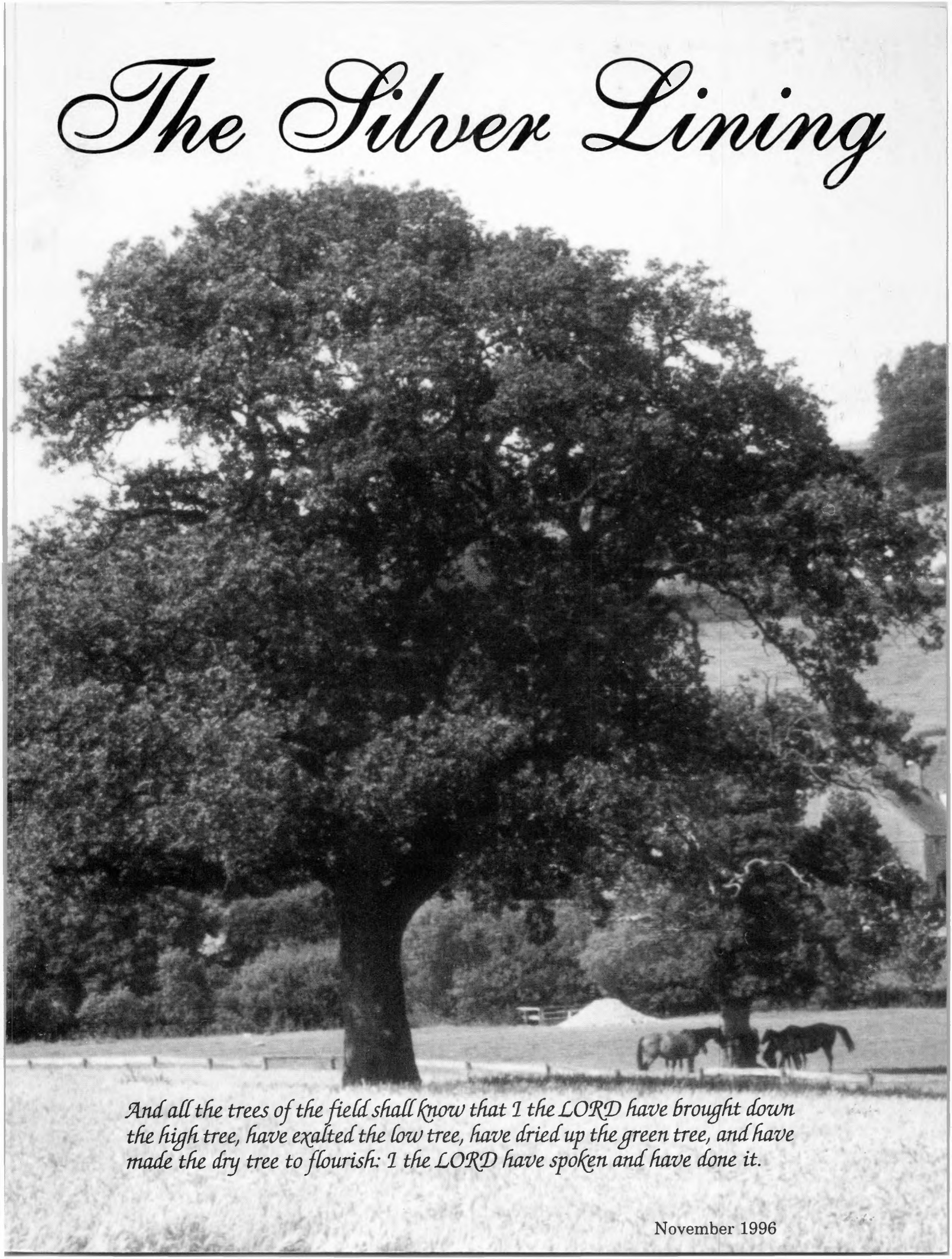


The Silver Lining

A black and white photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a dense canopy of leaves. The tree is the central focus, standing in a grassy field. In the background, there are other trees, a fence, and a few horses grazing. The sky is bright and clear.

And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

November 1996

“PATIENCE IS A WONDERFUL QUALITY”

Sermon by Bro. Doug Harmon of Toledo, OH

Romans 8:18-39

I think if we would go back in time before man fell from grace with God, I think we could see that this whole list of things that want to try to separate us now, were not even considered. We find that God created the world and He created all things and He created a man in His own image. He breathed into that thing that He created and He gave him a living and eternal soul.

Loved ones, as we sit here today, every one of us is flesh and blood, but there is also an eternal part to you and me. That eternal part craves for relationship with something that doesn't change...something that is constant. That something that we speak of is Almighty God Himself and for that reason God created Adam from the very beginning so he could have fellowship with His creation.

Loved ones, I say for all of us, it is our joy and our pleasure to learn and to delve into this relationship with Almighty God.

The Apostle Paul, as he wrote these words, was one who had overcome the fleshly inclination to be separated from God. That flesh that is so influenced by the spirit of this world and time, who is that? None other than Satan himself trying to create distance, trying to create death, trying to make principals, trying to create powers, trying to create things present and things past to separate us from God.

But, loved ones, as Paul did conclude, there was not any of those things that can separate us, if it is our wish for God to work through us to be the people that He wants us to be in this world and time. It is many times our very own expectations that separate us from the fullness of God's plan for us...our expecta-

tions...your expectations...and mine. What do I mean?

I think of something that happened just the other day. We live on a busy street and our driveway has evergreen trees that line the front and our driveway comes out between them. The other day we were backing out of that driveway and like a good cautious driver, I looked both ways. I didn't see a thing that would make me want to stop from backing out on that road, but my wife said, "Stop!"

My mind had told me there wasn't any reason that I should stop for. I don't know if you have had that experience; probably you have, but I immediately felt some stress within myself. It wasn't just the word stop, but it was the way that she said it. I didn't have anything in sight to cause me to want to stop, but I put my foot on the brake, and I could just feel my pulse beating in my neck. Did I miss something?

As I look at it now, I was so expecting to see a car or a truck coming down that road, but I didn't see the motorcycle that she saw. I had to think about it. My expectations were not to see a motorcycle at that point. I was expecting to see something bigger, but I didn't see something smaller.

So, thank goodness, she was aware, but I say that our expectations are many times things that limit us from seeing the good that we could have from the hand of God. Our expectations are that God does not want to give us good things, but He does! He loves to give us good things, but so many times we look at our own performance and we look at our own way of doing things and we think we are not worthy of these good things that God wants to give

us, and it is true!

Loved ones, when we believe that we are believing a lie, just as certainly that Satan lied to Eve in the garden and said, "Ye shall not surely die," Satan lies to us today in so many ways and says, "You don't deserve God's good gifts," and that is true. But it does not mean that He does not long to give them to us and that we should not humbly open our hand to receive them and to thank God for the good blessings and pleasures that He is giving unto us.

Paul was one that learned. He said, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18). Loved ones, we are called to suffer and how do we do it? Many times, not very graciously. I, for the first, will say not real graciously sometimes when we are misinformed or when we are informed late or something like that.

Many times I talk about my work experience in an organization where communication is important. It is even more than important; it is

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

November 1996

Offer Unto God Thanksgiving

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good:..." (Psalm 107:1). "In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18). These two verses are so much alike and yet so different if quoted in isolation. Thanking God for His goodness is such an easy commandment to obey, however, there are times when it is difficult to thank Him for "every thing".

As we approach the end of the harvest season we often focus our attention on Thanksgiving Day and the many blessings we enjoy in our land. We are fortunate to live in a land that recognizes the need to pause and give thanks to our great God for the many blessings He bestows upon us.

Although Thanksgiving Day did not become a legal federal holiday

until 1941, the tradition of setting aside a special time to give thanks to God is deeply rooted in our nation's history, beginning in the early 1600's. Our Thanksgiving celebration grew out of the tradition established by the colonists to set aside a special time after the harvest to thank God for the bountiful provisions that He had given them. They recognized that God was good to them, and they appreciated what they had even though by our standards their existence was a rather meager one.

As we pause and reflect upon the material blessings that we have, most of us could count many reasons to be thankful. We have abundant food, more than adequate clothing, beautiful and comfortable homes, labor saving conveniences that the early settlers could never have even dreamed of having and other devices that make our life more comfortable. Medical science has progressed to the point that many of the diseases that claimed the lives of many children have been nearly eliminated. It would be nearly impossible to list all the reasons we should be thankful.

Although we appreciate the material blessings that we have, they pale to insignificance when compared to the spiritual blessings. We live in a land in which we have the opportunity to worship God as

we believe the Scripture instructs us to do. We have a precious brotherhood that has been preserved by those who have gone before us, keeping a simple faith in a loving God and preserving the plan of salvation that enables us to be free from the bondage of Satan and draw close to God. Most of us have been born into families who have taught us the truth of God's Word and who have helped us develop a faith in this great and loving God. With all of these advantages, how could we not be thankful?

It is easy to give thanks when conditions are as we would have them. It is easy to thank God when a loved one repents. It is easy to thank Him when we are sitting in church, under the sound of His Word, surrounded by faithful brothers and sisters. It is easy to repeat 1 Thess. 5:18 when the trials of life are light and well spaced. But how do we respond when the hand of oppression rests heavily upon our shoulder?

It is clear in the Word of God that we are to give thanks to God even when the load is heavy. Job, after having heard a series of very devastating reports about his family and possessions, was able to say "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). After being struck with sore boils from the sole of his foot to his crown and having been ridiculed by his wife for retaining his integrity, Job said "...shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?..." (Job 2:10).

The apostles were often faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles as they spread the Word of God, yet they looked upon their afflictions as a privilege. After having been beaten and commanded to not speak in the name of Jesus, "...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

Likewise, Jesus, about to face the most severe trial and burden that any man ever faced, encouraged and comforted His disciples when He said "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in

God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). Furthermore, as He was nearing death, He was able to pray for His executioners "...Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

How can we, as children of God, give thanks in everything? How can we praise God and sincerely thank Him when we are hurting, either physically or emotionally, so much that we think we can't go on? There are also many Scripture passages that provide us with encouragement and promise us God's help.

If we make even a brief search of the Scriptures, we find many reasons to be thankful, even in the most difficult situations. The Bible teaches us that "...having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Tim. 6:8). Giving thanks or being thankful is referenced over 100 times in the Scriptures.

Too often we overlook the very simple and basic needs of life and neglect to be thankful for them, perhaps not realizing that a significant percentage of people in the world do not have even these basic needs. We have been so surrounded by an abundance of material blessings that we tend to take the "basics" for granted and think that if we have not been bountifully supplied that we have not been blessed.

If we would take the time to sit down and write a list of all the things we have received from God and then give Him thanks for all His goodness, we would undoubtedly be overwhelmed by the task of making the list.

It is true that a child of God may be asked to carry a heavy load. It is also true that Satan can come and bring discouragement. When these occur, we must look to the promises of God to sustain us and to help us put the events of our life in order. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;" (II Cor. 4:8-9). Surely the faithful promises of God make it possible for His people to say "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 136:1).



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

Elder Team Visits Yugoslavia

Conditions in the troubled land of Yugoslavia are in the daily news as well as in the minds of our brethren. For over a century, the faith of our fathers has been active in this country, the borders of which have often changed. To assess current conditions and plan for future efforts, Elder Bros. Phil Stettner, Jon Kokanovich, and Gene Marti, accompanied by Alex Ledenac of Windsor, Canada, their interpreter, visited there.

Budapest to Novi Sad

The team of brethren met at JFK Airport in New York and flew via Malev Airlines to Budapest, Hungary. Here they were received by Hungarian brethren plus Zoran and Edit Lusulov, a Yugoslavian couple who drove them to Novi Sad, the central point for our brethren in that land. They crossed the border from the Hungarian side with few problems. However, clearing Yugoslav customs took over one hour, resulting in an arrival at their destination about 9:00 PM. Some of the hosts had been waiting since 1:00 PM!

Sunday worship service

After a night's rest in comfortable facilities, the brothers attended church services in the Novi Sad church, built in the 1920's. The morning service began at 9:00 AM, and afterwards lunch was served in the home of Zoran and Vesna Isakov. This couple has been married only a few months and live in a large apartment building across the street from the bank in which he works. Like most, they have no car, so this is convenient for them. Afternoon services were at 3:00 PM, followed by a singing and supper at church. Another singing followed the supper.

Necessary formalities with the police

On Monday, September 9, Elder Karl Hrubik took the Americans to the police station where they needed to register and get a stamped certificate that allowed them to leave the country. The station was not open, so they went to the church where they met with the Yugoslav Relief Committee concerning our ongoing help. In the afternoon, they returned to the police station to complete the necessary documents. Without a native person, this would not have been possible. This is just one reason that we caution brethren and friends not to visit Eastern Europe without prior arrangements with someone who understands the system and situation.

Living with the people

The American brethren spent eight days in Yugoslavia, traveling to many places where we have churches, as well as locations where only a few assemble in homes. During their stay, they met with all the Elders of the land, reaching a good understanding about our spiritual ties with one another. Staying with the local people, they experienced life as it goes on daily in this land. Because of the chaotic conditions, there is presently little tourism. But on a visit such as this, one learns to know conditions as they are, and gradually begins to understand the situation. In trying to find the means of supporting these dear brethren, the time spent in their homes and churches helped us plan for proper assistance which is needed.

What did we learn?

The visit to Yugoslavia was very interesting because it gave us an opportunity to become acquainted with many of our brethren and

congregations. On the surface, Yugoslavia seemed to be better off than anticipated. However, when we dig a little deeper, we find that most people are hurting, and the need is very great. Some of our brethren are getting by in somewhat comfortable situations, but we also visited some living in conditions which are unspeakably poor. Many are living from day to day. The needs are generally very great, and we hope to meet these needs. The European Board has requested further financial support from the World Relief Committee for this. Almost without exception, living conditions in East Europe continue to deteriorate, and God has opened channels to assist them. We do need the support of our home brethren for necessary funds.

What does the future hold?

At present, there is social order, but the question on most minds is what will happen when the UN forces leave? The economy seems to be improving very slowly. There is certainly more availability of consumer goods. The problem is that the local people don't even have enough income for bare necessities. Living expenses continue to increase, but income does not keep pace. This is particularly difficult for older persons on a fixed income.

The Americans met with a group of local young members, and were surprised to find that many had a good education. Because they can't find jobs, many of them are considering leaving the country. This is a great hindrance to the future of the faith. We hope to help them to support themselves in their own land.

The next issue will tell of the dedication of a new church, and the spiritual revival that we sensed happening there.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

New Opportunities for Service Open in Mexico

In September of this year, the 15th semi-annual Medical-Dental work team visited Mexico for the purpose of providing services to the poor. This visit was unusual, because it was concentrated on a different group of people than prior visits. Bros. Mike Leman (Denver) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton) accompanied the group as ministers.

A different culture

A team of 26 persons from 8 states and 10 of our churches gathered together for work in Creel, Mexico. Although only 300 air miles from El Paso, Texas, the living conditions at the work site were centuries removed from our way of life. The trek from the border required 12 hours as the group wended their way through the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountain range.

Primitive living conditions

Here they met with the Tarahumara Indians whose survival is a daily focus. They live off the land, and what they make, trade, and sell. Because of the drought of this summer, this gentle group of people will not have a corn or food supply to last the whole winter in their cold area of Mexico. Forecasts for this winter are calling for the worst in 20 years. The Indians dwell in caves scattered among the cliffs of the canyons, with a few log homes scattered in the beautiful valleys. There are an estimated 80,000 people, and only 5,000 have heard of the Word of the Lord.

Drought brings hardships

Evidence of the drought was all around, such as fruitless corn crops and skinny cattle. Spiritual hunger is also present as a result of the politics

of the land and the desire of politicians to control the situation among the needy.

Living conditions for the work team

The team stayed together in a little lumbermill town called "Creel", and journeyed daily by school bus over mud roads to set up clinics in the scattered villages of the Indians. The 2 to 4 hours of travel time each day allowed plenty of time for singing, fellowship, and enjoying the beautiful scenery. One sees men in native clothing and women wearing full skirts with babies swaddled in blankets around the mother's waist. This work gave an opportunity for the team to step back hundreds of years in time.

Modern medicine in an ancient society

They went to places where some of the natives had never seen a stethoscope before. Some were scared of them, while others stared for hours as the work went on. They had a team of dentists, one doctor, three nurse practitioners, nurses, students, and lots of willing laborers who were quickly medically oriented. They also had Spanish translators whose talents were used to the utmost. The excellent pharmacy team provided an opportunity to teach health practices which were badly needed. They distributed health kits and enough vitamins so each person had a 4-5 month supply to see them through winter.

Groundwork laid for future efforts

Even though this was the first time World Relief work teams had an opportunity to use their medical-dental talents in this area, groundwork was laid for future opportunities for our people to meet needs here. They thank the Lord for opening up this new location where team efforts can result in life changing experiences to share with our brethren. The cries of babies can be heard from their homes in the cliffs. Just to know that 8 out of 10 die before age 5 grips the heart.

The Indians depend upon one another for life, just as we at home depend on each other.

Distribution of Bibles and cassettes

The team also provided Bibles in the Spanish language, plus hand cranked cardboard record players which could give them the gospel in their own language. Some of the Indians asked for Bibles for families not present. The desire to learn was evident.



Combined talents bring fruit

This project provided an opportunity for each person to use what God had given them to benefit others. The team worked together as a unit to minister to the human needs of these primitive souls. One native Indian was observed crying with tears running down his cheeks as he witnessed the work of the clinics in action. He could be heard praying to God, "I have prayed for years that medical care could be brought to my people, and it has finally happened. Thanks to the Lord."



**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief**

Work Team Dates

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

February 14-22, 1997

HAITI-MEBSH
Les Caves Area

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

February 21-March 1, 1997
HAITI-PALM GROVE

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer
RR # 2 Box 69A
Elgin, IA 52141
319-426-5486 home
319-426-5585 office
319-426-5586 fax

February 28-March 8, 1997
HAITI-PALM GROVE

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer
RR # 2 Box 69A
Elgin, IA 52141
319-426-5486 home
319-426-5585 office
319-426-5586 fax

March 7-15, 1997
HAITI-MEBSH

Coordinator: Phil Isabell
16746 S 380 W
Remington, IN 47977
219-261-3541
219-261-2860 fax

JAMAICA



January 2-10, 1997

JAMAICA-CCCD

At Montego Bay

This work team is filled.

March 7-15, 1997

JAMAICA-CCCD

Kingston

(Scheduled for spring break at many colleges)

May 16-24, 1997

JAMAICA-CCCD

Deaf Village

(Scheduled for end of terms at most colleges)

For information call:

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

WORK TEAM DATES - JUAREZ, MEXICO CONSTRUCTION TEAMS

February 15-22, March 8-15, March 15-22, March 22-29

Summer '97 *(Date not set at this time)*

For information call or write to:

Mark Fiechter, 6630 E 700 N, Ossian, IN, 46777 (219)597-7330

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

ACHH celebrated its 25th anniversary with some special events. On September 7 the Annual Ice Cream Social was held for residents, parents and staff. The anniversary was noted with silver balloons and a decorated cake. A colorful tent shaded the tables and ice cream eat-

ers while an accordionist meandered through the group. Also, on September 19 the staff was honored in the multi-purpose room with a Staff Appreciation dinner. A large number of staff attended and enjoyed the silver and white decorations and stuffed pork chop dinner. Ron Messner, our administrator, recognized staff members by the number of years they had worked

for ACHH, Inc. The Board of Directors also gathered on October 5 for their regular meeting and recognized the 25 years with a beautiful flower arrangement and a 25th anniversary cake. The Board is also planning a recognition dinner for all past and present board members and administrators at a December gathering.

