shelly Kaeb. We wish them the best in their new positions of responsibility.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Marvin Schmidall (Eureka, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). Our appreciation goes out to these brothers and their families for being with us.

#### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"Seeking the lost, yes, kindly entreating, Wanderers on the mountains astray ... " (Hymns of Zion #180). A friend was telling me this morning that her every motive for wanting someone in our school to get a particular job was good. And I really can't say otherwise. However, I tried the rest of the day to examine my motives by that standard, and I am afraid I did not always have the best motives. The Bible tells me, however, that my motives are to be more than good—they are to be pure and undefiled. I need Jesus to help me lest I go astray. I must more often check my motives, remembering that His will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else, is important. My comfort is not important, my praise and recognition are not important, my financial good nor my investments in material things are not important. Christ alone and Him crucified is important, and my attachment to Him in all ways.

We are thankful for our Bro. Brad Funk who visited us with his family. May the Lord fill their cup to overflowing with blessings—for ministering to us and for ministering at home in Garden Grove, IA.

Two new Sunday School teachers are climbing the stairs on Sunday mornings, and we appreciate their willingness to serve. They are Bro. Kim Steffen and Sis. Penny Stahl. Bro. Dave Kiefer is our new Sunday School Superintendent, with Bros. Tom Neu and Craig Plattner serving as co-assistants. Bro. Jeff Leman gave sincere and dedicated service as superintendent and teacher. He and Sis. Kathy Schlatter (also a past teacher) have felt the thanks of the congregation. Now their prayers and those of the rest of the congregation support those with these new

responsibilities. We pray that the Lord may give the increase.

We welcome back Bro. Larry Gramm from the Belvidere congregation and appreciate that Bro. Matt Knapp (Bro. Charles and Sis. Paula) from Bloomington, IL will be doing his physical therapy training at University of Illinois, Chicago. May they feel our inclusion in our church family activities, love, and prayers. We hope that Bro. Chris and Sis. Dana Leman were able to take a bit of us with them as they assemble in Sarasota, FL. They are precious to us, and we hope to keep them in our love and prayers.

There is a pearl of a girl making the home of Tibor and Migdalia Bozzay more "family-oriented". Her name is Abigail Gingi. She was born August 23, and her excited grandparents are Bro. Tibor and Sis. Pearl Bozzay, San Diego, CA; and Maggie's mother from Puerto Rico. We extend to them all our love and prayers, through all the delights and difficulties of parenthood. May the Lord bless them mightily.

We want to add our wishes for God's richest blessings to Bro. Curt and Sis. Valerie (Schambach) Leman, now of the Francesville, IN area, who were married in Elgin on September 8. May the threefold cord which unites them give them extra special love to bestow on those they meet day by day. They also take with them our love and prayers.

The book of Esther is always special to me. But I just became aware of something new when a portion was read last Sunday. After Haman saw Mordecai one more time, he went home to his family and friends "And...told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him...Yet all this availeth me nothing [he said], so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." (Esther

5:11-13). I was not happy to compare myself to Haman; I prefer relating to Esther. Nevertheless, in Haman, I hear myself sometimes—whining (whether inwardly or aloud), knowing I have all manner of blessings, yet refusing to be as aware of those as of the pebble in my shoe, the thorn in my side, or the weight around my ankle. I need to change the focus of my vision. Haman thought he was important. I need to know I am precious in the Lord's sight, but not important. Whatever He has given is well done, what He withholds is also best for me, and the work He chooses for me to do shall only last a heavenly moment. What am I waiting for?

Come, my Friend, and take me 'sunder,

From all tumult make me free, Let me sit like Mary yonder In true solitude with Thee, Solitude and quietness Leads to everlasting rest.

...Blest is he who in communion Lives with Thee while ages last. In sweet peace let me abide, Resting at my Saviour's side. Zion's Harp #239

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

July 21 was a very special day for Adrea Walder and Ryan Wells as they were joined together in marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Denny and Sis. Sharon Walder and Ray and Carol Wells. We are happy they will be making their home in Cissna Park and wish them God's blessing in this important step.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalm 116:15

Our dear sister, Sis. Lydia Moser, went to her Heavenly Home on August 24 at the age of 92. She leaves to mourn her children, Doris and Kenneth Hofer, Edythe and James Clements, Betty and Herman Beier, Joann and Jesse Keller, Sandy and Michael Mulcahey and Richard Moser, and 14 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. We will miss Sis. Lydia.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Charlie and Sis. Mary Ann Mann and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp in the loss of their brother, Kenneth Knapp, of California. It is never easy to lose a loved one.

Babies are a precious gift from God. Bro. Joe and Sis. Tricia Walder have taken sweet little Kellie into their home as a foster baby. Already she is responding to their loving care.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp are experiencing the joys of a new grandchild, Clayton Charles, born to Michael and Sue Vazis of Barrington, IL. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Melba Steffen are happy to welcome their 11th grandchild, Cristen Dean, born to Dean and Shirley Steffen of Butler, TN.

On Sunday, September 8, our Sunday School classes third through twelfth grades entertained the senior citizens of our church family to a wonderful dinner and a lovely program. This annual event is enjoyed by both the seniors and the Sunday School children.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized this past month. Sis. Carolyn Hari was in for observation and Bro. Aaron Bauer for surgery. Both are able to assemble with us again. Laurence Kuebler had several surgeries plus complications and remains hospitalized at the time of this writing. May God's healing hand be with him.

God has blessed us with many visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), David Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), and Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We thank these brothers for being willing servants.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Missy Banwart Linda Knobloch

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalm 23:1

In a recent sermon, we were told about a shepherd and his sheep. There was a certain sheep that would occasionally break out and go astray. The shepherd would bring her back. Soon other sheep began to follow the straying one. It was necessary for the shepherd, though difficult, to remove her from the flock even though she was productive otherwise. How the shepherd had wanted her to be a obedient, content follower!

"But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

II Thess. 3:3

God has blessed two families with daughters recently. August 22, Lynn Rachelle was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita Walder. Marlise and Kyle welcome her home, too. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder and Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto, MI). Jodi Marie Roth was born September 4 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb and Wendi. Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Dietrich are her grandparents.

We thank Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield,

IL) for lending themselves to the Spirit on our behalf.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Peggy Heiniger Norma Schambach

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 three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart. Zion's Harp #79

On August 25, Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach observed their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children. In an age where marriage vows are lightly spoken and easily broken, we really appreciate the example of this loving couple. May God continue to bless them.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erica Schambach began their family with the birth of a baby boy, Joseph Robert, on September 2. First-time grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach and Ken and Anita Anderson.

Our dear Sis. Katharine Kachelmuss was recently hospitalized. We are happy she is back at Resthaven.

Apostolic Christian Resthaven held its annual ice cream social on August 22. Many enjoyed an evening of fellowship and pie and ice cream.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Leah (Schmidgall) Kuschmirz, who passed away on September 8. She will be missed.

Our church was filled to overflowing as we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Valerie Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) to Bro. Curt Leman (Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern) of Francesville, IN on September 8. We were reminded that Jesus saw a wedding worthy of His time as He went to the wedding of Cana with His mother; we felt His presence as they were joined in Holy Matrimony. We sang, "Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love." (Melodies of Praise #216).

Our Sunday School Bible class hosted the annual pancake breakfast on September 7. They worked hard to pay for buses to ACYF and to purchase items for our new Sunday School.

It is exciting to see the walls of our new church going up. As we see materials delivered to the job site, "we need to make sure we are each sending materials ahead to heaven for our eternal home."

Four Wednesday nights have been set aside to listen to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. Those of us who could not attend are thankful that with modern technology we all can hear the same inspired messages as they were delivered at the Conference.

We were richly blessed with visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

#### Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with beautiful cards, gifts, and best wishes. A special thanks to our dear children and grandchildren whose labors of love planned and hosted this joyous occasion. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

To me is given boundless mercy, A gift that I did not deserve; Such wondrous love, it is so marvelous, That such for me should be reserved.

reserved

But since I know, I will rejoice, And praise Thy mercy with my

voice. Zion's Harp #220

It was a joy to have our church filled with young voices on Labor Day weekend praising our Lord for His boundless mercy. We were glad for all the young brothers and sisters who visited us that weekend.

It was good to be able to sit and listen to the Brotherhood Conference tapes the last four Wednesday evenings. May we encourage each other in the battle by being patient and understanding, always relying upon the Spirit to guide us.

We pray for those in our congregation who have recently been sick and in the hospital. They were Bro. Eli Fisher (Helen), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy), and Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick). May God continue to provide for each one.

September 14 was the wedding day for Ron Schmidgall (Bro. Sam and Sis. Glad) and Christine Wenger (Gilbert and Shirley Wilson) of Eureka. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We appreciated the visit of Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) as they ministered to us recently.

Bro. Edward Guingrich of Bradford passed away on September 3. He is the father of Sis. Judy Cottrell. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Judy and her family.

#### Notes of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, flowers, food, and expressions of sympathy in the death of our dear mother and grandmother.

The family of Sis. Ida Mae Klaus

A special thank you to all you loved ones who remembered us with cards, gifts, and prayers in my recent stays in the hospital. May God bless each one of you for your love and kindness.

Sincerely, Bro. Eli and Helen Fisher

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

Sharing the Word with us recently were: Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). We pray that God will bless these brethren and their families for coming, as we do appreciate them all.

We have been listening to the tapes of the Conference held in Eureka. We thank them for their love shown us.

On September 8, the wedding engagement of Sis. Jean Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd and the late Sis. Viola) and Bro. Wayne Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arletta, Sabetha, KS) was announced. We wish them God's blessings and a joyous future in their walk together.

We rejoice with Alicia Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna) as she has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance; also Karl Steidinger (Bro. Randall and Sis. Dawn) has answered God's call to repentance. We trust God will be with them and provide abundant grace.

A sweet little boy, Logan Todd, was born August 21 to first-time parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia Fehr. Loving grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr. Great-grandparents are John and Loree Menold (Bern, KS), and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Doris Koehl (Forrest).

A precious little boy, Ross Daniel Steidinger, was born August 26 to Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish. Siblings are Alex, Wesley, Kent, Leann, Karla, and Kirk. Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger are the caring grandparents. Ollie Steidinger is his great-grandmother.

Our hospital patients were: Dick Koehl (Esther), Eugene Denick (Karen), Bro. Willis Nussbaum (Sis. Elna), Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Diane), Bro. Mark Runyon (Julie). May the Lord grant each one with a measure of health again.

#### Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our thanks for the kind deeds shown to our families during the illness and death of our mother, Sis. Marie Kilgus.

Bro. Richard Kilgus and family Phyllis Nussbaum and family Bro. Duane Kilgus and family

The family of Sis. Fannie Maurer wish to express their thanks and appreciation to all who touched their lives during their mother's illness at home, your deeds of kindness, visits, prayers, and singing; and at her death, August 12, the memorials, help at church, food, cards, and flowers were appreciated. At the age of almost 99, she left her Christian robe and badge of love and "patiently" bearing her cross without a sigh.

Sis. Mary Beth Maurer wishes to share this poem given her in memory of her dear mother, Sis. Fannie Maurer.

SINCE YESTERDAY Along the golden streets, A stranger walks tonight, With wonder in her heart,

Faith blossomed into sight. She walks and stops and stares

And walks and stares again,

Vistas of loveliness beyond the dreams of man.

She who was feeble, weak, and shackled to a bed.

Now climbs eternal hills with light and easy tread.

She has escaped at last the cruel clutch of pain;

Her lips shall never taste her

bitter cup again.

Oh, never call her dead, this buoyant one and free

Whose daily portion is delight and ecstacy.

She bows in speechless joy before the feet of Him

Whom seeing not, she loved while yet her sight was dim.

Along the streets, no stranger walks today,

But one who long, long homesick, is home at last to stay.

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST Marlene Walter Mary Bachtold

August 31 was a special day for two couples as they exchanged wedding vows. May God bless John Kilgus and Shirley Zimmerman (Fairbury, IL); and Eric Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Rita Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda, Morris, MN) as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

"Preach the word; be instant in

season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We appreciated Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) visiting us on a recent Wednesday evening. May God bless him for being willing to "preach the Word".

We are thankful that Bro. Earl Gerber and Sis. Leona Leman are recovering from back surgery. Bro. Rich Rieger, Bro. Reuben Roth, and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss have also spent time in the hospital. May each of these loved ones feel God's nearness.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Laura Knapp in the death of her brother, Bro. Ted Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). May she feel God's comforting Spirit during this time of sorrow.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Isaiah 40:11

Our Goodfield congregation was increased by the addition of another lamb of the flock this month. Little Haley Rae Rokey was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelly. Haley's brothers, Samuel, Jacob and William, along with their grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Ray and Joanna Hostetler, all rejoice at the birth of this precious little girl. May our Lord and Saviour gather her in His arms and carry her on His bosom all the days of her life.

We are reaping the benefits of the Elder Conference held earlier this year by listening to the tapes of instruction and guidance made by the Elder brothers at this special meeting. God bless all the participants for sharing so much time, experience and their love of the Lord with us. Much wisdom can be gleaned from their collective efforts.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

A scripture came to mind the other day which was very sobering: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." (James 4:6).

This is a simple truth that can get lost in a society that largely dismisses the virtues of humility and meekness. For sure, we know that the enemy of our soul is working daily to undermine the concept of humility in a believer's life.

The idea that God will withhold His grace if we portray traits that conflict with humility and lowliness of mind is indeed sobering. When humility is missing, the believer is in a state of peril.

The promise, however, that God will give grace to the humble is indeed a positive one. Each day we are all well advised to be aware the one condition unleashing God's marvelous grace to us is that of being humble!

