

# *The Silver Lining*



*They shall mount up with wings as eagles*

June 1997

## “KNOW THE FEAR OF GOD”

*Sermon by Bro. Wayne L. Wiegand of Goodfield, IL*  
Exodus 17 and Mark 9:30-50

Jesus, here in this chapter, is talking with His disciples. In the beginning of the chapter, He did a couple of miracles, and He showed them the real power of God. Sometimes, in our life, we need to be reminded from time to time of just how powerful God is.

Sometimes we get weak and we think that maybe the devil is getting the upper hand in the world in which we live. If we read the paper and listen to the radio or whatever, the media, we see the many, many things that are coming upon this world.

Sometimes we need to just get back to the basics. We need to open God's Word, and see the great power that God has. We need to be reminded that He made the earth and all that we see and all that is around us.

The Bible even says that on the sixth day, God looked at what He had created and said, "It is very good." What He created was very good and it was for all mankind to use. We can be so thankful that we have a God, and we can serve that God who has that kind of power.

He is a God that not only forgives sins, but takes us with Him into heaven. Our goal here tonight is to learn just a little bit more of how we can get there, what it is going to take, and maybe where we can improve just a little more here or there.

Then, Jesus asked them, "What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace." (Mark 9:33-34). Jesus knew, didn't He? Jesus knows our hearts...He knows the intents of our hearts. There are so many times that we think that we can fool people, and we can. But God knows even our thoughts.

That is kind of scary, isn't it,

when you think about the things that you think? Maybe we have a little envy in our heart. We do not show it on the outside, maybe, but there is a little envy here or there. There may be even a little hatred to our brother or someone else, maybe our neighbor. Maybe we just do not see eye to eye with this person or that.

We say, "Well, we just have a personality difference and that is just me. I just do not get along with that type of person." I think sometimes that is pride in our heart, isn't it? God knows when there is pride in our hearts, too. He knows what we are thinking!

We need to ask God to forgive us where we have failed Him in word, in the things we did, and even our thoughts. My dad always prayed, "Forgive us where we fail in word, deed, or thought." I will never forget it. We need to remember that God knows our thoughts and we cannot fool Him. We cannot trick Him.

Jesus knew what they were disputing. They were wondering who was going to be the greatest. "And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." (Mark 9:35).

What are we striving for in this world? So many of us are trying to "get ahead" in our occupation, in our finances, or whatever it is in our life where we are just working diligently to get ahead here on this earth, aren't we?

Maybe, even in the church, we would like to have just a little bit better position. Maybe there is a little bit of pride there in our heart that makes us think that we would like to be well respected or honored among the brethren even.

That is probably what the disciples were thinking here. They were wondering who would be the greatest, even in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus had to remind them that, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." (Mark 9:35). When I think of someone who was like that in the Bible, I think of Absalom. If you remember the story of Absalom, he was David's son. When he got to be a little older and saw that he was a handsome man and well-respected among the people, that was not enough for him.

Absalom had pride in his heart to where he even wanted to take the kingdom from his own father. He went about to win the hearts of the people of Israel. He would stand at the gate where the people would enter in to talk to the king, and he would talk to the people and say, "Now if I were the judge, if I could be the ruler over you, this is the way I would do it. It would be well with all of you."

The people fell for that, didn't they? There were so many people deceived at that time by Absalom.

*Sermon continued on page 46*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

June 1997

## Tithing and Giving II

In the previous article in "Light From the Word", tithing as emphasized in the Old and New Testaments was discussed. This editorial will focus on "giving" as encouraged in the New Testament.

Giving in the spirit as described by Jesus Christ is much more than simply donating one-tenth of our income to charity. Our attitude is important in determining if we are following the scriptural guidelines.

What principles should guide our giving? The Bible helps us understand when we should give, what we should give, to whom we should give, how much we should give and what our attitude should be when we give.

We are instructed to give early and regularly. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..." (I Cor. 16:2). If we plan to give of our first-fruits, we will be certain to have laid up for the Lord so we will have something to give when the opportunity arises. Waiting until the last day of the year may appear to be wise from the business point of view but it doesn't satisfy the scriptural directive to give early.

Although it is easy to give during prosperous times, the Bible tells us that we should also give during hard times. The Spirit told the disciples "...that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea" (Acts 11:28-29).

Also, we are instructed that the time to give is when we have opportunity. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). Sometimes we may need to look for opportunity, but at other times opportunity clearly presents itself. Either way, opportunities for giving must be taken advantage of by a child of God.

There are times when the easiest thing to do is to give money. However, not all needs are taken care of by money.

Giving of our time may be much more difficult and perhaps more valuable. In

Matthew 25:36 we are instructed to visit the sick and those who are in prison. Additionally, we are instructed that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,..." (James 1:27). Often we do well in visiting the sick, the widows and orphans early in their affliction. However, we must remember that after the initial time period, perhaps months or years later they are still a widow, still lonely and still in need of encouragement. Perhaps we are not able to visit as often as we would like, but we can make a phone call or send a note of encouragement to let them know we still remember them and pray for them.

Time and material blessings are important but to give our love is more important than any other gift we could possibly give. In I Cor. 13 we find that all of the other gifts pale to insignificance when compared to giving our love. We could speak beautiful words, prophecy, understand mysteries, have strong faith and give all our goods to feed the poor, but if we do not give our love (charity), it will profit us nothing.

Who should be the recipient of our giving? Although we can give to our friends, the Bible tells us to give to those who are not highly esteemed and who will not be able to repay us. "... Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40). "...And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again;..." (Luke 6:34-35). We should "do good to all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

We should be compassionate toward those who are in need. "But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him" (I John 3:17)?

Although the tithe (one-tenth) was regarded as the starting point in the Old

Testament, in the New Testament the amount to give is less precise. In II Cor. 8:12 we are instructed "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." Too often we think of all the things we think we need before we can give to others but if we consider all that the Lord has given us, we surely can give from what we have. The Macedonians even gave more than they could afford. "For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; (II Cor. 8:3). The poor widow "...of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:40). By giving bountifully we shall also reap bountifully (II Cor. 9:6).

Our attitude toward giving is important. We should be willing to give readily and cheerfully. "...so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7).

Our giving should be done simply, secretly, and without pretense. "...He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity..." (Romans 12:8). "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 6:1). Also, we are instructed to give freely, bountifully and in good measure. "...Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). "Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Lk. 6:38).

The gospel of Jesus Christ, as presented in the New Testament, does not emphasize so much the per cent of our income we give to others. Although we should look upon the opportunity to tithe as a blessing and a privilege, we must be careful that we do not restrict ourselves to some specific amount. We cannot out-give the Lord. Our giving may not come back to us in a material way but we will be blessed beyond measure if we share the gospel message and our blessings with those who are in need.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

ISAIAH 41:10

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. PSALMS 34:7

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD. PSALMS 31:24

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

PSALMS 23:4

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

PSALMS 57:1

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. PSALMS 91:15

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

PSALMS 103:3-4

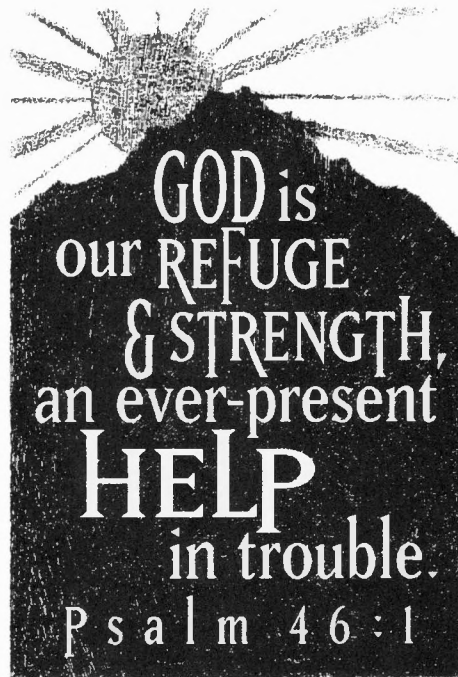
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

ISAIAH 26:3

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

ISAIAH 43:19

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. ISAIAH 58:8



Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. JEREMIAH 17:7

For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

LAMENTATIONS 3:31-33

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

JEREMIAH 17:14

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. MARK 10:27

My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:19

We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience (character); and experience, hope.

ROMANS 5:3-4

The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities (weakness or sickness): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

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 8:26-28

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities (weakness or sickness), that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

Be careful (anxious) 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

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 PETER 5:7

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 1 PETER 1:7

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. JOHN 16:33

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. JOHN 14:27



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

## Letters of Appreciation Come from Caribbean

**E**arly this year, two sea containers of goods were delivered to Jamaica. As noted in previous articles, one of the recipients was a school for deaf children. Known as C.C.C.D., this school has several campuses across the island. In addition to material, we send work teams regularly to help them build new buildings each year.

Recently we received a number of letters from deaf children who are taught in these schools. They also drew some pictures, rendering their view of the big truck which brought them such welcome gifts. We hope our readers enjoy their response. Remember as you read the letters that these children cannot hear, and this is reflected in the words they write, but have never heard.

*I enjoyed to see trailer to CCCD. I saw the boys carry medicine to the clinic, and rice to the kitchen. Some boys helped to carry the bicycles, cooking oil, soap, and medicine. I say thank you for carrying many things to my school. I like the bicycles and clothes. God bless you. I will continue to pray for you. God sent you to carry things to my school. Many thanks.*

Nadette Nugent

*It's good to write to you. Just to thank you for sending a container to my school. I really appreciate that you so kind and generous to us. Thank you for sending things for our school. I do not see them all as yet. I pray that you continues your good work. Thank you for sending everything. I am really excited that you are so kind and every person in your church. The Lord bless you.*

Shelly Ann Bremmer

*I was happy to see a trailer come for us. God give you lots of things for CCCD. We do appreciate that your brought many things to CCCD. We thank God to give a lot of things to CCCD. We continue to pray for you. God will bless you. We love you always.*

Russel Allen

*Thank you for coming back with the trailer, and thank you for driving it to my school. The men, some boys unloaded boxes. Thank you for carrying clothes, basket ball, peas, sewing machine, rice, medicines, soap, shoes, barber chair, and books. Thank you very much for the bicycle.*

*I was happy to see the things in the great house apartment. They are beautiful things. I will pray for your good work.*

Thank you, bye.

Ephesians 4:32 Simone Bryan

*I want to tell you I am fine at school, and everything is all right. We were happy to see when you arrived at my school and I know God protected you. Some students helped when you got many things in the trailer, and I know you are very kind. So we were excited when you brought many things in the trailer. Thank you very much that you*

JESUS SAID, SUFFER

LITTLE CHILDREN,

AND FORBID

THEM NOT,

TO COME UNTO ME:

FOR OF SUCH IS THE

KINGDOM OF

HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 19:14

*carry many things and arrived at my school.*

*We are praying for you and hope that you are happy that we will pray for you. All students say thank you very much that you brought many things to my school. God bless you.*

Kemisha Ulint

*The man drove a truck to carry the trailer to CCCD. Many persons in your churches sent thing to Jamaica. Thank you for the trailer. Thank you for the bicycle, cooking oil, basket balls, nice clothes, medicine, soap, shoes, barber chair, books, table, scaffolds, beans, and sewing machines. All student said very much thank you. I must remember to pray for you.*

Darnen Williams

*I hope that you will be surprised that we write you and I just want to write you because I have something to tell you.*

*I enjoyed the trailer arrive at my school and the boys ran up the hill and help to unload in to the store room, the place that we keep the things. I was shocked that your trailer more big than other old trailer at school. I saw the other trailer before now was small. I want to tell you thanks in many words.*

*I thank you for all many things you send us. I think that the church members also send for us. I thank you for all people who send thing for us or support my school. I appreciate your kindness. God bless you richly. Continue to have the fruit of the spirit is love, kindness.*

Kerry Ann

We are all grateful to God that these children have a way of learning to function in society, rather than having to remain isolated as outcasts in a lone and silent world. May God bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

## - 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>1997</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 14 YEARS</u>
May	3,603	16,514	380,567

\* 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)

### PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS

A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

There are seven Testaments in each plastic box. This requires a regular check and re-fill of the boxes.