The residents of ACHH have also

- 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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles distributed by our Churches

<u>1996</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 13 YEARS</u>
Sept.	2,167	27,745	329,221

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

NOTE: A new listing of Bibles and Testaments available for distribution can be obtained through a note or call to:

David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219)627-2923 (fax the same number)

been busy in the month of September. The group enjoyed the Friday evening song service with Bloomington-Normal congregation. These services are scheduled with churches within reasonable driving distance and are held once a month. The Henry Blunier family hosted a wiener roast and singing at the "Blunier Barn" for a bus full of residents. We even had a visit from the therapy dogs, who were a source of interest with their wagging tails and friendly manners.

The Pumpkin Festival was a pleasant event for us this year as a few groups partook of pork chop sandwiches and the banjo bash in the big tent. At the parade on Saturday, many spoiled their lunches by eating some of the candy thrown to parade observers. It was a beautiful fall morning to be outdoors.

The Park District continues to provide options for our participation. Six residents are involved with the "Morton Striders". Weekly they

walk for about 45 minutes in an interesting spot somewhere around Morton, such as a park or a walking trail.

A few of our residents have vacationed recently with the Magnificent Mainstreamers, a group out of Peoria who organizes specially chaperoned trips.

December birthdays for all facilities are: ACHH - Dirk Slonneger (5), Brian Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Delores Wieland (15), Anne Carrescia (30). OAKWOOD - Phil Fehr (15).

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

Trent Schrock

I recently read a verse that caught my attention. "For thou wilt save the afflicted (humble) people; but wilt bring down high looks (the proud)." (Psalm 18:27). Think about it. The natural first reaction

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

to this verse is to think that God really has it in for the proud. They'll get their just desserts.

But aren't we all guilty of pride at times? Don't we all need "pruning"? Peter points out something interesting about the love of God, reminding us that God "...is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9). Romans 2:5 even tells us that it is God's KINDNESS that leads us to repen-

tance. Therefore, when God humbles us, it is an act of His kindness leading us into a right relationship with Him. This is true whether we are already Christians or not. God has structured life to bring us to the realization of our need for Him.

So look around you. Jesus told his disciples in John 4 that the fields are "white already to harvest". People are **READY** to hear the gospel of salvation, but we just need to learn to open our spiritual eyes to see where the harvest is. It's not among the haughty. People whose life is going smooth don't see their need for God. It's those who have been brought low by life who understand their need for something more. In John 4, just before He taught His disciples this principle, He had been talking to an adulterous woman who belonged to the Samaritan race. She was an outcast among outcasts, but at that moment was excitedly telling her fellow Samaritans about the hope she had found in the man she had met. They were so ready for His message that He spent two days of His valuable time with them, and many became believers.

So don't be afraid to spend your life acquainting yourself with the down-trodden. They're the ones who are looking for something. They've finally had to admit to themselves that their lives are empty, and they are probably the ones who are most likely to ask you about the **HOPE** that they see in your life (I Peter 3:15).

Speaking of the down-trodden, there is a position opening up here at Gateway Woods for a couple or family to come as Alternate Houseparents and work with kids who have been through some of life's roughest. This position will be available next March when Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock will be moving on to the next step in their

life. Allow God to work in your hearts if this is the calling for your life.

Gateway Woods and the Leo church hosted the 20th reunion of Gateway Woods on October 5 and 6. We were encouraged and delighted to have almost 300 former and present residents, staff members and board members and their families. We also appreciate the board members and their wives who came early and helped around the campus.

The beginning of the school year is a time of turnover at Gateway Woods. Tim from the Graf house has returned home with his mother, and J.R. and Elizabeth have recently moved into the Fiechter house. We welcome J.R. and Elizabeth, and we pray that God will keep Tim in His care, helping him to hold to the progress he has made.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Tricia Tucker

One of the biggest events every week is our Thursday share time. Each child can bring one toy from home to show the other children. One little girl brought her stuffed buffalo named Jesus. A look of wonder spread across the teachers' faces. Finally, one asked her why she named it that. In a matter-of-fact tone she replied, "I love Jesus and I love my buffalo so I named him Jesus."

Another big event happened last month as we took our annual field trip to the Pumpkin Patch, a family farm celebrating the autumn season. The students got a chance to climb on straw bales, pet farm animals, and learn about Johnny Appleseed. They even tromped through a field of pumpkins and chose one to take home. We finished off the trip with a picnic lunch in a

park.

Also in October, we learned about the color orange, transportation, music, and the letters E-I. The students enjoyed learning new songs and riding their "transportation" tricycles.

November will bring Thanksgiving. We will be teaching our children to be thankful for the many blessings they have in their lives. We teachers at the preschool are very thankful for the many prayers that our loving brothers and sisters in Christ offer to the Lord for us. Please keep praying for the guidance of the Lord as every day we touch many lives and want His love to be shown.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pam Moore

On my way to work this month, I have been witnessing the beauty of the greatest artist of all, God. Only God could paint the beautiful fall colors of the changing landscape. I look in awe as the trees change from their summer green to innumerable shades of fall colors: reds, oranges, golds and browns. Our God is so mighty!

We had our annual fall festival for the Sunday School children on October 19. Adults and children enjoyed the barbecue supper, and the fall games that we enjoy this time of year.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Mae Haggemaker need our prayers very much. Sis. Mae has been in the hospital for an extended time, and has had to have partial amputation of one leg. Please pray for them, as there may be many difficult times in the days that follow.

Bro. Winifred Kelley's family also needs our prayers. His sister, Barbara Edwards, funeral was September 26. Please remember her family in your prayers.

As always, we welcome visitors to Athens. Church services are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving...be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

Psalm 100:4

The word November is usually the month thought of as “thanks” time, though we as believers know every day should be a day of thanksgiving!

We are thankful our dear Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich has returned safely from his trip to Yugoslavia. He brought us all a deeper appreciation for our church and our faith.

“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

Romans 6:20,22

We heard Jim Laukhuf's testimony on September 28. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer came from Rittman, OH to assist with the testimony and baptism. Bro. Henry encouraged his nephew to be strong in the faith. Relatives came from Rittman and Latty to welcome Bro. Jim into the fold.

Jennifer Ebert has peace and knows God is the Lord which has shown His light in her heart. We are looking forward to hearing her testimony.

Bro. Ellsworth Niemeyer (Sis. Lois) had surgery. Sis. Linda Zollinger was in for outpatient studies.

Our World Relief group knotted comforters this month.

Bro. Jonathan Banwart has finished his schooling and will return to his home in Lamar. May God direct him further.

Reminder: Send a note to a shut-in.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...”

James 1:17

Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Katich received another gift from God on October 14, a son, Casey James. Also welcoming Casey is sister, Kelsey.

As God giveth life, so He also takes life, but promises us victory over death through faith in His Son. We extend our sympathies and prayers for comfort to Bro. Glen (Sis. Eileen) and Bro. Jim (Sis. Rowena) Furrer and their families in the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Emma Furrer, of Wolcott, IN who was residing at the Francesville Home at the time of her death.

George Kornja, son of Sis. Elena Kornja, was hospitalized for several days and is slowly recovering from pneumonia and asthma. May God continue to bless him with returning health, according to His will.

We wish to thank ministering Bros. Ken Lawson and James Emch for serving us this last month. May God richly bless them and their families for their willingness to travel the 100 plus miles from Phoenix to serve our church.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) and his family were with us for a Sunday service this month. We thank them for their visit. We invite

them to visit again soon!

Sis. Martha Blessman continues to recover from hip surgery. Our prayers are with you, Sis. Martha.

Our Sunday School picnic was held October 13. It was a warm day with the high in the 90's. Thankfully, the weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm—our picnic was a huge success!

Our weather has cooled down now with temperatures in the 80's. Our mornings and evenings are especially nice. Fall is around the corner!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Cor. 1:4-8

At this time of Thanksgiving, our hearts and minds can fashion practically an endless list of reasons and things for which we give God thanks. The Apostle Paul's expression above brings into focus perhaps one of the greatest blessings for which we are thankful, that being the fullness and possession of Jesus Christ in our lives, the wellspring of the Holy Spirit which impels us to respond to His ever present guidance and direction. May we be submissive and His name be praised!

“...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

Luke 15:10

Our joy, too, has further blossomed with the call to repentance being answered by our dear friend, Kari Niemeyer (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois, Phoenix). We hold her up in prayer that the good works meet for repentance bear the desired fruit in her conversion and culminate in peace with God and man. Another blossom of joy: the announcement of our friend, Jim Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody), having repented and received peace. Our prayers are for his continued spiritual growth in his young life and ultimately the fulfillment of his desire to be baptized.

Sis. Molly Stickling has returned to Illinois after being a special blessing to our small congregation for a number of months during her work assignment here in the medical profession. We pray for God's continued guidance in her life and welcome her to return at any time.

"Lord, thou has been our dwelling place in all generations...we spend our years as a tale that is told...and establish thou the work of our hands." These and other passages from the 90th Psalm were read at a small gathering to celebrate our dear Sis. Blanche (Grandma) Coldeen's 90th birthday. Her spirit and smile have been an inspiration to all of us. Our hearts and lives have been warmed by her love as well as by the many quilts she has sewn and given as gifts over the past years. May she continue to be held up in grace and strength by our loving Lord whose return she longs for every day.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God
That on the cross beam Thou hast

bought
For us salvation, peace and grace
With thee in heaven's resting
place!
We give thee thanks!
Zion's Harp #199

Our San Diego church recently invited the Altadena church for a weekend of fellowship. Among those who attended were Elder Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois, and ministering Bro. Richard Aberle and his wife, Sis. Lanae, who also stayed for Sunday and proclaimed the Heavenly Word to us.

We all enjoyed a picnic at a local park and a singing afterwards. Sunday after church a good number went over to Sis. Frieda's home and sang with her there. It was a blessed weekend!

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"And they (apostles) departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Acts 5:41-42

When we stand firm in the truth and practice the commandments of Jesus Christ, do we count it a privilege to suffer shame for His name? As true believers, we will be rejected and laughed at by the world, but like the apostles, we should rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer that shame. And then continue daily teaching and preaching Jesus Christ in our conduct and lifestyle.

God has given us many spiritual blessings, including our Elder brethren. We are thankful for the many hours they spend "behind the scenes" in meetings, prayers, travel-

ing, and counseling and also living and preaching the truth. We recently finished listening to the Conference tapes and are thankful the truth is still being preached across our pulpits. May we all be more diligent in serving our Lord.

We want to thank the visiting ministers and those that traveled with them for coming to serve us. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) were our ministers this past month. Much thanks to all of you and also to those that came from the Tremont, IL congregation to fellowship with us.

Anyone that is interested in worshipping with us or visiting us should 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! This month we were blessed with hearing the testimonies of our new Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf. We certainly enjoyed hearing of the change God has brought about in their lives, and also all the company the weekend brought.

We are grateful to have had visiting brethren with us to share the truth. Our thanks go to Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) shared with us on Wednesday night. He and his family were here to bring their son, Mark, to the area. We want to welcome Mark to Colorado and hope he will enjoy his short stay here.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

“Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it...”
Psalm 127:1

Our dedication service for our new edifice was held on the weekend of September 27-28. The visiting Elder brethren that labored on our behalf were Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). Also visiting were ministering brethren, Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Andy Virkler (Croghan, NY). May God richly bless these brethren for their service. Many thanks to all who so willingly gave of their time and efforts in the planning and building of our church addition. May we praise God for His blessings and continue to call on Him for guidance.

On September 16, Aaron Matthew came into this world. His parents are Adam and Tanya Graef, and his grandparents are Larry and Judy Graef and John and Sis. Ruth Kostuk.

Twin girls, Laura Beth and Lanae Dawn, were born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Schneider on September 19. Their brother, Andrew, welcomed them home. Their grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider and Bro. Everett and the late Sis. Phyllis Gerber.

Bro. Vern and Sis. Jean Bahler welcome another son, Kent Edward, on September 26 along with sister, Carly, and brother, Eric. His grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Skipper. May each family that have been blessed with children prayerfully raise each one in the ways of the Lord.

“...Repent, and be baptized every

one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...”

Acts 2:38

Bro. Paul and Sis. Esther Gruenig were added to the fold on October 6. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan with the testimonies and baptisms.

May God comfort those that have lost loved ones. Our beloved Sis. LaVina Kloter passed out of this life on September 24. She leaves her brothers, Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence) and Bro. Emmanuel Kloter (Sis. Helen), and a sister, Sis. Helen Heintz (Bro. Lester). Our dear friend, Ernest Kloter, passed suddenly out of this life. He leaves his wife, Doris; his sons, Richard (Jennifer), Brian (Linda), Bruce, Wayne (Kathleen), and Kevin. He also leaves his sisters, Pearl Perrett and Esther Kloter. Our deep sympathy goes out to Sis. Sue Ellen Gasser (Rittman, OH) and family in the passing of her husband, Bro. Greg. God, with His great compassion, can uplift and console each family circle in their time of sorrow. May we remember them in our prayers.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

“...be ye thankful.”
Colossians 3:15

At this time of year when our government sets apart a day for Thanksgiving, we remember so many blessings we enjoy in this country. Not only do we have the freedom to assemble, we also have the freedom and means to travel to visit others of like precious faith.

We welcome Wendy Mathis to our congregation from the Indianapolis congregation. She is working and

attending classes in Washington, DC as part of an internship.

Our visiting ministers last month were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Other visitors were from Rockville, CT; Toledo, OH; Morton, IL; Bay City and Alto, MI.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tysons Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

PLEASE NOTE: We will not be holding services January 5, 1997, because most of our congregation will be attending the wedding of Sis. Doreen Gudeman and Bro. Barry Steffen in Francesville, IN.

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.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of

good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:4-8

This month we have a blessed holiday, Thanksgiving. God showers us with countless blessings, and we have many reasons to be thankful. The first and most important reason is that God sent His only begotten Son to die upon the cross, so we can have a hope of eternal life. May we never forget the terrible price that was paid for our salvation.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers in our midst. We want to thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL). Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) ministered to us at our "Lake-wood Weekend". May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Kay Eisenmann

We are soon to have our winter brethren with us; they will be most welcome.

In October, a group of Ft. Myer's members and friends went to the retreat which was uplifting to all.

Bro. Ralph Yergler (Jeanette) had infection in his incision in his leg where they put in a steel rod when he broke it. He is to go home from the hospital tomorrow. We trust this will help him to feel much better. Please remember them in your prayers, as it isn't easy to deal with all they do on a daily basis. We so often take for granted our ability to even get up and walk on our own! Let us all take time to remember all our special loved ones who cannot.

We were reminded in a sermon, "How do we look at our Sundays?" Do we just take them for granted? Do we go to church and then the rest of the day do we go shopping or

whatever? Remember the time when the stores were not open on Sundays? We all need to try to spend the whole day at least in God's Word, either with a singing or fellowshiping with one another, as we do have six days to do the rest. We all get so busy in every day living we forget the most important thing in this life is the time we spend on doing God's will, so on judgment day God will not have to say to us, "Go, for I know you not!" We need to visit those who cannot go in and out like we can; we are just as guilty of the sin of omission. May we all work on this. We receive so many gifts from God; we need to be ever thankful for God sending His Son to die for all our sins. The whole world is looking for peace of mind, looking in all the wrong places, thinking "things" can give it to them. Only after buying whatever they think they have to have, they have to buy more. We have such a loving God who gave to us His Son, who will open up the gates of Heaven for all who will come. Oh, if only more would come!

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin

As we pass through the autumn season and see the blessings of God unfold in the beauty around us and His promises again being revealed in so many ways, we have many reasons for Thanksgiving.

A THANKFUL HEART

Take nothing for granted, for
whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened
for you.
For we rob our own lives much
more than we know
When we fail to respond or in any
way show
Our thanks for the blessings that
daily are ours...

The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,
The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,
The coolness of dew on a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds so thoughtfully done,
The favors of friends and the love that someone
Unselfishly gives us in a myriad of ways,
Expecting no payment and no words of praise.
Oh, great is our loss when we no longer find
A thankful response to things of this kind,
For the Joy of Enjoying and the Fullness of Living
Are found in the heart that is filled with Thanksgiving!
By Helen Steiner Rice

We welcome a new baby girl, Stacie Marie Campbell, a happy first born to the family of John and Krista Campbell.

Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III, Sis. Lynne and son, Jeff, are returning to our congregation after a two-year job placement in Charleston, SC. We look forward to having them in Sarasota again.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We always look forward to each visiting minister as they share God's Word with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We want to thank all of our visitors this past month, especially those in the ministry. May God bless Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) for lovingly sharing God's Word with us.

As the season of Thanksgiving is

approaching, let us all remember to be thankful each day for the many blessings God has given to us.

We continue to meet every Sunday, beginning at 10:20. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Millie Jepson

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

I Timothy 2:1-2

Since there is a presidential election in the United States in November, 1996, this Thanksgiving our thoughts seem to focus more on our government than in other years. We are so thankful our leaders in the past saw the need to set aside a day of Thanksgiving to God for His mercy and bountiful provision for the American people. We are also thankful that the day of Thanksgiving is still being observed and that we have the freedom to acknowledge God for His goodness to us on this day.

One of the presidents in the 70's, Gerald Ford, said at that time, "It is not guided missiles but guided morals that is our great need today." That certainly could be said at this time, too! We thank God for the guidance taught to us through the Bible, God's Holy Word. As we gather in our churches and our homes this Thanksgiving to thank God for His many blessings, we need to remember to pray for guidance for our country's leaders. How they need God's wisdom if we are to keep the freedom we now enjoy and many

times take for granted.

The Belvidere congregation is thankful to God for the faithful ministers of the Word who preach the wonderful message of salvation through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) visited us with their wives and we thank them for preaching the old, old story so clearly. A special "thank you" to all our visitors for their love and support.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

On September 22, Sis. Kara Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon, Princeville, IL) was united in Holy Matrimony with Bro. Brad Martin (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jessica, Peoria, IL). They are at home at 1004 N. Lee St., Bloomington, IL 61701. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Knapp (Taylor, MO) were with us for services on Sunday, September 22. We sincerely appreciated his efforts in preaching the gospel of good news in Christ Jesus.

During this past reporting period, two eternal events occurred in our ministers' personal families. Elder Bro. Everett Hari's last sibling, Sis. Glenda Meyer (Bro. Dale, Bluffton, IN), passed from this life into eternity on September 28. Also, Bro. Harry Hoffmann (Sis. Helen, Cissna Park, IL), father of Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann, entered into his eternal rest on October 14. May our loving God provide the comfort of the Holy Spirit to all of those in sorrow.

The following poem was written by a sister in our congregation who has been afflicted with CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome):

God's Mysterious Ways
So many unanswered questions

while on my hospital bed I laid -
Yet I was too ill to pray and sore afraid.

In desperation one morning, I
called to Thee,
Asking, "Why hast Thou forsaken
me?"

It wasn't but a little while, an
elderly nurse did come my way.
She was filled with compassion, so
I asked her to pray.
My "angel lady" I called her
without shame,
I never DID learn her REAL name.

God works in marvelous and
mysterious ways
And stood by my side through the
rest of my hospital days.
The longing for death left my
troubled and weary soul;
And once again, I began to feel
hopeful and whole.

CFS and migraines still cause me
much pain,
But I am able to "fight" and laugh
again.

Basking in the love and prayers of
my sisters and brothers,
Doing what little I can for my
family and others.

There's much I still don't
understand about this,
Yet I don't want my will to be
done - but HIS.
Some day, I hope, when I look into
my Creator's face,
I'll hear Him say, "Welcome home,
my child, you've won the race."

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

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

Psalms 92:1

Yes, it is good to have a special day
set aside to reflect on the goodness
of God to each of His children. We
thank God, not only on Thanksgiving
day, but every day in prayer for

His blessings and for His Son's death upon the cross. But are we thankful enough to show our appreciation by being obedient to God's Word and totally submitting to His will?