Labor Day (September 2) provided a double blessing for Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie Ringger with the birth of twin boys, Tanner Joseph and Parker James. These new twins have a brother, Gabe, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss, and Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger.

Sis. Becky Wettstein and Bro. Roger Roberts were married on September 8. We wish them God's richest blessings. Her parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria Wettstein. He is the son of Lester Roberts, Chenoa, and the late Sharon Roberts.

At a singing for Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky the evening before their wedding, Bro. Roger was asked to make some comments. As one who did not grow up in the church, and who deeply appreciates the faith, he said, "When you surrender everything, God really adds to your life."

Zachary Bauer Romersberger was born on July 9 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger. He has two sisters, Sis. Ashley, 14, and Alison, 12, and a brother, Austin, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger and Bro. Al and Betty Hari (Cissna Park, IL).

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) on August 21 and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) on September 15.

Bro. Bob Gramm recently had surgery.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation has had both deaths and baptisms this month. We are thankful that along with the sorrow, the Lord offers new life which brings joy and hope.

We are thankful that God has called four more dear loved ones into His family. On August 24 we heard the testimonies of how God worked in their hearts. The baptisms were held on August 25. They were Bro. Jeff Kaufman II (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda), Bro. Tate Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly), Sis. Emily Endress (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanni), and Sis. Sara Nelson (Darryl and Sis. Sandy). May they continue to follow God's guidance as they return to school and work and as they take their place in our Saviour's fellowship.

Sis. Anna Springer was called Home on August 30. May God comfort her husband, Bro. Myron; her six daughters, Sis. Dorothy Witzig, Marlene Galbraith, Marjorie Gingerich, Sis. Judy Springer, Carolyn Isbell, and Lydia Clark; her three sisters, Sis. Sarah Frank, Lydia Johnson, and Magdalene McCartney; her 20 grandchildren, 38 greatgrandchildren, and her other relatives and friends.

Sis. Marie Rapp died on September 6 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor. May the Lord remember her sister, Lillian Eiridgeman; her two brothers, Raymond Binkele and Edward Binkele; and her other relatives and friends.

Opal Blumenshine died on September 6 and the Apostolic Christian Church ministers held her funeral services on September 9 at the Ludwig-Rohrschneider Mortuary. May God comfort her nieces and nephews and her other relatives and friends.

Bro. Emery Kaiser was called into all eternity on September 12. May the Lord comfort and bless his brother, Wayne; his sisters, Sis. Mary Koehl and Sis. Helen Schmidgall; and his other relatives and friends.

We wish to express our love and appreciation to the visiting ministers we had this month. They were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL).

#### Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Frank Kyburz wishes to express their deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to everyone for the kindness and love given to them during his illness and subsequent passing away. May God Bless you all.

Bro. Frank Kyburz Family

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

It's hard to believe summer is over and another school year is well under way. My thoughts go to our Sunday School teachers who work so diligently to teach our children the precious Word of God. Let's not forget to lift them up often in prayer to our Heavenly Father.

It is always a privilege to have visiting ministers. May God richly bless those who have come recently: Bros. David Eisenmann (North Ft. Myers, FL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Robert Miller (Portland, OR) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA).

Three dear sisters have gone on to claim their victory in Jesus. They are Sis. Emma Eberhard, Sis. Leona Race and Sis. Elizabeth Merkle. We pray that God will provide comfort to their families.

#### Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all who helped make our golden anniversary a very blessed and memorable one. Thank you for the beautiful cards and every expression of love. May God bless every one of you.

Sincerely, Walt and Hazel Geyer

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Joanna Herrmann

On August 25, Bro. Bill Wade and Sis. Lisa Kieser (Sis. Martha and the late Bro. Loris) announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they walk this life together.

We are thankful to have Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Baurer assembling with us now. Feeling God's direction, Bro. Phil's employment has brought them from Taylor, MO to Princeville. We welcome them and their son, David.

We were reminded again of the love and patience of our Lord and Saviour on the weekend of September 14 and 15, as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are: Bro. Doug Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia), Bro. Craig White (son of Sis. Gloria White), Sis. Stephanie Challacomb, and Sis. Kristal Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine). May they continue to feel God's presence, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 1:6). We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for coming and assisting Elder Bro. Joe. May God richly bless him.

We would also like to thank all of our visiting brethren. A special thank you to our visiting ministers, which were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Lucille (Bro. Ezra) Rumbold and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Bill) Stoller. We are thankful that God was faithful as they recovered from surgery.

#### Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Marilyn Siebenthal wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love and sympathy shown to them since the sudden passing of their loved one. Our sincere thanks to each one of you for the cards, food, flowers, memorials, phone calls and your prayers. May God bless each one as He alone can.

Anna Siebenthal Martha Jane & Kenneth Eugene & Kay & family

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" Isaiah 55:6

We rejoice with Lloyd Aeschleman (Sis. Cynthia), Carolyn Aeschleman (Ray), and Jonathon Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) as they have turned to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord grant His precious grace as they live their lives for Him.

Bro. Clarence Aeschleman passed away September 9. We extend our love and sympathy to his children, Sis. Judy Luginbuhl (Bro. Les) and Arnie Aeschleman (Singrid).

Bro. Dick and Sis. Mardell Bowald were blessed with another grandchild, Ryan Samuel Zimmerman. Ryan's parents are Victor and Lora Zimmerman of Mahomet.

We rejoice with our Sis. Tammi Zimmerman and Bro. Paul Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) as they announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman and Sis. Betty Klopfenstein and the late Bro. Carlton Klopfenstein of Gridley. May God bless them as they join hand and heart.

September was a very special month for our congregation as two brothers were called to serve in the ministry: Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie). May the Lord be ever near them and direct them as they fulfill this important role He has set before them.

We have a special prayer for our friend, Jason Tibbs, 21-year-old son of Jim and Julie Tibbs. Jason was in a diving accident that left him paralyzed. May the Lord watch over him and grant him the strength he needs to improve.

Our other hospital patients this month were Bro. Rudie Hoffman (Sis. Mary), Amy Schwind and Andrew Schwind (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb). Andrew donated the bone marrow for a transplant for his sister, Amy, who still needs our devoted prayers as she fights leukemia.

We pray a blessing on Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) who shared the Word with us this month.

#### Note of Thanks:

A very sincere "Thank You" to all who remembered us in any way during the illness and passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather. Your prayers, love and kindness will always be remembered. May God bless you all.

The Dick Moser family

#### **ILLINOIS, TREMONT** Barbara Dill - Barbara Kaeb

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

How thankful we are to have those friends who had the faith to diligently seek Him. We welcome our Sis. Rebekah (Bro. Jonathan) Wagenbach, Sis. Carrie (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara) Reinbeck, and Sis. Peggy (Darryl) Stoecker who gave their testimony of faith and were baptized Sunday, September 15. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for helping our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder in this important work. We also thank our other visiting ministers this past month who lent themselves to teaching us of God's love and mercy: Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

In the hospital this month was Sis. Charlotte (Bro. Dan) Steiner. May God continue to be with her and all those who are sick or shut-in is our prayer.

Connor Lee was born August 20 to Bro. Russ and Sis. Terrie Ehnle. He was welcomed home by Cody and Carly and also grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Eleanor Hanning (Kewanee, IL) and Robert Hanning (Avon, IL). Joseph John Steiner was born September 13 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivv Steiner. He was welcomed home by Mahlon and grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA). May God richly bless these precious babies and their parents.

#### Notes of Thanks:

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and love shown to me on my 90th birthday. May God bless each one. Sis. Edna Getz

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, flowers, food and expressions for sympathy in the loss of our dear Mother and Grandmother. The family of Ida Mae Klaus

#### **ILLINOIS. WASHINGTON Denise Romersberger Sue Ruppert**

"I will seek that which was lost. and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment."

#### Ezekiel 34:16

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine,

and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray."

Matthew 18:11-13

Isn't it a wonder that the Creator of the Universe cares about each one of us in such a specific way? It is not that He cares about us as a part of a multitude, but that He cares about us INDIVIDUALLY! These two scriptures tell us that He seeks out EACH lost soul in order to save them, and that He rejoices when He finds EACH ONE. That means everybody; you and I! What an amazing thought that God, who is big enough and almighty enough to create us can become small enough to fit in our hearts! Praise be to Him!

Bro. Philip Wagenbach answered the call of his Shepherd, repented and turned his life over to Him. His testimony and baptism were held on September 7 and 8. His parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Marie. We rejoice, as does the Saviour!

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Thank you for all of your efforts.

Fall is coming quickly, which means it is time for school to start. as well as Sunday School and choir practice. The children had been eager to get back to their new classes and have been met with enthusiasm by their new teachers. It is interesting to get to know each student's personality and abilities. It is also a challenge to match activities to each one's talents so that God's truths become real for each student. Don't forget to pray for, and to support the Sunday School teachers in your congregation! The church of tomorrow sits in the Sunday School benches

today.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

"Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live."

Psalm 116:2

We have had several new converts this month. They are Klint Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean), Molli Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene) and Shane Holocher (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam). We rejoice with them and wish them God's abundant grace in their new walk with Him.

On September 14, Krista Moser and Brett Eisberg were married. Their parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser and Shirla Eisberg.

Our thanks to the visiting brothers who shared the Word with us this month: Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber welcomed Mark Alan into their family on August 23. He joins sisters, Anna and Erika. Grandparents are Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovics (Ersekesanad, Hungary) and Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber.

On August 28, Catie Lee joined her big sister, Catherine, at home. Her parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo Neuenschwander. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Sis. Sarah Steffen.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver became new parents September 4. They named their son, Taylor Christian. His grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores Heyerly and Bro. Lester and Sis. Dulla Pulver.

We have three sets of grandparents who are rejoicing over a new grandchild: Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber are enjoying little Jonathan David. He was born on August 22 and his parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longenberger are enjoying their first grandson. Dylan Scott was born on August 23 to Scott and Julie Longenberger. Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat have a new grandson also. Jared Wayne was born on September 10 to Lance and Vicky Roush.

On September 15, Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen were happy to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Barry (Washington, D.C.) to Sis. Doreen Gudeman (Philadelphia, PA), daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

We pray God will touch those who have been hospitalized this month. They are Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona), Bro. Keith Kaehr (Sis. Lou Ann), Bro. Alvin Gerber (Sis. Helen), Sis. Glenda Meyer (Bro. Dale) and Bro. Charles Fiechter (Sis. Maxine).

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." *Psalm 119:105* 

We wish to thank Bro. Jim Rinkenberger from our Bluffton congregation for sharing the Word with us this month. We at Bluffton and Bluffton North feel that we are one church worshipping in two places.

Rod and Connie Bucher are the parents of a new son, Brody Scott, born on August 25. He joins a brother, Brock, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher and Carl and Betty Macklin.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Laurin Bertsch in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Lillian, on August 27. Also surviving are a brother, Bro. Fred Kaehr, and a sister, Sis. Aldine Moser. May God be a Comforter to these loved ones.

Our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner, along with Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) spent 12 days in Yugoslavia representing the Mission Committee and the World Relief Committee, looking at the conditions that our brethren are enduring and determining ways in which we may help them.

Be True, Be True!

- The Lord is by thee standing;
- Joyful with Him at last will be the ending.
- Tho' hard the strife and long the conflict be,
- Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be.

Zion's Harp #172

We were reminded in a sermon that sometimes in this life we get pressed down and burdens seem heavy; but we have Heaven to look forward to and the "best is yet to come"!

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"And, behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." *Revelation 22:12* 

We are so thankful to have new converts here in Francesville. It strengthens the faith of the brethren as we are reminded that the Lord continues to call the "lost sheep" and that He desires all to come to Him. We believe the "day of the Lord" may be very near, and what a joy to have more coming to Jesus in repentance. We are thrilled to report that Karen Eide has found peace with the Lord Jesus. Let's remember her in prayer as she looks forward to sharing what the Lord has done in her life.

Derek Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda) and Gina Malchow (Leroy and Nona) were united in marriage on July 20. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin their life together as one.

We want to extend a sincere expression of sympathy to Sis. Carol Gutwein (Bro. Phil) and her family at the tragic loss of her nephew, Bro. Clark Schieler. News of this nature should make us long more for those heavenly mansions where there will be no more heartaches. May God be near the family and give comfort and peace.

Bro. Curt Leman (Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern) and Sis. Valerie Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) were united in marriage on September 8. We trust that God will grant them much love and happiness as they walk together and build their life as one.

The Goodfield Choir came and visited us on September 15 bringing many beautiful songs of the faith and inspiring thoughts on the "Christian Walk". We were reminded that our walk must begin with a humble submissive heart. Without a true sorrow for our sin and our past life, it will be difficult to "throw off" those things that weight us down. May God richly bless those that put forth many efforts on our behalf and special thanks to Elder Bro. Wesley Knapp and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger who shared the ministering of the Word.

Our Sis. Doreen Gudeman (Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret) of Bear, Delaware announced her engagement to Bro. Barry Steffen (Bro. Ramone and Sis. Lorenea, Bluffton) of Washington, D.C. We believe God has placed a love for each other in their hearts and may He guide them as they make plans to become "heirs together of the grace of life."

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Vernon Pelsy (Sis. Evelyn) at the passing of his brother, Kenneth Pelsy. He was a friend to many here in Francesville and we are thankful that he came and attended with us over the past years of his life.

We wish to say "thanks" to those brothers who came and shared the life giving Word with us this past month. They are as follows: Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lauretta Schafer Melissa Baumgartner

Greetings of love in Jesus! We have been so blessed in the last month with many visitors; several new couples moving in and bringing their families to church; and, also a very special blessing, we received a new brother-in-faith, Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) were also present to share the Word on Aaron's special day.