The plastic boxes and labels are available at the Leo Bible Distribution Center, 11520 Grabill Road, Grabill, IN 46741.

### Puplit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.

- Available At Leo Bible Distribution Center -

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"...the rain cometh down, and...watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud..." (Isaiah 55:10). The Lord has provided pleasant rains and warmer weather, and the beautiful trees around the Home are in full bloom again. Our residents are now able to enjoy sitting outside in the sunshine and to participate in such outdoor activities as picnics, evening ice cream outings and soon swimming!

Our recently acquired aviary has helped to provide a peaceful,

spring-like atmosphere during the last weeks of winter. Several pairs of birds have built nests, but no eggs yet.

The residents and staff of the Home wish to thank all of you who have lent your hearts and voices during our Friday evening hymn sings, young group gatherings and organized singing groups. The residents look forward to these events so much as they enjoy music and the visiting which takes place afterward. A special thank you to the Sunday School groups who came and participated with the residents at the Easter egg coloring party. They anticipate this

event weeks in advance and the presence of children brings a special joy to them.

Another friendly group visited this month - the Therapy Dogs. The residents spent time with several dogs of various sizes and shapes. Always a big hit is Winston, an affable sheepdog.

Special Olympics Track and Field Day took place the first weekend in May. Twenty-four of the residents competed in events such as softball throw, walking and running races, wheelchair races (manual and motorized), shot put, and long jump. Seven residents won gold medals and will advance to the state finals the weekend of June 20 at ISU in Bloomington. Several residents are currently practicing their bowling skills for the Special Olympics bowling competition in August. Other residents brought back prizes for equestrian sports May 3 after participating in the Central Illinois Riding Therapy competition. Three of these riders will compete in Springfield at the Special Olympics State Equestrian Meet. We are very proud of all the residents who meet the challenges of competition and daily living with a determined heart.

July birthdays for all facilities are: ACHH - Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Walter McKeever (16), Michael Oates (18), Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31). OAKWOOD - Chris Knapp (17). LINDEN - Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michelle Maloney (19). HAZELWOOD - Ed Getz (31).

### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Ed Graf

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose

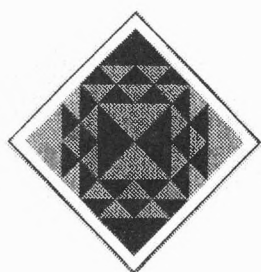
## HUMAN SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1997.

Gateway Woods  
P.O. Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
(219)627-2159

## OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT THE PEORIA HOME (SKYLINES)

Our present DON of nine years wishes to retire and we have an opening. Requirements: RN background, managerial skills, love for the elderly. Please contact Bros. Roger Herman or Rick Plattner (309)691-8091 if interested.



## GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Childrens Home

### Annual Auction and Sale

Saturday, August 16, 1997

*We invite you to join us. Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office at 219-627-2159.*

under heaven:"

*Eccles. 3:1*

One thing that always seems constant at the children's home is change! It is so good to know that all things, including change, fall under the control of our Lord. We may not understand His purposes, but we are thankful that He knows our needs and also knows the best time and place to meet those needs.

It was with both joy and sadness that we bid farewell to our assistant Sis. Bridget Zollinger as she leaves Gateway Woods after two and one-half years of service. Sis. Bridget married Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) at the end of May. We feel joy for Sis. Bridget as she follows God's direction to a new phase of her life, and we wish her and Bro. Matthew the Lord's blessings. On the other hand, we will miss her greatly and thus, we feel the twinge of sadness.

We are rejoicing that the Lord once again has answered our prayers and has provided three new staff members. We heartily welcome Sis. Lisa Waibel and Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier to the Gateway Woods family. Sis. Lisa is from Bay City, MI and will serve as the Assistant Houseparent in the Graf's house. Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri are from Leo and rejoin our staff as Alternate Houseparents. They previously served as Alternate Houseparents and Houseparents from 1984 to 1988. May the Lord bless each of them as they seek to work in His vineyard here at Gateway Woods.

As we are thankful for God's answers to our prayers, we continue to seek His provision for another Assistant Houseparent. If you feel that tugging from the Lord, earnestly seek Him in prayer. We have confidence that He will meet our need in His time.

Finally, we welcome two new children to placement at Gateway

## WORK PROJECT DATES

Following are the dates for three upcoming Mexico Construction Work-teams:

### July 31 - August 8

Contact Bro. Dan Beer (Milford)  
(219)467-4633

### Late Fall 1997

(Actual date to be announced)  
Contact Bro. Bill Gerber (Lester)  
(712)478-4489

### Christmas 1997

(Actual date to be announced)  
Contact Bro. Terry Kuenzi (Silverton)  
(503)362-3275

## RIDE THE BUS

Central Illinois bus trip to the Gateway Children's Home Auction and Sale on August 16.

The bus will leave Peoria Apostolic Christian Church Friday, August 15 at approximately 12:30pm and make passenger pick-ups at Eureka, Goodfield, Bloomington and Champaign with overnight stay in Fort Wayne at a motel.

The bus will return Saturday, August 16, leaving the Children's Home at 4:00pm. The cost of the bus trip is \$40 per person.

Contact Noah Herrmann, 231 Astrom Avenue, Princeville, IL 61559, phone: (309)385-4872.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

**1-800-747-9049**

Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

Woods. The Schrocks welcome Janella E. and the Grafs welcome Justin L. Please pray for these children and their families that a time of healing and growth may occur.

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time..."

*Eccles. 3:11*

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Molly Stickling**

The first weekend in May was set aside for the Preschool board meeting. We are grateful to the Elders and ministers who came and offered their counsel in decisions affecting the Preschool.

The end of May also brings the end of our school year. We ended formally with a graduation, where the children dressed up in caps and gowns. At graduation, friends and family of the children are all invited to watch them sing about things they have learned, and most importantly, songs about Jesus. One part of the graduation, the five-year-olds recite twenty-six Bible verses, one for each letter of the alphabet. They have memorized these Bible verses throughout the year. To actually see the children say them fills your heart with joy to know they are leaving the Preschool with such an important teaching. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

June 2 marks the beginning of our summer session. Our summer session brings some changes to the Preschool. Some of the children will drop for the summer, but we are already adding new children for next fall. We also say farewell to two teachers. We say thank-you to Sis. Tricia Tucker for her service and devotion to teaching at the Preschool. We wish her the best as she is now able to spend time at home with her new baby. We also thank Sis. Doris Fischer for her dedication at the Preschool as a teacher and as the school director. She gave many hours of time and work in her dedication to this Preschool. We wish her the very best as she moves on into another di-

rection of God's will for her life. God bless you both for all you gave and taught the children during your time here. Sis. Margo Stettner will be replacing Sis. Doris as the Preschool director. We wish Sis. Margo God's guidance and blessings as she makes a willing effort to take this position.

Our summer session has already been blessed with warm weather. The children are able to have enjoyable days outside swimming and playing. If you have the desire to come and volunteer at the Preschool, your time would be spent from being with the children to a variety of tasks, but most of all, your service would be of a heavenly reward. Anyone who is interested, please contact the Preschool at (205) 233-0591.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Pam Moore**

As I write this, I realize that when it appears in the next Silver Lining, our Memorial Day Fellowship Weekend will be over, and we will be cherishing the memories. We want to thank everyone who came to share the weekend with us. I hope it draws each and every one of us to a closer walk in Christ, as we attempt to "Follow in His Footsteps".

The first weekend of May, the Preschool Board Meeting was held. We thank Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for speaking from God's inspired Word on Sunday.

Brooke Ann was born to James and Carolyn Lewis on April 25. Carolyn is the daughter of Sis. Corrine Williams. Brooke has two brothers, Brad and Brandon, who were glad to welcome her home.

A baby shower was held for Lisa (Randy) Moore on May 4. They're expecting an addition to their family in June.

We always enjoy visitors in Athens. If you will be in the area, we meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 for directions to the church.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee:..."

*Isaiah 41:10*

As we gathered to hear the Memorandum in the evening, it was delightful to spend time in God's house and feel His love. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich.

God loves us all the same. How much do we love Him?

We are also thankful for visiting ministers, Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL).

Our monthly fellowship supper was April 27, with fellowship singing afterward. Our thanks to Sis. Lois Niemeyer and her committee for our monthly potlucks, which we do enjoy.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of..."

*II Timothy 3:14*

On May 4, our 18 graduates were honored at a reception. Eighth grade graduates are Kristy Dotterer, Rebecca Dotterer, Joel Greenbank, Tricia Lawson, Tarah Roth, B.J. Woodruff and Brian Zettler.

High school graduates are Beth Furrer, Justin Gramm, Danny Hodges, Angie Klopfenstein, Amy Roth, Jordan Roth, Jason Sanders and Jessica Tooley.



College graduates are Brian Crockett, Bro. Matt Roth and Bro. Marshall Witzig.

Thankful parents for the graduates' achievements are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty Greenbank, Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson, Bro. Todd and Sis. Jill Roth, Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Woodruff, Mary Boyd.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer, Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise Gramm, Sis. Jane Greenbank Hodges, Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth, Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders, Jerry and Sis. June Tooley.

June Crockett (wife), Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lila Witzig.

God's blessings and Psalm 119:11 to each of you.

Isaac Scott was born April 30 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum. Koby is glad for a brother. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum.

Our prayer list included Sis. Kathy Woodruff (broken foot), Sis. Lena Kieser (surgery), Sis. Dorothy Wenger and Sis. Josephine Martin.

Our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde on the death of her mother in Ohio.

The single members served lunch on Mother's Day. What a kind gesture for a special day.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi announce the marriage of their daughter, Heather, to Chris Thorpe on May 5. We wish God's blessings on them. Many friends and relatives came to Arizona for the happy event.

Our annual business meeting was May 14. May God bless the brothers whose terms have been completed. We are grateful for your dedication.

Bro. Ellsworth Niemeyer is our new Trustee Treasurer; Bro. Jerry Emch, interior maintenance Trustee; Bro. Jacob Hoerr, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Bob Dotterer and Bro. Mark Dotterer, ushers; Bro. Charles Kiser, lunch fund treasurer.

A special thanks to Bro. Don Emch and Sis. Cathy for many years of serving the church for many years. We are grateful.

God bless and keep looking up!

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

The Phoenix congregation hosted a graduation reception on May 4, and included the two high school graduates from our area: Beth Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) and Danny Hodges (Sis. Jane). We wish all the graduates God's blessings, and may they always look to the Lord for guidance and direction.

Once again, our congregation has been blessed by the ministers who have so willingly served us. May God richly bless Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and their families.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Our annual business meeting was held this month resulting in the following elections: Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Steve Bauer; Trustee, Bro. Brad Bauer; Kitchen Chairman, Sis. Caroline Kaufman; and Primary Sunday School Teacher, Sis. Lisa Knapp. We want to thank the outgoing office holders for their years of service and hard work on behalf of the Tucson church. May God richly bless Bro. Jay Knapp (Superintendent and Trustee), Sis. Gloria Bauer (Primary Teacher)

and Sis. Joan Knapp (Kitchen Chairman) for their many efforts.

We were blessed with a visiting minister this month. Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) was with us, along with his family, for Sunday services. We thank them for their visit to Tucson.

A church cleaning was held the last Saturday of April. Our group was small, but hard working, so we treated ourselves to lunch afterward.

We had two high school graduates this year among our young people. Carrie Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) graduated from Santa Rita High School on May 21. Our friend, Jo Ann Cox, graduated from Flowing Wells High School on the same night. We want to wish both of these special young ladies God's blessings as they start a new phase in their lives. They both plan to attend college away from home.