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9

We warmly welcome our new Bro. Scott Endress, Sis. Shannon Pyles, and Sis. Heather Pyles (Troy) into our church family. They were baptized on October 6. Thankful parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser. May God continue to guide and bless them as they strive to serve Him as true children.

We also want to thank our visiting ministers who were with us that weekend for their labors and support: Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Daryl Knobloch (Sis. Deb) had the misfortune of falling and injuring his shoulder.

We welcome Sis. Karen Pfloderer (Tremont, IL) into our church family as she and Bro. Steve Ehnle were united in marriage on September 29 in Tremont. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pfloderer (Tremont). Our prayer is that God will bless their union.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Samuel and Pamela Furrer

The seasons of the year have changed, the leaves are changing,

and so are lives in our church. The angels in Heaven, friends and family rejoice at the news that our Neil Banwart has made the decision to give his life to the One who died for our sins. Neil, a freshman at U of I, is the son of our ministering Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, and brother of Sis. Krista and Sis. Kara. It is so wonderful to watch the work of God as He changes the heart of a person. Our friends who have grown up richly nourished by the home, church and Sunday School gradually begin to realize that there is something still missing in their lives; the sermons at church become more meaningful, the words from the hymnal both strengthen and convict, and the need for conversion is evident. We are told that God casts our sins as "far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). As a student of geography, it is important to note that separating something as far as the east is from the west is an infinite distance, whereas separating as far as the north is from the south is not. We pray for God's continued presence in the hearts of our friends who have made a beginning and wish that many more would feel the need to make a change.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:12

Caleb Plattner, three-year-old son of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue, has had another hospital stay in mid-October due to a recurrence of Kawasaki's disease. It appears that he does have some coronary damage, but the extent and long-term effects are not known at this time.

College Weekend was hosted by the church students in the Illinois Central College area. Many of our local students attended and received

a blessing through the fellowship and Bible study of the weekend entitled "Seeking the Kingdom". "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

A large number of people who presently attend our church and a number of families who used to live in our area gathered for the annual wiener roast, hayrack ride, singing, and fellowship at the home of the Mangers. This is always a sort of "homecoming" event and is well attended. We always appreciate seeing those who return to renew friendships. As a result of that evening, we had visiting ministers, Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) spent a Wednesday evening Bible study with us earlier in the month. Many thanks to these brothers and their families for spending time with us.

With this season of Thanksgiving upon us, it gives us even more cause to stop and take stock of the many blessings we have. In our own circle of family and friends, we have had one friend who has been battling a virus which has resulted in loss of vision in one eye and continued cause for concern about the other. Do we even remember to be thankful for the many things in life, such as our sight so we can see the world around us?

We have also had two deaths in the family, reminding us that we are only on this earth for a given amount of time. My grandmother, Sis. Emma Furrer, of Wolcott, recently died at age 90 after having declining health for a while. Pam's uncle, Bro. Harry Hoffmann, of Cissna Park, passed on to glory after a fairly quick bout with cancer. For each of these people, we were sorry to lose them but happy that they no longer had to endure their earthly

struggles and could go on to be with the angels. The seeds and flowers that we plant in the springtime have their time to give us enjoyment and fruits, then their time is up as the frost and cold weather move in and we make our final harvests for the season, just as our God does with our lives. It's times like these that really make us stop and take a look at what we're counting as important in our daily lives. Grandma was a great lover of poetry and often recited one particular work. That poem was read at her funeral and a copy given to each of the families. Its focus is on using our time here wisely.

Worth While

It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worth while is one
who will smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the
years:
And the smile that is worth the
praises of earth,
Is that smile that shines through
tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent
When nothing tempts you to stray,
When without or within no voice
of sin
Is luring your soul away;
But it's only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the
honor on earth,
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife,
The world's highway is cumbered
today,
They make up the sum of life.
But the virtue that conquers
passion
And the sorrow that hides in a
smile,
Is these that are worth the
homage on earth,
For we find them but once in a

while.
—*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and prayers you offered during Caleb's illnesses.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Part of me looks forward to the opportunity to sit down at the computer and "write", Spirit-led, as I step away from the rush of tasks, which swirl as leaves around my mind. The rest of me gasps, "Oh no, not another blank screen to fill, taking time away from the 'TO-DO' list!" Is not each day similar? I must have a time of prayer and meditation to be led, to be given again the priorities for my God-given day, so that there is first peace and then the willingness to appreciate whatever/whomever the Lord sees fit to bring within my daily sphere. Drinking in His grace, seeing His patience, and feeling His hand over mine, is never time away but instead is precious time spent with Him, who has paid the price for us to be with Him forever. Our days there are what we need to practice for in our days here.

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Arnie Gerst and his wife, Sis. Marj (Taylor, MO). Though once we were able to greet them each Sunday, we are grateful for the chances they do get to come back to worship with us, and we are given the Spirit's teachings as Bro. Arnie ministers to us again, in the Lord. May they return our way sooner next time.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Wegman and their son, Bryce, are returning downstate to Bloomington, IL where Bro. Dave has accepted employment. It seems so sudden to

us, yet we knew Bro. Dave only had coursework for a short time. May the Lord bless them with joy in their new home and Bro. Dave's new job, with their new church family and each transition involved. We will miss them—but, Wegman family, as Bro. Dave (we hope) knows, we'll take you back any time, should the Lord will it.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janell Hofstetter and her family, for her grandmother has just died. Thankfully, we do not grieve as those without hope; nevertheless, because we love as Christ does, we mourn deeply. Dear Sis. Janell, we pray that your sorrow may be only for a season and that the Lord may be your Comforter.

I have been pondering two of my gravest sins, as I see them. One is pride and the other is discouragement. Perhaps you have seen amusement park rides, the kind with two "pockets" for people, which swing opposite each other. I too often swing up with pride and almost immediately down with discouragement. I have some confidence and have been given certain abilities, and I stride forward with too much of self and pride, only to be cast down so quickly by something—even a very small item—which makes me despair of being useful to the Lord. Perhaps it is most appropriate that at this season of the year, that I believe I understand what the balancer is that I always need to apply to my thoughts, my feelings, my ideas, my plans. The "evener" is heartfelt gratitude—for my Lord and Christ first of all, for my family members, my church, my environment, my friends and co-workers, my work and niche on earth, and on and on and on. I cannot remain puffed up when I am immersed in appreciation to Christ and to others, for I am so insignificant and undeserving

compared to what I am abundantly and continuously being given. On the other hand, neither can I remain stricken with negatives and doubt because hope is written in every part of my blessings. Would you join me in being ever more thankful, each day, each hour, each minute?

As I was speaking to a young friend, we chanced to touch on Revelations. This familiar hymn, "Living in Faith", (Zion's Harp, vs. 6-10) seems to touch on so many of those anticipated joys:

And when we do grow weary
He bringeth us to rest;
::We in our graves do tarry,
And sleep there with the blest::

There freed from earthly burdens,
With no more pain or ache,
::Till in the glorious morning
He calls: Awake! Awake!:

What further shall transpire
May unto us but seem
::While we are rising higher,
As if but in a dream::

With angels upward soaring
Into the realms of light,
::Our Saviour there beholding,
We'll share His glory bright::

There with the angels singing,
In Heaven we shall roam,
::With gratitude proclaiming,
We've reached the soul's bright
home::

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

"And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Ephesians 4:11-12

We are thankful to the following for serving us this past month: Elder

Bros. Dale Eisemann (Chicago, IL), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). May God bless these brothers, their wives, and families in a special way.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Colossians 3:15

Valarie Rinkenberger, Traci Rudin, Bethany Frank, and Alicia Maul have responded to God's call, and are thankful for the peace of God that has come to abide in their hearts. We rejoice with them as they look forward to their baptisms.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our congregation who have been hospitalized recently. They are Bro. George Bauer, Bro. Elmer Bauer, and Lawrence Kuebler, who is now residing at Heartland Health Care. During these times of afflictions, may their "faith look up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary." (Hymns of Zion #117).

"One of Thy children is coming home, open Thy merciful arms." (Gospel Hymns #784). On October 14, Bro. Harry Hoffman went into those merciful arms. Bro. Harry left many warm and loving memories for his wife of 46 years, Sis. Helen, and their three daughters, Sis. Brenda and Bro. Dave Kaeb, Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Barb and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN); eleven grandchildren; and his four sisters. May these wonderful memories bring each of you the peace and strength you need to know we also are on that journey traveling Home and Jesus' merciful arms are big enough to embrace all of His faithful children.

As election time approaches and you think of where we are headed as a nation, you see the importance of Godly men and women voting and praying for the leaders of our country. God always does His part. Let us do our part as reminded in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

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

I Thess. 5:18

As we enjoy the beautiful fall season and reflect on our many blessings this Thanksgiving, Lord, we pray give us thankful hearts for Thou to dwell in.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Linda Knobloch

Missy Banwart

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Colossians 3:15

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to thank God for all the many ways He blesses us. It seems it's so easy to begin to overlook the many blessings God gives us. We can be so much happier though if we have thankful hearts rather than grumbling ones. May we each strive to be thankful each and every day of the year.

We want to thank Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), and Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Andy Stoller

(Smithville, OH) for bringing God's Word to us. May God be their Rich Rewarder.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ginny Zimmerman and Emma are thankful God has blessed them with a precious baby boy. His name is Alan Lee and he was born September 17. Grandparents are Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judy Knecht (Eureka, IL).

On October 13, we heard the engagement of our Sis. Luella Zimmerman to Bro. Curtis Sauder (Roanoke, IL). May they feel God's nearness and blessings as they become one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father..."
Ephesians 5:20

We thank God for the blessings we have felt in our congregation.

On September 29, the engagement of Sis. Karen Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) and Bro. Jason Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) was announced. We wish them God's rich blessings.

We rejoice with Dan and Stephanie Cargill as they seek God in repentance. We are uplifted each time souls turn their backs to the world. Their parents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach, are thankful for answered prayers.

Our congregation was blessed with two visiting ministers: Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). May God bless these faithful brothers.

Several in our congregation have been hospitalized recently. God has

granted Bro. Roger Weiss and Bro. Bill Gudeman good health once again.

God hath not promised skies
 always blue,
 Flower-strewn pathways all our
 lives through;
 God hath not promised sun
 without rain,
 joy without sorrow, peace without
 pain.
 But God hath promised strength
 for the day,
 rest for the labor, light for the way.
 Grace for the trials, help from
 above,
 unfailing sympathy, undying love.
 —author unknown

Our joy has not been without sorrow. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Madelyn Tobler and her son, Bro. Andy, at the sudden death of her daughter, Vicki, of Minneapolis. May God be a Comforter to all of the family, including Sis. Julie (Dan) Koch of Tremont, Vicki's sister. As time goes on, let us continue to love and pray for Sis. Madelyn.

Sis. Lucy Schultz lost her son, Norman, of Palm Desert, CA. May she feel God's presence.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

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

I Chronicles 29:13

This time of year is a good reminder for us to live with thankful hearts for all of God's wonderful gifts to us.

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Martin for the birth of their first child, Brant Jacob. Brant was born on September 23, and his grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht and Sis. Edna Martin (Princeville).

We were saddened by the death of two of our older sisters this month. Sis. Edna Martin died on September 25. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters. Sis. Inez Mogler passed away on October 1. We sympathize with her children, John and Samuel (both of Washington), Loren (Lowpoint), Roger (Mount Holly, NC), and Ina Sauder (Eureka). May God be their comfort and source of strength as they have lost both their parents in this past year. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Inez's two brothers and seven sisters.

We appreciated the inspiring sermons of Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Carroll Gerber and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We were thankful for the encouragement and instruction on raising our children, and for the admonishment of not denying our Lord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Wilma Lehman (Bro. Clarence) who recently had surgery.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, visits, and prayers while I was laid up. May God bless each one for their love and kindness.

Sis. Judie Knecht

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Thankful for health, thankful for life,
 Thankful for guidance in sorrow and strife.

Thankful for food and ripe golden grain,

For all that is needful our life to sustain.

Thankful for friends who just stand by

Upon whose help we can rely.

Thankful for home with comforts
blest
Where peace abides with love and
rest.
Thankful for those who daily
impart,
Strength for the journey, cheer for
the heart.
Thankful to work in rich moist soil
Where roses bloom, to compensate
toil.
Thankful to hear the still small
voice
Making our heart in life's sorrows
rejoice.
—*Bro. Henry Beer*

We can thankfully count all these
blessings and so many, many more
as we once again enter the time of
the year where the harvest is gath-
ered and our thoughts turn to
Thanksgiving and family gather-
ings. May God bless you in this sea-
son with a true spirit of
thankfulness.

To me is given boundless mercy
A gift that I did not deserve...
Zion's Harp #220

How wonderful to again witness
the boundless mercy of God in the
lives of two more souls as they gave
their testimonies and were bap-
tized! We welcomed Lana Young
(Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie) and
Ryan Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis.
Ronda) as our new brother and sis-
ter in the Lord on the weekend of
September 28 and 29.

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller
(Smithville, OH), and Bros. Gary
Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Greg
Stoller (Forrest, IL) shared the
weekend with us. We appreciate all
your efforts. Also visiting us this
month were Bros. John Laukhuf
(Latty, OH), Ken Knapp (Taylor,
MO) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna
Park, IL). We thank you all for your
willingness to be used in our behalf.

“(For we walk by faith, not by

sight:)”
II Cor. 5:7

We were thankful to hear that
Sis. Beverly Steidinger (Bro. Tom
and Sis. Dianne) and Bro. Bruce
Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie)
have felt led in their walk by faith
that they should become one in the
Lord. Their engagement was an-
nounced to us on October 6. May
God bless them and draw them
closer to Him and to each other as
they plan their January 19 wedding.

May the Holy Spirit comfort Sis.
Edna Feller (Bro. Ezra) in the pass-
ing of her brother, Bro. Harry Hoff-
mann (Cissna Park), on October 14.
We also extend sympathy to the
family of Eunice Steidinger, espe-
cially her sister-in-law, Ollie Steid-
inger, and the many nieces and
nephews in our congregation.

Hospital patients this month
were: Sis. Darlene Bittner, Sis.
Louise Furrer, Sis. Carol Bazzell
(Bro. Donald), Bro. Ben Lorch (Sis.
Marguerite) and Ross Steidinger
(Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). May
the Great Physician grant healing to
all.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter -
Mary Bachtold

We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Le-
man (Bradford, IL), Bros. John
Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Ken
Schneider (Remington, IN) and Don
Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for visit-
ing us this past month. May God
bless them for their willingness to
serve us through the preaching of
God's Word.

Janae, Amber and Shannon Stork
are happy to welcome a new baby
brother, Weston John. Thankful
parents are Reuben and Devra and
his grandparents are Warren and
Sis. Betty Ifft and Elmer and Dar-
lene Stork. Mackenzie Kae has ar-

rived in the home of Bro. David, Sis.
Jackie, Sydney, and Cortney Eis-
enmann. Also welcoming her are
grandparents, Mary Lynn Hoffman
(Lewiston, MN), Sam Hoffman (St.
Augustine, FL) and Bro. John and
Sis. Bev Eisenmann.

We wish God's blessings to Bro.
Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman
as they celebrated their 50th wed-
ding anniversary on September 29.
May God continue to guide them as
they walk this path of life together.

J.T. Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis.
Loida) and Jolene Haas (John and
Edna) have announced their en-
gagement. May they put their trust
in the Lord as they make plans for a
December wedding.

Bro. Bud Manz, Bro. Alan Zim-
merman and Kristi Pruitt (Ron and
Vicki) spent time in the hospital this
past month. We are thankful God
has granted them health and they
have been able to return home.

Funeral services were held Sun-
day, September 22, for Bro. Reuben
Roth, 90. We extend sympathy to his
wife, Marie, and his sisters, Edna
Wagner and Edith Kramer (Peoria,
IL) and Sis. Eldora Walter. May it be
a comfort to them that he had
turned to the Lord in his later years
and could be peacefully laid to rest.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to all for your
prayers, cards, gifts and visits dur-
ing my surgery and recovery. May
God richly bless each one.

Bro. Earl Gerber

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

When the frosts are in the valley,
And the mountain tops are grey,
And the choicest buds are blighted,
And the blossoms die away,
A Loving Father whispers,
“This cometh from my hand”:
Blessed are ye if ye trust

Where ye cannot understand.
(Selected)

Our congregation was shocked and saddened at the sudden death of our precious friend, Jonathan Hohulin, 16 year old son of our dear Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean. Our sympathy and prayers are constant for their comfort and arms of love from our loving God that He will help them to make it through.

The Lord has blessed the Goodfield congregation with many precious new little people who have come to enrich the lives of six families.

John Daniel was born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb Wiegand on September 26. John's grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey.

A girl, Madison Jane, was born to Kerstan DesCarpentrie on September 9. Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie are the grandparents.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Peggy Schieler welcome Bruce Jonathan into their home. Bruce was born October 4 and his happy grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Eureka) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marci Schieler.

A day later on the 5th of October, Louis Randall Berardi was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Elli. Welcoming Louis is his sister, Maria, and his grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin and Randall and Lana Berardi (Pekin).

Tyler Benjamin was born on October 22 to Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha Rocke. His thankful grandparents are Mark and Connie Rocke and Stan and Sis. Judy Knapp.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Myra Wiegand are the joyful parents of a little girl, Steffeni Jo. Steffeni was born October 23 and her grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand

and Bro. Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Lois Steffen (Congerville).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

I read a saying that reads, "The silent influence of books is a mighty power in the world." This is very true. Words and concepts have a potent influence in our lives.

While secular books can have an influence—either a positive or negative one—they are limited because they are imperfect.

Our best influence, by far, are the books of the Bible. They are crafted by the divine hand of God. In a time of tumult and immorality, these God-inspired books are a silent influence in our lives. That's why we should read God's Word on a daily basis. If we follow the Spirit and instructions of these books, we will find happiness.

Moreover, if we respond affirmatively to the Bible's messages, we will inherit eternal life, if we repent for our sins and remain true and faithful to our calling (by God's grace).

The election season is now behind us. We must be content that it is God who sets up the leaders of nations. It is our duty to honor our leaders and to pray for them. It is all in God's hands. Our focus should continually be on that eternal homeland for which our heart yearns.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi Kiefer became the parents of Stella Christine who was born on September 16. Grandparents are Bro. Richard, Sr. and Sis. Louise Kiefer and Bro. J.D. and Sis. Sandy Maurer. Three siblings welcomed this new addition: twins, Jaykob and Jessica, 6, and Abby, 3.

A second son, Jacob Michael, was born on October 1 to Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce Ferneau. He has a brother, Jonathan, 2. Grandparents

are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig.

On October 3, Troy and Kay Kaupp became the parents of their first child, Hannah Lynn. Grandparents are Kenneth and Diane Kuerth and Sis. Wava and the late Bro. Harold Kaupp.

We rejoice with each of these couples and their new additions. The old generation passes away and a new one comes. It is a solemn responsibility to train and nurture the coming generation(s) in the ways of godliness.

On October 13, we were privileged by the visit of Bros. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

(Correction: Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie Meiss became the parents of twin boys on September 2. They were named Tanner Joseph and Parker James. In the October issue we used the wrong last name.)

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

On Sunday, October 13, the engagement was announced of Bro. Daren Metz of Morton (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) to Sis. Rita Beer of Milford, IN (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and guidance during their engagement period and for the rest of their lives together.

We wish to thank Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) for ministering to us for our Family Worship service on Wednesday, October 2. It was good to have him and his family with us.

Morton was happy to host several events this month. It is always a blessing to meet old acquaintances and make new ones. On Sunday, September 22, Morton held ACYF for all the participating Illinois Bible Classes. We appreciate the effort

the students and their teachers put into preparing and presenting the inspiring hymns. The Morton Bible Class hosted the Tremont Bible Class on October 12 and 13. We want to thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for bringing them the afternoon message. On October 13, the Washington Choir was with us for our Family Hymn Sing. It was a wonderful way to end the Lord's Day by listening to the beautiful hymns. We wish to thank them for being with us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for remembering me with flowers, cards and prayers during my hospitalization and recuperation. May the Lord bless you all.