We welcome Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum from Phoenix, AZ; Sis. Jeni Stoller from Bluffton (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy); and John and Rochelle Ward from Remington, as they have all taken up employment in the Indianapolis area. May the Lord continue blessing them in their new endeavors.

Our hearts are filled with much prayer and sympathy for Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich, as Bro. Dan's father, Bro. Edward (Sis. Doris) of Bradford, IL recently passed away.

We also thank Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for sharing the Word of Life with us. May God bless them with much joy and peace as they do His service.

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost...if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?"

Matthew 18:11-12

Lydia Heiniger, who has endured terminal illness for many months. called Elder Bro. Curt Frank to her bedside. Bro. Curt had the privilege of visiting with Lydia numerous times as she prepared to face the end of her life, thus Lydia made a confession of faith and found a serene peace with God. Her desire to be baptized was granted just four days before God came to harvest Sis. Lvdia to her eternal Home. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Lydia's family as they mourn her demise, yet rejoice and find comfort in her salvation. "What a joy that will be when my Jesus I shall see, and I look upon His face, the One Who saved me by His grace. When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land. what a day, glorious day that will be." (Gospel Hymns #831).

Bro. Harold Heinold has been able to return for worship services after a lengthy absence due to illness. Our prayers have been with Bro. Harold and his dear wife.

The opposite of fretting is trusting. We spend much energy fretting because of evil, but God's Word instructs us, "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity...Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." (Psalm 37:1,3). As God's children, we need to keep our eyes on doing good, serving God, not looking at the prosperity of those who do evil.

Some nourishing food from God this month was served. We were reminded of our privilege to give God nothing more than required and nothing less than able. Do we esteem the reproach of Christ, or do we esteem the reproach of the world?

#### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

This seems a time for travel, as many from our fellowship have been gone, and many brethren and relatives of our Leo family were welcome visitors, including Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Ron Kipfer presented our topical Bible Study on Wednesday evening, September 11. We thank them and their wives for coming and ask the Lord's blessing on them for sharing God's Word with us.

We welcome Sis. Leeandra Schnell, who has come from Sarasota, FL to attend the Lutheran College of Health Professions. Sis. Darla Stock has taken a position with Klopfenstein Furniture and will worship with us. May they both feel at home in our Leo congregation.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner, who was hospitalized for an asthmatic condition and also treated for pneumonia, returned to her apartment at The Cedars. She appreciates visitors and the groups that come in to sing at the nursing home.

Bro. Art Gramm had knee sur-

gery on September 17, and successfully came through the surgery.

Our prayers are with the elderly and those who cannot get out to church.

I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray.

"...Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:6-7

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:9-10

The Shepherd that seeks out His sheep that are lost is the Lamb that paid the price for our sin.

The raging wolves, Lord, from us keep;

A lion's courage give Thy sheep, All those who foreign ways have learned

Be speedily to Thee returned.

So draw and bind us closely unto Thee,

'Till in one flock we all united be. Zion's Harp #14

#### INDIANA, MILFORD Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Isaiah 43:1-2

Sis. Betty Beer (Bro. Morrie) and Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil) are back in church after being absent due to an injury and illness. May they know God cares about us as we suffer. Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) suffered a fractured thumb and Neal Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) a foot fracture.

We thank Bros. Doyle Frauhiger and Bob Meyer (both of Bluffton North, IN) for visiting us and being used to serve us God's Word. We thank them for sharing.

We offer our sympathy to Becky Price (Bro. Tom) in the loss of her mother, Velma (Knepper) Fites. May she feel God's strength and courage.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer are new grandparents of Rachel Rozow, daughter of Steve and Heidi Rozow of Milford.

May God comfort the hearts of the family of Bro. Clark Schieler who was taken from this life on September 2 in a car-train accident. Surviving is his wife, Sis. Michelle; parents, Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler; sisters, Sis. Julie (Bro. Wayne) Leman of Roanoke, IL, and Sis. Stacey (Bro. Bill) Feller of Nappanee; grandparents, Bro. Morrie and Sis. Betty Beer and Bro. Harold Schieler, Remington. May they feel God's courage and loving arms around them. We read in Isaiah 66:13 "...as one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you ... ". God knows our hurt and He holds us close as a mother holds her hurting child. What a wonderful place to rest!

Under His Wings, I am safely abiding;

Though the night deepens and

tempests are wild;

Still I can trust Him—I know He will keep me;

He has redeemed me and I am His child.

-Cushing

#### Note of Thanks:

Words fail us as we wish to thank all of the brotherhood across the land and Japan for the outpouring of love we felt at the time of Clark's death. We thank you all for your prayers, love, cards, and kindnesses. We love and appreciate you all.

The family of Clark Schieler Will and Sue Bill and Stacey Feller Wayne and Julie Leman

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

As we reflect on the theme this month, "The Lost Sheep", we can't help but think about the relationship between the sheep and the Good Shepherd. Let's all have a special prayer on our hearts for the "lost sheep", as our Good Shepherd calls, that they will hear His voice, respond to His call, come under His care and follow Him. For we know this brings life — overflowing life. fulfilling life, abundant life in Jesus Christour Lord, If we know of someone that is out on the mountains and away from the tender loving care of the Shepherd, let's do our part to bring them back to the fold.

We believe the Lord is again rejoicing as two more souls have acknowledged their need for a Saviour. Sara Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) and Travis Getz (Ron and Jeanne) have both found grace to repent and turn their backs to the world. Let's all remember them in our prayers.

Our church spent three blessed evenings in August listening to the Conference tapes and appreciate the love and concern of our Elder brothers as they bring encouragement and admonition to each of us. May we all strive more diligently to demonstrate our love for the good Shepherd by our obedience to His Word.

We thank each visitor that came to worship with us this past month. We also thank Bros. Dave Eisenmann (North Ft. Myers, FL) and Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Word of Life.

We are thankful Bro. Herb Schieler (Sis. Mary Jo) and Jon Schietlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) have been restored to health after brief hospital stays.

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

As Autumn approaches again, so swiftly, it is marvelous to behold the magnificence of our Creator's handiwork—the unique beauty which only our Lord can so vividly portray.

A haze on the far horizon, The infinite tender sky, The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields, And the wild geese sailing high; And all over upland and lowland The charm of the goldenrod, Some of us call it Autumn And others call it God. --Wm. H. Carruth

On two different occasions, our congregation was blessed with the presence of two visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Al Langhofer (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) for soul stirring messages from the Living Word.

Newly elected Sunday School teachers are: Sis. Gigi Schafer, Bro. Marty Langhofer and Bro. Scott Schafer. May God bless the time and effort they put into this important work.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

Fall is coming! The days are growing cooler and the evenings a little longer. The fruits of the earth are soon going to be ready for harvest. "While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22). Our God is a great God and in control of all things.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). It was a blessing to have Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn and family with us for the day.

We welcome Rocky O'Shea (Sis. Jean and Bro. Tom) from Chicago, IL. Rocky is a freshman at Valparaiso University. We're hoping he will visit us often and look forward to having his family assemble with us whenever possible.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Jody Bahler - Sherice Bahler

What joy I feel, what peace is mine As I my all to Thee resign!
Redemption, Lord, Thou didst achieve;
My Jesus I will never leave! Hymns of Zion #259

The evening of September 14 was a joyful time as we listened to the testimonies of how God has transformed the lives of five souls. The following day we witnessed the burial of the old sinful natures and the arising of new creatures in the Lord in these five individuals. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are: Bro. Kent Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Rachel Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), Bro. Ed Widmer (Sis. Gladys) and Bro. Nick Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia). We pray that God will continue to grant them the needed

grace for each day as they submit their all to Him.

The weekend of the baptisms we were privileged to have several visiting ministers. These included: Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont -Gridley, KS) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May God richly bless these brothers for their willingness to share His Word.

We are very thankful to have Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Mae Lehman home again after their trip to Europe. They have been there several times to visit our brethren over there and have always been granted safe travels. May God bless them for the work that they are doing and the time and effort that they spend with our brethren across the ocean.

Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) came to spend the afternoon services with us on Sunday, September 8. We are very spoiled by having a neighboring church so close to help out in the ministry when our brothers have duties elsewhere. May God bless Bro. Edwin and his wife, Sis. Lois, for sharing with us.

As harvest time is now upon us, it makes us think of all that goes along with harvesting. It is an exciting time of year as the grain is brought in and put up for the winter. But we're also reminded of how dusty and dirty harvesting can be with all the chaff that flutters in the breeze. May each of us strive diligently so that our lives would not reflect the chaff which the wind driveth away, but rather that our lives could represent the fruit that is harvested joyfully for the Master's use.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON Edith Massner Monica Eisenmann

We appreciated the labors of three visiting ministers this past

month. May God richly bless Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Ft. Myers, FL), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

#### Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of love which we have experienced since Brian's diagnosis of leukemia. It has been very humbling and far beyond what we deserve.

We want to thank each one who has supported us in any way, whether through prayer, visits, cards, money, phone calls, rides, food, or offers of a helping hand with the children or wherever needed. Each act of kindness is a testimony of Christ's love in your hearts. Truly, we have a most precious faith!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

"If a single fervent prayer Of a soul prevailing On the tender heart of God Brings its fruit unfailing, How much more Is in store, When whole congregations Bring their supplications?"

Zion's Harp #174, verse 6

May God abundantly bless you all and may He be glorified through the trials which we are each asked to bear.

Least ones in Christ, Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp Jordan, Kyle, Trevor, Krystal, Derek, Wyatt, Travis, and Darrin

#### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

What a busy season we are in as we preserve the fruits and vegetables of another bountiful harvest. We carefully clean, prepare and seal the contents to be stored for the day when it can be placed on the table for our enjoyment and nutritional

benefit. How disappointing if on that day we find the product spoiled and must be cast away. So in our spiritual lives, we are pruned, tried by fire and sealed with the Holy Spirit to be fit for the Master's table. Even so, we are but mortal, and it is a constant struggle to keep the decay out of our lives. But we can rejoice that the Lord is with us and if we wait upon Him, He will daily renew our strength. I found it a real blessing and encouragement as we listened to the Conference tapes and could be reminded that the battle is the Lord's and He will give us the victory if we abide in Him and faint not.

Our sympathy is extended to Mildred Schupbach (George) and Bro. Lawrence Butikofer (Sis. Caroline) in the loss of their sister, Oma Lee Strong.

The summer is past, the beautiful autumn colors are fading, and here in the midwest, we know that cold weather and snow will soon come. It reminds me of the seasons of our lives and would like to share this poem.

#### Life's Seasons

Life is like the seasons Each one its changes bring, A fertile seed takes root and grows Thus youth is like the Spring. Maturity comes in the Summer As we work and play and sing, In the Fall we gather harvest From the deeds we sowed, and then,

Alas, too soon it's Winter And our eyes have grown quite dim,

Have faith no need to worry 'Tis not the end of everything For our souls will be returned again

To Heaven, where God is King. —Louis H. Guenther

#### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

We are thankful the Lord provides speakers of His Word. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), and Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS). We pray a special blessing on those who give of themselves so unselfishly.

We enjoyed a Sunday School picnic one beautiful Sunday afternoon. Now that Sunday School has resumed, I am again reminded of the responsibility the teachers have in explaining God's Word to the children on their level.

'Twas A Sheep Not A Lamb

- 'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away
- In the parable Jesus told,
- A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
- From the ninety and nine in the fold.
- Out in the meadows, out in the cold,
- 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought.
- Back to the flock, and into the fold,
- 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.
- Why, for the sheep, should we earnestly long
- And so earnestly hope and pray? Because there is danger, if they go wrong,
- They will lead the young lambs astray.
- For the lambs follow the sheep, you know,
- Wherever the sheep may stray;
- If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
- Till the lambs are as wrong as they.
- So, with the sheep, we earnestly plead

For the sake of the lambs today,

- If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
- Some sheep may have to pay. —*Minnie Lee Bovender*

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! Another busy month has slipped past. Although it hasn't been the best year for area farmers, the dry, cool weather has made for a particularly pleasant summer. May we all take a few moments to really enjoy the last days of summer and the beauty autumn brings with it as well.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month, including Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for being willing to serve our small flock.

We welcome back our students and a few new ones as well. The new students are: Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids: Timothy Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) at COE College in Cedar Rapids; and Tricia Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole, West Bend, IA) at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. In addition, there are several new students at UNI in Cedar Falls and at several colleges in the Quad Cities. We look forward to having these students assemble with us when they cannot assemble with their families at home. We pray that God will watch over them as they experience campus life and as they travel to and from school.

We have been listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. May we take the loving exhortations to heart and apply them to our lives. How fortunate we are that those of us who did not attend can also hear the very words spoken by our beloved Elders.

We reach our hands out in love and sympathy and up in prayer for our Bro. Ted and Sis. Carrie Wiegand in their loss of their tiny son, Jonathan. We know he was very much wanted and lovingly awaited for, yet God chose to bring him into this world for such a brief time, then called him Home again. May God fill their empty arms with His love, and may the thought of Heaven be that much sweeter to them as they look forward to seeing Jonathan there in God's own time.

#### Note of Thanks:

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for remembering us with cards, prayers and love at the time of our son Jonathan's premature birth and death. We take comfort God has taken little Jonathan Home to Heaven and pray we will all meet again there someday. May God bless you all.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Carrie Wiegand

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

We welcomed the following visit-

ing ministers: Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). We thank these brothers for providing the Word for us through the Holy Spirit. May we all benefit and be appreciative recipients from their labors.

A beautiful little baby girl has been born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht on August 25. Jackie Ann is joined by her brother, Jed, and sister, Samantha. Happy grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge Feucht.