We are still planning our Vacation Bible School for June 3-7. Our theme is "Just Jesus and Me". We are looking forward to a special week together.

We will be taking a break from our monthly fellowship dinners and Sunday School classes for the months of June and July. We will resume in August.

We have been given a respite for a week or two from our warm May weather. Thunderstorms and showers have moved into Tucson and are providing a nice change for us from our usual sunshine. Our temperatures were in the mid 90's but have cooled off to the 80's as a result of the change in the weather pattern.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Spring is running its course as it heads into summer. The winter lawns that were planted last fall have also run their courses. How well the Psalmist related these

events: "...they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth." (Psalm 90:5-6). This Psalm, which also enumerates man's days, was read at the funeral service for our beloved Bro. Nathan Steffen. He was in his 82nd year. We pray for his family who will miss him and are thankful that a number from Minnesota and Iowa could come to bid their dear brother and uncle farewell. Bro. Nathan's repentance and conversion took place in his later life. He rejoiced in this blessing and we are thankful to be able to commend him to his God and Saviour.

Our dear Bro. Shannon Stahl will be graduated as a Doctor of Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. He plans for post-doctorate work in Massachusetts and will be trading coasts. We'll miss him very much and pray for God's many blessings to be upon him.

Our dear friend, Justin Moser, has completed his undergraduate work at Claremont College where he earned a degree in Economics. While he will spend the summer with his family in Connecticut, we look forward to his return to the Los Angeles area in the fall where he has taken employment.

We miss Kari Neimeyer who has been temporarily assigned to Virginia for a training program. We look forward to her return in late summer.

A thought:

There can be no fathers without  
having mothers  
And the other way 'round 'tis true;  
So our hearts reach out to honor  
them both  
Whose prayers have brought us  
through.

May we continually keep our hearts and minds on God, our Father, and His direction through

the Holy Spirit, ever looking to Jesus, our interceder, who is at God's right hand!

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Rose Huette**

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

*Exodus 20:12*

As Mother's Day has just been and Father's Day approaches, we want to express a special "thanks" to all the fathers and mothers for the many selfless deeds they so willingly do for their children.

How the angels rejoice over one who is lost and now is found. We are rejoicing that even in our small congregation, souls are still answering God's call. Phillip Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) has given his heart to Jesus. What a beautiful Mother and Father's Day gift. May we keep Phillip in our prayers.

We were richly blessed this month to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA) and his family spend a Sunday with us. May our Lord and Saviour richly bless them and all our visitors for visiting and sharing their love with us.

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**ONTARIO, KITCHENER**  
**CANADA**  
**Laura Baxter**

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

*II Cor. 9:6*

I was reminded recently of how this verse applies to many aspects of our lives. As the farmer or gardener sows seeds in the spring-time, he can expect, with God's increase, to reap the same crop that he has sown. This is also true

in our spiritual life. If we are not putting time, effort, and zeal into serving our Lord, then we cannot expect our spiritual life to grow much. But if we are taking sufficient time to read the Bible and to pray sincerely and fervently along with a zealous striving to serve the Lord in our daily lives, we can expect to "reap" the bountiful joy and peace Christ has to offer. I believe this verse can also be true in our jobs, our marriages, raising our children, church participation, and many other areas in our lives. We cannot rightfully expect to "reap" more than what we "sow".

We are thankful for our visiting ministers that came to sow the truth. They were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We also want to thank all our other visitors that came to fellowship and worship with us, especially the brethren who came from the National Building Committee.

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Walter Fortenbacher and his family as his mother, Katarina Fortenbacher, died recently. May the Lord be his comforter.

We welcome all visitors to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information and directions.

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**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Christian greetings across the many miles!

We enjoyed and appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and his wife making Denver a part of their vacation. We trust God will reward them for their loving kindness.

In April we bid farewell to the old cottonwood tree out in front of our church. To those just visiting, it may seem strange that we would

chop down such a nice shade tree that the kids enjoy so much. Those of us around here see it a little differently. This tree frequently clogged our gutters and the roots had clogged up our sewer system in the past. Not only that, but those with allergies could hardly stand to be by it in the springtime. The most pressing reason to get rid of the tree was its potential to damage our soon to be new roof. This is just how sin can be. It is usually attractive and fun, but when we look closer, we see it is destructive. We ought to be glad to "chop down" sin in our lives.

In May, after the tree was down, we stripped off our old roof and put on a new one. We want to thank all those who worked so hard to complete this project, especially Bro. Max Burnham (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for offering his time and expertise in this area. May God richly bless him for his willingness to lend a hand.

At the beginning of this month, we voted for new Sunday School teachers and a new treasurer. Bro. Rod Schmidt will be replacing Bro. Doug Hohulin and Sis. Sharolynn Hohulin will be replacing Sis. Cindy Schmidt. Bro. Eric Huber will be our new treasurer. We want to thank those who are completing their terms for all their hard work and pray that God will bless the labors of both the old and the new.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman wish to thank the many, many dear ones who have in so many, many ways helped their daughter, Sis. Kris Bauman, and her family during her hospitalization and radiation treatments. God bless each one! They ask your continued prayers as she goes through a time of chemotherapy.

"Pride goeth before destruction." (Proverbs 16:18). In the past month we read about two men in powerful positions (Belshazzar in Daniel 5 and Saul in I Samuel 15), who when confronted with their

proud condition did not repent, resulting in their destruction. No matter how good our talents are or what we've done for God, if we become proud of our accomplishments in life, we can no longer be a useful vessel for God.

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### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Let us remember our dear fathers as Father's Day approaches. Most importantly, our dear Father in Heaven so lovingly gave of His Son to die upon the cross so that we might have hope of salvation. Many brethren and fathers that have gone on before have faithfully served Him and have taught us the Way of Life. May God bless our fathers with wisdom to provide Christian homes.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

*Ephesians 6:4*

We were blessed to have Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) share with us out of the Holy Word. May we continue to pray for our dear ministering brethren that God's will be done so that the truth is preached.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

*Psalms 122:1*

It is nice to again be able to assemble in our normal location, although it is not a building dedicated to the Lord. We will be meeting in homes the last two Sundays in July, so please call the brothers listed below to get the exact loca-

tion.

Our ministers this past month were: Bros. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabatha, KS). We thank these brothers, their families and others who traveled with them for coming to visit us. Other visitors were from Bloomington, Chicago, and Peoria, IL.

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. Please note there are two Sundays in July when we will be unable to use the hotel. Please contact the brothers listed below ahead of time to find out where we will be meeting the Sunday you are in the area. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 724-4470.

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### FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways."

*Psalms 119:1-3*

We thank the Lord for our visiting minister this past month, Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). We were blessed as he brought forth God's Word with us.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you an-

other Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"

*John 14:15-16*

As Father's Day approaches, may we not only show appreciation to our dads for their godly example, support, and love to us, but more importantly may we each day of our lives strive by God's grace to serve Him, our Heavenly Father, more faithfully. Our Heavenly Father loved us before we loved Him and sent His Son to die in our stead so that we may have a hope of life eternal. We can show our love to Him by keeping His commandments.

Several couples went to Sarasota for a Sunday School picnic. We appreciate Sarasota's inviting us for its special occasion. May the Lord bless you.

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**FLORIDA,  
NORTH FT. MYER'S  
Anjie Baum  
Kay Eisenmann**

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Jeff Streitmatter II (Sarasota, FL). We are thankful for the efforts our ministers put forth to travel and bring us the wonderful Word of God!

We mothers and wives were much surprised on Mother's Day when our loving husbands and fathers surprised us with a "cook-out", so once again good food and wonderful fellowship were enjoyed. Our two Sunday School girls, Stacy Yergler (Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb) and Lindsey Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea), were a lot of help to make it all a Mother's Day we will all remember.

Sometimes we wonder why Jesus spoke in parables. Maybe so that before we read, we need to pray for understanding so He can enlighten us to just what we need to find salvation, and not lean on our own understanding. Our un-

derstanding without God is not the same, for as mortals we all want to make excuses, but God gave His all and that is just what He expects from us. In this world of always trying to find the "easy" way, remember that "easy" isn't always right.

We are so thankful that God directed us to turn from this world of self first, to have God-fearing parents to teach us the best they knew how to serve God, enjoy the good in the world, and still have peace of mind and heart to be a child of God!

There would be no war or divorce in this world if all would listen to God, read His Word and obey it; and when trouble comes, not try and blame someone else, but ask how can I help make this family a better family of God. May we all pray for the grace to forgive and not blame.

We have had a great season and now our winter family is back north. Thanks to each and every one for their support. We enjoy it so much—may God bring you all safely back again!

Today, a signed diploma means so much to our graduates; so young men and women, as you go out into the work field to make your livelihood, pray that your name can also be written into the Lord's Book of Life.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Rachel Koehl - Melissa Sabo**

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

*Matthew 19:5*

Believing it is the Lord's will for their lives, the engagement of Sis. Rachel Koehl and Bro. Jeff Sabo was announced on May 4. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Elder Bro. Doug

and Sis. Linda Sabo.

Recent college graduates are Terese Maibach (Alan) from Manatee Community College with a degree in nursing, and Regina Schnell from Hillsborough Community College with a degree in legal assisting.

How thankful we are to have Bro. Rich Martin back with us in church again. Bro. Terry Miller and Bro. Erv Martin were both hospital patients. May God continue to heal and strengthen them.

We extend our sympathy to Elder Bro. Doug Sabo in the death of his grandmother, Itha Harris, of Venice.

May God richly bless Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for his willingness to share the Word with us this month. We always look forward to his business trips to Sarasota!

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Peggy Camp**

We are grateful for the visiting ministers who came to share God's Word with us. On May 4, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francisville, IN) read the Memorandum to our congregation. Other ministers who visited this month were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

As always, we invite visitors to stop in Atlanta and worship with us. The church is located south of the city. From Atlanta, take I-85 south to Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church is a ranch style building and will be on the left side of the road. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE  
Millie Jepson**

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

*Colossians 3:14-16*

Singing with grace in their hearts was surely evident in the Morton Mixed Choir as they ministered to us on a weekend in April. Even as their physical presence filled our church, God's spirit of love and peace came through in their music. We thank each member and their leader for sharing their God-given gift of singing with us. It was a blessed weekend!

We thank Bros. Ron Schambach and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for being our guest ministers this past month. We also thank Bro. Keith Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) for being our guest teacher for the Wednesday evening Bible Study. We certainly appreciate these brothers coming with their wives to Belvidere and helping in the ministry here. May God richly bless them.

We had the annual election in May to elect a Sunday School teacher, a trustee and the Silver Lining correspondent. Sis. Stephanie Heinold was elected as the Sunday School teacher; Bro. Jim Jepson, the trustee; and Sis. Carlene Jepson, the Silver Lining correspondent. We pray for God's wisdom and blessing on them as they undertake their new responsibilities for this little flock.

*Church Time Change:* The morning service and Sunday School (3 years to 8th grade) starts with singing at 10:15 a.m. The afternoon service and Sunday School (grades 9-12) starts with

singing at 12:30 p.m. We hope to see many of you this summer!

"Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works, as for the love with which they are done."

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## ILLINOIS

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Janice Horner - Carol Sauder

Bro. Clyde and Sis. Charlene Knobloch are happy to announce the birth of healthy grandbabies born March 24 to Barry and Nancy Knobloch of Elmhurst, IL. They are named Christian Clark and Madison Meryl.

On April 26, we were blessed in gathering together to remember the Lord's sacrifice on the cross on Calvary's hill. Through the hymn, "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross", we could follow and remember what Jesus did for us. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and our Elder Bro. Everett Hari shared in the Communion service.

Our monthly hymn sing was held April 27. We thank the men's group "Four His Glory" for sharing their talent with us.