Sis. Mick Koehl

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

II Kings 22 starts by talking about Josiah, who was eight years old when he began to reign as king. "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." (II Kings 22:2). Sixteen dear young souls, most of them not even in high school yet, have decided to repent and follow Jesus. They are Jay Geyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie), Willie Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen), Dustin Funk (Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi), Melissa Criss (Mark and Sis. Linda), Nathan and Amy Beth Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth), Andy Hoerr (Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody), Elizabeth Rieker (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn), Ben Ginzel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary), Dustin Plattner (Kevin Plattner and Mary Rosenak), Kyra Klopfenstein (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol), Erin Zimmerman (Martin Zimmerman and Jamie Frautschi),

Philip Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy), Bethany Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty), Kary Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby), and Tara Meister (Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda). May we remember them often in prayer, beseeching the Lord's blessing and guidance for each of them.

We are also thankful that three more converts have found peace with God and were able to share their testimonies on Saturday, October 19. They are Cassie Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby), Andrew Honegger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) and Josef Bohart (Jerry and Phyllis).

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Thessalonians 5:23

And speaking of dear young souls, we have two new babies to report. Bro. Dean and Sis. Andrea Hoerr welcome Naomi Elizabeth, born September 22. Naomi joins sister, Emily, and brother, Will, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Hattie Hoerr and Bro. Irv and Sis. Sharon Hodel. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Rachel Waibel are also thrilled with the birth of their second daughter, Ellie Marie, born September 30. Ellie's big sister is Zoe and her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer. May God bless these parents as they strive to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Our most recent visiting ministers have been Bros. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Gerald Sutor (Taylor, MO). It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers.

May God richly bless them.

The Peoria congregation was privileged to be host to the many young people who attended College Weekend in October. Over 300 assembled with us on Sunday and blessed us by singing several songs after church. It was thrilling to hear so many young voices lifted in praise to God.

We are saddened by the death of Sis. JoAnn Koehl, wife of Bro. George Koehl. We extend our sincere condolences to Bro. George and his family.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Art Hermann, Sis. Caroline Schmidtgal, Bro. Ivan Thomas and Bro. Frank Ferraro. We pray for God's healing hand upon each of them.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

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

Colossians 3:17

September 22 was the wedding day for Bro. Brad Martin (Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Kara Menold. Bro. Brad is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jessica Martin (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Kara is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold.

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers for the wedding, including Elder Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Floyd Schmidgal (Morris, MN) and Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). Also visiting this past month were Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin at the birth of their daughter, Tiana Ashley. Tiana was

born September 21. Also welcoming her home are older siblings, Clint and Tonya, and grandparents, Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller.

On October 12, we laid to rest Fred (Sis. Esther) Schafer. Fred and Sis. Esther were residents of our Apostolic Christian Home at Eureka. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Esther and their children, Bro. Chuck Schafer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor (Milford, IN). Also to his grandchildren, Matthew and Blessing Longcor. May God be their Comforter.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Janna Lou (Ray) Baer, at the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Emma Furrer, of Wolcott, IN.

On October 6, we had two engagements announced. They are Bro. Walter Joos to Sis. Janet Martin; and Bro. Clint Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) to Sis. Bethany Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann).

It is always encouraging to see souls answering God's call. Joyce (Rick) Rumbold has recently come to the Lord in humble repentance. Let us remember her, along with all of our converts, in thought and prayer.

We are thankful that our Sis. Kay (Bro. Gene) Siebenthal has come home from the hospital and is recovering from her misfortune. Sis. Kay was in a car accident along with her daughter, Sis. Linda, and her husband, Bro. Phil Baurer, and their son. We are thankful they escaped without serious injury. Also in the hospital were Bro. John (Sis. Liz) Wieland, and Sis. Arlene Knapp.

Several coats have been left at the church here at Princeville. They are a woman's green and white checkered lightweight coat, size 12, brand name Fleet Street; and a woman's tan, lightweight coat, size 10P,

brand name Metropolis. Also, a man's lined, tan, all-weather coat, size 40 reg., brand name Oleg Cassine, along with a pair of brown suede gloves.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Hymns of Zion #46

With thankful hearts on September 22 we welcomed three dear souls into our brotherhood: Bro. Dan Knapp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol), Bro. Cory Gerber (Jack and Debbie, Eureka) and Sis. Kasey Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy). Visiting ministers that shared this special day with us were: Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

Children, come the grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine;
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.

Hymns of Zion #46

God's goodness and grace has been seen in the lives of Dustin Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty), Mark Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) and Heidi Zimmerman (Rick and Sis. Raylene). These three dear souls have found grace to seek the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Crystal Getz have been blessed with a baby boy, Dillon Martin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Jan Getz and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer. May God bless these first-time parents as they love and cherish this precious gift from God.

We want to thank Bro. Clark Stol-

ler (Gridley, IL) for being with us for our October Bible study. What better way is there to spend a Friday evening, than to be gathered around God's Word?

Bro. Jeremy Zimmerman's engagement to Sis. Angie Suttor (Peoria, IL) was made known. Our hearts rejoice to learn how God has directed the lives of these dear souls. Rick and Sis. Raylene Zimmerman and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Suttor (Peoria, IL) are the thankful parents.

The wedding engagement of our Bro. Curt Sauder to Sis. Luella Zimmerman (Congerville, IL) was also announced. May God richly bless these loved ones and their families.

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?

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

Hymns of Zion #46

Note of Thanks:

I wish to sincerely thank each one for their prayers, visits, cards, gifts and help while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one.

*In Christian Love,
Bro. Joe Rassi*

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

On September 29, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Karen Pfloderer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth) to Bro. Steve Ehnle (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), Bradford, IL. We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new life together.

Our visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Marvin Leman

(Bradford, IL), and Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God continue to bless them for their labors of love.

Our prayers go out to those hospitalized lately. They are Sis. Charlotte (Bro. Dan) Steiner, Sis. Jody (Bro. Kevin) Dill, and Helen Boliger.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch in the death of her sister, Vicki Tobler; and to Helen Schmidgall in the death of her brother, Edgar Schmidgall. "Jesus knows thy sorrow." (Hymns of Zion #74).

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

I Thess. 5:18

May we always remember to thank our great God for the blessings He bestows on us; not only on Thanksgiving Day, but each and every day.

Closing thought: If you pause to think, you'll have cause to thank. (*Our Daily Bread*)

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Autumn is the time of year when all creation declares the majesty of God. The brilliant display of colors in the trees, the golden fields ready for harvest and the cool breeze blowing through our hair. Yes, it is beautiful, but let us not forget who is responsible for all of this. God created all things. We are so thankful that Jesus also sends us His laborers to harvest souls. Jesus was a perfect example while on earth. He was constantly performing miracles, healing the sick and leading sinners to Heaven. He paid the price of sin by dying on the cross and shedding His

blood. It is by the grace of God alone that we have the hope of Heaven and eternal life with Him.

We were privileged to have guest ministers to provide food for the soul. We are so thankful that we can go from church to church and know that we will hear the truth. Thank you, brothers, for your efforts. Included are Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Also, a day of teaching was held for the high school-aged members and converts from Bluffton, Bluffton North, Morton, and Washington. Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), and Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) lent their talents to this effort.

The Saturday sessions of College Weekend were also held this month in Washington. It was enjoyed by many of our young people, and blessings from the fellowship were experienced. We encourage each to live to be an example of God's love.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford are the thankful parents of a little girl, Promise Salome. She was welcomed by her other brothers and sisters. Grandparents are Margaret Ledford and Bob and Barb Ulbright. We extend our best wishes to the family.

We pray that Sis. Emily Simon's health continues to progress. She has been hospitalized and is presently residing at the Apostolic Home in Eureka. We miss her presence as we gather together at church.

Sis. Sue Ruppert also continues to improve after a time of being homebound. She is thankful that she can again attend worship services and join in fellowship with others.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

"He that overcometh, the same

shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life; but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelation 3:5

Our Bluffton congregation rejoices with our new converts and their families: Tonya Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), Abby Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby), Kevin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda), Kurt Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat), and Andrea Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou).

On August 31, Chad Coppess and Tricia Fiechter were united in marriage. Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Fiechter, Robert Coppess, and Lavon and Marsha Hamp. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda Bertsch welcomed their firstborn, a son, Hunter Jay, into the world on October 4. Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Christy Bertsch and Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois Gerber.

Bryce Aaron Kipfer was born to Sim and Diane Kipfer on September 12. Grandparents are Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer.

Richard and Phyllis Reinhard were welcomed into the fold along with Cindy Cox (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander) and Trisha Sheumann (daughter of Sis. Colleen Landrum).

Visiting ministers for this special occasion were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). A sincere "thank you" goes out to both of them and their families.

Our prayers and sympathy was extended to the families and friends of our dearly departed Sis. Glenda Meyer. She leaves behind her husband, Bro. Dale; daughter, Sis. Patti Schwartz (Bro. Scott); and son, Bro. Greg Meyer (Sis. Bev); and five grandchildren. Also to Sis. Barb

Gerber (Bro. Mark) in the passing of her father, Bro. Harry Hoffman, of Cissna Park, IL.

Our prayers also continue to Matt Lehman's father, Derryl, and for Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber's little grandson, Jacob.

New arrivals to our prayer list because of accident or illness are Sis. Alice Aschliman (Bro. Millard), Bro. Wilmer Steffen (Sis. Ida), and Sis. Marie Drayer (Bro. Herman). We pray you will all have a speedy recovery.

Our retirement community, Christian Care, recently held its Open House. The facility has added nine independent living apartments called "Patio Pines" and seventeen assisted living apartments called "Sugar Maple Suites". Another unit called "The Golden Apple" provides space for the memory impaired. The administrative area has been expanded with a new entrance and carport. We pray God will continue to bless this facility and all the families who dwell there and work there.

In closing, our high school children enjoyed Camp Mac. Camp Mac is where they learn of God's teachings through brothers who offer their time to speak and sing songs to praise Him. This month has been a blessed month for us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

We're so thankful another soul has answered God's call. Tiffany Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) has surrendered her life to Jesus. May she feel our prayers and God's grace in her walk with the Lord.

It was such a blessing to have Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and his wife, Sis. Brenda, visit and share God's Word with us. It's wonderful to see how God uses His children. May we always be willing to be used.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Rochelle Gerber are first-time parents of a son, Jonathan David, born on August 22. His grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber (Bluffton).

Hunter William, son of Tina Stoller, was born on October 10. His grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller. May God be with these parents as they raise their children and teach them to love the Saviour.

Christian Care Retirement Community celebrated an Open House on September 29 for the addition of a new wing. There are three separate areas: the Golden Apple is a 16-bed area for the memory-impaired, Patio Pines is an area for independent living with 9 apartments, and the Sugar Maple Suites consist of 17 apartments for assisted-living. We feel thankful to have such a caring facility in our area and pray God will continue to bless this project.

As we enjoy this Fall season of the year, we are reminded that God will also want to gather His harvest in due season. We need to be planting seeds of Jesus' love all around us. As we see the colors of the leaves changing, may we also be making the changes we need so that we are ready when Christ returns again.

"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

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his

cross, and follow me."

Matthew 16:24

In a recent sermon we were exhorted to humble ourselves before God.

We warmly welcome Bro. Albert and Sis. Amelia Schini who have moved here from Remington.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Mary Putt (Norm) in the passing of her aunt, Lucille Jobe. Also, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis said farewell to his mother, Sis. Emma Furrer. She resided at Parkview Haven many years and often worshipped with us.

Sis. Verna Stedman spent time in the hospital after fracturing a hip. May God be near her side as she recuperates back "home" at Parkview Haven.

At this Thanksgiving time, may we be grateful to God for His Son, our church, family, friends and all things He lovingly provides for us.

Closing thoughts: Thankfulness is the soil that joy thrives in. If we are thankful, then we will be worthy.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Missy Baumgartner Lauretta Schafer

Sunday School activities included the annual picnic September 15 and the trip to Camp Mack September 29.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Carl Wyss (Sis. Lydiann, Washington, IL). We are grateful for the prompting of the Holy Spirit in these brothers' lives as the church is fed and nourished spiritually.

We will miss our new sister-in-faith, Cindy Cox, as she has moved to Bluffton. Her parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwan-

der of Bluffton.

Little Zachery Baumgartner, son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Baumgartner, recovered well from minor surgery on October 15.

Each day is a gift from God. Make it blossom and grow into a day of beauty. He gave you life. Are you grateful that you could awaken to a new day and enjoy the gift of life? Are you grateful that you have a Saviour who died for you? Tell God that you are grateful. Tell Him daily. Just as we love to hear our children say, "thank you", so God is pleased when we tell Him, "thank you".

"And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"

St. Luke 17:16-17

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

The day was sunny and warm. The solid, stately trees exploded with color through the hills and vales. My friend and I viewed the awesome handiwork of God, exclaiming at the peacefulness and grandeur. Could there be a more magnificent sight? As the beauty of God's creation and the warmth of friendship wrapped around us, we had to admit that all of the splendor and blessings of this earth pale at what awaits the child of God in Heaven. How thankful we can be that God provides so many earthly blessings on top of the promise of an eternal home in that beautiful kingdom of Heaven.

We are thankful for the healing of David and Christy Massner, Sis. Lucille Heiniger, Keith Elcock, and Sis. Ruth Heinold.

Bro. Doyme and Sis. Dorothy Stewart have been richly blessed with

55 years of married life, and both recently celebrated 80th birthdays. A reception was held on October 13 for them by their family.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, food, phone calls and any other acts of kindness during the time of Lydia's illness and since her death. Words fail to express our thankfulness. May God richly bless each one for your acts of love.

The John Heiniger Family, Martha Peters, Nieces, Nephews, and Cousins of Sis. Lydia Heiniger

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

This is truly a season for thanksgiving. We rejoice in the beauty of God's creation and gifts to us. Soon the rain and snow will provide a bare landscape, but we know when winter is over trees and herbs will blossom again. We see in nature's response to God, our hope in knowing we also will respond in resurrection when Christ returns. No matter how bleak things look, we know He is in control.

"...my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil."

Psalm 119:161-162

I'm so thankful for His grace and mercy, His Word that led me to a suffering Saviour, who keeps me by His power.

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

fice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

Psalm 107:1, 8-9, 22

Bro. Art Gramm and Sis. Mary are grateful for his speedy recovery, and we are all thankful he is up and going again.

The 20th anniversary reunion of Gateway Woods provided a full weekend on October 5 and 6. We were blessed with three visiting ministers, Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We rejoiced in meeting and sharing with all who came.

Bro. Tim Sauder's presentation of the monthly topical Bible study on Character Training was very inspirational.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and his family visited on Sunday, October 13. His message was so applicable in our walk with God.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Psalm 103:1

Thoughts of Thanksgiving:

We have been a most favored people. We ought to be a most grateful people. We have been a most blessed people. We ought to be a most thankful people.

—Calvin Coolidge

Among the many acts of gratitude we owe to God, it may be accounted one to study and contemplate the perfections and beauties of His work of creation. Every new discovery must necessarily raise in us a fresh sense of the greatness, wisdom and power of God.

—Jonathan Edwards

O Lord, that lends me life, lend

me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—*William Shakespeare*

Two kinds of gratitude: the sudden kind we feel for what we take, the larger kind we feel for what we give.

—*Edwin Arlington Robinson*

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We have enjoyed many visitors who have spent a Sunday with us. We want to thank Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Jim Rinkenberg (Bluffton, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

We enjoyed a beautiful day at Camp Mack this year as many of our Sunday School children from Indiana spent the day at Milford. Many thanks to all who took part to make the day a special blessing.

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness. Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) both experienced a fractured bone. Bro. Bill Longcor (Sis. Judy) had minor surgery. Sis. Pat Mikel (Russ) had outpatient tests.

We are so thankful for the birth of Virgil Piper to Reid and Bridgett Piper. Virgil's grandparents are Ray and Rosemary Piper.

Our thoughts are with Tim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) as he spends 100 days in Saudi Arabia with the Air Force. He will be missed by his family over the holiday season. We pray he will be kept safe from harm and be able to return to his home in Georgia. Mail can be sent to S. Sgt. Timothy W. Troup, 4404 C.W. (P) 4410 AS, Unit 70408-Box 4410 (347 WG), APOAE, 09894-0408.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor as they said good-

bye to Sis. Judy's father, Bro. Fred Schafer, Princeville, IL. May God continue to comfort them in their time of loss.

We rejoice with Sis. Rita Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) as her engagement to Bro. Daren Metz, Morton, IL (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) was announced. May they feel the Lord's nearness and direction as they plan their wedding.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may we be reminded to be thankful for the little things in life as Bro. Henry Beer penned in his song "Thankful".

Thankful for health, Thankful for life,
Thankful for guidance in sorrow and strife.

Thankful for food and ripe golden grain,
For all that is needful our life to sustain.

Thankful for friends who just stand by
Upon whose help we can rely.

Thankful for home with comforts blest,
Where peace abides with love and rest.

Thankful for those who daily impart,
Strength for the journey, cheer for the heart.

Thankful to work in rich moist soil
Where roses bloom, to compensate toil.

Thankful to hear the still small voice
Making our heart in life's sorrows rejoice.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for

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

Psalm 107:1,8-9

We have so many reasons to be thankful. Thanksgiving should be much more than a day of celebration each November—it should be the condition of the heart and mind of every believer.

On September 21 and 22, our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship with several of the residents from the Home for the Handicapped. We thank them for visiting Remington and for being an inspiration to us.

We also want to thank Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) for presenting a Bible study on Biblical financial principles. May God's blessings and goodness inspire us to study His Word further and apply these principles to our lives.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

I John 4:12

We've been so beautifully reminded of that love which is perfected through the blood that was shed on the Cross out of love for all mankind, and we thank our ministering brothers for loving exhortations centered on Christ and His gracious mercy and compassion in our lives.

We extend our love and congratulations with the Lord's blessings to Matt Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Anna Haraguchi (Ciro and

Karen) who were united in marriage on October 5.

It is a joy to welcome Sis. Marci Neuenschwander from Bluffton North into our precious fellowship. She has found employment in South Bend where she is residing.

Ministering Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) and his family joined us on Sunday, October 6. Also, Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI) and his family were with us the following weekend. We thank these brothers for bringing the Word of Life in truth and sincerity.

He is the faithful shepherd,
Our Rock and Refuge true,
Who lovingly doth lead us,
Whose word doth us renew.

Zion's Harp #136

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

In the Lord Jesus Christ's name we greet you all. With the fall season we have been having here in north-west Indiana, it just really humbles my soul and brings back a lot of memories for this weak one when I was a boy. Remember how we all used to have so much fun with the leaves when they would come off the trees? Having just listened to the Conference tapes at church, the topic and speakers reminded me of when we used to play "king of the mountain". When you got to the top, you were considered the king until someone knocked you off. When the speakers started talking about all the battles that we have as we go along life's way, that's when it hit me. Probably our biggest battle of our lives is to have faith in Jesus Christ, repent, and be baptized. What a victory for us (king of the mountain)! But how unfortunate for many thinking that the battle ends right then and there. Being

baptized certainly doesn't end the battles that we must face the rest of our lives, nor does it mean that we have eternal security and we can't lose our way to Heaven. Dear ones, there is a foe out there doing his best to knock us off the top of that mountain, only this time it's not a game. It's for real, and the way we spend the rest of our lives depends on how we fight life's battles. God has certainly given us the tools. Let's use them and show others how to use them to become the winners the Lord has already made us.

It has been a very long time since we haven't had any visiting ministers to thank for coming, so this would be an opportune time to thank our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and our home brothers, Deacon Garry Bucher and Bro. Andy Moser, for their tireless giving of themselves and the sacrifices their families make along the way on our behalf. We thank God for you and may He keep you encouraged.