Sis. Ella (Bro. Ernst) Metzger, Bro. Fred (Sis. Esty) Metzger and Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean) all experienced the discomforts of surgery this past month. We pray that before long, they will all be feeling well enough to be up and about and can again worship with us in church.

We bid farewell to Sis. Kristi Kellenberger as she leaves Lester to pursue her career as a visiting occupational therapist in the Kansas City, KS area. May God watch over her as she leaves our community.

Kouri Wysong, son of Sis. Janet Wysong, is now stationed at Camp Humphries in South Korea while in the military service. Anyone wishing to write to him may do so at this address: SPC Kouri Wysong, 751st MI BN, Box 450, APO AP 96271.

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Bro. Ted and Sis. Carrie Wiegand. Little Jonathan Wiegand lived just a few short minutes and then our dear Lord took His little angel home. We know this is a great loss to this dear couple, but may they ever feel the Lord's strength and nearness, and the many prayers offered on their behalf. Little Jonathan is also survived by his grandparents, Bro. Albert and Sis. Martha Wiegand and Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), and also by his great-grandparents. Sis. Rose Steiner, Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Ella Metzger (Lester, IA). They are in our prayers as well.

We want to extend our thoughts and prayers to Sis. Kris Wagenbach (Don) in the loss of her grandfather, Carl McCall. We know this is a great loss to her and her family. May she feel the Lord's presence and the love and support of those who care.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of three dear souls.

What an uplifting and encouraging weekend we shared as we welcomed Sis. Monica Behne and Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie Hay into our blessed brotherhood. All three of these dear souls were not raised in our fellowship, but yet were led to find their salvation here. It really makes us realize how important it is to let our lights shine. We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for sharing in the duties with Elder Bro. Ed this weekend.

Bro. John and Sis. Ethel Stoller were recently proved and baptized at Klein Hospital where they reside. It is such a blessing that these dear ones could find their salvation in their later years in life. May the Lord be their strength in the years they may share yet together. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) assisted Bro. Ed with these duties. We thank him for being willing to be used.

Emily and Jacob Eberhardt have a new little sister to love. Abby Jane was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Karla Eberhardt. May the Lord be with them as they raise their little family, with His strength and guidance. Also rejoicing with a new granddaughter to love are Bro. Jodi and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (all of Burlington).

#### Notes of Thanks:

The children, sisters and families of Sis. Leona Race would like to express their sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love and sympathy shown during her many years at the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria and the death of their beloved mother, sister and aunt. We pray God will bless each one.

Steve and Jeff Race families, Richard and Luella Anliker families

Victor and Elsie Stickling Loretta Ross and Mildred Stick-

#### ling families

We wish to thank everyone for the cards and well wishes we received for our 50th wedding anniversary.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock

#### IOWA, PULASKI Lisa Knecht

Greetings from Pulaski! We enjoyed our area churches, Burlington, Oakville, Iowa City, and Taylor, coming for our annual Bible Class picnic on Sunday, September 15. We thank all those that came, teachers and students, and made the day special. Our prayer for each young adult is that the enjoyment they experienced together would only be the beginning of an enduring love that binds converted hearts.

We appreciate Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) for coming also and sharing God's instruction to the Bible Classes. We have faith to believe God will give the increase.

"...Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out...and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."

Ezekiel 34:11-12

#### The Lost Sheep

- A little black sheep was playing one day
- In the meadow where wild flowers grow,
- When the sun went down was then he got lost
- And he didn't know how to go home.
- He cried and he cried for he had been bad
- He wished he had never done wrong,
- He thought to himself, "I'm just a black sheep
- And they won't even care that I'm gone."

Dear sheep, dear sheep, listen little sheep, Someone is calling for you, Listen little sheep, poor little black sheep, Someone is searching for you. —author unknown

Bro. Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn) is recovering from surgery this past month. We are thankful he is with us at church once again.

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

At Home, 'tis well!

There shall the pilgrim tarry,

- When tired and worn by sorrow, grief, and strife;
- In heav'n, when the hard race of earthly life
- Is run, the long-borne load no more he'll carry.
- At Home, 'tis well! There God in adoration
- Adorns each victor's brow with wreath of gold.
- All who believe and hope like those of old
- Sing praise and thanks in highest exultation.

Zion's Harp #170

Our Heavenly Father has called a dear sister Home. Sis. Tillie Mogler, 93, passed away September 12. Our sincere love and sympathy to her family who, along with all of us, will miss her presence among us. The family includes: sons, Duane and Bro. Art and wife, Eula, and family of our congregation, Marvin (Ft. Dodge), Robert (Phoenix, AZ), Kenneth (Dakota City, NE), and Calvin (Dayton); daughters, Sis. Arlene Esslinger (Bern, KS), Bernice Erickson (Hardy), Esther Williams (Estherville), Jeanette Montgomery and Verles Meyer (Sabetha, KS), Mildred Ricke (Garner), and Ruth Kerber (Cylinder); a large number

of grandchildren and great-grandchildren: sisters, Sis. Helen Strahm (Sabetha, KS) and Mildred Scuffham (Algona). One daughter, Lucinda Berninghaus, preceded her in death. In the service we were reminded that Sis. Tillie chose the highway that leads to Heaven, the strait and narrow road which she faithfully traveled until the end. May the Lord be a source of strength and comfort to her loved ones. We were thankful that Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) was present to share in the funeral service. The family is grateful to all who remembered them with kind deeds, thoughts and prayers during this time.

Other ministers who visited us during the past month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Gary Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God richly bless them and grant them grace and courage in their service to the Lord.

It was our privilege to listen to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference, in which we were encouraged to continue in the battle with evil. We were reminded of the many ways that God helps us to attain the victory. May we ever pray for our Elder Brothers, who expend much time and effort on behalf of the Church. May the Lord bless them and grant them sufficient grace, strength, courage, and Godly wisdom to carry out the Lord's work.

Nettie Banwart (Ervin) has been our hospital patient this month. Our prayers are with Nettie as she regains strength. May she feel God's loving touch.

Congratulations go out to firsttime parents, Jeff and Penny Zaugg, of Mitchelville, IA on the birth of their baby girl, Kaitlyn Nicole. Grandparents are Richard and Dorothy Zaugg from our congregation and Max and Joyce Probasco of Chariton, IA. May they look to God for direction in raising this precious gift from Him.

Best wishes and congratulations also go out to newlyweds, Les Traub and Kim Lauck, as they have made their marriage vows recently. Parents of this couple are Joan Traub and Ivan and Pat Lauck (West Bend). May God bless this marriage and may He always be a part of their home.

Once again, as every year through the ages of time, summer is coming to an end and harvest time is approaching. It reminds us that God is unchanging and we can truly say, "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Great	is	Thy	faithfu	ılness,	0	God
my	Fa	the	r,			
Thoma	in	ma	hadam	oftim		~

- There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
- Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,

- Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
- Join with all nature in manifold witness,
- To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
- Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
- Morning by morning new mercies I see;
- All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
- Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

-Melodies of Praise #216

#### JAPAN, TOKYO Andrew and Jana Klaus

We welcome Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle and their two sons, Drew (7) and Ben (4) from Tremont, IL into our fellowship. Bro. Andy works for Caterpillar and they will make their home here for several years. No doubt, they would appreciate prayers as they make many adjustments to a new country. Their new address is as follows: K Flat Seta #101, 5-5-13 Seta, Setagayaku, Tokyo, 158, Japan.

Sis. Jana Klaus' mother, Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL), is visiting for about a month. We are so thankful for her help and fellowship.

Elder Bro. Akito was called with his work to the Philippines twice in the past month and we are thankful that he came back safely. Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle also arrived back from the States after being there one month. A college student, Mori, who attends church occasionally, recently returned from his two-week visit to the Francesville and Leo, IN areas. He reports he had a very good trip and would like to go again sometime. Thanks to all who showed him kindness.

Sis. Kiyoko Hirose (Shioda) is recuperating well and is gaining back functionality in her hand. We are very thankful to the Lord for answering our prayers!

Typhoon No. 17 of the season came through Tokyo on Sunday, September 22, and kept some from attending church. Winds and floods were responsible for most of the deaths and damage, which was greater than had been expected. We are thankful that all of our church people and friends were spared from injury!

#### KANSAS, BERN Holly Meyer Lori Baumgartner

O God of wisdom, life and love, Thine is the blessed plan

#### In holy bonds of love to join The twain created man. *Hymns of Zion #286*

We witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Darin Grimm (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby, Sabetha) and Sis. Marci Edelman (Eugene and Judy) on August 25. We pray for the Lord's continued guidance in their lives as they establish their home together.

Two wedding engagements have recently been made known to us. Bro. Christopher Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou) and Sis. Amy Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) are making plans for a December 1 wedding in Silverton. Bro. Larry Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne) and Sis. Jill Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne, Phoenix, AZ) are planning to be united in marriage on November 24 in Phoenix. We rejoice with both couples and pray that God will direct them during this very special time in their lives.

We rejoice with Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner as they have been blessed with a new little granddaughter, Sarah Kristine. Her parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

Thy word, O Lord, forever is The mirror where we see Our faults and duties as they are, Our likeness unto Thee. Zion's Harp #142

So many times it is through the admonition and the encouragement of God's Word brought forth each Sunday that we find the courage to face another week. May we continue to pray for all of our local and visiting ministers that the Word may continue to go forth unhindered. We appreciate each minister's willingness to serve. Visiting our congregation this past month were ministering Bros. Roger Aberle and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS).

Hospitalized at this time is Sally Grimm (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Shari). Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) recently had knee surgery due to an injury she suffered this past summer. We pray that the Lord may provide healing as He sees best.

Our Senior Bible Class students and teachers traveled to Lamar, MO on September 14 for a weekend of fellowship. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the brethren there for their labors of love.

We want to express a warm welcome to Sis. Robin Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy, Pulaski, IA) who has moved to our area and is attending our congregation. May she feel at home here.

Harvest season is upon us. As I see the loads of grain being hauled in from the fields, I am reminded of the parable of the tares and the wheat. Both the tares and the wheat were allowed to grow together until the time of harvest. At that time the tares were separated from the good seed and burned.

As we go about our daily walk of life, let us not become tempted by the ways of the ungodly and their apparent prosperity at times. Rather, let us strive to live according to the will of God, so that in the time of the Great Harvest we may be gathered in with the wheat and not the tares.

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder

- Why it should be thus all the day long
- While there are others living about us,

Never molested tho' in the wrong.

Farther along, we'll know all about it,

Farther along we'll understand why.

Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,

We'll understand it all by and by. Gospel Hymns #779

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Tammy Sinn

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

September 9 was the wedding day of Doug Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Darcy Lomshek. We wish God's blessing on this couple as they live on this earth together.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

#### Luke 10:2

We praise the Lord for sending a labourer to us this month from another church. We appreciated the fellowship of Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and his family as well as other visitors. May the Lord richly bless him for lending himself.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."

#### Romans 14:11-13

Our senior Bible Class attended the youth fellowship at Lamar, MO this month. We want to express our thanks to them for all their effort to bring our youth closer to Christ. We pray for each and every youth as they approach the age of accountability that the Lord will open their eyes and ears to follow the path that leads to salvation. May each of us examine ourselves that we not be a stumbling block to any, but an encouragement to every soul—young and old.

Our hospital patients this month, Sis. Sophia Kircher and Sis. Edna Reed, were both very ill. The Lord has restored their strength so that both were able to return home. May we continue to keep them in our prayers.

Services were held at the Friendship Manor this month. It is always a blessing to share our faith withothers and sing praises to God.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr

We received the blessings of visiting minister, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May God bless the efforts of those who travel our way. We appreciate each one.

Our lives evolve from day to day; some in joy and some in sorrow. But God promises to provide the grace to sustain us for each event we face. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary Isch have trusted God for their decision to move away to the Sabetha Retirement Village. We will truly miss their presence in our midst. May God go with them and keep them.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger

May God bless each of the couples that have recently been united in

marriage as they travel down the road of life together.

Bro. Ken Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Amy Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) were united in marriage on August 18 in Detroit, MI. They are residing in Kansas City, MO.

Bro. Darin Grimm (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby) and Sis. Marci Edelman (Eugene and Judy) became one in Him at the Bern church on August 25.

August 31 was the wedding day for Matt Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) and Tori Niehoff (Gary and Lila, Topeka, KS).

Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was our only visiting minister this month. He also had Bible studies on a subject entitled "First Love" for the single group and for those at the apartments. We extend our thanks and appreciation to him.

On August 26, the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm was blessed with the birth of a son, Glen David. He is welcomed home by his two sisters, Sis. Christy Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Gwen, and four brothers, Kurt, Keith, Galen and Ted. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler (Lester, IA) are the happy grandparents.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

Believing that God has directed their lives together, the engagement was announced of Bro. Wayne Wenger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta) and Sis. Jean Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd and the late Sis. Viola, Fairbury, IL). We rejoice with them and pray for God's continued guidance. A November 17 wedding is planned in Fairbury, IL.

Surgical patients were Erik

Hertzel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Bro. Elmer). May God comfort and provide much grace in times of affliction.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Dayra Meyer

Autumn Hours Crimson colors rustle about our feet,

And autumn billows gust gently against our face.

While friends and smiles once again we meet,

We witness part of God's

paradisiacal, gentle embrace.

-D. Meyer

Classes have once again begun at Kansas State University. The brisk but beautiful autumn days greet us as we rush about facing the many challenges education offers. With cheerful hearts and God's everguiding hand, we hope to study diligently and be a light and example each day we are blessed with.