We rejoiced with four souls who gave their testimonies and were baptized on May 4. The new sisters and brothers added to our family of believers are: Natalie Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne), Christa Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda), Lucas Knapp (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie) and Duane Kieser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma). It was with joy and remembrance that we listened to their heartfelt need for salvation in their lives. Thanks to our great God for the way He works in our lives. We look forward to adding more to our family in the coming months.

On April 27, the engagement of Sis. Angie Scholl (Bro. Rolland and Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally, Taylor, MO) was announced. Also on the same day, the

engagement of Bro. Chad Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Christy Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann, Roanoke, IL) was announced. May our Father in Heaven bless and guide both couples in their lives together.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We always appreciate the efforts these brothers put forth to visit other congregations and share in the Word.

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## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

### Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

As Father's Day again rolls around, we need to take the time to think of all that our fathers have done for us. Each one provided for us the material things of life, loved us, and taught us many things about this life. But may we be most thankful for the things they taught us about salvation and God's love. May we also thank our Heavenly Father for our dads and for all the blessings He has given us.

We rejoiced with Bro. Wendell Stahl and Sis. Linda Martin (Princeville, IL) on May 4, as their engagement was announced. Parents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin (Princeville, IL). May God bless Bro. Wendell and Sis. Linda as they make the plans for their future life together.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa) as his sister passed away this month. May God comfort his heart as well as the rest of his family. Bro. Brad has also been struggling with an illness. We have missed him in church and pray that God will continue to heal him.

We have also missed our dear Sis. Hilda Dietz as she underwent

surgery and spent some time in the hospital. She is now home and we pray that she will continue to recover.

Graduation time is fast approaching and our students will be moving on. Our grade school graduates are Rob Ehnle (Paul and Cheryl), Tonya Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa), Thomas Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky), Tyler Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) and Tim Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen). The high school graduates are Bro. Scott Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev), Bryan Klumpp (Bro. David and Sis. Barb), and John Tanner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn). We pray God's nearness to each one as they start a new chapter in their lives.

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

"Blessed be childhood which brings down something of heaven into the midst of our fatherly earthliness."

—*Henri Frederic Amiel*

With our weather just warming up and the spring plants coming to their colors, graduation season upon us, and a baby being added to our little flock, new beginnings seem to be a natural topic for this month's news. Champaign-Urbana's congregational size grew by one on May 14. Making his long-awaited arrival was Kyler John Walder, new brother of Laura and son of Bro. John and Sis. Lisa of Urbana. We wish the Walders blessings as they add a son to their family. Kyler's local grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder.

Each April, we as a church pause to reflect on the past year and prepare to begin the next. Whether it is deciding that the lawn mower

has been parked in the bushes long enough and that it is time to build a storage shed, voting on church offices, or hearing financial reports, the business meeting is always an interesting evening. Following the meeting which puts the church's affairs in order, it is our custom to have the exhortation for Holy Communion, reminding us of the importance of having our own spiritual affairs in order. This year, Bro. Darren Blunier and Sis. Kim Walder were elected as Sunday School teachers, Bro. Bob Fehr as trustee and Bro. Aaron Carnahan as usher. Those whose terms expired in the respective positions are Bro. Justin Koch, Sis. Margie Heintz, Bro. Dennie Mangers, and Bro. Greg Kaeb. Our thanks to those who served so faithfully and our appreciation to those who will be assuming new roles in the church.

The annual senior picnic in honor of the college graduates was held on Saturday, May 3. The weather forced the picnic from the campus to the home of the Banwarts, but the event was well attended and each senior was given the opportunity to share a few words of wisdom and advice with the students who intend on returning to campus in the fall. We have a great number of graduates from both the University of Illinois and Parkland College. Mellisa Mangers and Sisters Kara Banwart, Lana Fehr, Tina Fehr, Gretchen Hanson, and Sarah Steffen, plus Bro. Dana and Sis. Kim Plattner from our own C-U congregation have completed their formal college studies. Realizing that although I tried hard, I may not have every single graduate, the list of graduates I am aware of includes the following students who have spent time with us from other church communities: Rebecca Martin, Carrie Wettstein, Sisters Lori Dotterer, Heather Gerst, Cherise Knobloch, Erika

Kuntz, Sandy Mott, Christine Romersberger, Staci Schambach, Darcy Stoller, and Kristy Stoller; Brothers Phillip Conrad, Collin Endress, Eric Hodel, John Rassi, Matthew Rassi, Bart Rinkenberger, and Brad Rocke. Additionally, Bro. Chad Plattner will be leaving us this year. He finished his undergraduate degree here in 1994 and has spent the time since completing a master's degree. He leaves to work as an engineer at John Deere and will live in the Bradford area. Our thanks, congratulations, and best wishes for continued success go out to each of these students as they go on to the new beginnings the Lord has in store for them. Their presence and contributions make our church much more youthful and alive. May they each always know that the welcome to come back for a Sunday, another couple of years for an additional degree, or many years as a permanent resident is always extended!

"I owe almost everything to my father."

—*Margaret Thatcher*

Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: "Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say 'Wonderful!'" As Father's Day approaches, we fathers should take a little time to reflect on the enormous job we took on when we chose to become fathers. Whether we are the father of a newborn baby or an adult, we have a very important role in that person's life. The role changes as a child grows, but the importance of a fatherly influence outlasts the father himself. I recently read some research about fathers and their influence. Currently, America has more than 22 million children living in homes without a father—this figure is up from less than 8 million in 1960. Nearly four

out of ten children will go to sleep tonight in a home in which their father does not live. These are very disturbing figures. A statistic I found a little more reassuring was that nearly 75% of the adults surveyed felt that they had a close enough relationship with their father that they could talk to him about any topic. As Christians, 100% of us have a Heavenly Father we can talk to about any topic and He will always be there to listen. May each father take this time set aside for recognizing fathers to re-emphasize his role in the lives of his children. Play darts and say "Wonderful!"

We were thankful that Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was with us for our Communion service in early May. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was with us for a Saturday evening potluck followed by a presentation on the topic of prayer. Other ministers who visited in the past month included Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). As you make your summertime travel plans, feel free to include a stop in Champaign-Urbana on your itinerary. Visitors are always appreciated.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Jill Rager

I certainly do learn from the Lord's object lessons. Sometimes they are quiet and subtle; other times they cannot be overlooked. This time it was a railroad track. My husband and I, driving separate cars, were trying to stay together. I was leading, and just as soon as I had crossed the railroad tracks, the warning lights began to flash and the crossing gates started to drop. I pulled over and waited for the train to pass and my husband to catch up. As I waited, I watched in my rearview mirror. I considered how this scene relates to our lives. There is a time where

we can freely cross over to God's side via repentance. We even have warning signals in God's Word, but once the train is before us, we are separated from the other side, be it God's side or Satan's.

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

*Luke 13:3*

"Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

*Luke 15:7*

Our "joy" this month is not only one, but two converts who have taken hold of the grace of "today" and have "crossed over" in repentance to Christ. We extend our love and prayers to Kristen Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) and Phil Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan, Cissna Park, IL) as they begin this walk with the Lord.

We were also blessed on April 25 to share Holy Communion and encouraged to build up unity by reaching out to those brothers and sisters we don't always meet...a crossing of tracks in a sense.

We want to share our appreciation for the three visiting ministers who were with us this past month: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). We welcome anyone traveling in our area to stop and worship with us as did these three brothers.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

We rejoice with Bro. Joe and Sis. Tricia Walder and big sister, Kellie, as they welcome into their home their new foster baby, Autumn Booth. Babies are indeed a blessing from God and enjoying this blessing are grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Dort Walder and

Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville, IL).

Enjoying a new grandchild is our Sis. Virginia Ehman. John Phillip was born to Phillip and Shelly (Ehman) Richard of Towanda on April 30.

May 9 was the date for our annual Mother-Daughter Dinner. The theme this year was "Mothers are Flowers in Life's Garden". The delicious food and lovely program made for a blessed evening. What a special way to honor our mothers and daughters who mean so much to us.

On Sunday, May 4, our Sunday School students in preschool through second grade, along with their teachers, traveled to the Heartland Healthcare Center to share some songs and to give a plate of fruit and a flower to each resident. What an excellent way to apply the principle of giving to real life.

We were saddened by the death of our Bro. Emanuel Manz. He leaves to mourn, his wife, Sis. Louise Drayer Manz; five sons, Roland Manz (Union, MO), Bro. Paul Manz (Paulding, OH), Bill and Sam Drayer (Rankin), Bro. Wayne Drayer (Fairbury, IL); and eight daughters, Sis. Verginia and Sis. Viola Manz (Paulding, OH), Sis. Helen Hurd (Haveland, OH), Helen Burgett (Goodwine, IL), Sis. Edna Martin (Princeville, IL), Velma Ekhoft (Crescent City, IL), Mabel Dearth (Duluth, GA), and Diane Verkler (Cissna Park). We wish God's nearness to this family as they cope with their loss.

We offer our congratulations to our high school graduates as they are about to begin a new chapter in their lives. They are: Jenny Hoffman (Sis. Elsie), Sally Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean), Nik Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon), Tim Eisenmann (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally), and Lucas Sims (Scott and

Denise).

We rejoice with Bro. Phillip Conrad and Sis. Heather Steffen (Remington, IN) as their engagement was announced on May 18. Parents of the couple are Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad and Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen (Remington, IN). May God's blessing go with them as they plan for the future.

Sis. Mattie Bauer is now residing at the Gilman Nursing Home. Bro. Aaron Bauer and Eldora Harwood have been moved to Heartland Health Care Center in Paxton after many weeks of hospitalization at Loyola University Hospital in Chicago. Other hospital patients this month were Autumn Booth (Bro. Joe and Sis. Tricia Walder), Sis. Elsie Hoffman, Sis. Gladys Winger, and Bro. Joel Hofbauer. May God be with each one and grant His healing powers.

Bringing us the Word on Mother's Day was Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) shared the Word with us on May 18. We thank you both for your willingness to share God's Word with us.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all who remembered us in thought, with cards or gifts on our 25th wedding anniversary. Everything was greatly appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

*Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner*

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Linda Knobloch  
Missy Banwart**

"Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge..."

*Proverbs 13:16*

Graduation from school is a milestone reached after successfully completing required courses

and obtaining knowledge. We can think of our life as a series of "courses" that are taught by God. He leads us through times of joy, change, sorrow, tests and trials. He is always faithful. When we are committed to Him, we can look forward to graduation—entering Heaven—after having met the requirements of repentance, being born again, baptism and striving to live our lives to please Him. How thankful we can be that this is possible through Christ. May grace be with us all.

Our 1997 high school graduates are Bonny Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat), Jared Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), and Julie Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen). Graduating from 8th grade are Rachel Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay), Alex Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Hallie Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) and Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue). We offer them best wishes for the future.

"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."

*Proverbs 13:10*

How could we be better advised than when we seek our instruction from the Lord?

Kevin Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay) and Matthew Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen) have answered God's call to repentance and feel at peace now with Him and man. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms in June.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp and their family with the passing away of her mother, Nancy Ritch (Florida).

*Note of Thanks:*

Thanks to all who remembered us with cards, gifts, good wishes and love on our 50th anniversary. May God bless you and keep us all in His love and care.

*Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN  
Peggy Heiniger  
Norma Schambach**

On April 18, Elgin hosted the agenda committee meeting. Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) stayed for Sunday. We were also privileged to have Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Nathan and Bro. Ron in reading the Memorandum to us. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). We thank all of those who ministered to our congregation.

We have several loved ones who have spent time in the hospital this month: Doug (Melinda) Leman, Bro. David (Sis. Linda) Steffen, Bro. Earl (Sis. Kay) Steffen, and Kelly (Brian) Heiniger. We all feel pain when our loved ones suffer, and commit them all to our loving God who heals according to His perfect will.

We are fast approaching the completion of our new church, possibly in August. Our present church has been sold to another local congregation. It is our hope that God will remain with them here as He goes with us to our new location. We are renting the building from them for the month of June. There will be no services held there after June 29.