This month, little Shannon Lamb (Randall and Louann) was hospitalized and is now recuperating at home with her family.

As this will be the last writing (the Lord willing) before Thanksgiving, we would like to take this time to bid you all a happy holiday. We have much to be thankful for as we think of what has been given to us all. No matter what Satan may throw at us while here on earth, we can all rejoice in Jesus Christ. We thank God our Father for this precious gift.

Thanks to all of our visitors for coming this past month. The door is always open and the love is plentiful. Farewell for now.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sherice Bahler - Jody Bahler

We were privileged to have Bro.

Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) with us on the evening of September 25 for a topical Bible Study. Bro. Mark spoke about managing finances, pertaining specifically to a Christian's godly life. It gave us each food for thought as we traverse here below and strive to manage the many blessings God has given. May God bless him for his labors.

Sis. Emma Furrer left this earthly home on October 4, and went to her eternal rest. We are thankful that she can now face Heaven and be with our Lord and Saviour. We extend deepest sympathy to her family, and may they look forward to meeting her again there at the Pearly Gates.

We rejoice that Kara Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine) has found peace with God and man, and now looks forward to becoming a sister in faith. We pray that she can remain true and faithful to God, and feel His blessed nearness all the days of her life.

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms,
Has blest us on our way,
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

As Thanksgiving season approaches, may we each one be reminded of our countless blessings, and give all thanks to God for His mercy and love to us.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

What a colorful autumn God gave us again to view. Our thanks to all who spent a Sabbath with us while out enjoying God's handiwork. Visitors are a real blessing to our small flock.

Tom and Darla Butikofer are glad to welcome Valarie Kay into their family circle. Big sister, Sydney, and grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Lav-erne Butikofer, and Paul and Bertha Schuchmann, are thankful for her arrival, too.

Our thanks to our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for spending a Sunday with us and sharing God's Word.

After 31 years of service in the Lord's vineyard, Bro. Bert Butikofer has felt moved to resign from the ministry. We give him and his wife, Sis. Beulah, our love and support as they continue to serve the Lord in their daily walk with Him.

As Thanksgiving Day draws closer, may our hearts be filled to overflowing with gratitude for the bountiful provisions and blessings that our Heavenly Father daily sends our way. Always at the top of the list should be the sending of His only Son to pay the debt for our salvation, that we may entertain this hope that lies in the heart of each of us who have surrendered ourselves to God's mercy and direction.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

Giving Thanks

Giving thanks is something greater
Than just mere words we can say,
More than just grateful
expressions
Voiced on each Thanksgiving Day.

Giving thanks is something deeper
Than perhaps we are aware,
Even when each head is bowed
And in every heart a prayer.

Giving thanks must hold true
meaning
Far beyond one day each year
Not just recalling our blessings
When Thanksgiving Day is near.

Giving thanks is living daily
In such a fine, worthy way,
That each new dawn brings the
morning
Of its own Thanksgiving Day.
—Virginia K. Oliver

We should celebrate Thanksgiv-
ing every day, as we receive many
blessings that we take for granted.

Visiting ministers this past
month include Bros. Kevin Banwart
(West Bend, IA), Ron Joos (Pulaski,
IA) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS).
May God's blessings rest upon those
who come and share His Word with
us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We appreciated
our many visitors this month. Our
visiting ministers were Bros.
Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL),
Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and
Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). We thank
them for being willing to assist our
Bro. Joe Gerst in serving us the Holy
Word for our spiritual sustenance.

We also enjoyed hosting the
Eureka Single Group this month.
We hope they experienced the bless-
ing of fellowship as much as our
whole congregation did.

The weather was perfect for our
Student Picnic on October 6. We
enjoyed meeting our college stu-
dents and their families who could
attend. Another student at the Uni-
versity of Iowa this year is Sarah
Clark (Sis. Willa Clark, Garden
Grove, IA). We look forward to get-
ting to know her better as she has
opportunity to worship with us.

Another precious soul we wel-
come with open arms is Grant Arm-
strong Knobloch, firstborn son of
Bro. Neil and Sis. June who arrived
September 20. May God bless this
family and may He guide these first-
time parents in bringing him up in

the "nurture and admonition of the
Lord."

Two little eyes and a smile so
bright
Reflecting God's love, a beautiful
sight!
Two little hands, learning to play,
May they also learn to pray.
Two little feet that cannot yet
walk;
Plant them, Lord, on the Solid
Rock.
Anonymous

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

We are experiencing a beautiful
fall and a bountiful harvest. Let us
never cease to be thankful for God's
blessings, but most of all for the gift
of His son and the plan of salvation.

Our congregation has been
blessed with two new little addi-
tions. On September 22, Grant
Eugene Metzger was born to Bro.
Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger. He
has an older sister, Kayla, and lov-
ing grandparents, Bro. Eugene and
Sis. Delores Metzger and Bro. Lloyd
and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington,
IA). Jed Louis Van't Hof was wel-
comed by Doug and Sis. Lisa and
siblings, Wil and Lauren, on Octo-
ber 14. Grandparents are Bro. Wil-
liam and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch. We
pray that God will grant these fami-
lies His grace and wisdom to teach
and guide their precious children.

We extend our sympathy to Bro.
Andy Mogler on the death of his
sister-in-law, Sis. Inez Mogler, of
Eureka, IL.

We are thankful for God's healing
hand on our hospital patients, Sis.
Martha Feucht (late Bro. August),
Carl Leuthold (Deb), and Sis. Donna
Metzger. Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro.
Dwight) was a surgical patient.

On October 12, Brian Teubel was
united in marriage to Shannon
Hawkins in Sioux Falls, SD. Brian

is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline Teubel and was formerly from Lester. Brian and Shannon now reside in Peoria, IL. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings.

Danielle Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane) and Carrie Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki) have repented for their sins and been blessed with the wonderful gift of peace. We rejoice with them and continue to pray for them as they await baptism.

We can feel Thy grace and comfort,
Light and strength, the Spirit's
seal;
All the blight of sin and sorrow,
None but Thee our wounds can
heal.

Saviour! Since Thy blood is
healing,
There is rest for heart and mind.
Let us now, Thy peace enjoying,
Grace, sufficient, in Thee find.

Zion's Harp #18

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

Bros. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) have recently brought forth God's Holy Word in our congregation at Oakville. May God bless them for their willingness to be spent in His service.

Nichole, Amy, Dustin, and Brock Massner, along with their parents, Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Donna, welcome little Drew Michael into their family circle. Also thankful for a new grandchild are Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Morton, IL).

Another harvest season is upon us. My dad has just finished filling our bin with another year's crop of soybeans. We had a good yield this

year. It reminds me of our spiritual lives. What kind of yield are we producing for our Father in Heaven? As the crops in the field are nurtured by the loving hand of God, so are our lives. Let us strive to be more faithful.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Our congregation is thankful to Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. We appreciate the time given, and the prayers offered by our ministers on the church's behalf. May we continue to support them in prayer and through obedience.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Angie Birkner are very thankful for the birth of their son, Justin Conrad, born September 26. He is warmly welcomed by grandparents, Joyce and the late Conrad Birkner, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger. We trust the Lord will stay ever near little Justin as he begins his life.

We are grateful Bro. Albert Wuthrich is assembling with us again after his surgical hospitalization.

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

Psalm 95:2-3

Can we ever thank the Lord enough?

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) was our visiting minister this past month. We want to thank Bro. Paul and his family for making the trip to West Bend and lending himself to the service of the Lord.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Elma Mogler and Bro. Nathan Mogler on the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Inez Mogler, of Eureka, IL. May they feel God's love and nearness as it seems from time to time one of their family circle is called Home.

Deanna Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita) was a surgical patient during the past month. May God bless her as she recovers at home.

Steve and Sis. Kris Banwart have been blessed with a son, Gabriel Patrick. He is welcomed home with open arms into the family circle by brother, Elijah; grandparents, Sis. Patricia Banwart and Joan Krull; and great-grandparents, Bro. Arthur and Madeline Banwart. May God bless the family as they care for this precious new family member.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Our hearts are warmed with thankfulness as two souls were announced for having peace with God and man. We are looking forward in the near future to listen to the testimonies of Rachel Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Barry Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice).

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, we know we have much to be thankful for, and every day should be a day of thanksgiving to our Lord. Even in times of grief and illness, we can thank God that He is with us and will provide if we ask Him in prayer.

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer

Lord God, we honor Thee and
praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully dost hear
our supplication!

Thy love is truly great; Thy
mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink for
Spirit, flesh and soul.

Thy living Word is sent our souls
to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts Thy
love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and power
upon our pilgrim way,
And ledest us by Thy hand to
heaven day by day.

We sing our heart-felt thanks, Thy
truth and love adoring.
For guidance and for light Thy
Spirit we're imploring.
Our hearts we offer Thee for life
and every day,
That with Thy grace we tread the
straight and narrow way.
Zion's Harp #13

How unworthy I feel, in this
Thanksgiving season, when I con-
sider just how much God has really
blessed us. I can't even begin to list
all the great things He has
done—Praise God for His unspeak-
able gifts!

"...And be ye thankful."
Colossians 3:15

With thankful hearts, Bro.
Dwight and Sis. Anita Rokey wel-
come Amanda Judith into their fam-
ily circle. She was born September

18 and is also welcomed by her big
sister, Leigha, and grandparents,
Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey
and Eugene and Judy Edelman.

We always appreciate the efforts
of Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS)
when he visits and ministers to our
congregation. Special thanks go to
him and his family and we welcome
them back anytime.

Our hospital patients have been
Sis. Mavis Meyer (Bro. Louis) and
Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella). Our
prayers are with them as they en-
dure these afflictions, and we hope
to be able to worship with them
again soon.

We also lift up Sis. Arlene Esslin-
ger in our prayers, as her mother,
Sis. Tillie Mogler (West Bend, IA),
passed away on September 12. May
she feel the Lord's mighty comfort-
ing arms around her.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Tammy Sinn

On September 25, Madelyn Al-
exis was born to Alesha Banwart.
Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis.
Aleta Banwart. Doug and Darcy
Sinn welcomed Drew Douglas into
their lives on October 8. Grandpar-
ents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol
Sinn and Larry and Linda Neville.

Our thoughts and prayers have
been with Bro. John Sinn (Sis.
Carol) as he was hospitalized due to
a broken leg suffered in a farm-re-
lated accident. May God be with him
during his time of recovery.

We wish to thank Bros. Jim
Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and Bob
Stoller (Lamar, MO) for ministering
to us on a recent Sunday evening.
We greatly appreciate their labors
and know God will bless them for
being used in His service.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

O, let us exalt our dear Lord and
proclaim,
In songs of true gratitude, praise
to His name!
As songs of the angels in sweetest
accord,
Our thanks and our praises shall
rise to the Lord.
Zion's Harp #165

Thanksgiving!! A time to remem-
ber all the wonderful blessings the
Lord has bestowed upon us while we
sojourn upon this earth. We are
such a blessed nation to be able to
have a day set aside so we may in
freedom worship as we please, live
as we please, work as we please, and
not suffer persecution for doing so.
But as children of the Living God,
one day a year is definitely not
enough to give God our thanks and
our praise for all He has given to us.
In fact, every minute of every hour
of every day is not enough, so let's
be instant in prayer and praise and
thanksgiving, and keep God in our
lives in all we choose to do until He
calls us Home.

Our prayers are with our loved
ones who have been ill this month.
We sometimes miss naming some
who have had hospital stays, and for
this we are sorry. Bro. Arnold Ott,
Sis. Edna Reed, Butch Diel, Sis. So-
phia Kircher, Sis. Alice Tanner, and
Bro. Joe Frieden have all been ill or
undergone hospital care recently.
Most are again able to be in our
midst, and we are very thankful for
this.

We had the blessed privilege of
having two visiting ministers and
their dear wives in our midst on one
Lord's Day this month. Elder Bro.
John Lehman (Sabetha, KS) and
Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH)
shared precious words of love with
us from the Word, and brought
much love and fellowship to our
small congregation. Since we are
small, we appreciate having breth-

ren stop through Kiowa when they are traveling, and hope they will feel free to call any time for lodging.

The family of Bro. Huber Farney has asked us to extend their deepest gratitude to all of our brethren and friends for the love shown to them at the time of Bro. Huber's passing. There are no words that can ever repay each and every one for their thoughtfulness, but please know that it was all deeply appreciated.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

"And should the angels call her back much sooner than we'd planned, we'll bear the bitter grief that comes, and try to understand." As was with our dear Sis. Mary (Beyer) Isch (Bro. Floyd) who was called Home sooner than we'd planned. Our whole-hearted sympathy goes out to Bro. Floyd and his entire family of loved ones. The Ischs and Beyers have all experienced a great loss in a mother as well as a stepmother. "Dear Lord, Thy will be done." Bro. Floyd now resides at Holiday Resort Care Home in Emporia.

We appreciated our visiting minister from Lamar, MO, Bro. Charles Marti. Thank you for spending the Lord's Day with us. We are grateful!

Sis. Dorthy Young has asked for our loving prayers as she has faced a health crisis. Please be mindful in thought and prayer of Sis. Dorthy. May God comfort and direct her. Our retired minister, Bro. Loren Strahm (Sis. Liseten) underwent many coronary studies and diagnostic surgeries this month also. Many prayers have been offered up in his behalf. "Daily let our feet move onward till we reach our heavenly land." Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten now reside at the Sabetha Village.

On October 6, another reason to celebrate was granted to us as a

congregation. We shared in our children's Sunday School fall picnic together. What a delight to see our children enjoying one another so, and the fall weather was just beautiful that day! Thank you, Lord, for these precious memories.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, flowers, food, and expressions of sympathy in the loss of our loved one. Your kindness will always be remembered. May God bless you all.

The family of Mary Beyer Isch

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger

We have enjoyed viewing God's handiwork as we see the trees display brilliant colors. Our thoughts reflect the words of the hymn writer who wrote "How Great Thou Art".

We are always thankful for God's protection when loved ones safely return from many miles of travel. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) spent a few days in Russia. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti visited with the brethren in Yugoslavia. We are thankful for the many fruits of the earth but much more importantly the spiritual blessings from God.

Bro. Nathan Grimm (Sis. Lois) is presently in the hospital. May God ever be near him.

Our sincere sympathy to the families that have lost loved ones. Sis. Tillie Mogler passed away in West Bend, IA. We extend sympathy to Sis. Helen Strahm on the death of her sister.

We remember Sis. Mary Aberle. Her brother, Bro. Huber Farney, passed away in Kiowa, KS.

Sis. Mary Isch, formerly of Gridley, KS, passed away on October 6 shortly after moving to Sabe-

tha. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Floyd Isch, who was a temporary resident of our nursing home and think of her son, Bro. Martin Beyer (Sis. Karen).

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA). We appreciated their visits as well as our other visitors.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." These words are used in the first verses of Psalms 106, 107, 118, and 136 (and perhaps elsewhere in the Psalms). We can never be exhorted too much to give thanks to the Lord.

We do thank Him for the joy we felt when we learned that Sharon Norris is practicing medicine with the Amarado Family Physicians here in Wichita. Sharon, Leon and their children, Johanna and baby Jacob are a precious part of our congregation.

We are also thankful that we can lift up in prayer our concerns for Sis. Gussie Wullschleger's family. On Sunday, October 23, Sis. Gussie's newest great-grandson was born to Deanna Nguyen and her husband. Later that day, death claimed Sis. Gussie's son-in-law, Joe Dunlap. Joe, who was 47 years old, is survived by his wife, Juanita, his daughters, Kori Young and Deanna Nguyen, and the new baby.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann

Many thanks to Bro. Mark Ram-sier and his wife, Sis. Alice, from Sardis, OH; and Bro. Clark Stoller and his wife, Sis. Cindy, from

Gridley, IL who were our visiting ministers this past month.

As we reflect upon the goodness of our Great God, we have much to be thankful for. God's mercy and love are felt each day as we realize how little we deserve and how much God blesses.

Just a reminder for those traveling south this winter to stop and fellowship with us in Lexington.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Michele Oesch - Melanie Kaeb

God hath not promised skies
always blue
Flower strewn pathways all our
lives through.
God hath not promised sun
without rain
Joy without sorrow, peace without
pain.

God hath not promised we shall
not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and
woe.
He hath not told us we shall not
bear
Many a burden, many a care.

But God has promised strength
for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the
way.
Grace for the trials, help from
above
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

We must remember to thank the Lord every day for the blessings He has given us and also for the trials and tests which He uses to prepare us for future service.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held at Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough's shed on October 12. The children (and the rest of us) had a blessed time.

Bro. Vernon Meyer (Sis. Carol) recently had surgery to remove kidney stones. He has recovered and is doing well. We continue to covet

your prayers for Ronald Zaagman (Ed and Joy) who is taking chemotherapy treatments for lymphoblastic lymphoma.

May the Lord continue to bless and keep us in the time to come.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

II Corinthians 4:17-18

We wish our Lord's healing powers to those of our loved ones who are ailing with pains of body and mind: Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marian), Sis. Kathryn Wackerle (Bro. Ronald), Greg Schlatter (mother, Sis. Sharon), Sis. Maria Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen Jr.), Sis. Alice Mehl (Chris), Bro. Erwin Wieland (Sis. Nina), Sis. Bebra Knochel (Bro. Jack), and Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta). We pray for those who are ill and also those who are caring for them.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle were fortunate enough to be able to celebrate 50 years of marriage. To this union they were blessed to have Bro. Greg, Renee, Tom and Bro. Allen. May God bless them as they travel onward together.

Bro. Erwin Wieland (Sis. Nina) celebrated his 85th birthday.

Be not dismayed, whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Thru days of toil when heart doth
fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path
assail,
God will take care of you.

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.

God will take care of you,
Thru ev'ry day, O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Hymns of Zion #138

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton
Lynette Moser

As we think of the things we are thankful for at this Thanksgiving season, fellowship and encouragement from the church are high on the list. Here in Detroit, we had an exceptional taste of this as we hosted an inspirational weekend for single brothers and sisters. The discussion centered around how we should measure success by God's standard and not by the world's values. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) reminded us that SUCCESS is "Security Under Christ's Compassion, Encouragement, Safety, and Salvation". He pointed out that if success is measured by what other people say, we will be on a constant roller coaster. Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) then talked to us about letting go of our failures "...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before." (Phil. 3:13). He also pointed out that we should guard against spiritual failures, especially failing to take Satan

seriously, failing in our prayer life, and failure to reverence God's holiness. Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) emphasized the importance of knowing our individual purpose and not comparing ourselves with others. "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." (II Cor. 10:12). Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) then reminded us of the importance of being a good steward of our success. He illustrated that thankfulness and giving go hand in hand and we are stewards of our time and talents as well as our money. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Bro. Howard Plattner also joined us for our Sunday services.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, KS) and retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) visited Detroit church for a Wednesday evening service. Greg Schlatter had surgery and is recovering quickly. Our prayers are with Bro. Keith and Sis. Alissa Beyer as they grieve the death of Bro. Keith's grandmother, Sis. Mary Beyer Isch, from Gridley, KS.

As we approach Thanksgiving, remember: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." (Psalm 136:1).

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

We welcomed ten college students with a picnic at Homeward Hills Park. Furthering their education in the Minneapolis area are Bro. Jeremy Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, Indianapolis, IN), Kurt Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Sis. Karla Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby), Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis.

Lois), Sis. Carrie and Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachael) all from Morris, MN, Jerilyn and Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Lester, IA) and Sis. Stephanie and Jodi Messner (Sis. Carol Ann, Winthrop, MN). We look forward to the opportunity to fellowship and worship our great God in Heaven with this fine group of young brothers, sisters and friends.

Our Sunday School children, teachers, brethren and friends enjoyed the annual hay ride and wiener roast at Eagle Creek Stables on Saturday evening, September 28.