The returning students welcome the new students to Kansas State University and wish them a successful year. New students are: Sis. Jenny Plattner, Myra Aberle, Shana Knoblock (all of Sabetha); Jodi Hartter, Scott Strahm (both from Bern); and Sis. Holly Wales (Kansas City).

The annual fall semester picnic was held September 3 at Tuttle Creek Park. Family and friends traveled to share the event with the students. There was an excellent number of attendants. We are very thankful that many can enjoy the annual event.

Services at Danforth Chapel will be held on the following dates: September 18; October 2, 30; and December 4. Bible Studies are scheduled for October 18 and November 13. Christmas Caroling will be held December 11. A welcome is extended to all wishing to attend.

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." *Philippians 4:9* 

As Christian students or whatever our lot may be, may we continuously strive to follow the wishes of our Heavenly Father.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The Bro. Greg Rudin family was involved in a serious accident recently, but praise God, they were spared critical injuries even though their vehicle was badly damaged. We pray for the entire family that their confidence in the decision to move to Wichita will continue. They are such a welcome addition to our church family.

September 3 was the birthdate for Lauren Makala Nelson, daughter of Andrea and Stuart Nelson and granddaughter of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel. Proverbs 17:6 reminds us of the blessing of children's children.

In keeping with the October theme, the lost sheep, I am reminded of a recent experience we had traveling through a metropolitan area. The route was under construction and we became disoriented and made a wrong turn. I consulted a map and felt I could take an alternate route. Finally, I stopped at a small shopping center and asked for help. We were three blocks off course! How like our spiritual walk! When we rely on self, we fail. When we ask the Good Shepherd, He directs us according to His will.

Now that we have completed listening to the Conference tapes, we plan to resume our Wednesday night Bible study. We will concentrate on the first eight chapters of Acts. Also, the youth are planning to use those same hours for song and fellowship.

The Senior High School Bible Class took part in the fellowship weekend at Lamar, MO on September 14-15. We are grateful to the host congregation for their labor of love and pray that God will bless the purpose of our Sunday School activities.

#### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann**

Once again, we would like to thank our visitors who came to visit this past month. Our visiting minister was Bro. Dan Stoller and his wife, Sis. Debra, from the Remington, IN church.

Recently our Sunday School enjoyed an outing at a local nature preserve with several of our families.

One day this past week our voungest son. Christopher, was trying to write words on a piece of paper. He is in kindergarten and is very eager to learn. He wrote several letters of the alphabet and then asked, "Daddy, what does this say?" Looking at the RWCU on the paper, I replied, "It really doesn't say anything, son, because there's no order to the word." I paused to think a minute about what I had said, and then realized how important it is that we have God's order in our lives since we are His children. If we don't follow His order for our lives. we become like Christopher's word and our testimony doesn't say much to those around us. Webster's definition says that order is the way one thing follows another, or the condition in which every part or piece is in its right place. Another definition says that order is the state or condition of things in which the law is

obeyed and there is no trouble. What a beautiful order God has provided for we believers, and if we follow that order, there truly is no trouble that will disturb our peace.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO Melanie Kaeb Michelle Oesch

Our junior high and high school youth traveled to Detroit on September 7 and 8 for Youth Day. Everyone had a good time and came home with not only good memories, but newly formed friendships as well.

"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Luke 15:4-7

We rejoice with the families of Jon Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna) and Laura Blough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) as they have made the decision to follow the Lord and make Him first in their lives. The world in this time entices our youth with many self-serving pleasures and temptations that can often bring only heartache and grief. So it is always encouraging to see those that can forsake those temptations and have instead a heavenly goal. We pray for the Lord's grace as they seek His will for their lives.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh..." Mark 10:7-8

David Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) and Tanya Carlson (Roy Carlson and Judy Haglund) celebrated their wedding day September 14. We pray as they begin their married life that the Lord will be an unseen guest in their home, loving and guiding them to seek His will. We wish them many blessings!

Those needing to spend time in the hospital these past two months are Sis. Sandy Schutte (Steve) for surgery on her neck, and Ronald Zaagman for continuing chemotherapy. May they both know the Lord's healing power, and we need to ask special prayers for little Ronald as he continues to battle cancer. The treatments make him very weak and sick at times and his parents, Ed and Joyleen, also need our prayers. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." (James 5:15).

Sis. Jane Grawburg lost her brother, Walter Morris, to sickness recently and we ask the Lord to comfort her in her grief.

We are thankful to have Brent and Andrea Steiner assembling with us here in Alto. They were married in July and we hope they will feel a warm welcome and at home here. Also, we welcome Luke Rumbold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie, Princeville, IL) who moved here from Princeville. He, too, has made a new beginning in the Lord!

It was good to have Bro. Tom and Sis. Joann Schrenk here recently and we thank Bro. Tom for bringing us the Word of Life.

Sis. Heidi Kaeb is still living in Washington D.C. but circumstances made it necessary for Loren, her brother, to return home. She gets quite lonesome and would love to get mail! Her address is: Heidi Kaeb, 115 D. Street, Apt. 104, Washington, D.C. 20003-1837.

I found this in a book at home and thought I'd share it.

#### Sunrises and Cyclones

It seems to be a general belief that the will of God is to make things distasteful for us, like taking badtasting medicine when we are sick, or going to the dentist. Somebody needs to tell us that sunrise is also God's will. There is the time of harvest, the harvest which will provide food and clothes for us, without which life could not be sustained on earth. God ordered the seasons—they are His will. In fact, the good things in life far outweigh the bad. There are more sunrises than cyclones.

-Charles L. Allen

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Marlene Mosher Rhonda Knochel

We wish the healing powers of our Lord to those who have been ill. Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) had surgery on her leg. Sis. Kathryn Wackerle (Bro. Ronald) had surgery on a broken shoulder. Sis. Esther Waibel had surgery on her eyes. Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marian) had surgery on a carotid artery. Bob Goddard (Mary) also has been ill. Matt Wieland (Bro. Brian and Charlene) has had problems with his knee cap and is still in a cast.

We wish God's grace, protection and guidance to our students who are back in school once again and especially those who have gone away from home to attend college.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of loved ones who have passed away: Linda Waibel (Eugene), daughter-in-law of Sis. Marie Waibel, also leaving behind two children, Heather and Jason.

To the family of Bro. Clark

Schieler, son of Bro. Will and Sis. Sue, and nephew of Bro. Norman, Bro. Floyd, Bro. Victor, Fred Knochel and Sis. Alvina Wackerle of Bay City.

Also, the passing of Bro. Ted Knochel (Sis. Madelyn) of Phoenix, AZ. Bay City family are Bro. Norman, Bro. Floyd, Bro. Victor, Fred Knochel and Sis. Alvina Wackerle.

We were blessed to have with us Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) as our visiting minister.

Fall is once more on its way; the weather is very unpredictable. It is sometimes sunny, sometimes cool, sometimes rainy. The leaves are starting to fall, the grain and foliage are turning colors and the fall flowers are in full bloom. We can see God's hand paintings all around.

#### Note of Thanks:

Thanks for the many cards and gifts in celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Lynette Moser - Holly Barton

We were privileged to be the host church for Michigan Youth Day the weekend of September 7 and 8. Many Sunday School students from the area churches attended, and we were also pleased to have ministering Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us. We trust that the weekend was enjoyable and beneficial for all.

It was cloudy and chilly, but our annual Sunday School picnic went on as scheduled! We greatly enjoyed the meal, games and singing around the fire.

Ken Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and Bobbi Foster rejoice in beginning a new life together. They were married on September 14, and we sincerely wish them joy. We are thankful that Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rosie) is recovering from surgery.

We appreciate Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) having our monthly service at Woodhaven. The residents surely are blessed by our efforts to bring God's Word to them.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

Farewell hymns were sung for those who spent the summer in our area working on internships. May God bless and guide Sis. Natalie and Sis. Kristen Lehman and Brenna Aberle (Bern, KS), Bro. Phil Conrad (Cissna Park, IL) and Tim Schaefer (Morris, MN). We enjoyed their fellowship very much and hope they will return.

"...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

How refreshing for us, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to hear of the miracle of conversion in the lives of others. The weekend of August 17 and 18, Sam Moser (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) openly expressed how Christ has begun a new work in his heart and life. On Sunday, we witnessed his baptism and joyfully received him as our new brother in Christ. May God bless him as he continues in faith serving the Lord. Many visitors were with us for the weekend along with Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. William Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Alphai Moser (Morris, MN). Our special thanks to the elders and ministering brothers for their labors of love.

Several other ministers have been with us to preach God's precious Word this month. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

We are very thankful for all the brothers, sisters and friends that worshipped with us this past summer as they traveled through our area on their vacation or to visit family or friends. This is truly a blessing for a small church. Please come back again.

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart as they have been richly blessed with their first precious bundle from Heaven. A little son, Brady Lee, was born on August 29. May God be with them as they guide him through this life. His grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Gene and Ann Samek (Hawkeye, IA).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther Lienemann in the loss of another sister, Leah Kuschmirz (Elgin, IL). We pray for God's loving comfort.

The fall season is fast approaching with cool crisp nights and warm days. Soon the autumn leaves will be brilliant, displaying God's beautiful handiwork. May we ever be thankful to God for creating such a beautiful place to work out our soul salvation.

Autumn Days Autumn days are here again The sky is sapphire blue; Festive scenes are on display In warm and vibrant hue. Flower beds wear lavish blooms In shades of flame and gold; Hills nearby don gypsy dress, So dazzling to behold!

Less traveled roads now beckon us To roam the country way To drink in all the beauty Of a blue-gold autumn day.

Tawny fields of ripened grain, A stillness on the land; Vegetables and fruit heaped high Rich bounty from God's hand!

When summer days drift into fall The world turns red and gold, And everywhere we chance to look God's gifts are manifold —Kay Hoffman

> MINNESOTA, MORRIS Linda Schmidgall Nancy Wulf

"...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35

The golden tones of fall are upon us, and the time has come to harvest the fruits of the earth. Our prayer is that the Lord will guide and protect each one of His own, but keeping foremost in our thoughts and efforts...

"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 this month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We appreciate your efforts on our behalf. Wedding bells have been ringing steady here, and we would ask the Lord to grant His blessings on each of these couples.

Rita Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda) and Eric Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly, Forrest, IL) were married August 31.

Trevor Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) and Jody Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen) were married September 7.

Paul Moser (Bro. Joe and Sis. Hazel) and Renae Gades (Sharon and the late Rodney) were married September 14.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruby Luthi and Lori (Gary) Joos, that the Lord may lend His healing strength in this time of illness.

We have listened to the Conference tapes this last month, and are grateful for all the spiritual proddings that our Elder brethren have urged upon us. We hope your labors are not in vain, but that all of us will continue to strive harder to serve the Lord who died for us.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Becky Braulick - Jan Messner Greetings!

SORRY, I NEVER KNEW YOU Last night as I lay sleeping, this dream came to me,

I dreamed about the end of time, about eternity.

- I saw a million sinners fall on their knees to pray,
- The Saviour sadly shook His head and this I heard Him say:
- "Sorry, I never knew you, depart from me forevermore!
- Sorry, I never knew you; go and serve the one that you served before."
- I thought the time had come when I must stand the trial,
- I told the Lord that I had been a Christian all the while. Then through the Book He then

looked, and sadly shook His head; Then placed me over on His left,

and this is what He said: "Sorry, I never knew you—I find no record of your birth,

Sorry, I never knew you; go and serve the one you served while down there on earth."

I saw my wife and children—I heard each one's voice,

- They must have all been happy, it seems they did rejoice;
- With robes of white around them, and crowns upon their head,
- My little girl looked up to me and this is what she said;
- "Daddy, we can't go with you, we must stay on this lovely shore;

Sorry, we still love you, but you cannot be our daddy anymore."

- When I from sleep awakened, with tears in my eyes,
- I looked around and thereabout me to my great surprise,
- I saw my wife and children, I knew I'd had a dream,
- Then down beside my bed I fell and for mercy did plead.
- "Father, who art in glory—in mercy look on me today.
- Forgive me, let me serve Thee, 'Til the summons comes that calls me away."

-Author Unknown

We were so blessed to have many visitors over this past month. We'd like to start off by thanking ministering Bros. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) and Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) for sharing the Word with us and also all the visitors who were with us over the Labor Day weekend.

Our Annual Pork Chop Supper was another joyous occasion where we were again able to sit under the sound of the Word given by visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Wolf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). We'd like to thank them for their labors on our behalf. We were so fortunate to have such a wonderful turnout for our annual church supper. We appreciated the fellowship we were able to enjoy and thank all for their willingness to share the weekend with us.

Our hospital patients this past month were Gene Schmidt and Sis. Delores Messerli (Bro. Cornelius). May the Lord continue to watch over them during their recovery.

#### Note of Thanks:

I would like to say thank you to everyone who made my birthday surprise so special, especially my children for hosting this memorable occasion. God bless you all.

Sis. Julia Messner

#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

Our church welcomes Sis. Kristi Kellenberger from Lester, IA to our area. We are looking forward to having her worship with us through November.

Our prayers have been with Elder Bro. Gene Marti on his trip overseas. We hope this printing finds him and his co-laborers safely back in the United States.

For three weeks now, I've had an agronomist for a roommate, and I've already learned that modern farming is a complex operation. For each crop, special fertilizers and different methods of planting and harvesting are necessary. For a spiritual harvest of "lost sheep", there is also a formula. If we base our lives on the Word of God and fervently pray for our beloved "lost sheep", we have a winning formula that will bring forth a bountiful harvest if the Lord so wills.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR Martha Kellenberger Becky Marti

Our congregation enjoyed host-

ing the Kansas and Kansas City, MO Sunday Schools (high school) for the Fall Youth Fellowship on September 14 and 15. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here for the weekend. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) also spent a Sunday with us this past month. We thank them and appreciate their willingness to serve us in the ministry.

Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene) spent a short time in the hospital. We are thankful he was able to assemble with us this past Sunday morning.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Peter Schrenk

"[God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

I Timothy 2:4

It is a blessing to know that it is God's desire that no one should suffer hell, and the door of salvation is closed to none.

We welcome Eric and Michelle Shaffer and their baby, Thane. Eric is a student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and they will be making the trip to worship with us.

We would also like to especially thank the ministers and their families who shared their time with us this past month: Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO).

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Rusty and Amy Adrian

What a special time of season this is as we can see the fields being

harvested, realizing that man has planted and cultivated the crops that are taken in, but God has granted the increase. May it be that we as Christians can plant and water the seeds of salvation in a way that when God's fields are ripe with harvest, each soul may be taken in.

On August 24, we had our annual Sunday School teachers' meeting. Our prayers are with the teachers who are staying on and those who were just elected which are: Sisters Tami Pflum, Kay Sutter, Lori Marquart, Amy Adrian; and Brothers Brent Hoerr, Keith Pflum, Steve Kiefaber, Joe Yackley, Mike Stratton, Don Grimm, Steve Sutter and Curtis Heimer. May each one feel God's direction as they teach our youth. Special thanks goes to those who have completed their teaching duties, who are: Sisters Sally Haerr, Eleanor Yackley, Vonette Sutter; and Brothers Shon Haerr, James Knapp, Rich Sutter and Rusty Adrian.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Charlotte Hoerr, as they were blessed with a new baby boy, David Charles. May the Lord Jesus Christ be the center of their lives as they begin this new experience in raising a family. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr and the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Mary Mangold (Eureka, IL).

Many thanks are extended to Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Baurer and their children, David and Jonathon, for sharing their lives here with us in Taylor. Bro. Phil has taken a job in Peoria, IL and we will truly miss them here, but the memories will not be forgotten.

Also, Sis. Jamie Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann) has moved to Gridley, IL to begin a new job. As she too will be missed here, we know that wherever Sis. Jamie and Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda make their home, the Lord's light will be shining bright.

Our prayers have been with Amber Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) who had eye surgery this past month. May God grant her a speedy recovery.

September 15 was a special day for the Bible Class as they had the privilege to travel to Pulaski, IA to worship our precious Lord with other Bible Class students. We thank the Lord for His traveling mercies as they could return home safely.

Special thanks are extended to our visiting minister this past month: Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). May God bless him for taking the time to come and share God's Word with us.

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

- My sheep know My voice, And the path that I take,
- They follow wherever I go;
- My Sheep know My voice And come at My call,
- But a stranger's voice do they not know.
- My sheep know My voice, And the pastures of green,
- Where I lead them so often to feed; My sheep know My voice And the
- cool sparkling stream Where beside its still waters I lead.
- My sheep know My voice, And the valley of death
- Through which I shall lead them someday;
- But no danger nor harm
- can touch one of them,
- For I will be with them alway. —*H. Buffum*

As the hymn writer penned these words so many years ago, we can still follow our Lord and Saviour's footsteps in these last days. If we follow closely to Him each day, we will not be as the lost sheep because He will not lead us astray but will gently lead us to that promised home in Heaven.

We have been able to assemble together to hear the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference in Eureka. We heard about the battle and victory and pray that we are prepared for the battle with the enemy - Satan. If we are not prepared to gain the victory, may each one prepare themselves for the victory while the way is still open. Our Elder Brothers have outlined the steps and we thank them for their love and concern for the "sheep" may our every step be one that someone can follow to the victory in Christ.

We received God's Word through the lips of visiting brethren on Labor Day weekend. Our thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and Bro. Bill Brake of Sardis, OH and the many others who shared the weekend with us. Among the visitors were our retired Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Sis. Lucille. A blessed weekend was enjoyed by all in attendance; it is a foretaste of what Heaven will be.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Amos Bush (Joe and Linette) as he underwent major corrective surgery on his hip. He is progressing well but cannot return to school for several weeks. Also, Urban Karcher (Sis. Julia) has been in our prayers - he had cataract surgery, and continues treatment. May God be with each of them in their recovery time.

Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe have reached a milestone in their lives. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 1 with their family. May God bless them with many more years together.

#### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and greetings from Akron. On August 19, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Amy Bako (Eugene and Sis. Dianna) to Bro. Dan Reljin (Zarko and Helen). May they feel God's presence as they establish their Christian home.

Last month we were blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). Again this month we were privileged to have visiting ministers, Bro. Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). We appreciate those who are willing to bring forth God's Word so tirelessly.

We appreciated the many visitors from various congregations who assembled with us for song service on the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Several of our congregation underwent surgery this month. Sis. Barb Graf (Bro. Dave) had surgery after her successful kidney transplant. She is again able to assemble with us but continues to need our prayers as she completes her recovery. Christina Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) had an appendectomy and we are thankful that she recovered quickly. Little Ruben Hegedus (Bro. Sanyi and Sis. Gyongyi) underwent surgery for an arm fracture and we wish for him a complete and quick healing. We are thankful that we can see evidence of God's healing touch around us.

A Saturday evening song service was held at the Fellowship Hall in Rittman as we had the opportunity to host members of the Zion's Harp Revision Study Committee. We also enjoyed their fellowship on Sunday as our church was filled with visitors from across the land.

#### OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

We are so thankful to have Duane and Ann Wulf and their precious daughter, Cassidy, as part of our congregation in Columbus. They have moved here from Denver, CO as Duane has taken employment in the Columbus area. We heartily welcome them into our church family and hope they will feel at home with us.

We are thankful for the visiting Elders and ministers who have come to worship with us this past month. Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) gave of their time to share God's Word with us. May the Lord's blessings be upon them.

We are looking forward to our College Welcome Day as we greet new students who will be attending Ohio State and other surrounding colleges. As in the past, we have lost a few students to graduation and transfer, but look forward to meeting new students who will be making a new life in and around the university. We welcome all who are in the area to worship with us.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not...walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:"

Proverbs 1:10,15

Meditation on the first book of Proverbs served as a timely message for our young people on the Sunday before they returned to school. They were kindly warned to be careful of their associates, who they spend their time with and how they spend it. Many prayers were offered throughout the day in behalf of our students, and we hope they could sense our loving concern.

Our hearts were touched by the messages brought forth from the pulpit by Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We are often amazed how the Lord can draw those from outside our faith and then use them so effectively in the ministry. God's blessings to Bro. Mark and his family.

#### OHIO, LATTY Joyce Klopfenstein Kathy Sinn

We appreciate the time and effort of the Sunday School teachers and their wives to organize our 1996 Sunday School picnic. We enjoyed a meal together in a local park shelter. Afterwards, we praised God in song.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), and Don Manz (Junction, OH). God will surely bless these brothers for their time and effort on our behalf.

Sis. Tootie Sinn and Bro. Ralph Stoller have announced their wedding engagement. May the Lord be ever near these loved ones and their families as they plan for their lives together.

Julia Parady (Robert and Sis. Sharon) and Jeremy Fohner were united in marriage. May the presence of the Lord be invited into their home to abide with them.

Amy Hopkins (Cris) and Bill McClure had opportunity to share with the congregation of their conversion experience. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with these testimonies. May God bless these brothers for their unending labors.

Lucus and Matthew McClure

(Bro. Bill) were in a serious automobile accident. May God continue to grant healing as it is His will.

Siblings Thad, Calvin, Marla, Nolan, and Tanya welcome home Gina Marie into the home of Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). May God richly bless this family as they strive to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Katie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie) and Brant Zuber (Larry and Wendy, Antwerp) are making plans for an October 19th wedding. May God guide and bless them as they walk together as one.

Bro. Ben Schlatter (Sis. Helen) has again been hospitalized during the month. May his faith in God continue to be strong and healthy as his body continues to strive to that same end. Our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann) was also in need of medical attention during the past month. May God bless him now and much more in eternity.

On September 14, we gathered to commemorate the Lord's supper. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with the serving of the loaf and cup to the brothers and sisters. May we strive daily to keep the true meaning of these events fresh in our mind.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Mark 10:7-8

On August 25, many of our congregation traveled to Rittman to witness the marriage of Bro. John Pfeiffer, Jr. (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna) to Sis. Marci Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen). We pray that this young couple will always feel God's richest blessings. We warmly welcome Sis. Marci to our congregation.

With friends on earth we meet in gladness,

While swift the moments fly,

Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,

That we must say, "Good-by".

No parting words shall ever be spoken.

In yonder home so fair,

But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness,

We'll sing forever there.

Hymns of Zion #122

It is with saddened hearts that we bid farewell to Bro. Chad Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) who has moved to the Champaign area for employment. While we are sad to see him go, we are encouraged that he is following God's leading.

Often when a loved one passes on, there are no words that can express the depth of sympathy we feel. Our heartfelt prayers and deepest sympathy go out to Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer at the loss of their stillborn infant. We also mourn with Sis. Leora Bocka at the passing of her nephew, Bro. Greg Gasser (Sis. SueEllen), of the Rittman congregation. While words cannot convey our feelings, we know that God will comfort them as only He can.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus sake." *II Cor. 4:5* 

How thankful we can be to be a part of a faith that practices what this verse says. No matter what congregation we happen to be a part of on Sunday, we always know that Christ Jesus will be the basis of the sermon. We are thankful that Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) was able to spend a Sunday with us this month. May God richly bless him for his willingness to serve us.

School is once again back in session in our area. The fall college term has also begun. We wish to express a warm and loving welcome to Sis. Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy, Columbus, OH), Matthew Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn, Toledo, OH) and Kelly Bauman (Sis. Nancy, Dale, Rittman, OH) who are all attending nursing school in our area. May they each feel our love and prayers during the time they are with us.

"And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."

Luke 15:3-6

How many of us will ever forget that day when we at last realized that we were that sheep that was lost? What a relief it was to know that the Shepherd was there, ready to carry us tenderly to the fold. It is our prayer that many lost sheep will yet be found so that none are left behind when the Shepherd brings the flock to their final Home.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN Linda Schar Michelle Dotterer

These past several weeks have been filled with both joy and sorrow.

On August 25, Bro. John Pfeiffer (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna, Mansfield) and Sis. Marci Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) were united in marriage.

This past Labor Day weekend, our Young Group hosted several other Young Groups. Thank you all for coming; we were blessed.

It certainly is a privilege to have visiting ministers. A special thanks to Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Masters and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Everett Gerber and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT).

On the weekend of September 7 and 8, Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were present to help with the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls. They are now Sis. Lisa Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat), Sis. Michele Geib (Gary and Mary Bowman), and Bro. Charles Winkler (Pat).

We rejoice with Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) because she has decided to give her life to the Lord. May God grant much grace to all those who turn to Him.

Our hospital patients are Michele Holcomb (Rich), Bro. Carl Ingold (Sis. Erma), Sis. Helen Hartzler, and Sis. Ruth Ingold. May God give strength to those in need.

Anne Rachel Beery was born September 5 to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne Beery. Her big brothers are Austin and Evan. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery and Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Smithville, OH). Anne had to spend some time in the hospital for surgery. Our prayers are with them.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Sis. Claribel Anliker of our congregation on the death of their sister, Lillian Montgomery.

Sympathy is also extended to the

family and friends of Todd Riggenbach (Ralph and Bev) who was killed in a car accident in Texas. His brothers are Steven and Scott. Uncles and Aunts are: Joe Riggenbach (Sis. Karen), Sis. Ellen Gasser (Jerry), Sis. Ruth (Bro. Ronald) of our congregation and Bro. Art Riggenbach (Lynne), Bro. Don Riggenbach (Sis. Gail), and Sis. Luella Stoller (Bro. Harold) of Smithville.

Our dear Bro. Greg Gasser passed away on September 13 because of Lou Gehrig's disease. We pray that God's nearness will be felt by his wife, Sis. Sue Ellen; children, Laura, Todd, Leah and Bethany; his mother, Sis. Marie; brother and sister-in-law, Jonathon and Diana Gasser; and sisters, Sis. Amy Cannon (Joseph), and Sis. Ann Gasser.

#### OHIO, SARDIS Renee Miller

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

#### Psalm 16:6

The marriage ceremony of Carol Indermuhle and James Brown was held on September 7. It was a time of thanksgiving for our spiritual heritage as yet another family was being formed. We pray that Jimmy and Carol will be led through many pleasant places under the direction of God, beginning with their first home in Columbus, OH. Parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle and Jim and Jane Brown of Flushing, OH.

To correct the September article, Carol (Indermuhle) Brown received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting and Business Pre-Law.

Sis. Terry (Bro. Gary) Zollinger recently underwent back surgery. Our prayers are with her during her recovery time on bed rest.

So many of us look back on our Sunday School teachers with thankfulness as we think of the sound teachings and direction we received. Bro. John Figel has turned the junior high and high school class over to Bro. Eric Indermuhle after leading the class for two years. Bro. Robert Figel will be teaching the new middle school class. Sis. Alice Ramsier is taking over the preschool class from Sis. Cyndi Figel, and Sis. Joy Indermuhle will continue to teach the grade school children. May God inspire each of the willing teachers throughout the upcoming Sunday School year.

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

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Art and Lynne Riggenbach, Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenbach, Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella Stoller on the accident and sudden death of their nephew, Todd Riggenbach, son of Ralph and Beverly Riggenbach of Texas. May God comfort and keep them all in this difficult time.

Sis. Helen Hartzler was hospitalized this month. We pray for God's healing hand upon her.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT). We are thankful to God for providing brothers who are willing to stand and speak His truths.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today...!" Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) has heard the call of the Lord and has decided to give her life to Him.