We join Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen in welcoming their daughter, Mary, and her son, Ezra, from California back to our Elgin congregation. They also have a new granddaughter, Molly. Matt and Natalie Steffen are the



happy first-time parents.

Bro. Bill Reber was taken to his Heavenly Home on May 1. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Ann. Sis. Rose Reber and Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Ralph) Levy (LaCrosse, IN) also mourn the loss of their brother. We will all miss him.

Our sympathy and love goes to Sis. Stephany (Rick) Welzien and her family in the passing away of her father, Bro. Oliver Fehr, of Goodfield, IL. God is faithful to comfort.

Our church mourns with the family of Gail Hallead, who passed away on April 22, after battling an illness since age 5. Left behind are her husband, Ron, and son, Aaron, her parents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman, and her sisters and brothers, Sis. Peggy (Bro. Don) Heiniger, Sis. Lynette (Bob) Buckheister, Bro. Brad (Sis. Teresa) and Greg (Brenda). May we stand by the family through this storm of life.

*We Have an Anchor*

Will your anchor hold in the  
storms of life,  
When the clouds unfold their  
wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and  
the cables strain,  
Will your anchor drift or firm  
remain?

It is safely moored, 'twill the  
storm withstand,  
For 'tis well secured by the  
Saviour's hand,  
And the cables, passed from His  
heart to mine,  
Can defy the blast, thru strength  
divine.

When our eyes behold, thru the  
gath'ring night,  
The city gold, our harbor bright,  
We shall anchor fast by the  
heav'nly shore,  
With the storms all past forever

more.

We have an anchor that keeps the  
soul  
Steadfast and sure, while the  
billows roll,  
Fastened to the Rock which  
cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the  
Saviour's love.  
—*Priscilla J. Owens*

*Note of Thanks:*

We humbly ask that God would richly bless and reward every kind deed shown us at the time of the death of our beloved wife, mother, daughter, and sister, Gail Hallead. We're overwhelmed at the outpouring of love, the many cards and expressions of sympathy, long-distance phone calls, food, floral arrangements, and the many prayers. We sorely miss her, but we know God makes no mistakes.

*Ron and Aaron Hallead  
Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman and family*

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA  
Dori Blunier**

Room for Jesus, King of glory!  
Hasten now His word obey;  
Swing the heart's door widely  
open,  
Bid Him enter while you may.  
*Hymns of Zion #193*

Our prayer for our high school graduates is that they may always have room for Jesus in their hearts and lives. Our graduates this year are Darci Designe, Jacob Fehr, Jerome Fehr, Greg Getz, Rachel Kupferschmid, Tim Leman, Sis. Cindy Stoller, Sis. Jenny Stoller, Sis. Paula Stoller, Nathan Wiegand and Travis Wuethrich. We wish them the blessings and protection from our merciful God.

We rejoiced on Sunday, May 4,

as two more souls gave testimony of their repentance and conversion and were baptized. They are Randy Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy) and Beth Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen). May the Holy Spirit continue to bring forth fruit in their lives and lead them to Heaven's door. We were thankful for our visiting ministers that weekend and wish them God's blessings. They were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Jeff Grimm and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

We also appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) this month.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss were blessed with their second daughter on May 5. Serena Louise is welcomed home by her sister, Amelia, and grandparents, Ed and Sis. Barbara Meiss and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). May God's presence rest upon their home and family.

We pray that God will restore health to Sis. Naomi Peters who has spent time in the hospital and Sis. Millie Prather (Bro. Jack) who had knee surgery.

Bro. Bruce Martin (Roland and Sis. Deloris) and Sis. Annie Steffen of Congerville (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois) were united in marriage on Sunday, May 18. May the Lord be their Shepherd as they continue through life as one flesh.

We extend our sympathy to Bros. Harry and Ray (Sis. Louise) Rocke and Sis. Alvina Rocke in the death of their foster brother, Bro. Orttie Rocke, of Oakville, IA.

We also pray for God's healing power for Bro. Ron (Sis. Janet) Hartter who received a leg injury in a work accident and Bro. Carl (Sis. Mabel) Wittmer who had surgery.

We will miss Bro. Brad Rocke as he moves to Indiana to accept em-

ployment and will be attending La-Crosse as his home church. We wish him God's blessings.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

As we observe Father's Day, may we share our love with them while they are yet with us by honoring them, and obeying them. This is not only on Father's Day but every day, and not just our earthly fathers, but more importantly, our Heavenly Father.

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

*Proverbs 3:6*

As our high school graduates go their ways, we pray for them that they will acknowledge the Lord and follow His direction in their decisions in life. Our graduates are: Grant Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Jason Hoffman (Kenneth and June Watt), Timothy Huber (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Heidi Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky), Barry Koehl (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lilli), Hilary Meade (Wallace and Gina), Ronald Slagel (Ron and Sis. June), Jodi Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay), Derrick Steidinger (David and Deann), Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda), Sis. Kim Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra), Sis. Betsy Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys).

Sis. Darcy Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra) graduated from the University of Illinois. May God bless each one of you.

We rejoice with Darin Bazzel (Bro. Donald and Sis. Carol) and Lynette Aberle (Robert and Iola) as they were married May 17. We pray that God will bless them as they begin their life together.

We were blessed again this month to have had Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Gary Brown

(Forrest, IL) to share God's Holy Word with us. We thank them and their families for coming.

We have been praying for our hospital patients which were: Sis. Katharine Fehr, Sis. Louise Hartman (Bro. Warren), Sis. Mary Beth Maurer, baby Logan Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia), and Helen Rapp. May God grant healing to them.

"Precious memories, how they linger." (Gospel Hymns #408a). Sis. Anna Holmes, 92, went to rest April 17. She leaves to mourn many nieces and nephews. May God comfort them.

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Marlene Walter

#### Mary Bachtold

May God bless Bros. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for visiting us this month. We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

April 19 was the wedding day of Clint Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally) and Amy Honegger (Gary and May Lee). May their love continue to grow as they walk together as husband and wife.

A precious bundle from Heaven has arrived in the home of Bro. Phil and Charlotte Leman. Gail Wendy is the baby sister of Kirk, Kay and Gary. Her grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Joseph Ifft (Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila), Bro. Emil Anliker, Bro. Al Zimmerman and Bro. Mike Zimmerman. We pray these loved ones will continue to feel God's healing touch as they regain health and strength according to His will.

May God comfort those in our congregation who have experi-

enced a loss of loved ones. We extend sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Drayer and family in the death of his stepfather, Bro. Emanuel Manz (Junction, OH). We also sympathize with Jay and Kay Davis and family in the death of his grandfather, Leo Davis (Forrest, IL); and Brian and Abby Rinkenberger in the death of her grandmother, Nellie Livingston (Chatsworth, IL).

We congratulate our high school graduates. They are Shane Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne), Jared Drayer (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria), Kevin Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Sis. Rachel Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Kristen Koehl (Barry and Rosemary), Lana Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne), Bro. Chad Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Sarah Wenger Mueller (Bro. Jeff), Patrick Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer), T. Anne Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Sis. Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly). We pray that these young graduates will look to the Lord for wisdom and guidance as they plan their future.

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### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Jan Beer

On April 26 and 27, Carrie Rocke and Tim Wiegand gave their testimonies and were baptized. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Connie Rocke and Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) helped Elder Bro. Wes with the testimonies. We rejoice with these two young people and their families—they have exhibited wisdom beyond their years. The weekend was especially meaningful for Tim's grandpa, Bro. Willis Wiegand, because it was the 57th anniversary of his baptism!

Kailee Ann Getz came into this world on April 28 to bless the home of Sis. Kim and Bro. Tim, Tyler

and Kirk. What a joy for that family to have the privilege of a daughter and a sister!

May 4 our congregation was visited by many young folks. It was Invite-A-Friend weekend for the Young Group. Thank you for pursuing activities that enhance the fellowship of the entire congregation, Young Group!

The series of "Three-fold Cord Marriage Gatherings" held for the Goodfield congregation was concluded on May 3 with couples over the age of 60 meeting. In February, the gatherings began with newly married couples and couples with preschool children meeting. Subsequent Saturdays saw other age groups meet, until all the couples of the Goodfield congregation had an opportunity to attend a Marriage Gathering. Our heartfelt appreciation is expressed for each minister, visiting and home, who prepared and presented a topic at the Marriage Gatherings. We trust God to enable each married couple to strengthen the three-fold cord that binds them to each other and to Him.

Bro. Oliver Fehr slipped from this world to eternity on May 5. As quietly as he lived, quietly he left us, but his example of humility lives on in our hearts. His family has our prayers as they adjust to his earthly absence.

What a song of delight in that  
City so bright  
will be wafted 'neath Heaven's  
fair dome;  
How the ransomed will raise  
happy songs in His praise,  
when all of God's singers get  
home.

—V.O. Stamps

Another one of God's singers went Home May 10, our dear Bro. Ira Rokey. The past several weeks we have missed Bro. Ira's presence on the bench just in front of the song leaders. He served many

years as a song leader; perhaps our sorrow will seem less sharp if we envision him as a part of the heavenly choir. Our prayers are with his life's companion, Sis. Carolyn, and his two daughters and their families, Sis. Myrna Schwenk and Sis. Dolores Metzger (Lester, IA).

Our sorrow has been tempered with joy this past month. May 11 was an especially happy day for the Goodfield congregation as we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Kevin Plattner and Sis. Kerstan DesCarpentrie and enjoyed the service of visiting ministers, Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). Parents of the couple are Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner and Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie. Our prayers and love thoughts abide with Bro. Kevin, Sis. Kerstan and dear little Maddy as they undertake the dual adjustment of marriage and parenthood. God's grace is sufficient for all our needs.

Included in our joy on Mother's Day was the announcement of the engagement of our dear Sis. Ruth Wiegand to Bro. Sam Moser of the Minneapolis, MN congregation. Parents of the couple are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser (Morris, MN). We will miss the sunshine Sis. Ruth contributes to our assembly, but we rejoice that another "three fold cord" marriage will be created. Our love and prayers go with this dear young couple.

I speak for all the women of the Goodfield congregation who usually help "serve lunch", thank you, Young Group, for taking full responsibility for preparing, serving and cleaning up from lunch on May 11. It was a terrific Mother's Day gift of love and service.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for your love, prayers, cards, memorials, food

and your kind expressions of sympathy at the passing of our loved one.

*The family of Oliver Fehr*

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### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

I heard a Sunday School teacher recently present an interesting point to his class. His message was on the brevity of life.

He asked the class, "What is written on a tombstone?" The reply was one's date of birth and date of death. He then asked, "What is between these dates?" The answer? "A dash." He explained that a dash in this instance is symbolic of our life and its shortness.

He explained to his students that because one's life is so brief, and passes so quickly, the salvation of one's soul should be the primary focus.

Lois Schlipf, 64, passed away on May 2. She had lived at the Eureka Home for many years.

Memories of dear Lois, a special needs person, surely linger in our hearts. She had a sincerity that was often touching. She loved to attend church with her mother and sisters and partake in fellowship. Going to church was a big part of her life.

She is survived by Sis. Dorothy Witzig, and a brother, John Schlipf, both of Gridley. She also left 14 nieces and nephews.

The farmers in our area are thankful that the planting season went well, and the crops are thriving. They now wait for the increase which comes from God above.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

We were saddened by the death of our Bro. Gene Yergler who was called Home on May 9. May our Lord comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Betty; his two sons, Mike and

Marty; his three daughters, Sis. Margo Marx, Monna Hall, and Melanie Long; his three brothers, Armand, John and Glenn; his two sisters, Eileen Roberts and Gerry Sievers; his ten grandchildren; his four great-grandchildren and his many other relatives and friends.

We rejoice with the three couples whose engagements were announced this month. Bro. Matt Ackerman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Marge) is engaged to Sis. Missy Stratton from Taylor, MO (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl). Sis. Erma Hollis is engaged to Bro. Walter Feucht of Peoria, IL. Also, Sis. Tammy Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce) is engaged to Bro. Kevin Schaefer from Tremont, IL (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge). May God bless these three couples as they establish Christian homes. If the Lord is truly the head of each heart and each home, how wonderful the union will be.