We were grateful to have Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) share God's Word with us this past month. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Congratulations to Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall on the birth of their first great-grandchild, a girl. Eirn Ann was born September 13 to Justin and Barb Voge of Detroit Lakes, MN.

Sis. Vera Schmidt was in our thoughts and prayers as she was hospitalized for surgery. God has granted His healing touch as she is now assembling with us once again.

On Saturday evening, October 5, brethren and friends from the Winthrop and Minneapolis congregations met at Homeward Hills Park for a cook-out and potluck supper. A blessed evening of singing and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, may we remember to thank God for our salvation and the blessings we enjoy.

All Come And Thank The Lord!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.

The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore,
Who is and shall survive,
Now and forevermore!
Zion's Harp #236

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

"Faith of our Fathers" renew us
again
And make us a nation of God
fearing men
Seeking Thy guidance, Thy love
and Thy will,
For we are but Pilgrims in need of
Thee still -
And, gathered together on
Thanksgiving Day,
May we lift up our hearts and our
hands as we pray
To thank Thee for blessings we so
little merit
And grant us Thy love and teach
us to share it!
Helen Steiner Rice

Note of Thanks:

May God bless all of you who shared your kindness, prayers, cards and gifts of love before, during my stays in the hospital and while recovering at home from my two surgeries.

Sis. Vera Schmidt

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Nancy Wulf Linda Schmidgall

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:20

We are thankful the Lord was with Bro. Randy Sutter (Sis. Pam) and spared his life when he was involved in a car/tractor accident. We pray God will give him the healing he needs to be up and around again. Also, our prayers are with little Angela Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) as she has had surgery and is in a body cast for a couple of months.

We want to apologize for the oversight in May that Barbara Feuchtenberger has found the grace to repent. Barbara's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen. May God be with her.

We weren't privileged to have any visiting ministers this past month, but want to take this time to extend our appreciation and support to our "home" ministers as they so patiently and faithfully speak God's Holy Word to us. May God richly bless them.

Surely we have many reasons to give thanks unto our Heavenly Father at this Thanksgiving season, as we have been blessed in so many ways.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
 Greetings!

With Thanksgiving time approaching, we can fill our hearts and minds with so many things to be thankful for. In our day to day tasks, do we stop to thank God for our good health? Our families? Our Church? Our brothers and sisters in faith? Our ministers and elders? For His Son Jesus? There are so many things to be thankful for we just could not list them all. It would behoove us all to try each day to count our blessings one by one and thank God for them. So often we are asking God for more help, and indeed He is where we want to go for help, but sometimes we forget to thank Him for what He has already done for us.

We were privileged to listen to the General Conference tapes in September. We are thankful that our Elder brethren so prayerfully seek out God's direction in all aspects of living a true Christian life and then share concerns and encouragement with us each year. He has given them special wisdom to help us press toward the mark and by apply-

ing this to our lives can only help us on our way to Heaven.

We would like to send a special thank you to ministering Bro. Alphai Moser (Sis. Pearl, Morris, MN) for sharing the Word with us this past month. What a blessing it is to have visitors come and worship with us.

We enjoyed our annual potluck with our congregation in Minneapolis. The weather was beautiful and the Lord truly blessed our gathering. We would like to send a special thank you to the planning committee from both Winthrop and Minneapolis for their efforts in organizing and putting on this potluck. We look forward to our next gathering of fellowship and singing!

This past weekend, our Sunday School hosted a weekend for the Sunday School youth from Belvidere, IL. We would like to thank them all for making the effort to come and share in our weekend. We would also like to thank ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) for sharing the Word with us here and also taking time to visit with our Sunday School Bible Class. This was a nice opportunity for our children to make wonderful memories in sharing with kids from other congregations and developing lasting friendships.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Lois Messner (Bro. Marlyn) and Sis. Dorothy Jacobson (John). We pray that the Lord will be at their side as they regain strength.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

"Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as

plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord."

Psalm 144:11-15

We certainly have a lot to be thankful for. As a church and as a nation, we have been blessed in the past year. Contrary to certain predictions of famine in the midwest, a bountiful harvest is in progress. We certainly don't have any good reasons to murmur or complain.

Each day we should thank our great God for delivering us from evil, which is very deceptive in our world today. We also should thank Him for the youth in our church, and pray that they may grow up to be servants of the King—there is no higher calling in this world. The presidency may be the most powerful office in the world, but what would it be without the prayers which are daily offered to God for it?

Kansas City has been blessed with three visiting ministers in the past month. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and his family (Detroit, MI) were with us, as well as Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God bless you in the future as in the past.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Martha Kellenberger

On October 12, the family of Sis. Anna Marti gathered to celebrate

her 98th birthday and wish her well. We were pleased she could assemble with us once again the following Sunday, along with the many visitors.

We gladly welcome Bro. Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred, Sis. Carolyn) back home. He has been attending church in Phoenix, AZ while he furthered his education. We pray God will direct him in his future occupation.

Once again our Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene) has been hospitalized. It is our prayer that he will continue to feel God's nearness and mercy.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Rusty and Amy Adrian

How thankful are we for the home we have to live in, the clothes we have to wear, the food we have to eat and the church we have to go to? If you are like me, sometimes we take these things that we have so readily available for granted believing that they will always be there. As we in this land of America have nice homes, many clothes to wear, much food to eat and the privilege to go to church to worship our Lord freely, may we always be ready to share the things we have with those who are less fortunate and be thankful that we have a church that teaches the truth about repentance, conversion and baptism, that we can have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Even when those times in our life that come before us that are not so great, we can still count our blessings and be thankful that we have our most precious Lord to strengthen and help us when we ask.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those hospitalized this past month who were Sis. Rose Hoerr (late Bro. John), Sis. Charlene Sutter (late Bro. Dick), Jody Meyers (Danny) and Bro. Dave Marquart

(Sis. Lori). May their faith and trust in God be strengthened at this time in each of their lives.

October 13 was a special day for the Sunday School youth as they enjoyed their annual fall cookout at Lake of the Oaks. It was an exciting time for all as they were able to play games and sing songs together.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

Thank God For Little Things

Thank You, God, for little things
that often come our way
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray -
The unexpected courtesy, the
thoughtful, kindly deed -
A hand reached out to help us in
time of sudden need -
Oh, make us more aware, dear
God, of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet
surprise" from never-dreamed-
of places.

—Helen Steiner Rice

The harvest season is upon us and the time of year when we think of thanking God for the many blessings He bestows upon us in this lifetime. We think of the bountiful harvest, food, clothing and shelter, but do we remember to thank God for the little things that come our way that help us get through each day? As we go about our daily duties at home, work or school, we can think of many little things that give us strength for each duty and responsibility that we have to carry out during the course of one day. At the end of the day we should pause to thank God for everything He so bountifully provides for us.

We are thankful to God for the many blessings enjoyed throughout the past month through the many visitors that have come to share pre-

cious time with us. The Word was spoken to us through the lips of Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) on Thursday evening, October 3. On the weekend of October 5 and 6 we hosted the single group from Junction and Latty. The Word again came to us clear and plain through Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). Again, on the weekend of October 12 and 13 we had many visitors with us to share in the beauty of God's creation and fellowship together. We are thankful for these times when our church can be filled with loved ones of like mind and faith, some who we have met before and some we have never met before. We thank each one for their visits and can only think that it is truly a foretaste of what Heaven will be like when we can be forever with our loved ones in blessed fellowship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. May we strive diligently each day to meet this goal.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our loved ones who were hospitalized. Sis. Anna Mellnitz and Sis. Bernice Hirschey were medical patients and Sis. Lois (Bro. Dave) Schamback had surgery on her shoulder to repair an injury from a fall several weeks ago. May God be with each of them in their recovery time and grant each of them a measure of good health according to His will.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings and love. Rejoice in this time of Thanksgiving, not just for a day, but for a season. We may have burdens, cares and distractions, but in greater measure we have earthly blessings, faith and hope of an eternal reward.

Thanks to Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) for sharing from God's Word at our monthly song service recently.

Our World Relief sewing group has selected Sis. Joyce Schamback to our committee as Sis. Sarah Henico has completed her term. We appreciate every effort extended on behalf of our World Relief projects and trust that God will bless the labors.

We wish for Ben Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) quick healing of his fractured thumb.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

This is the most beautiful time of the year! Who but our Master could create such vibrant reds, striking oranges and perfect golds to color the meadows and hillsides? Each year it seems I appreciate the fall artistry more and more in our lovely state. As we approach this Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for the beauty of the earth and skies and for His perfect touch.

We are so thankful for a visit from Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH) during our College Welcome Weekend on September 22. Also visiting with us the weekend of our fall Sunday School picnic were Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

Following is a poem handed to me that was submitted to the Silver Lining by Sis. Ida Meiss back in 1965 "in honor of new converts".

Five things, if remembered, will help you each day;
Obeyed, they will keep you from going astray;
Though Satan may tempt you and trials betide,
You surely will conquer and in Christ abide.

Keep Looking to Jesus (He can

never fail),
And walk in His footsteps in every detail;
The world's vain allurements will vanish from sight
By looking to Jesus, your Saviour and Light.

Read Daily Your Bible, if you would be strong
To witness for Jesus and overcome wrong;
The Author, the Book, and the doer abide,
But they who neglect it will surely backslide.

Pray Without Ceasing. This will bring you to Him
Who cleanses and keeps you a victor o'er sin.
There's nothing so great that our God cannot do,
And nothing so small but He'll undertake, too.

Confess Him to Others. Be bold for your King
To those who are lying in darkness and sin;
What help can you better to all recommend,
Than this Blessed Jesus - the needy one's Friend?

Do Something for Jesus. He did all for you;
Your joy find in willing His sweet will to do.
So seeking to please Him through life day by day,
His presence shall gladden each step of your way.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, what brings more joy and thankfulness than the news of repenting souls? Those who have given their lives to our Lord are Mark and Cathy Manz, Ted Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon), Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila), Julie McCullough (James), and Kelly Font. We rejoice with them and their families.

Two couples were married this past month. On September 21,

Cathy Leatherman (Tom Leatherman, Carol Benroth) became the bride of Mark Manz (Dave and Sis. Kathy); and on October 13, many witnessed the wedding vows of Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) and Marvin Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen). Best wishes and God's blessings are extended to these loved ones.

OHIO, LATTY Joyce Klopfenstein Kathy Sinn

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers during the month. They include Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Even though we greatly appreciate our home brothers, we so enjoy visiting brothers. May God richly bless them and their families now and much more in the time to come.

We are so very thankful that God's call has been answered again at our congregation. Tim Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) and Aaron and Jennifer Shepherd (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger) have decided to follow the teaching of God's Word and turn their back on the world. May God richly bless them with His presence.

Duane and Carrie Sinn have been blessed with a new baby girl, Leah Elizabeth. Grandparents, Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Earl and Alison McClure, welcome her into their hearts and homes. May little Leah be blessed with daily teachings of God's Word.

On October 2, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Ralph Stoller and Sis. Tootie Sinn. As these two join hand and heart, we see the leading and guiding of God's hand unto those who are faithful and true. We

rejoice with them and their families.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) and her family at the passing of her mother, Sis. Emma Furrer. May Sis. Dorothy, in this time of loss, be comforted knowing that mother is in a better land.

Grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor, welcome their first grandson. Dylan Joseph was born on October 9 to Chad and Jen Keysor (Jack and Joy Landshroener).

October 13 was the wedding of Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori) and Marvin Manz (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Gwen, Junction, OH). As this couple makes their home in Cincinnati, may God guide and direct them unto paths of truth and righteousness. As they plan for their future together, may they ask God's will to be accomplished.

On October 19, Katie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vicky) and Brant Zuber (Larry and Wendy) were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

As we read this issue, the Thanksgiving holiday will be very near. It seems that the world has forgotten this holiday and skips over it. We need to strive to remember the many blessings which have been afforded unto us by our Heavenly Father. With a thankful heart, we will become more satisfied and more content with our simple and separate walk of life.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

Marjorie and Jonathan Dawson have the privilege of welcoming home a new playmate. Matthew Daniel was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy on September 21. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer. May this new son bring as

much joy to the Dawson household as his older siblings have.

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

Psalm 22:22

How thankful we should be that we have brethren who are willing to declare His holy name unto their brethren! Our visitors this month included Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May these brethren be rewarded here on earth and in Heaven above for their willingness to proclaim God's Holy Word to us.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Esther, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucy Baumann (daughter, son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina) and Bro. Adam Baumann to our congregation. We welcome them as part of our church family and pray they will be richly rewarded for assembling with us.

As a congregation, we extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty) and Sis. Sophie Sabo (Bro. Bill) in the passing of their brother, Lawrence, of Portland, OR. May they and their families feel God's comforting arms along with our prayers surrounding them at this time.

As we come into the season when the entire country recognizes a need to be thankful, may each one of us strive not only to have that thankful spirit within us, but also to share it with all those around us. May we each strive to find one new thing to be thankful for each day of the year. In closing, this verse is for each one of you: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Romans 15:13).

OHIO, RITTMAN Michelle Dotterer Carla Stoller

It certainly was a privilege to hear how God worked in the souls of our dear precious friends, Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Matt (Frank and Rosemary) and Darlene Csapo (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser) and Philip Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) at testimonies on October 12. Along with our Elder Bro. Henry, we had visiting Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). On Sunday we were able to witness the baptisms and greet our new brothers and sister in faith.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartzler were blessed with a son, Nathan Robert, who was born September 19. His sister, Shelby, enjoys caring for her baby brother, as does his grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jeannie Stoller and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Also born on September 19 was Marisa Alane, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Hartzler. She is welcomed home by her sister, Kendra. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Jenna Kaye joined the family of Bro. Dave, Sis. Jan and Derek Stoller on October 4. Her grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller.

We are so thankful Rick Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth) is seeking the Lord in repentance. It is with much joy that we wish him abundant grace in his new walk of life.

Jan Thompson (Jim and Sis. Joyce) and Travis Higgins (Gary and Peggy) were joined in marriage on Saturday, October 12. We trust that God will provide for them.

Those who have recently been

hospitalized are Pat Winkler (Bro. Chuck), Caitlin Keiper (Kevin and Carolyn), Sis. Pauline Hartzler (Bro. Ernest) and Lois Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail). We are thankful for God's healing power.

Our Nursing Home marked the 20th anniversary of operation with an Open House on Sunday, September 29. Sis. Elizabeth Widmer has been a resident of the Home since its beginning. We owe a special thanks to the staff and volunteers for their labors of love.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

"By the breath of God frost is given..."

Job 37:10

As I write, we seem to be enjoying a few last warm days, but we have already experienced a frosty morning and know that more is certain if God allows the season to progress as He has in the past.

It will be good to gather together in Thanksgiving as the time designated and recognized nationally for that purpose approaches. May we remember, that like the Levites who were given the office "...to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord, and likewise at even;" (I Chronicles 23:30), to carry a thankful heart daily.

Virginia Riggerbach (Dale) has been unable to fellowship and worship with us for a few weeks. Certainly our prayers are with her that she can feel comfort and experience renewed strength.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

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

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

Gospel Hymns #823

At the time this article is being written, the farmers are busily harvesting their crops. Even as they are hoping for "wholesome grain", so also the Lord expects a spiritual harvest of pure and wholesome grain. To help us meet His expectations, we were privileged to listen to the tapes of the 1996 Conference during the past month. We received many good teachings at this time. We thank our Elders for their care and concern for our spiritual welfare, and hope we can all produce that quality crop He is looking for.

We thank Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) for ministering God's Word to us recently.

Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Bob) recently underwent surgery. Thankfully, she has made a good recovery and is back among us again.

We heartily welcome some new faces in our Smithville congregation. Bro. Tony Manz from Junction, Bro. Ben Stoller from Latty, and Sis. Erica Wenninger from Latty are attending nearby colleges. Also, Sis. Joyce Indermuhle from Sardis is here for a teaching position. We hope they have all been made to feel our love and support.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

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

I Thess. 5:18

We are always thankful for the material blessings that God has given us, but we are even more

thankful for the gift of salvation and the promise of peace. Garth Gucker has found this wonderful peace. May God's peace abide with him throughout life.

We had our annual college family picnic to welcome new and returning college students in the area. We are glad to have them back and hope they have a successful year.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH). May God richly bless their efforts and may we be obedient to what we have been taught.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted, A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance,"

Ecclesiastes 3:1,2,4

Oftentimes events in our lives cause us to think of this particular scripture. I have to be reminded that God has a purpose for everything that happens. His time table may not be ours, but some day we will better understand these events.

"...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."

II Corinthians 12:9

Our prayers of sympathy are with Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa Gallup as Bro. Mark's dear mother, Mignon Gallup, of Altadena, CA has passed away. May they find comfort in the Holy Spirit during this difficult time.

We thank Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) for ministering to us this past month.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

This past month we were blessed to have the following visiting ministers: Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). We appreciate their labors in the Lord on our behalf.

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Michele Zollinger in the birth of their son, Benjamin Jacob, on October 15. He is welcomed by big brother and sister, Luke and Lindsey, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger, Lester, IA. Due to an illness, little Benjamin has had an extended hospital stay, but we trust he will soon be able to join his family at home. October 18 brought the arrival of Travis Otto to the family of Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn. Kenton, Brianna, Laura, Darwin, Trenton, Nelson, Troy and Erin are excited to have a new little brother. Happy grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn and Bro. Dan and the late Wilma Edelman, Bern, KS.

Note of Thanks:

To all of our Brothers, Sisters and Friends who were moved by the love of our Lord Jesus to pray for my family and I. It causes us to be deeply thankful and humble for the prayers and cards of encouragement we received this past summer. Recently we received a good report from the doctor concerning the level of remission that is very favorable at this time. We realize we still have a need for your prayers. May the Lord keep us bound across the miles in His love, mercy and compassion.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and family

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word."

Psalm 103:20

We thank our Sunday School teachers for hosting our annual Sunday School picnic. A good time was had by all. We are thankful for the work our teachers do and may their lessons fall upon willing hearts.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Sis. Linda Isch's (Bro. Jerry) grandmother, Sis. Emma Furrer, of Wolcott, IN. May God comfort those left behind.

We thank Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) for sharing God's Word with us. We appreciate the efforts these brothers make to be with us. May God bless them for being such willing servants.

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

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

In this Thanksgiving season, let us rejoice and take the opportunity to be thankful to God for all of the many wonderful blessings He has bestowed upon us. Although difficult to do sometimes, we also need to thank Him for the trials He has helped us through in the past and

may be helping us endure now "...knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3-5).

This past month we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). Thank you, Bro. Greg, for your willingness to labor in God's ministry. Other visitors also worshipped with us from Bluffton, Milford, and Indianapolis, IN; and Eureka and Bloomington, IL. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to come and worship with us. Lord willing, we plan to hold services on December 8 (Princeville, IL) and December 15 (Junction, OH).

Come visit us in Nashville! 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.

Recently, I read in "Our Daily Bread" the saying: "Some people complain that roses have thorns; others rejoice that thorns have roses." Which type of person are you?

TEXAS, DALLAS and CENTRAL

Dee Rapp

God did not create us to be independent people, but to be interdependent.

To be interdependent requires willingness to sacrifice and courage to live for others, that is, be a "back-up" or as the Bible calls it, "one anothering".

If you search the scriptures, you will find at least 32 verses using "one another". As you read them, you will see why it takes willingness and courage to watch out for and

care for others! As a start, there is John 5:12, Love one another; Romans 12:16, Live in harmony with one another; I Corinthians 12:25, Care for one another. I hope these three verses will be an incentive for you to study your Bible and find the remaining verses.

We want to thank the brothers who have faithfully served us this past month.

Dallas services are held on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 and 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn, DeSoto, TX.

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contacts are Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp at (792) 867-4074; and Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102. There was an error last month in the schedule for Central Texas. Please note the change.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We have been getting some rain and it is interesting to see all of the things that are getting green that looked so brown just a short time ago. We are enjoying the butterflies that travel through Zapata on their way to Mexico for the winter.