God is still calling and we must still pray for many more lost souls.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

Matthew 9:36

We have been blessed to be able to listen to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference. We are thankful that Jesus has promised never to leave us or forsake us, but has provided us with good counsel from the shepherds of the flock.

Bob and Dorothy Stevens are happy to welcome a new grandson. Evan Robert was born August 14 to Tom and Nancy Schreiber. He is welcomed home by his brothers, Nolan and Austin.

Matthew Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn) has felt God's leading to pursue a degree in nursing in Mansfield, OH. We will miss him, but rejoice that he can follow the command in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

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

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

As the seasons pass, and as we are approaching fall and winter, it is good to know this wonderful promise.

We have had quite a few visitors this past month and thank each one

for the effort to come our way and worship with us. It has been said before, but as a small congregation, visitors are deeply appreciated!

Among those visiting were the following ministers and their wives: Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton, OR), Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH), and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank them for their inspiring words in ministering to us.

We also have had the pleasure to have dear Sis. Golda Ditch worship with us. Since Sis. Golda and her husband, Lowell, live in Medford, OR, it is unfortunately not possible for her to assemble with us very often. Our special thanks to the ones making the drive to Medford to bring Sis. Golda here and take her back home again.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON Peggy Schulz

We have been blessed with many visitors this summer. Included in our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), and ministering Bros. Tim Zimmerman and Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May the Lord bless these brethren for their willingness to be used in His service.

The weekend of August 31 - September 1 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two precious souls, Bro. Eldon Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Carl Schmid. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Wayne Fehr assisted Elder Bro. Art in this blessed occasion. That Sunday evening, Elder Bro. Ben also spoke to us of his experiences and our involvement with the churches in Eastern Europe and India. Upon hearing of the physical and spiritual tribulation of those dear souls, we realize how the Lord has spared us who live in this land of freedom. May we with thankful hearts remember them in prayer.

We rejoice with Nathan and Sarah Kuenzi (Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet) as it was shared with us that they have found peace through their repentance. We look forward to hearing their testimonies.

Jason and Colette Snook welcomed their first child, little Shalyse Marie, into their hearts and home on September 9. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they endeavor to bring her up in the ways of the Lord. Shalyse's grandparents are Vance and Sis. Liz Snook of our congregation and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA).

We are presently listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. May we listen with willing and submissive hearts to the admonitions and encouragements of our dear shepherds. May our lives reflect our support and obedience to the Lord.

#### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." *Psalm 32:8* 

We have several births this month and we pray that God will bless each of these families: Tanner Edwin was born August 18 to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandra Metzger. Welcoming home Tanner will be older brother, Hunter. Grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Edwin and Sis Marilyn Lanz. Danielle Kay was born August 24 to Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz. Welcoming home Danielle are older brothers, Tyler, Travis and Christopher, and older sisters, Emily, Breanna, Abigail and Brittany. Grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis Marilyn Lanz and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marjorie Schneider (Rockville, CT).

We rejoice with Kenneth Rader (Sis. Monique) who has given his heart to the Lord. May he feel God's nearness as he begins his new journey in life.

We recently hosted a young group from Bluffton, IN. We thank them for being with us. We are so fortunate and blessed when we can fellowship with those of like faith.

Recently, we resealed our church parking lot. We thank those who gave of their time in doing this project. God bless you.

We thank Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

We offer our sympathy and share in the sorrow of the loving family who mourn the passing of their dear one, Bro. Greg Gasser, of Rittman, OH.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Barry Steffen (Washington, D.C.) and Sis. Dorene Gudeman (Philadelphia) was announced. May God bless them with a long, happy and fruitful life together in the Lord.

#### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

#### John 16:13-14

In the above verses, Jesus was speaking farewell to his disciples. What a comfort it must have been to them that even though he was leaving, he would send the Spirit to be with them to guide and direct them. This same comfort should be in all of us if we are children of God that the same Spirit is present today and will be with us to lead and guide our lives.

This past month, we welcomed ministering Bro. Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) as well as other visitors from Pulaski, IA; Atlanta, GA; Rittman, OH; Smithville, OH; and Mansfield, OH. We thank the ministering brothers for their willingness to labor in God's vineyard and thank all of you for your traveling efforts and fellowship.

This past month we passed final inspection on our church remodeling and kitchen/dining room addition. We thank God first and foremost for His many wonderful blessings and all of you who volunteered your time and labor in helping us reach this milestone. At this writing, we are still in the process of finishing the kitchen/dining room and outside excavating work, parking lot, and landscaping.

We encourage anyone traveling in the Nashville area to stop and worship with us. Please contact 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 if you plan to attend or need additional information. Nashville is a growing area, and we encourage anyone thinking of moving to a different area to prayerfully consider Nashville.

#### TEXAS, DALLAS and CENTRAL Dee Rapp

As we contemplate Holy Simplicity, Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." From Florence Littauer's book "Silver Boxes, The Gift of Encouragement", she shares this precious thought of a child. Florence explained to a group of children that "when our words come out of our mouths, they should be like little presents all wrapped up to be given away." One little girl stood up and said, "What she means is that our words should be like little silver boxes with bows on top." Can we live in Holy Simplicity so that our words would be like little silver boxes with bows on top?

We thank the ministers from the Lamont/Gridley, KS and Chicago, IL churches for their silver boxes filled with words of encouragement.

Central Texas services are held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and noon on the second, third, and fourth Sundays. When five Sundays occur in any given month, the fifth Sunday will be held at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top, (409) 249-5102.

Dallas services are held on the first Sunday at the Holiday Inn, Desoto, TX. Contact Bro. Howard or Sis. Dee Rapp at (972) 867-4074.

Please note change of area code for Plano, TX effective September 14, 1996.

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Members and friends that spent time in Zapata during the winter months enjoyed a reunion at Silverton, Oregon on August 17 and 18. We want to thank all the people that helped with this occasion.

Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner's son, Andy, has left his teaching position at Rio Grande City and moved to Port Isabel at Padre Island where he will be teaching this year. Their daughter, Lila, moved to San Antonio where she will be attending graduate school. We will look forward to their visits this winter.

The gray green leaves of the sage bushes are now full of violet blossoms. These bushes are of abundance in our yards, vacant lots, roadside and fields. It is a pleasure to go for walks or ride out in the countryside to see this picturesque scene.



#### Sermon continued from page 2

to us were the things that we were dealing with—getting established as a child of God.

Once that was all established, our interest began to grow and we became more involved in church things and community things. We were more interested in letting others be able to observe our lifestyle—maybe someone not of the church, but someone who we don't know is interested. We have to think that everyone who is looking at us is interested in their salvation. If they aren't, well, there is nothing that we can do about that and we would approach it as if they are.

Those things became important to us and we began to notice other things in the Bible and thereby we were being fed then with meat. We didn't discard the milk, even as an adult now. We drank more milk as a baby, but as we get older, we still take milk products. So we don't ever want to discard those basic elements of repentance and conversion. They are essential for the seasoned believer. But other things are added. This is what Paul referred to as growing in faith.

There was somewhat of a problem, or maybe other problems with the Corinthians, but one of them that he addressed here was their respect toward one another. We know that this is necessary. We are instructed in Philippians to esteem our brother higher than ourselves. (See Philippians 2:3). So, we have an esteem for one another or a respect for one another that we should have.

With some of these people, it grew into something larger than that. It grew into a dangerous area where they began to attach Paul and Apollos with the giver of salvation. They were preachers of salvation and teachers of salvation, but they, like us, can't give a converted heart to any person. Neither could they. Although they had some special gifts that we don't currently have, as they were for the first century only. I am thinking specifically of healing the sick. They could touch someone and pronounce them healed and they were or they could touch them and pronounce them a believer or receiver of the Holy Ghost. This we know did not extend beyond the apostolic age.

The instructions given to the church as through Timothy were somewhat different from that, but they did that. But still they were not be to looked on as the giver of a converted heart.

These people who were taught by Paul seemed to be attracted to him. Maybe that is not all bad, but in doing so then they were taken away from Apollos. So if Paul wasn't there but Apollos was, they were not so much interested in the preaching. Or, if Cephas, which would have been Peter, would have been there, then they would have ignored him, wishing Paul was there.

We know that can't be a successful method in the church. Paul was admonishing them on this. Believing that the gospel of Jesus Christ is like the preaching of Jesus Christ, then it comes through those who are involved with Him in His name. He is the giver of these things, but He uses the routing through the mouths of people —ministers, or others.

It doesn't necessarily have to be ministers, but we know that the structure in the church is that there be an office of the ministry, of the bishop and the deacons. These, of course, have special functions outlined for them. Yet all of us are ministers of the gospel in every day of our life and every situation that we find ourself.

He used a type of a parable here, using planting, watering and the increase given, and how it can be applied spiritually and not regarding the mouth that it comes from, or however it comes, but regarding the strengthening that comes from it. The only One that can give this strength, of course, is Christ and it comes through the Comforter.

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." I Corinthians 3:10). So He has laid the responsibility here upon everyone.

Maybe you would call it a chain (I don't know if that is the right word but maybe you can understand what I am saying here) but everyone is involved. The hearer has responsibility. We can understand this as often as we've heard something. Maybe this would be more applicable in the days before our conversion. We heard something so truthful, but by the time we got through discharging them through our mind, we had twisted it into something that somewhat justified us and we really didn't have to change anyway.

The human mind is that way. We have to deal with it even after we are converted to make sure we are hearing the truth, understanding the truth and then using it as truth in our life.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 3:11). He is saying here, "Whoever you are going to be hearing or attaching yourself to as one that you are esteeming, the first thing that you want to know for sure is that his foundation is in Jesus Christ."

He did not get into it in this chapter, but James gets into it very seriously—about false prophets and false Christ. We know that they are here. They are in the world. They were then and we know that they are here now and not only because God says that they are going to be here, but we have to acknowledge that they are around us. We can recognize these false prophecies, false teachings and those claiming to be something that they obviously cannot be.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). I like this, that he is, I think, speaking of the temple of God as this body that we see when we look in the mirror as housing something that is of much greater value and importance than the image that we see in the mirror. But they are attached together. This is how we are living this life, with the two together.

He is saying that you should make sure that the highest treasure is controlling the one of the least value. The least value would be the thing that we can see in the mirror. The one of highest treasure is the one that is indwelling it through conversion and through the commitment or the contract that we have with God as we see it sealed in the waters of baptism and the laying on of hands. This is really the one that is in control, and not the one that we see in the mirror.

Some may say that the temple would be the church. I don't think of it that way, because it uses the word singularly here. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy," and then he says it in the plural, "which temple ye are." (I Corinthians 3:17).

This indicates to me that the church is all these little temples together as the fellowship of the saints. As the church is structured (we can read of the structure of the church), Paul gets into how important it is that the church be established.

Again, all of these separate temples must take care of themselves that they are properly adorned as a true temple of God. Not just going by what we see in the mirror, but remembering what we have established through faith in Jesus Christ, and what we accomplished through repentance.

He was alluding to this here. Remember the miracle that took place in your life when you were able to walk away from sin and the world? You could not do that of yourself. You tried, but you couldn't. You were always going back.

Once you got the power and the strength of the Spirit in you, you were able to walk away and keep going. That world is still following you. It isn't far behind. It is easy to turn around and hold hands with it again. But following Christ, we are not going to do that. We are going forward and keeping our distance from it.

"Let no man deceive himself." (I Corinthians 3:18). That is interesting! We think of deceit usually as something somebody else has to deceive us or somebody has to deceive another. But he is saying, "Don't deceive yourselves." So we have to apply this then to something. Nobody else is involved in this. When I read the Bible and am thinking about God and His plan of salvation, nobody else is involved. So make sure you are thinking the truth and you are not as he had to deal with them attaching themselves to him.

Don't attach me to yourself in your value of salvation. If you learn something from me, remember that as something that came from Christ, but your salvation is of God, not of me. I didn't give it to you.

"And again, the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore, let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;" (I Corinthians 3:20-21).

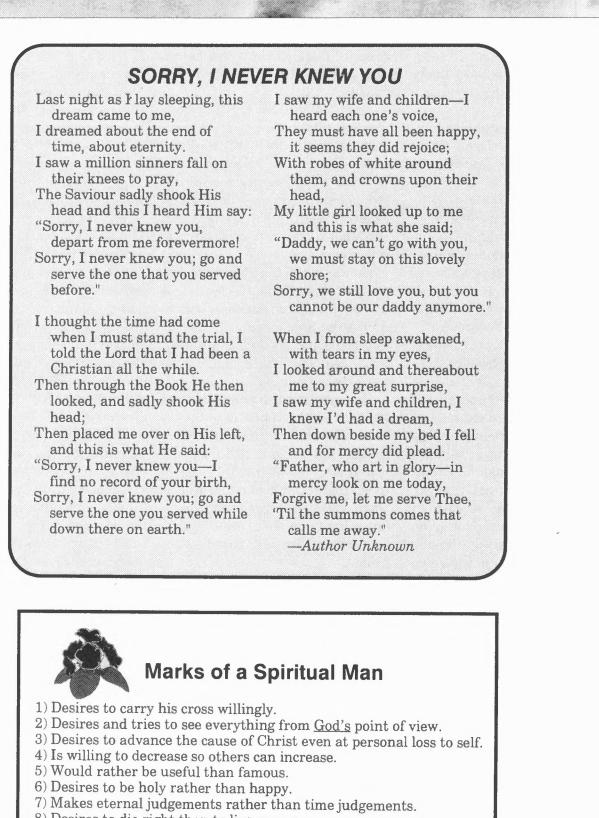
Again, it is interesting how he is saying, "If you attach yourself to somebody else thinking that they are something as valuable or more valuable to you than Christ, you are deceiving yourself." That person has not deceived you. You have done it yourself. He is laying the responsibility on each of them to keep their eyes on Christ.

"Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours:" (I Corinthians 3:22). We have to deal with all of these things.

We don't have Paul, Apollos and Cephas with us here now, but we have a lot of people around us—very dear followers of Christ and pillars in the faith. They are all ours to use, but remember, "Ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (I Corinthians 3:23).

threads

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8) Desires to die right than to live wrong.

# Pilver Threads

#### **Only Believe - in Me**

While He yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. Mark 5:35,36

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only and she shall be made whole. Luke 8:50

There was the mother whose son was killed, there was the husband whose wife had passed away, there was the family of children who were left orphans requiring Grandpa and Grandma to raise them. There was the daughter whose father passed away, and the son whose wife walked away from her family. Sadness and sorrow beset us on every side and we sometimes cry out, "Lord, how long before I will feel joy?"

Words of comfort can be spoken and they help. Deeds of kindness can ease the pain of those with a great heartache. When people demonstrate that they believe in those that are feeling the hurt it can have a very great impact. Each case is different. Once a brother was accused of a causing a great hurt and no one would believe his word. The brother was crushed and tried hard to defend what he felt was right. His hurt was deep until someone outside his family came and through their actions left him know they believed in him. It is so important that we encourage one another as we sojourn here on earth. We can lift each other's arms when Satan battles us to the ground, like Moses of old.

How many times have we prayed at night and asked the Lord, how long? Please help me bear the trial I have been given. It is a truth that none of our trials are any more difficult than anyone else's. To the young seventh grade girl whose two special friends decided yesterday to ignore her; going to school may be the greatest crisis of her life. It is at a time like that when someone, in this case her Mother, came to her and said, "I understand, I know how badly you are feeling, please understand that time will heal and always know I believe in you."

Have you ever prayed to God to please protect you in a time of danger only to find yourself smashed up in a automobile accident? Does that affect your faith? Hopefully it does not. *I asked God, and God said no.* These are two separate poems, however when we put the two titles together, we can see a great truth. Sometimes in our haste to feel better, we ask God amiss to ease our pain. It is not hard to believe that with God's power He could fix anything. After all, the scripture says Only Believe.

So why are not all our prayers answered when we kneel down to pray? Maybe there is another trial coming that requires us to have walked through the valley of lonesome and hurt. Maybe if God shortened the trial we bear at present, we would not be prepared for the trial to come, which God knows will be much more severe than that which we bear at present.

Whatever betides, we should always believe that what God does is well done and He will grant us grace sufficient to bear any trial. The Lord's plea to us is *Only Believe-in Me*.

## False Accusation

The only defense is love on the part of the accuser.

False accusation is a tool directly from Satan himself. False accusation is ugly. False accusation can not be dressed up to look pretty because the very nature of falseness shows through and all can see the ugliness that surrounds it.

Who would ever accuse falsely? Would you or would I? We would never gossip and then falsely accuse about someone would we, or would we?

Being filled with all unrighteousness, ...Backbiters...Unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. Romans 1:29-32 He that backbiteth not with his tongue. nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor... He that doeth these things shall never be moved. **Psalms 15:3** 

A false witness shall perish: Proverbs 21:28

In Ecclesiastes 3:18 we read, To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: however nowhere is there a time or a purpose to accuse falsely.

Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

Proverbs 17:7 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish. Proverbs 19:9 It is the Eagle that bears the image of strength, as it soars high above the fruited plains, from mountaintop to mountaintop. The grace and beautiful motion almosts leaves one without words to describe the majestic beauty of the great Bald Eagle.

But it is a truth that an arrow from the hunter can still the great heart of an eagle as easily as a false accusation can bring down a man.

An eagle can defend itself by soaring out of range, but a man can never outdistance a false accusation. The only defense is love on the part of the accuser.



#### **The Richness of Fellowship**

Over the years, we as a church have been blessed with a rich sense of Christian fellowship. God is to be praised for this wonderful aspect of our faith.

As we travel across the miles and visit the churches, we immediately feel a kindred oneness, and the Spirit's presence, as we step inside the given assemblies. This is customary and we have come to expect it. It is gratifying to always feel a sense of Christian affection among the saints.

At his testimony, one brother in faith (who did not grow up in the church) said, "There's not a church like this on the face of the earth." This is not cited in the realm of denominational pride but to call attention to the deep appreciation we feel for the rich fellowship experienced in gathering together to worship God.

It has often been pointed out that in visiting other congregations (in our Apostolic Christian national body) we greet our brother or sister with a holy kiss even before we ask their name (men with men and women with women). In this, an established spiritual bond is intact before our identity is made known. This is a rare quality in our beloved church, and is confined almost exclusively to our groups.

A long-time member of the church once stated, "My repen-

tance, conversion and coming into the church has been, without question, the highlight of my life." There is no doubt that each and every thriving believer in our fellowship(s) can confirm such an attitude in their own heart. It is safe to say that an appreciation for our rich fellowship exists, with intensity, across our churches.

Why is this so? Is it accidental? Did it just happen? Is it a quirk of fate? Will it continue? Can we preserve it? In today's culture of diversity, these are relevant questions.

Our rich fellowship in the Lord stems from an interpretational outlook that views the Word as infallible; and that we as converted believers, having symbolically buried our own sinful nature into the death of Christ (at baptism) and arisen as a "new creature" in Christ, have seen it as our unmistakable duty to lower ourselves before God's Spirit so He can direct us into all truth and righteousness. In this realm we relinquish any liberty that would exempt us from the New Testament's direction.

Thus, a perceptual outlook in which each believer sees himself as part of an interrelated and interconnected spiritual entity, rather than as a pluralistic and individualistic entity, results in a oneness the Bible teaches. The resultant unity, with Christ's Spirit at the center, helps to comprise a special love and closeness we have come to cherish in our churches.

The oneness we find in our rich fellowship finds root in Scriptures. A "commonness" in doctrinal perception, in doctrinal application, and in lifestyle patterns contributes to an overall spiritual oneness that is unique in our time.

It is basic Christianity, and basic logic, to realize that an equal yoke results in higher efficiencies—in this instance, Christian fellowship. If we are of one mind and pulling in the same spiritual direction (yoked equally), we are going to be united, very richly, in our spiritual endeavors and common pathways. Caution, however, should remind us that the opposite will result in a lack of unity and a lesser quality of fellowship.

In coming into the fellowship, we all have had a common repentance and conversion experience. We made restitution and bowed ourselves before the authority of God and His Word. With God's grace, we humbly submitted (willingly) ourselves to the authority of the church-for our personal welfare and for the general welfare of our fellow believers. A common denial of self-will, and of individualism, helped us to become molded into the image of Christ in a common way with others (likemindedly) in order to give a consistent witness to the world of unbelief, and to our young children.

With a motivation to not only *Remembering continued...* 

Remembering continued...

have faith in the Lord, but also to "follow" Christ and the apostles (as literally as possible), we subsequently embraced the Bible's precept to be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (I Cor. 1:10). Again, by God's grace, we have henceforth sought to "walk by the same rule" and to "mind the same thing." (Phil. 3:16). These are biblical directions.

Our willingness to deny ourselves for the sake of our fellow believer's weak conscience—and thus carry out one of the Word's most noble teachings—has resulted in unity and oneness.

The extent to which we have been able to do this results in a high unity quotient. The biblical mandate for following carefully-considered and spiritually beneficial scriptural applications of church authorities (i. e., obeying the church,

Heb. 13:7,17), has bred a Spiritdirected commonness that can enhance love and unity in the Lord.

Our rich fellowship has a historical root. Coming out of the post-Reformation apostasy and confusion, Bro. Samuel Froehlich sought to hold fast to the Word's principles, and to carry them out "whatever the cost may be." (Ruegger, Apostolic Christian Church History, Vol. I, page 63). The ideals of following solely the Word, and "perfecting" holiness in the fear of God, led to the formation of a rich and beloved fellowship. We are the appreciative benefactors of this heritage.

Doctrinal clarity as well as doctrinal unity—and thence a common application of the Word's directions—were the goals of Bro. Froehlich and his early adherents. In seeking to assure a uniform doctrine, and to guard against hurtful confusion (which he had previously fled), Froehlich wrote: "There must be unity and harmony, even in minor points; for it is just in this caprice of views that Satan has his holiday, and the door is opened to error." (Phil. 3:15-18; I Cor. 14:33-38; I John 2:22-27; 2 John 10; and Titus 3:10-11. Reugger, page 89)

Unity does not just happen by accident. It must be sought, held and taught. A common separation from the world, and a unified perception of nonconformity to the world of sin constitutes a strong foundation for unity—and thus a rich fellowship in Christ Jesus.

Let us "remember" our rich sense of Christian fellowship. May we preserve unity and close fellowship for the sake of our posterity, so long as the dear Lord tarries.

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves..."

I Peter 4:8

by Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: The General Conference

#### At Church On Time I like to be at church on time, When children have a hunger, To join in song and prayer. You'll see each little face And with the brethren of the Lord Quite early at the table The morning blessing share. In proper time and place. Our faith is a profession And if we truly love the Lord, And it requires zeal; And cherish things divine. We do by prompt attendance, We'll gather there in one accord Our inner state reveal. And strive to be on time. And many will rise early How oft our hearts are burdened! Some earthly thing to gain, For instant help we plead! For such they strive to be on time, What if the Lord would come too late Their object to attain. And not regard our need? The principles of business And when He gathers to His side To faith should be applied; His saints from every clime Thus value of true worship Then when He says "Come unto me" Will evermore abide. I hope to be on time.

- Bro. Henry Beer



"Respect For The Elderly" Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

September 15th is a national holiday in Japan, known as RE-SPECT FOR THE ELDERLY day. This year it falls on Sunday, so Monday the 16th is included as a national holiday.

How do you feel about the elderly, and if you are among the elderly, do you feel respected because of your age? In Japan, we are supposed to speak more politely to those who are older than we are. Verbs have different forms to be used depending on the level of politeness desired. Respect is built into the language, if the language is used correctly. During our first years in Japan, I used very ordinary language in my prayers in church. Consequently, I was asked by one of our sisters at that time to please pray in English so she would not be able to understand. She was very serious about it. For those who come to live here, Japan is the great leveler. You are prevented from thinking more highly of your

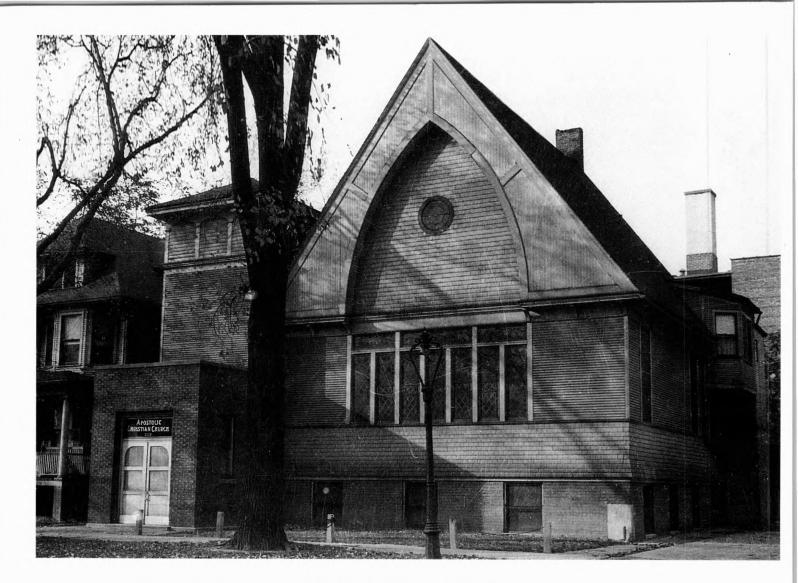
self than you ought to think. (Romans 12:3)

The word RESPECT sometimes means HONOUR. "Honour thy father and thy mother" is one of the ten commandments (Exodus 20:12). It is a part of having respect for the elderly. Experience should certainly teach us all something. For young people to think the elderly are "old foggies" who are not to be listened to, is usually not valid. You younger ones must consider how you will feel when you get old. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 6:31)

In Leviticus 19:32 we read, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord." Many times the word "man" is used to mean anyone in the human race, so when we are seated in a room and someone older than we are enters the room, we should arise out of respect and honour, until that person, man or woman, is seated. Not that I have always done that but I shall try to do better. Such things might seem to be superfluous but more courtesy would improve the quality of our lives. The above verse ties in fearing God with honoring the elderly, much the same as using polite language when talking with God, as well as when talking with the elderly.

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Titus 2:2 and 3 teach us what the elderly should be like in order to receive honour and respect. "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise...that they may teach the young women." We all have our responsibilities but we want to emphasize the special respect due rightfully to the elderly. Let's let them know how much we love and honor them. And to you elderly, don't be discouraged, please. You are wonderful and precious.



### Chicago, IL -1937

In about 1920, decades before the new Agriculture technological revolution occurred, a few brethren found themselves moving to the Chicago area. For about five years there was not much activity towards establishing a Church. As the need grew and more brethren moved to the Chicago area, a local home of one of the brethren was used as a church. This would have been about 1925. When the stock market crashed in 1930, a building which needed renovation, became available and the brethren purchased it. This Church, called the Sunnyside Church, served the Chicago congregation until 1971 when a new edifice was constructed on the southwest side of Chicago. This new Church was very accessible to visitors and has been a blessing to our faith. It is interesting to note that the example and faith of the brethren in Chicago has served as an example to many cities even unto this day.

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