On Wednesday, May 7, our high school graduating seniors and their parents were honored at a dinner at our Fellowship Hall. The family worship service that evening was a special message for them as they make uncharted changes in their lives. Our prayers for God's guidance to them.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We so appreciate and enjoy them being with us.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

Sis. Lena Aberle wishes to thank everyone for their cards, gifts of love and the many good wishes received on her 100th birthday. May God bless all who were so kind.

Thank you to Restmor and all who made Aunt Sally Rapp's

100th birthday an enjoyable occasion. She truly enjoyed the day.

*From all her 15 nieces and nephews*

### **ILLINOIS, PEORIA** **Peter and Mabel Weber**

Mephibosheth was five years old when his father, Jonathan, and grandfather, Saul, were killed. In those days, heirs to the throne were usually eliminated to avoid later conflict. He fled with his nurse, who carried him on her shoulder, then dropped him, which left him lame in both feet. He stayed in hiding in Lo-debar until David discovered him and asked him "to eat continually at the king's table" (II Samuel 9). Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer meditated on this chapter on April 20 and made comparisons to our lives. David is often remembered for his sin, but God said he was a man after His own heart. David had compassion and mercy...do we? Mephibosheth was in hiding and afraid...are we? David did not mention his lame feet and God does not remember our sins and afflictions, but throws them into the sea of forgetfulness...do we? Do we continually come to the Lord's table? Mephibosheth thought he was a goner...we would be, without the grace of God. Are we ministering the Lord to people around us or hide in Lo-debar? There are many ministries besides the pulpit service. David said to Mephibosheth, "Fear not!" We also hear these words from our Master. Today is the day of grace. Feast on His love, kindness and sinless blood, be adopted into the family of God, for He is merciful and will supply our every need.

We welcome Sis. Loretta Ross (Winzeler), who was baptized at the Skylines on April 25, into the family of God. On April 27, Bro. Jim Hoerr meditated on Philipians 3 and mentioned how thank-

ful we are for the godly environment of our Home. It represents an investment of millions, yet one soul is worth more than all the world. Paul had blameless credentials and continued for a while in Pharisaism, but eventually counted all as waste and forgot what was behind and focused on the cross. Are we examples of our faith seven days a week?

The theme of the 26th Annual Choir Benefit Dinner and program at the Fellowship Hall on May 3 was "Amazing Love"; it can move the unmoved mountain and melt the heart of stone.

On May 4, sixteen senior graduates (12 converted) enjoyed a breakfast and remarks by Bro. Rick Plattner and a song presentation "One day too late". The essence of Bro. Ken Hoerr's subsequent services on Proverbs 3:1-12 and Matthew 7:21-29 was the need to keep the commandments, in addition to the Sermon on the Mount, give our thoughts and decisions 100% to the Lord, make a list of our priorities and see where God comes into it. Insecurity is part of human nature but we must remember "Peace be still", don't carry seeds of rebellion and do not gravitate from calmness to anxiety. May our graduates remember such teachings as they begin a new chapter in life.

Bro. Jeff Thames spoke on "Overcoming anger in our hearts and homes" on May 7 at our family night service: memorize as a family, remember and put off the old man, repent and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, redo and put on the new man. Thanks, Bro. Jeff. Would the overall ambience be improved if we would not make 50% of our statements?

Bros. Mike Rieker and Jim Hoerr shared the Mother's Day services on May 11. The Lord did it all, but where would we be without our God-fearing mothers and church grandmothers who per-

petuated our faith from generation to generation and remained true and faithful to the end? Repetition is the secret to remembering to remain dedicated to purpose and calling and give the Lord equal time to our many other activities and think of humility and simplicity.

Bro. Gene Yergler, father of Sis. Margo Adams, went from time to eternity on May 9 and we extend our sincere sympathy to her and her family. We also express our sympathy to Sis. Viola Herman on the passing of her brother, Bro. Orttie Rocke, of Mediapolis, IA on May 12.

We rejoice in the engagement announcements of Bro. Walt Feucht to Sis. Erma Hollis, and Sis. Angie Scholl to Bro. Shannon Haerr (Taylor, MO). May the blessings of God follow.

Recent hospital patients were Sis. LuAnn Funk, Marie Schafer, Emma Schneider, Lydia Stoller, Aldine Waibel and Bro. Howard Musselman. Bro. Walter Plattner is back at the Skylines and Bro. Bud Fehr returned from the hospital.

Logan became the fourth child of Bro. David and Sis. Rachel Sauder, the 31st grandchild of Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister, and the 4th of Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder. Congratulations to the happy parents and grandparents.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer returned safely on May 13 from his trip to Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia for the Mission Committee.

Sis. Mary Swadley submitted this note: "I thank all for your prayers, cards and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home. God's blessings to all."

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Joanna Herrmann**

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"

*Proverbs 1:8*

How thankful we are for the faith of our fathers, and for their experience and wisdom.

Our prayers are with Bro. John (Sis. Cheryl) Grassi and Bro. Phil (Sis. Linda) Baurer, as they teach the children in Sunday School in the upcoming year. They are replacing Bro. Glen (Sis. Audrey) Braker and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Lavonne) Herrmann. We would like to thank these brothers and their wives for the work which they have done.

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

*Mark 10:9*

On May 4, the engagement was made known of Sis. Linda Martin to Bro. Wendell Stahl of Bradford. Their parents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin and Sis. Charlotte Stahl. May God richly bless them in their step of faith.

We think of our graduates, and pray that they will seek guidance from the Lord as they go to school or work. Our graduates this year are: Jessica Herrmann (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Brenda), Janis Kiser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Kristal Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine), Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna), Jeremy Gray (Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser), Byron and Brian Joos (Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda), Bro. Derek Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon), Matt Miller (Vernon and Janet), Kirk Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene), Bill Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty), and Bro. Doug Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia).

We want to ask God's healing hand upon several in our congregation. Those awaiting God's heal-

ing are Bro. Doug Stoller, Sis. Marie (Bro. Leonard) Menold, and Sis. Betty Jane Feucht.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, gifts, and visits I received while in the hospital and since coming home. May God bless you for your kindness.

*Otto Baer*

Many thanks to all my relatives, friends, and ministers for all the cards, telephone calls, gifts, flowers, and prayers received during my hospital stay and since returning home. God bless each one of you.

*Your Sister in Faith, Lucille Rumbold*

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

When pure and upright hearts,  
By flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of Faith  
More firmly yet united,  
The light of hope beams forth  
In radiance far and nigh,  
Invites us to partake  
The blessings from on high.

*Zion's Harp #79*

We rejoice with the engagement announcement of Sis. Kristy Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman) to Bro. Chad Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) of Bloomington.

Bro. Kevin Hodel and Sis. Amy Yergler have announced their wedding engagement. Their parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel and Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Yergler (Bluffton, IN).

Also looking forward to sharing their life together is Sis. Lora Braker and Bro. Reggie Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). Parents of this engaged couple are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich

(Francesville, IN). May God richly bless these couples and bind them in heart and spirit as they plan their wedding.

On April 12, Michelle Neukomm and Mark Simpson were married. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm and Larry and Janice Simpson of McLean, IL. We wish them well as they establish their household.

March 15 was the wedding day for Tammy Neukomm and David Baietto. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm and Mike and Adeline Baietto of Lake In The Hills, IL. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. David Whitten (Bro. Gene and Carol) and Sis. Lori Wade were married on May 4. How thankful we are that God has provided for them so wonderfully. May God ever be present as the Unseen Guest in the home of these loved ones.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Duane Schroeder and Sis. Janet Knepp (Bro. Rich). We are thankful for God's healing hand on our loved ones.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan), and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). Also, Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for their service to us through the Holy Spirit.

I would like to close with a special prayer for all of our graduates.

*I Said a Prayer For You Today*  
I said a prayer for you today  
And know God must have heard,  
I felt the answer in my heart  
Although He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,  
I knew you wouldn't mind.  
I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far more lasting kind.  
I asked that He'd be near you  
At the start of each new day.  
To grant you health and blessings

And friends to share your way.  
I asked for happiness for you  
In all things great and small.  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed the most of all.

—*Author Unknown*

*Note of Thanks:*

I sincerely "thank" each and every one of you for your prayers, visits, cards, and gifts while I was in the hospital and home again. Also, for all the delicious food brought in to us. I thank God for all your love and kindness and pray He will bless each of you.

*Sis. Mardell Bowald*

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

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

*I Corinthians 15:58*

Bro. John Stoller (Sis. Patricia, Leo, IN) conducted a Bible study on Saturday, April 19. His much appreciated thought-provoking message was on "Forgiveness" and the importance of forgiving. We also appreciate his labor of love on Sunday, April 20. We also thank our other visiting ministers, Bros. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) who were willing to come and minister the true Word of God to us. May God richly bless them for their labors.

Little did we know when we visited with Madeline Hermann on Sunday, May 4, that she would be called Home on Monday morning, May 5. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her son, Gary, and his wife, Bonnie.

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

*I Corinthians 13:13*

Saturday, May 10, marked the wedding day of Mark Steiner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley) and Jennifer Illing (Louis and Sarah). We pray God will bless this union with His love and guidance as they go through this life together.

We rejoice with our Sis. Tammy Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Kevin Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marjorie) as their engagement and forthcoming marriage was announced to our congregation. We pray God's blessings on them as they are united in marriage.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Sue Ruppert**  
**Denise Romersberger**

"For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

A mother slept fitfully, straining to hear the sound of the car motor, a garage door closing, and her son's footsteps. Then the phone rang. There had been an accident. Her son lay in a hospital bed, his life in the balance. "Life is so fragile," the grieving mother said. "How easy it is to take this gift of life for granted."

It is just as easy to take spiritual life for granted. We like to trust in our own abilities, and we allow ourselves some spiritual elbow room. Our choice of friends, entertainment, or business practices may reflect a certain amount of spiritual risk-taking. We let down our guard and take our safety for granted.

God gives us His Spirit and His Word to warn us against taking

our spiritual life for granted. By reading His Word and with the help of His Spirit, we avoid those things that threaten the plans God has for us.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

*1 Peter 5:8*

We have hope and life through our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave us this hope when He washed us clean of our sins on the cross. We must claim the promises He has given us. "Lo, I am with you always" He says. We have promises of salvation, and promises for all phases of our life. May we ever walk with Him and obey His commands.

Guest ministers this month were Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) who spoke at our monthly Bible Study, and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). Also present was Bro. Marshall Heinold, along with Sis. Jan, who returned home for a short time from Ixtlan, Mexico. We are so privileged to sit under the sound of God's Word knowing it is spoken with sincerity and truth, leaning on God. Thank you, Brothers.

One of the events that brought Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan back to the States was the birth of their granddaughter, Jenna Lily Metcalfe, to parents Richard and Becky. Paternal grandparents are Mike and Gwen Metcalfe.

Another new arrival is Luke John Pfaffmann, son of Bro. Max and Sis. Mary. He was welcomed home by sisters Heidi and Wendy, and brother Adam. Grandparents are Sis. Dolly Schick and Sis. Ida Pfaffmann.

A little girl, Esther Elaine Hoffstetter, was born to Bro. Kevin and

Sis. Ann Hoffstetter. Her brother, Daniel, awaits her arrival at home. Grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Donna Huber, and Bro. Ted Hoffstetter, all of Fairbury. We are thankful that all are healthy. Surely the miracle of child birth is one of God's greatest gifts.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher also have added to their family, in the form of two foster children, Daniel and Cody. We know there are many challenges, but know the Lord has work to be done. We pray the Christian influence can bear fruit in these boys and extend to other family members as well.

Hospitalized this month was Jackie Feucht, daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth. We are glad she has returned home and to health. We praise God for His healing touch.