During this Thanksgiving season, and at all times, we should be thankful for all our many blessings. We are so thankful we have the Bible.

Bible Song

If you're searching in the Bible
Find the book arranged like this.
First Genesis and Exodus:
Followed by Leviticus.
Numbers and Deuteronomy,
Joshua and Judges next,
Then faithful Ruth and true
Samuel,
Kings and two Chronicles.
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
Patient Job, Psalms and Proverbs.
Ecclesiastes's wise teachings.
Followed by King Solomon's song
Six Prophets come here after
First one's name is Isaiah,

Then we read of Jeremiah,
Lamentations chapter five.
Ezekiel than faithful Daniel
Hosea, Joel, Amos too.
Obadiah, Jonah, Micah,
Nahum, Habakkuk do speak.
Then we read of Zephaniah
Haggai and Zachariah:
Then we come to the last prophet
And his name is Malachi.
Let us turn the pages over
To the gospel of our Lord.
Where we find St. Matthew's
record
Mark, Luke, John and all the Acts.
Then the letters to the Romans.
Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians
And Philippians, Colossians,
Thessalonians.
Then comes Timothy and Titus
St. Paul writes to Philemon.
The Epistle to the Hebrews,
One of James and Peter's two,
Three of St. John and one of Jude.
Revelation comes at last.
Oh Lord, grant us understanding,
When we read this Holy Book.

—*Songs and Hymns
of Zion #139*



Variance

a quarrel; contention, debate, and strife

If Variance means contention, debate, and strife, which inevitably will end in a quarrel; we who are brethren would not want it named among us. What brings about variance or a lack of unity? Maybe identifying the emotions behind this problem would be helpful in understanding the correction process if this problem would somehow exist in our life.

Variance, to some degree, is almost as old in our lives as the number of years that represents our age. From little on we lived with variance. Chevrolets verses Fords, John Deeres verses Internationals, School verses School, the city verses the country, city (New York) verses city (Chicago), and so the list can go on and on. Later in life more serious conflicts of interest arise such as religion verses religion, Reformationist verses the State Church, and finally Humanism vs. Godly order.

...variance....and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galations 5:20,21

Variance arises from an emotion called pride or as sometimes referred to as me-ism. In short, variance occurs because two people or groups of people have differing opinions. There are cases where we as children had opinions and we would band together with those classmates who held a similar opinion. One side would shun the other side and in severe cases a fight could erupt if it was not stopped by an adult. In the case of opinions, there is no way to bring unity except through negotiation, since there is no right or wrong opinion. Chevrolets verses Fords is an example. Both are

good cars, both have four wheels and are steered by a fifth wheel. They look a little different, however which looks the best is only a matter of opinion. Pride is revealed when we try to stand up and say one is better than the other. Oh sure we may argue or debate gas mileage and other such things, but generally the contention arises because of pride. Pride in our opinion!

Variance also occurs when we develop a difference in convictions. We must as brethren be able to determine what is opinion and what is conviction. We will die or be martyred for our convictions, however we will not give our life over an opinion. Convictions are born in our minds because of faith and when that faith is in our God or even in our country, we will have a willingness to defend that faith with our life.

There was a great separation in religious convictions in the early 16th century. Our early church fathers were given the conviction of baptism by faith through the reading of God's word. It was first named, "The Reformation" and later "The Anabaptist Movement." There is more than a difference of opinions in those two schools of thought, because the Spirit of God reveals it as an eternal truth on which salvation hinges. We cannot compromise on convictions and must stand firmly against Satan as he is lurking about as a great lion, seeing whom of God's children he might devour.

There should not be any variance concerning our faith in God, His doctrine, the teachings of Christ, the Apostolic doctrine and the long standing traditions of our Church. If there ever would be disagreement, it would behoove us to consider whether we just have a difference of opinion or is

it a difference in conviction levels. There is a great difference and it could bring about variance.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Revelation 3:15,16

Is it dangerous to our faith in God to have different conviction levels?

"But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and to cleave unto Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Joshua 22:5

The hymn writer writes, "I will serve Thee, because I love Thee" and through God's precious Word we hear resounding teaching of His jealous expectations from us. There is no room for variance in convictions of faith amongst the brethren. If we hope to stand before the onslaughts of Satan in the End Times, we need to prepare our lives, our children, and our grandchildren for that day by stressing the importance of Unity. Unity in Love, Unity in Action, Unity in Word, and Unity in thought and deed. Loving the Lord with all our heart and soul should be of such that the Lord our God will not find us lukewarm in works and conviction, but rather find us with a hot fervency toward He who is omnipotent, the King of Kings, and the Lord of all.

Silver Threads

A Christian Letter

Today a letter came for me,
A message from a friend.
And it was filled with charity,
Which made our spirits blend.
The message came from one afar,
It filled my heart with cheer;
And though the miles between us lie,
The writer was brought near.

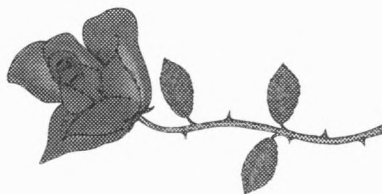
The kindly message I received
Had origin divine,
The Lord himself inspired it
Within this friend of mine.
The contents of this message sweet
Were peaceable and pure.
'Twas filled with fruits of righteousness,
Which ever shall endure.

Now friends will often think of friends,
And write for friendship's sake.
But this is but an earthly tie,
Which friends so often break.
But letters sent in brotherhood,
Contain a threefold cord;
The sender and recipient
Find blessings in the Lord.

The kindly wish the brother wrote,
To you I would impart:
"God's grace to you be multiplied,
His love may fill your heart."
The message said: "O may His peace
Be in your heart and home;
His spirit lead you all the way
And leave you ne'er alone."

How oft, when life would seem quite drear
And filled with cares of the day,
A letter from a fellow saint
Will brighten up our way.
I wonder if we do esteem
Such letters as we should?
They give expression to the tie
Of loving brotherhood.

A letter, then, is like a prayer,
Though living far or nigh.
The prayerful wish prevailing there
Each word does sanctify.
A letter from our brethren dear,
Who live in faith's accord,
Is as a benediction sweet,
A blessing from the Lord.
—Bro. Henry Beer



Silver Threads

"So Must Thou Also Forgive"

Once one whom I loved, a confidant near
Whom I trusted with everything I held dear
Betrayed that trust, shattering my ideals
Leaving me with a wound that would not heal.
It festered within my heart for a while;
Hurt planted a seed of bitterness, vile.
Longing for healing and knowing the fate
Of one in whom bitterness hardens to hate,
I fell on my knees before God in prayer
Crushed by this burden of hurt and despair.
Bleeding and bruised in spirit and soul,
I pleaded with God to make me whole.

How long I stayed there, I do not know,
Pouring out to Him the depths of woe.
At length, a stillness slid into my soul
And a chilling awareness over me stole
That I was no longer alone in the room
Someone had entered, I did not know whom,
A Presence whose power I keenly felt;
I lifted my head from the chair where I knelt
And gazed with wondering awe and surprise
At the vision appearing before my eyes...
A rough wooden stake pointing up to the skies
Near its top, another beam fastened cross-wise.

And there before me I saw hung
The Son of God with arms out-flung.
His hands between each bone were nailed;
An iron spike His feet impaled.
Deep bloody stripes criss-crossed His back;
Wood splinters gouged each bleeding track.
His forehead skin was gashed and torn
In His temple embedded was a thorn.
Blood trickles mingling with tears and sweat
Rolled down His cheek in a rivulet.

Off in the distance I could hear
A throng of people shout and jeer
With muttering curse and laughing scorn,
They reviled that figure so forlorn.
"Save thyself!" howled the mocking mob,
"If thou be Christ, the Son of God!"

Yet He did not seem to hear their cries
He gazed on me; I met His eyes.
They brimmed with agonizing grief,
Unutterable pain with no relief.
Yet through the anguish, a luminous shine
Of tenderest mercy, love divine
And deepest compassion for wretched man
Illumined His countenance, pale and wan.
Discerning my thoughts, He left nothing whole
With a piercing look that searched my soul.

I met that gaze; He sighed my name.
I dropped my eyes in burning shame,
And heard from blistered lips forced through,
"Father, forgive — they know not what they do."
As those words came forth with an agonized groan
I knew that the guilt lay on me alone.
Mine was the sin for which He died,
My hand held the spear that pierced His side;
And the blood and water flowing forth so free
Atoned for transgressions committed by ME.

The vision passed and I sank to the floor,
My spirit was faint; my strength was no more.
Then a comforting Hand seemed to rest on my head
And a whispering voice, like the wind, softly said,
"My child, so must thou also forgive,
If thou wouldst have life and abundantly live.
Pray thus for thy foe as I prayed for thee
And believe that my grace is sufficient for thee;
Then from bondage of bitterness thou shalt be set free
And know the sweet peace of the overcomer's victory."

—S.J. Fehr



Silver Threads

The Autumn of Life

Summer is gone and birds have flown
To warmer days and points unknown.
Frost will soon nip the flowers
And gone will be summer showers.

Today we see the falling leaves
Fluttering down from all the trees.
God is painting sunsets in the west
With vibrant hues and glorious dress.

All living plants will go to sleep
Quietly, to God's mysterious deep,
Patiently waiting God's call to wake
In perfect timing, with no mistake.

So be the days of you and me,
We grow and flourish as a tree.
Soon comes the autumn of our lives,
Most surely, as God's Book implies.

Back to dust we also must go,
Quietly sleep 'neath winter snow.
Will we hear the call to arise,
And go to meet Him in the skies?

Do crumbled walls make our hearts sad?
Do we long for victories we once had?
In earnest prayer rebuild those walls,
So we can answer when God calls.

Through a glass darkly, now we see,
We long to meet Him with hearts free.
Today we look from faith to faith,
Tomorrow, we'll see Him face to face!

written by a sister-in-faith

Sin will...

... take us farther than we ever intended to go,

... keep us longer than we ever intended to stay, and,

...charge us more than we ever intended to pay!

Sermon continued from page 2

vital. Sometimes you don't get the word and sometimes you get the information by some other source and you say, "Why didn't my boss tell me that?" Sometimes we get a little bit bitter and a little bit angry that maybe we were not communicated to in the way that we thought we should have been. Loved ones, is that reason for us to be angry? Is that reason for us to be bitter? Sometimes we are. Sometimes we do get bitter.

Paul says, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18). Loved ones, these are the sufferings that I speak about and these are the ways in which we become conquerors through Jesus Christ. When we rule over our own spirit, I think of one of the Psalms that says, "More blessed is the man who rules his own spirit, than the man who rules a city." What about you and I? That includes all of us.

We can be rulers of our spirit, but how can we do it? We do it by the measure that we submit to the truth, by the measure that we realize that we are not the source of truth, that we do not have the ability to pick and choose our own path, but by trusting in this Word that we read. This Word is so full of truth...this Word that talks about this Almighty God and says, "The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof" (Psalm 97:1). That is a pretty mighty God that rules like that.

We read in another Psalm, "The heavens declare the glory of God;" (Psalm 19:1). Loved ones, if you and I have eyes, ears and the ability to sense, we cannot deny that God rules and that He has created all things. Loved ones, we have got ever so much more than that because we have this Word of Truth that reveals

unto us what a loving and great God we have.

The sufferings of this time won't be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. Oh, loved ones, if we can but learn how to suffer and how to do it graciously! If we ever need an example of how to suffer, all we have to do is look at the life of Jesus Christ. Look at the way He was handled! Look at the way He was misunderstood. Look at the way He was evaded and forsaken by His own followers.

You think we suffer, we think we suffer, loved ones, we don't know the beginning of what suffering is. So we need to be mindful when we are called to suffer and what our example needs to be.

We read here, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Romans 8:28). That is a concept that I don't think you can read anywhere else in the world. I don't think there is another book that teaches us that.

We look at the sufferings of Jesus Christ and we say, "It was a shame. It was wrong. It was evil." We think about the stripes on His back and we think about Him with a crown of thorns on His head. We think about Him walking up the road to Calvary and attempting to bare His own CROSS. Even in that hour turning to the women who were following and said, "Don't weep for Me, but weep for yourselves."

Loved ones, we say what good can come out of that? Yet, for your eternal well-being and mine, the best thing that could have ever happened was that Jesus Christ went to pay the debt. For what? For sin! Well, we say, "Could sin be that bad? Could sin be that wrong?" Loved ones, I don't think we recognize how evil, how vile and how desperately wrong sin is.

We think it was just a minor in-

fraction. It wasn't murder. It wasn't robbery, but it was disobedience, and where do all those other things stem from? Even disobedience itself. Why should God require that we obey Him? Maybe a better question is, "Why should not God require that we obey Him?" We require the things that we create to obey us. Our cars obey us. They don't deny us. Sometimes they get in disrepair and they need to be fixed.

There is not one thing that man has created that is anything like the creation that God has made when He made you and me. Because God made us with something different than the things that we created, and that is a free will to serve Him. That is what He wants. He has every right for us to demand of us that service.

So, what do we see? Because of disobedience and curse. What curse do we say? A curse on the ground. God said that the ground would no longer bear the way it did. We look at our fields and we say, "There is a nice corn field." I am not a farmer, but I sure like to see lovely fields of corn and beans and all the rest. I like to see beautiful gardens, but sometimes I wonder how much more fruitful would they be if it were not for the curse that is on the ground.

Why the curse? Why death? Because of disobedience—yours and mine. When we take responsibility for that, we take a giant leap toward making the death of Jesus Christ and the goodness of that sacrifice for us of value because we choose. We say, "I believe it, even though I don't perhaps understand it completely."

What does Paul write about? He writes about hope, but the things you see, you don't hope for. Faith is very much the same. Faith is not something that we see, but faith is

something that we make a conscious choice about that we will have faith in this Word of God. We hope it is leading us in the right way and hope that it is the truth.

Loved ones, as Brother Edwin declared this morning, the longer we do that, the longer we serve God, the more we find the value in it and we would not go back, not a day, or not two days. Loved ones, that is the truth of living for Almighty God and that is the opportunity that you and I have yet today. What an opportunity!

So, all things do work out for good. (See Romans 8:28). Are we willing to believe it? Are we willing to accept it? Are we willing to change our own behavior so that we live a life that is consistent with this Word of Truth? This is a challenge to you and a challenge to me. By the grace that God gives us, we can.

We can be all that He wants us to be. We can understand how good it is for God's purposes to be worked out in us, even though we can't understand the depth of it or the end of it.

We read here, "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly..." (Romans 8:20). God didn't make us subject to that by His original intent. God's original intent for man and for His creation was a perfect, beautiful creation. That was His intent. God did not intend for man to disobey or for man to go against His command. Just think how different it could have been.

Loved ones, I don't know that we should dote on that thought, perhaps, as much as we should think about the thought of what God has prepared for us in Heaven. It is a place where we will have new bodies. We will have bodies that are not subject to this vanity that the Apostle Paul talks about here. We find that as we are subject to vanity right

now, God has also made a way for us, "...but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope." (Romans 8:20).

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Romans 8:21). Just think, the God that we have, the God that we serve is One to not leave us in a state of despair. He is not One to leave us in a state of ruin. He is One to restore us and to give us a home in Heaven.

That is just totally opposite of everything that Satan is about. You know, Satan wants us to be distracted. Satan wants us to be frustrated. Satan wants us to think that our efforts are in vain. Satan wants us to think that we have no hope. Loved ones, we need again, I say, to confront Satan when he comes at us with these kinds of messages and say, "Satan, get behind me," and to realize a lie when we see it.

Many times it seems like we recognize lies when they are great things. We recognize that we should not be murderers, or drunkards, or robbers, or thieves, but do we recognize that bitterness, angry and resentment in your heart and mine are evidences of the fact that we are inclining to Satan's program and declining ourself from God's program?

The wonderful Word that we have, says that we will be delivered from the bondage of this corruption. Paul writes on, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." (Romans 8:22). I lately was talking with a brother and he said that he had heard that in nature there is not a single major chord. I was kind of amazed when he made that statement, but he said that the sound and the noise that nature itself makes are all minor chords. He

said that there is only one creature that can make a chord of a major note, and that is you and me. Isn't that amazing?

I wonder why would it be that way? Could it be again that the earth is cursed? It is, loved ones. It is cursed by weeds and by death. Could it be that this groaning that Paul talks about is even based on that curse itself? Groaneth, travaileth and pain together until now. Not only they, but we ourselves which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we groan in ourselves. Have you ever done that? I think I have.

I think sometimes we groan over things that are unnecessary. Sometimes we groan over spilled milk. Why should we be so worried about that? Why should we be worried about something so inconsequential? Yet, many times we are worried about things that just have no eternal value. I ask you and I ask me, when we are worried about those things, where are our affections? Are they bent on God? To my own shame, I say, "No."

Why should we be worried about these inconsequential things? Yet, we realize that we do live in a world where sin and Satan are. Yet, we can escape that. Yet, we can reveal the workings of Satan, even in these simple areas of our life. We can evade him and we can live and be the people—the creation—that God wants us to be.

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." (Romans 8:22-25).

I tell you patience is such a wonderful quality. If we could read these verses, like we read this morning, in these chapters this afternoon, if we could just read these verses and take two things out of them—just two qualities that we read about and apply them to our life in this coming week, loved ones, I think there could be a huge difference, a huge benefit derived in you and me from just taking something as simple as the beautiful act of patience.

How do we learn patience? I remember the story (and perhaps you have heard it, too) of a young man who went to an older man to see if he could learn something about patience. He came to this older man whom he respected and he was a man of God—a God-fearing man. He said, “Pray for me that I can learn patience. I am a young person and I find a great lack in myself. I need to learn patience.”

The older man wisely said, “Well, perhaps we should pray together about it.” The younger man said, “Fine. Let us pray together.” The two got down on their knees and the older man began to pray for the younger man. The older man prayed, “Lord, I pray that You bring tribulation in this man’s life.”

The younger man thought he didn’t hear it right, but the older man prayed on, and said, “I pray that You bring trouble into this young man’s life.” Then the younger man was sure that he was mistaken what he had asked him to pray about. He stopped and said, “Now wait. I prayed that I could obtain patience.”

Now, loved ones, how do we obtain patience? We obtain patience by being tested and by going

through trials and temptations and the troubles of life. What do we sing in the song? We sing, “As the gold by fire is brighten; also faith through trials drear, and patience through trials drear.” That is how we learn it.

Loved ones, let’s not try to escape the trouble. Let’s not try to escape the suffering. Let’s not try to escape the anxiety, but let’s realize that God is on His throne and He only allows these things to happen to us. What for? For our destruction? No, but for our good! Then the good works might be the result of the end product of those things.

As we learn as we live in life, we can only say that that is really a lot what happens to us—that we do learn by the troubles, by the offense, the cares and the problems of life. Paul says that it is not just patience. Likewise, there is the Spirit that helps in our infirmities. I would not want to be without that Spirit, loved ones, would you? Where would we be if it were not for God’s Spirit? What kind of fellowship would we have if it weren’t for God’s Spirit?

Loved ones, we have so much. What a blessing it is for us to have it and hold onto it. Let’s esteem it highly! Let’s treasure it day by day!

We find that the Spirit helps our infirmities. Do we pray for God’s Spirit only when we come to church? We should not. We should be praying for God’s Spirit every morning when we arise. Every morning before we leave our room, pray for God’s help and direction and know that it is a day that God is giving us. Declare, as the Psalmist wrote, and like nature itself says, that God is great and He is in Heaven and He is the Creator. We

are part of His creation and we are meant for a purpose today.

That is another way where Satan wants to come and deceive us. He wants us to think we have no purpose. He wants us to think that life is just living, but it is more than that.

One poet said that now is even a fragment of eternity in which to love, in which to laugh and in which to live. That is now. Thank God for the Spirit that does abide and make “intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26).

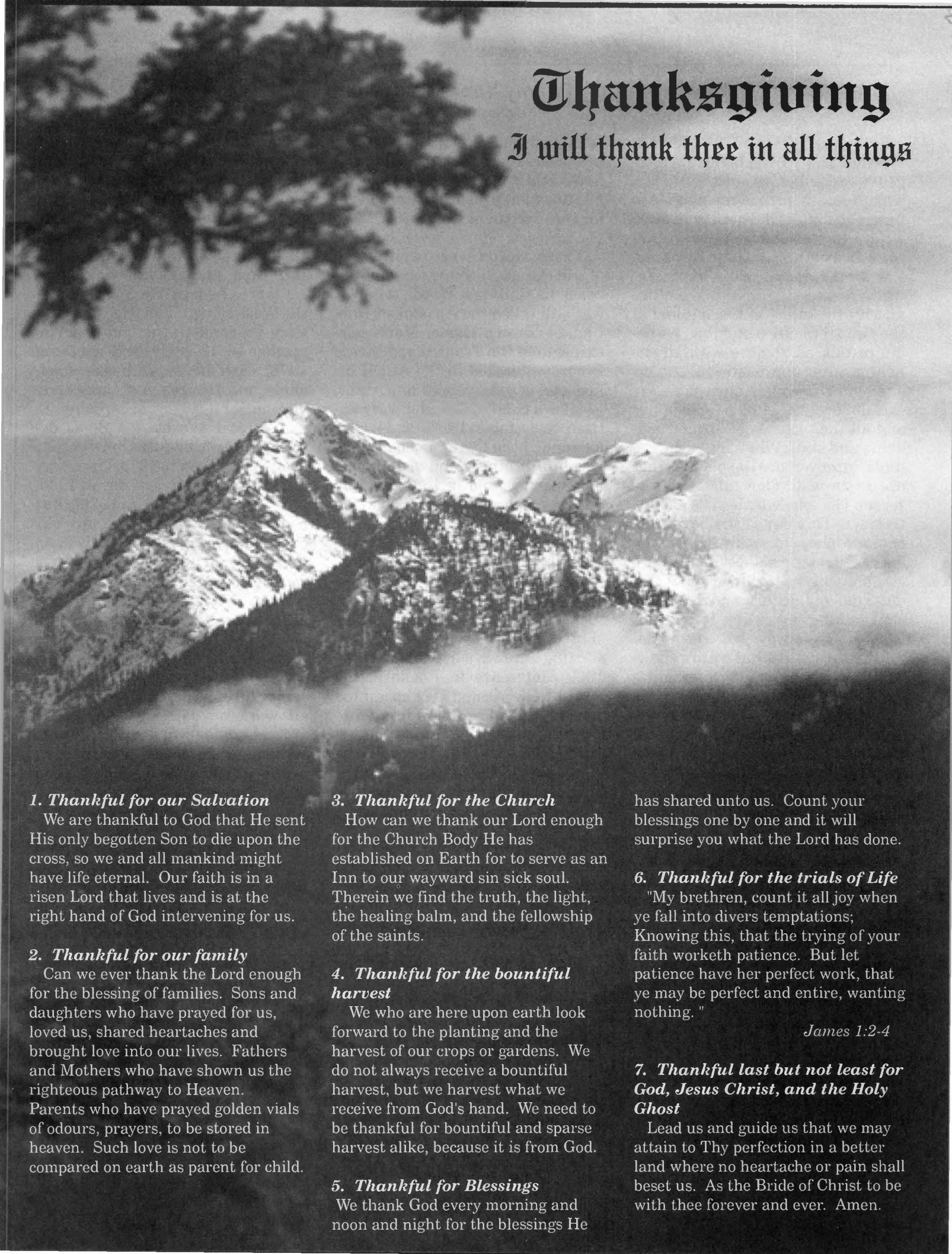
“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:27-28).

Loved ones, there is not a one of us that deserves to be called according to God’s purposes. Another hymn writer says, “But since I know, I will rejoice, and praise Almighty God with my voice.” Jesus said to the people that asked Him that day, they said,

“What is the great commandment?” Jesus said, “This is it that you love Almighty God and serve Him with everything in you—your mind, your soul, your heart...everything! And the second is like, namely, that you love your neighbor as yourself.”

Loved ones, in that is fulfilled the purpose for your life and mine. By the grace God gives us, let us be about doing His will.





Thanksgiving

I will thank thee in all things

1. Thankful for our Salvation

We are thankful to God that He sent His only begotten Son to die upon the cross, so we and all mankind might have life eternal. Our faith is in a risen Lord that lives and is at the right hand of God intervening for us.

2. Thankful for our family

Can we ever thank the Lord enough for the blessing of families. Sons and daughters who have prayed for us, loved us, shared heartaches and brought love into our lives. Fathers and Mothers who have shown us the righteous pathway to Heaven. Parents who have prayed golden vials of odours, prayers, to be stored in heaven. Such love is not to be compared on earth as parent for child.

3. Thankful for the Church

How can we thank our Lord enough for the Church Body He has established on Earth for to serve as an Inn to our wayward sin sick soul. Therein we find the truth, the light, the healing balm, and the fellowship of the saints.

4. Thankful for the bountiful harvest

We who are here upon earth look forward to the planting and the harvest of our crops or gardens. We do not always receive a bountiful harvest, but we harvest what we receive from God's hand. We need to be thankful for bountiful and sparse harvest alike, because it is from God.

5. Thankful for Blessings

We thank God every morning and noon and night for the blessings He

has shared unto us. Count your blessings one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

6. Thankful for the trials of Life

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

James 1:2-4

7. Thankful last but not least for God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost

Lead us and guide us that we may attain to Thy perfection in a better land where no heartache or pain shall beset us. As the Bride of Christ to be with thee forever and ever. Amen.

Gateway Woods: Twenty Years Of Turning Lives Around

by Sandy Leman



It is the summer of 1986. My sisters and I have been living in emergency foster homes since late May, when I finally turned my mother in for child abuse. On this day in July, we are very excited as we walk into the office of the Apostolic Christian Children's Home with our case-worker. As we walk into the office and up the steps to the landing of the two-story office building, we begin to talk all at once with all the nervousness, apprehension, and excitement showing in our voices. We exclaim over the simple furnishings and all the pictures of former residents and staff. What draws me the most, however, are the plaques that are on the wall. They talk about the reason God made little girls and little boys. This day is the beginning of a new phase of my life, and of my sisters' lives as well...When we are standing on the landing, Tim walks out, and my sisters and I quickly stop talking, expecting to be punished (as we always were at home) for the rowdiness that we are showing in a public place. Tim just smiles at us however, and shows us into his office. He tells us to find seats for ourselves and then he picks up his telephone and asks the secretary to call our houseparents to tell them that we have arrived. My first memory of me in with my houseparents is kind of foggy. I remember meeting with Bill, my housefather, first, as he came over to the office with his ten month old son, Ryan. He treated me with respect as he picked up my worldly belongings, that were in one small box, and took me over to the house, where I met with Joanie, my housemother. She is a young woman, of about twenty-eight or twenty-nine. When I come in, she is showing her seven year old how to do something. She looks up, and comes over and gives me a big hug. I cringe. It is all that I know how to do. Whenever my mom gets close to me, I cringe because she is probably going to hit me. Now this woman is going to hug me, and I do not know what to do. She hugs me anyhow. It

feels good, and I feel like crying, but my pride keeps me from showing how I really feel. All I know is that I do not want to cause any problems for this woman or this place...

These words were written by Marie Hersey, a young woman who came to Gateway Woods when it was still called the Apostolic Christian Children's Home. Marie participated in the Transitional Living Program, worked in the ACCH office, and certainly most important, became a child of God and was baptized on October 16, 1988. Hers is just one of the lives touched by the vision of brothers and sisters who have participated in the planning, building, operating, and supporting of the children's home.

About 30 years ago, there were several brothers and sisters who, after visiting and helping out in some children's homes in Kentucky, prompted the church leadership to investigate the possibility of starting our own such home. At the 1969 conference in Roanoke, the World Relief Committee appointed a committee of brothers to explore the possibilities. In 1971, land was purchased in Leo with the faith that it could someday be used for a children's home. In 1972, at the conference in Gridley, a permanent committee of fifteen brothers was chose, and the next year at the conference in Morton, approval to build was given. The committee met in Remington later that year to decide on a site. The vote resulted in a tie between Francesville and Leo; the names were put in a Bible and the Leo slip was drawn. In 1974, the committee selected the motto, "A work of faith, a labor of love", and the first logo, a figure of a girl and a boy. On November 17, 1974; the ground-breaking ceremony was held, with Bro. David Bertsch officiating and Bro. Wendall Gudeman assisting.

The Utility Building was completed in 1975, and Bro. Terry Farney became the first Adminis-

trator of the home, also serving along with his wife, Sis. Mary, as the first Houseparents. Both the East House and the West House were completed the following year, with Open House held on July 17-18 and Dedication on October 24, 1976. Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue Kellenberger were the first Houseparents in the West House. The first resident, Cary O., came to the home on November 15, 1976. By early winter of 1978, each house had eight residents, and the dreams of those early visionaries had become a reality.

A typical day at ACCH, as described in an undated newsletter, probably written in 1979, is not very different from a typical day in 1996:

We rise about 5:30 a.m., tidy our rooms (make our beds), do our chores and are ready to eat by 6:30. Following our morning devotions, we scurry to get the dishes done to catch a 7:20 bus. Debbie's in the elementary system so her bus does not come until 8:10. This gives us time to do her physical therapy exercises and do some daily reading skills. After school and a snack we all work on some type of chore around home until our 5:30 supper is ready for us, seeing how we have been ready for it since school. Like many, we have very full evenings, with never enough time. Claudia is involved in a Jr. Achievement Program in Fort Wayne on Monday nights. A local sister is in her group which accounts for companionship, good talks, as well as a warm ride home.

As time went on, it became clear that support staff was necessary to help the Houseparents in serving the children. Bros. Tim Sauder and Bruce Knapp were hired as Assistant Houseparents in 1978. This later became a job filled mainly by single sisters. Also in 1978, the first Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Lela Leman, were hired to fill in for Houseparents for a few days at a time. During times when there were no Alternates, the Leo

Congregation provided relief for the Houseparents. Starting in 1979, counseling services were provided for the residents, and also used by the staff. Bro. Bill Hartman was the first Counselor to be hired. In 1980, a tutorial program was started, with an Education Coordinator, Bro. Keith Schladenhaufen, helping the Houseparents and the residents with matters pertaining to school. From 1985 to 1992 there was a Transitional Living Program for residents who would be living on their own in a year or two; this program was headed up by the TLP Coordinator, Sis. Judy Luginbuhl. Beginning in 1987, there has been a Summer Volunteer Coordinator to help organize the tremendous force of volunteers who come to help us each year. Bro. Nate Gerber was the Volunteer Coordinator that year. A foster care program was begun in 1991, creating a need for a Foster Care Coordinator; Sis. Judy (Luginbuhl) Stoller was the first to fill this position. In the early years, the Administrator's wife would often help with secretarial duties in the office. In 1982, Jan Phillips from Grabill was hired as Secretary, and in 1985 the position of Office Manager was added, with Sis. Cindy Baurer filling the position. Then in 1989, Sis. Cindy's title was changed to Administrative Assistant, and Sis. Rhonda Stoller took over as Office Manager. However, the duties of these two positions were combined under the title of Office Manager again in 1994.

Throughout the years, many brothers and sisters have served in some way to provide help and healing to troubled children. Space does not permit naming each person, but we know that their names and their deeds are recorded in God's book,

and He will reward them. The philosophies and practices of any organization are determined by its leaders, and the home has been blessed by those who served in leadership positions. When Terry Farney resigned as Administrator in 1978, Bro. Bill Klopfenstein filled in until another brother could be found to serve. Bro. Bob Cockburn served as Administrator from 1979 to 1983. The next Administrator was Bro. Uriel Gehring, who served in that capacity until 1985 and then as Public Relations Coordinator until 1987. In 1985, Bro. Tim Sauder took up the mantle and is still serving today. The position of Child Care Supervisor was implemented in 1992 as a middle management position to coordinate efforts of those who work directly with the children. The first Child Care Supervisor was Bro. Jeff Thames, who served in that capacity from 1992 to 1994. Bro. John Stoller is currently serving as Child Care Supervisor. In 1994, a new program, now called Gateway Woods Family Services, was begun in Illinois. Bro. Jeff Thames is the director of this program.

Since ground was broken for the first building in 1974, there have been many changes in the physical grounds of the children's home. In 1980 a nature trail was made through the woods by clearing out path through the brush. Sometime in the early 1980's a machine shed was constructed. In 1984 work was started on the Social Services Building, and it was completed in 1985. The office was moved to the new building, and the building where it had been was converted into an apartment. Also in 1985 the barn was built and inhabited by a sow, nine piglets, five calves, and one

horse. A wood shop added to the machine shed in 1986. A third home for residents was begun in 1987 and completed in 1988. In 1989 no new buildings were added, but the children's home changed its identity with a new name, Gateway Woods. This name was meant to depict the "gate" of salvation by faith and the "way" of the obedient walk of the Christian. "Woods" was added to "Gateway" to reflect the natural wooded setting of our Home. 1990 saw the addition of an apartment to the West House for Houseparents to live in. An expansion of the Social Services Building was begun in 1993 and completed in 1994. In 1995 a Houseparents' apartment was added to the East House.

The changes to ACCH/Gateway Woods throughout the past twenty years have been phenomenal. At least 111 people have served in some capacity, and many have held several different positions. This does not include people who have volunteered their services. Over 170 children have lived here for at least some period of time. If a visitor were to come to a house once and then return a year or two later, he would see almost a completely different group of people. Although every change is significant, the most important change of all is the one we hope will come about in the heart of each child who lives here. We rejoice that ten of our former residents have been baptized as members of the Apostolic Christian Church. As our special Twentieth Anniversary logo portrays, one of our purposes is to join God in His work of "turning lives around". So we carry on the work of planting and watering, and praying that God will give the increase.





The General Conference

Each August, a three-day church Conference is held. For two days, all the elders of the church come together and seclude themselves to seek God's will in addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the congregations. They sit in a loving council with open Bibles and seek to be led by the Holy Spirit.

On the third day, a General Conference is held where brethren from across the churches convene to hear all-day exhortations from the Word by church leaders. It is an unusually inspiring day. God's Spirit is felt in a very profound way.

Attending a General Conference is a wonderful experience. It is instructional and one can learn a lot. Already as one arises at the day's onset, a sense of God's presence is felt. The morning prayers of thousands of brothers and sisters across the land unite in a common plea that God will be present; and that His Spirit will guide the day, and offer beneficial inspiration for the church's welfare.

As cars stream into the parking lot in an orderly fashion, a sense of expectation for a day of drawing nigh to God, and to each other, ensues.

Walking into the host church along with countless others who share a mutual sense of spiritual expectation is indeed a joy. To greet brethren of like mind and faith from across the land with a holy kiss is an uplifting experience.

Taking a seat among the throng

of brothers, and thence joining in songs of praise to God, can almost bring tears of joy to the heart. The uniting of men's voices is awe-inspiring.

The sincere voices of a thousand or more men singing heartily from the Zion's Harp is a special time.

The sanctuary chorus of all these men (along with the sisters in attendance) thunders toward the throne of grace. It is a time of special praise where hearts and minds are collectively raised toward God.

An inspiring, solemn moment is when a hymn is sung as the elders of the local churches come into the sanctuary. They file in according to seniority and take their seats. Their attitude is servant-like and humble.

The day is special because in this annual conclave, the shepherds of the church, along with brothers and sisters from the various states and abroad, are gathered together as one to mutually pursue and thence support God's will for the collective welfare of the congregations, and for each individual brother and sister in the Lord. This annual "coming together" stirs a resurgence of unity that proposes to reverberate across the entire membership.

A day of Spirit-filled exhortation follows, usually with about twelve presentations. A theme is followed and speakers arise to address specific topics of concern. It is an intense time whereby those in attendance have come away from their "posts of duty" into "camp" to strengthen their resolve, and to fortify themselves for the combat faced

from a crafty and devious enemy.

Often listeners become lost in thought when they are drawn to the outstanding inspirational comments from the podium. God is to be praised that He hears and answers prayers that humble men can rise to the fore of the assembly and speak with wisdom and the Spirit's power in ways that edify and strengthen the brethren.

Many speakers, as they arise to begin their comments (and face the vast assembly), attest to being awe-struck by the size and general earnestness of those in attendance.

It is of great benefit for the brotherhood to come together, to confer, and to reinforce their ideals; and to "strengthen the things that remain." The annual Conference is a vehicle of unity! Further, the essence of the Conference feeds across the churches and becomes an influence via tapes and the written memorandum. It all serves to pull the brethren together in a common yoke, and makes the church a stronger spiritual entity for the glorious cause of Christ.

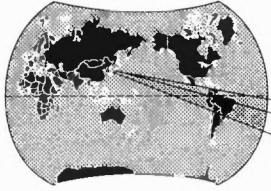
"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

by Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
The Church
Conference Historically

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“Be Thankful”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Do you always say “Thank you” to your wife or to your mother for a wonderful meal? Or if you are almost always the cook, do you look for opportunities to say “Thank you” to others, for whatever reason? Do you enjoy saying “Thank you” and do you mean it when you say it? I’m asking you but I am also asking myself.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess. 5:18). This probably means that we are to give thanks to God in every situation. Paul and Silas did that when they were beaten and put into prison. “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.” (Acts 16:25). It was evidently a good testimony to the other prisoners. We have been wondering how to be a better light and testimony and here is one easy way to do that—just say “Thank you” to God

and to others more often.

To be thankful brings contentment and that is good for the health. “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” The Bible doesn’t say what the “great gain” is, but it is certainly a good thing to be content, or satisfied. I enjoy being around contented people and some people speak of animals being content. I remember when the Carnation Milk Company labeled their cans of milk, “From Contented Cows”. That always impressed me, even concerning animals.

It can be argued that Thanksgiving Day in America is clearly meant to be a day to give thanks to the Creator God and not for us human beings to give thanks to one another. However, there is Scripture which indicates that God, at least in some instances, considers a “Thank you” to a fellow human being, as also being a “Thank you” to Him. In Matthew 25:40 we read, “Inasmuch as

ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Therefore, it follows that if believers say “Thank you”, it may well be considered by God as a “Thank you” to Him, also.

Now taking this a step further, if the above is true, should not believers always speak to one another with love and respect, inasmuch as God and Jesus may consider us to be talking to them? We really should be careful about what we say and how we say it. “Thank you” is always a good thing to say.

Now what do you think of the idea for us to try to always say “Thank you” to our wives and our mothers for a wonderful meal? That’s a good place for us to start being more thankful and it doesn’t cost anything, or does it? It might cost us our pride but we don’t need so much of that anyway. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving season, now and forever.

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Naumburg, NY -1941

The Naumburg Church along with the Croghan Church has the distinction of being the first Churches in America. Known in the mid- 19th century as the Evangelical Baptist Church, the brethren who immigrated from the Alsace-Lorraine were largely farmers who espoused the passive doctrine of non-military service in Europe. These early days coincided with the Napoleon era of general warfare in the European nations.

The early brethren who immigrated to upper New York met a relatively uncivilized forest area. They spent time living with the friendly Indians while their homes were being built.

The first Church at Croghan was built in 1855 and the Naumburg Church was built four years later in 1859. The Church pictured on this page was built in 1891 and remodeled in 1903. During the 1903 remodeling, the building was raised and a basement was added. In 1947 the horse barns were removed and some additional remodeling on the basement occurred. In 1961 more remodeling was done on the basement and a fellowship hall added.

It is heart warming to reflect back on the history that wraps itself around those two Churches in upper New York.

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