We would like to welcome Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia Koch and their family to Washington. They come to us from the Champaign area. It is such a joy to know we can travel from church to church and know God's Word will be the same. It is with open arms that we welcome you to our congregation.

The annual Bible Class breakfast was held this month at Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss' home. Parents, teachers, and ministers were in attendance. We congratulate those that will graduate from both high and grade school levels. Each student received a book (Bibles, hymn books) appropriate to their grade level.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Brenda Bertsch**

**Kim Maller**

On the weekend of April 26 and 27, we hosted a weekend for singles 25 years and older. Our thanks to Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for being willing to be used. We pray that the company and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

"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 weep and a time to laugh."

*Eccles. 3:1,2,4*

Sis. Elizabeth Ginzel went to her eternal rest on April 30. She will be missed by her children, Byron, John and Phyllis Ashinger. Our prayers are with the family in this time of their sorrow.

We have two couples who recently announced their engagements. They are Bro. Kris Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Heidi Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Susie). Also engaged are Bro. Kevin Hodel (Roanoke, IL) to Sis. Amy Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce). We rejoice to hear that our friends, Brooke Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda) and Todd Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth), have answered the call of God. We trust that the Lord will be with them as they travel life's road with the Lord.

Sis. Marie Steffen welcomes a new granddaughter, Delaney Davay, born to Kent and Terri Steffen.

Those hospitalized recently have been Janean Steffen (Bro. Tom and Sis. Lyn), Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bro. Mike), Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall) and Hunter Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda).

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

**Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

*Psalms 119:105*

We were thankful to have Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) share the Gospel message with us. May the Lord bless him for his willingness to share.

Our Bluffton North congregation was blessed with the addition of five dear souls to our church family. Bruce and Brian Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois), Heather Brudi (Jim and Karen), Tiffani Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) and Brad Schwartz (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan), having found grace unto repentance, gave a testimony of their faith and were baptized on May 3 and 4.

We were thankful to hear that Seth Fischer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce) has given his heart to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord provide Seth with daily grace as he begins this new walk.

We want to remember those who have been in the hospital. Our Bro. Mark Steffen suffered a stroke and is in need of our prayers as he is recovering. Victoria Steffen (Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla) and Sis. Vi Ringger (Bro. Sib) have also spent time in the hospital. May our prayers always be with these loved ones.

Jesus says "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

A blessed evening was spent at Christian Care Retirement Community on Friday, May 17, when Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz and Phil Stettner served Holy Communion to the brothers and sisters who live there. About sixty of our people attended with twenty-five residents and their families present. What a blessing!

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## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

### Val Gutwein

We recently read the story of Daniel in the lion's den during our worship service. We were all sobered as we recounted the severe punishment on the families of the

wicked men who hated Daniel. The Scripture says that those wicked men, their wives, and their children were judged with the same judgment. The judgment God chose was death. God lays out His plan for fathers so clear in the Scriptures: He desires them to nurture and to train their children in His ways, and to love their wives. May each father find love and encouragement from those that God has entrusted to him as he seeks to lead them in the "ways of the Lord".

Over the past month we have had times of joy and times of sorrow. We were all saddened to hear that Joshua Overmyer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne) met with accident. Let's continue to pray for a full recovery for Joshua, and "strength to endure" for the family. Our Sis. Louise Onken was hospitalized this past month, as was our Bro. Morris Eshleman. May the healing hand of the Lord be upon each one.

We rejoice with Mandy Metzger (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Judy, West Bend, IA) who has found peace with the Lord Jesus. We trust God will continue to shape and mold her as she awaits the time of baptism.

We extend sympathy to our Bro. Lester Nuest who recently lost a great-grandson, Justin Nuest. We pray God will be near the sorrowing family and give them strength during this hard trial.

Our Bro. Reggie Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) was recently announced to Sis. Lora Braker of Indianapolis (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha, Roanoke, IL). We trust that God will lead and guide them as they prepare to live as one in Him.

We were happy to host the Spring College Weekend April 19-20. It was an enjoyable experience for all of us here in Francesville. Many thanks to all those who came and made the weekend a blessing

for all who were involved.

Mike and Tracey Shidler are the happy parents of a girl, Emilie Marie, born May 7. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Carol Anliker. Emilie has one sister, Shelbi, to welcome her home. Psalm 127 says that the fruit of the womb is his reward. May we all rejoice again at the miracle of birth, and we pray blessings upon their home.

We trust God will bless Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for their labors of love toward us in the ministering of the Word this past month.

"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."

*Col. 3:17*

### *Note of Thanks:*

A sincere thanks to each one who remembered me with your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits while in the hospital and since returning home from my surgery. May God bless each one for your love and prayers.

*Bro. Morris Eshleman*

*Reminder: June is the collection month for the Silver Lining here in Francesville.*

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## INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

### Melissa Baumgartner

### Lynn Dotterer

Greetings of love in our dear friend and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"What a Friend" - We recently were reminded of what a friend we have in Jesus as we shared Communion and remembered the love Christ shed at Calvary.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife." The engagement announcement of Bro. Reg Wuethrich and Sis. Lora Braker



brought lots of joy to our congregation. May they feel God's peace in their new walk together.

Little Noah Robert warmed the hearts and home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Cook as he was born on April 30.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for coming on a Wednesday evening and sharing a topical study of Self-Esteem. It was an evening of constant encouragement in the Spirit. May God bless him richly for his openness and time.

We also wish to thank all our visiting ministers who shared the Word of Life with us: Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

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### INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

Sis. Martha Peters, who has not been able to attend church for some time, wishes to express herself. "I thank you so very much for the lovely flowers from the church, the get well cards, prayers, and visitors during my illness. May God bless each one for their love."

The burdens of life become heavy sometimes, and such is the lot of our Sis. Carolyn and Bro. Ralph Levy. Last month I reported the passing of Bro. Ralph's sister and his ill health. Again, this month, these dear ones have laid to rest a loved one, Bro. Bill Reber, of Elgin, IL who is Sis. Carolyn's brother. Since then, Bro. Ralph has been hospitalized. Our love and prayers are with them daily as they endure sorrow and pain.

Sis. Andrea Schneider (Bro. Dale) has been in our prayers as she struggles with health problems. Sis. Erma Moser had major surgery and is now home recuperating. Sis. Sandy Heinold (Bro. Glen) has been confronted with a major illness, and our prayers rise

daily for Sandy and her family.

Kathy Nuest (Dan), daughter-in-law of Bro. El and Sis. Jan, has turned to God in repentance. We pray she will soon feel the fullness of peace with God.

Bro. Glen Gudeman has returned from Phoenix and we heartily welcome him home.

Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were present for the baptisms of our new sisters, Kerri Goodwin, Ruth Elcock, and Bro. Keith Elcock. Ministering Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) were also visitors for this blessed weekend.

Bros. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) were visiting ministers on Mother's Day. God blessed us mightily with His Spirit through the reading of His Word and meditation. Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) spent a Sunday afternoon in our midst recently, and we thank our Lord for brothers who are willing to proclaim the truth.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..."

*Proverbs 1:7*

Sis. Diana Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie), Bro. Tim Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Jenny Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn), and Peter Szabo, who has been like a son to Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel, will be graduating from high school this spring.

While composing this article, I opened the Bible for inspiration and was humbled that fitting words were right before me. "Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father..." (Proverbs 29:3). Father's Day is a day set aside to honor faithful, loving Dads in America. Can we appreciate enough the diligent efforts put forth and the concern for their

family's physical and spiritual welfare? When we ponder, "What shall I give Dad for Father's Day this year?", why not consider returning his love with a wise lifestyle. Thirty-seven years ago a friend of mine began her repentance in church on Father's Day. Her Dad told her, "I could have received no greater Father's Day gift." As we thank God for our earthly fathers, let us remember to please our most precious Father in Heaven by giving our whole heart, mind, soul and body to Him.

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### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) came on the evening of April 26, to help Bro. John Stoller in the reading of the Memorandum from the Elder Conferences. It was a very profitable evening.

Other visitors this month were Bros. Mark Gerber, John Reinhard and their families (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan), Bros. Ron Bollier, Greg Stieglitz and their families (Indianapolis, IN). We appreciated the messages from our brothers and enjoyed their families.

Bro. John Stoller presented our topical Bible study this month "Go ye into all the world" and had Sis. Sandy Leman show her pictures of Mexico. Sis. Sandy has gone often with medical teams.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Helen Zimmer in the loss of her brother, Bro. Herman Weisser (Milford, IN), and sister-in-law, Sis. Emma Lou Gerber (South Bend, IN). Our prayers are for the Lord's comforting arms to enfold her, as this leaves her the last one in her family.

Our congratulations to Sheri Pfister (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) who is our only high school graduate this year. We commend you on your achievement as

valedictorian. May God guide your future.

Valediction means bidding farewell. For some, it is farewell to school and friends, others farewell to loved ones who have been called Home, or moved to distant areas. But there is another side to farewell, there is Future. Farewell is temporal, Future is eternal. "...Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:3)

Lost: A red suit jacket has been hanging in our church for many months. It is polyester and rayon with velvet trim, size 18. The label reads, Gallery W.O.M.A.N. Sorry I'm so long in putting this notice in the Silver Lining. You can call me (219) 627-2246 or write to Ethelyn Schlatter, 14422 Sunrise Ct., Leo, IN 46765.

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### INDIANA, MILFORD Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

*Joshua 1:8*

We are thankful Bro. Mat Pamer (Sis. Karen) is back in church after open heart surgery. Julia Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) was hospitalized. Bro. Noah Clauss has been moved to the long term care unit of Greencroft in Goshen.

We offer our sympathy to Ray and Rosemary Piper in the death of his father, Walter Piper, of North Manchester. May they feel God's comforting strength.

Bro. Herman Weisser passed away May 3. He is survived by four sons, Fred, Larry, Steve and Phil.

His wife, Gwen, preceded him in death. We are thankful Bro. Herman could surrender to the Lord and was baptized in our Sarasota church several years ago.

#### *Lasting Impression*

Whatever you write on the heart  
of a child

No water can wash it away!

The marks in the sands are  
erased by the tide

Inscriptions will crumble with  
clay.

The words in a book will decay  
with the years

And even engraving in stone  
disappears,

But God's Word inscribed on a  
little child's heart

For time and eternity shall not  
depart.

—author unknown

As parents we pray we have taught our children of God's ways that will forever be a part of their lives.

We wish for our graduates much success as they move on to higher schools of learning. Real success is yielding to God's will and being filled with His wisdom. Graduating from high school are: Kerri Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat), Neil Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Amy Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue), Kelli Haab (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol), Kevin Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Ryan Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat), and Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane). Bro. Rod Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen) received a degree in civil engineering from Purdue.

"What we go after here determines where we go hereafter."

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

We are thankful for the many reasons we have to rejoice together. May we strive to not only give thanks when we experience

the Lord's blessing, but also in times of trial and affliction. In Romans we read, "We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope."

We have said our farewells to a family this month. Bro. Joe, Sis. Heather and Hannah Beer have relocated in central Illinois and will be attending the Goodfield, IL church. Our congregation wishes them the Lord's blessings as they establish their new home. We will miss them and extend a warm welcome to come back to visit us.

John and Rochelle Ward have moved from Indianapolis, IN to Remington. We warmly welcome them and pray the Lord will lead them as they relocate and continue to seek His will in their lives. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." (I John 5:14)

Congratulations to our college graduates. Sis. Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki), Matt Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene), and Ryan Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) have all graduated from Purdue University this semester. May God's blessings be theirs and His grace fill their lives. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (II Cor. 9:8).

It was a blessing and a privilege to have our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assemble with us this month. We pray God's blessing on his visit and thank him for his labors of love for our church. The apostle Paul's message to the church in Corinth also applies to our church today, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

On May 18, Sis. Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) was announced to be married to Bro. Phil Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jane, Cissna Park, IL). May the Lord richly bless them as they sincerely sought His guidance in finding a lifetime helpmate through the sure avenue of faith. Bro. Phil and Sis. Heather plan to establish their home in Chicago, IL.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Marci Nuenschwander**

**Sue Beebe**

A minister recently asked, "Will our children understand when they see they have been neglected for the things of this world?"

In Deuteronomy 6:7, we are told to diligently teach our children when we sit in our house, walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise. In other words, we should take every opportunity to teach them about God. It is so easy to let the cares of this life rob us of these opportunities.

Our thoughts will especially be with our fathers this month, as June 15 has been set aside to tell them how much we appreciate them.

The petition of the Psalmist in chapter 119 provides good instruction and can be a special encouragement to fathers. Some of the verses which seem especially appropriate are:

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord." (vs. 1)

"I will praise thee with uprightness of heart..." (vs. 7)

"I will meditate in thy precepts..." (vs. 15)

"I have chosen the way of truth..." (vs. 30)

"Give me understanding..." (vs. 34)

"I am a companion of all them that fear thee..." (vs. 63)

"Teach me good judgment and

knowledge..." (vs. 66)

"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." (vs. 72)

"I have refrained my feet from every evil way..." (vs. 101)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (vs. 105)

"I hate vain thoughts..." (vs. 113)

"Thou art my hiding place and my shield..." (vs. 114)

"My tongue shall speak of thy word..." (vs. 172)

Welcoming a new little son, Benjamin Michael, into their family circle on April 25 are Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold and Andrew of Croghan, NY. Benjamin is the grandson of Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold of our congregation.

On May 14, we laid a dear sister, Emma Lou Gerber, to rest. Sis. Emma Lou passed from this earthly vale to eternal life on Mother's Day morning, May 11.

A few lines from an essay found in Sis. Emma Lou's Bible are as follows: "Would you like to know where I am? I am at home in my Father's house, in the mansions prepared for me here. I am where I want to be—no longer on the stormy sea, but in God's safe, quiet harbor. My sowing time is done and I am reaping; my joy is as the joy of harvest...It is a dawn that never fades! After millions of ages it will be as fresh as it is now. Therefore, weep not for me!" (author unknown)

We thank our visiting ministers for serving us this past month. They were Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). We appreciate their coming and bringing their families to worship with us.

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf**

I was recently reminded of the old song: "Take your burdens to

the Lord and leave them there." God is very clear about what He wants us to do with our problems. He says "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7). Christ's gift to us is His willingness to carry our burdens. I must confess I often don't take advantage of that gift. Many times the greater the burden, the greater the victory can be through Christ Jesus.

We rejoice with Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy Susdorf as their daughter, Becky, was united in marriage with Chad Morris. We wish Chad and Becky God's richest blessings as they begin their walk together in life.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler**

We were blessed to have Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) with us on April 27 as he brought forth God's precious and Holy Word. We always appreciate visiting ministers, and are thankful that he and Sis. Edie were willing to share the day with us. May God bless him for his efforts in God's service.

Wesley Mailloux (Scott and Diane) was hospitalized this past month for a severe infection in his arm. We are thankful for God's healing powers and that Wesley is doing much better.

Graduation season is now upon us and Wolcott has three high school graduates. Brooke Basham (Sis. Mary), Kim Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley), and Jeremy Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy) will be graduating and moving on to pursue higher education. We wish God's blessings on them and pray that they will look to Almighty God for guidance and direction in their future endeavors.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Monica Eisenmann**

**Edith Massner**

We are always grateful for the visits of our dear Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and pray that God will graciously bless him and his dear wife who make many sacrifices for the sake of the church. We did appreciate their visit this month.

Bro. Harvey Heiniger remains in the hospital in Burlington. He and his family do appreciate our prayers and we are so glad we can pray for all of them.

Bro. Ken Scheitlin was able to return home from the hospital; he has much courage and is an inspiration of patience to us all. We pray for him and all his family, too.

We are thankful Sis. Ruth Reiman was able to return to her home after spending weeks in the hospital and at the Care Center. May God continue to strengthen her.

Sis. Katie Schumacher was recently admitted to the hospital; may God provide special peace and comfort for her and her family.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Bro. Orttie Rocke. It was so good to have them assemble with us on Wednesday evening. We hope Sis. Verna will be able to continue to worship with us.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Sounds pretty easy, doesn't it? Most of us wouldn't hesitate to say that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to pay the price for our redemption. It reminds me of the story of the tightrope walker at Niagra Falls who asked a group of bystanders if they believed he could walk across the falls on a tightrope. Wanting to see this, they all said, "We believe, we believe you can do it." And he did. Then he said, "How many of you believe I can walk back across the

falls with my eyes blindfolded?" Again, they all said, "We believe, we believe you can do it." And he did. Now, he said, "How many of you believe I can walk across with my eyes blindfolded and carrying on my back a full grown adult?" And again, they all said, "We believe, we believe you can do it." Then the tightrope walker said, "Okay, who will let me carry him across?" No one volunteered. They all seemed to have enough faith as long as it didn't require trust. God also wants us to prove our faith by trusting Him to carry us through this life and into eternity. Is our faith strong enough to trust God to help us turn our backs on the things of the world and surrender totally to Him and His will?

Our thanks to the Princeville, Bradford and Iowa City single groups for accepting our invitation and spending a weekend with us. What a blessing to have such a large group of believers who are trusting in God in their youthful years.

We enjoy and appreciate having visiting ministers, and want to thank Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) for their service on our behalf. May God ever bless the words spoken as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Delores Reinhard**

"Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

*II Thess. 1:2*

We are very grateful for the ministering brothers who have come and shared God's Word with us. They are Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). May God continue to enrich their lives as they bring

forth the Word to enrich ours.

Our prayers are with those who were hospitalized. Bro. Phil Webber had ankle surgery. We pray for God's healing hand to be upon him, that he will soon be able to walk on it again. Two-year-old Joshua Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) was suddenly stricken with a virus that settled in the base of his skull known as "Acute Cellerbar Ataxia". We thank God for hearing prayers and making Josh well once again. Where could we go in times of affliction if we didn't have the Lord to share our burdens with? As God is aware of every sparrow, He also knows our every care.

Sis. Marlene Reinhard (Latty, OH), daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, was married on April 20 at Latty, OH to Bro. Tim Sinn (Latty, OH, Bro. Walt and Sis. Ranae). May God bless them as they begin their walk of life together serving the Lord.

As we remember our fathers on Father's Day, let us also think of Abraham, often called the "father of faith" who believed in the Lord even at great cost. We have so much to be thankful for that we have fathers who have kept the faith and raised us in God-fearing homes. The best gift of love we can give both our Heavenly Father and our earthly father alike is OBEDIENCE.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

*John 14:15*

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our graduates, Hanneli Webber (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan) and Jessica Smith (Eugene and Rachel). We know there are certain works we have to do to obtain a diploma in school. Likewise, there is preparation that we must do in order to "graduate" to the realms of Heaven. We pray each one will someday obtain such

a "diploma".

For our God is a merciful,  
wonderful Lord,  
And He's given a lantern-it's  
Holy Word.

So use it my friend, whenever in  
need You'll find in it blessings-  
rich blessings indeed.

—*Sally Slane*

## IOWA, IOWA CITY

### Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We are so thankful for all of our visitors this past month, including Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), who assisted our Bro. Joe Gerst in serving Holy Communion to our small flock. May remembering the great price of our Salvation and the unity we felt with our brethren renew our spiritual energy and inspire us to a closer walk with our Lord.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) share in the ministry of God's Word. May God richly bless them for their efforts in serving us, and may He bless the seed that has been sown that it may bear fruit in the days ahead.

Many of us were privileged to travel to West Bend, IA to hear the testimony of Sis. Carrie Gress who has been a student in our area. We welcome her into the fold and also send our love and prayers with her as she transfers to an occupational therapy program at

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. We look forward to her continuing to assemble with us when she can.

Bro. Eric Spangler is completing his residency in Clinical Pharmacology at the VA Medical Center, and we are thankful he has accepted a position there as a staff Clinical Pharmacist. While we greatly appreciate all who assemble with us during their schooling,

we are so thankful when God directs some to put down roots and make our congregation their spiritual home. May God bless Bro. HiEric in his new position.

We have several college graduates this month. Mark Webber (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan, Garden Grove, IA) received a post-degree certificate in Music Therapy. He will begin an internship in Minneapolis, MN in July. We wish him God's blessings in his new career.

Bro. Ted Wiegand received a degree in Accounting. He and Sis. Carrie will be moving to the Des Moines, IA, area where he has accepted a position as an Assistant State Auditor. We are thankful they will continue to worship with us when they can, though we will miss them at mid-week services and when they support the services in Ames. We certainly thank them for their support during their time here and wish God's blessings on this next step in their lives.

Nathan Honson (Dana) has received his Law Degree from the University of Iowa. He and his family will stay in the area while he studies for the Bar Exam, then move to Gainesville, FL, in early August for an academic year post-graduate study in tax law before moving to Minneapolis, MN, where a job awaits him there. We extend our congratulations and wishes for God's blessings in the changes ahead.

Sis. Janette Schulz received a Master of Science in Nursing Degree and will continue with a one year post-graduate Family Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO.

May we all put forth diligent effort into preparing for our spiritual "graduation" — that time when we appear before the Great White Throne and we face the Examination to see whether we have satisfactorily completed the re-

quirements of our lifecourse in Christianity—a test not only of our knowledge of the plan of Salvation, but of our practical application of its precepts. May God grant us the desire, diligence and spiritual wisdom so that we may all hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

## IOWA, LESTER

### Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers who have given so willingly to bring forth God's precious Word. Our thanks is extended to Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA).

On April 19, Teena Metzger and Jerome Hogan were married at the Fellowship Hall by Bro. Wayne Grimm. Parents of the couple are Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hogan. May God bless the union of their hearts. We welcome this young couple to our congregation.

Bro. Todd Massner (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Kim Knobloch (Morris, MN) have been announced to be married. His parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barb Massner and her parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy Knobloch. A July 20 wedding date is being planned by the couple in Morris, MN.

Sincere sympathy goes forth to Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger and their family with the passing of Dolores' father, Bro. Ira Rokey, of Goodfield, IL. Likewise, we extend our condolences to Kevin and Janet Oleson with the death of his grandfather. May God comfort these loved ones with their losses.

Recovering from surgery is Sis. Kristy Metzger (Bro. Art). Other hospital patients have been Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson for

Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson for tests. Sis. Irene Knobloch (Bro. Nathan) continues with her treatments and is at home at the time of this writing. May God help these dear ones as they endure bodily afflictions and may we remember them in our prayers.

Springtime brings graduation to mind. Those receiving high school diplomas are: Sis. Tami Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Curtis Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marlys), Jill Knobloch (Bro. Delbert and Sis. June), Martin Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger), Greg Leuthold (Jim and Betty), Ethan Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary), Jana Meyer (Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla), and Mary Moser (Jim). Those who have now completed college requirements are: Tara Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley), Jeff Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki), Dana Metzger (Bro. Marv and Sis. Jolene), Lisa Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte), Sis. Joy Meyer (Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla), Amy Moser (Jim), Willis Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley), and Sis. Danielle Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane). We certainly want to wish God's blessings and direction as they make plans for the future.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**  
**Melody Steiner**

We want to thank once again the visiting ministers who so willingly labored on our behalf this month. They include Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Steve Sauder and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their labors of love. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Ed in the reading of the Memorandum. What good exhortation and encouragement we received. May the

Lord continue to strengthen and encourage our Elder Brothers as they do their duties as "watchmen on the wall" for our precious faith.

The engagement of Bro. Todd Massner (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara) to Sis. Kim Knobloch of Morris, MN (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy, Lester, IA) was recently announced to our congregation. We wish them the Lord's many blessings as they plan for their life together and we welcome Sis. Kim to our congregation.

Our congregation has been blessed to add, with the Lord's direction, a new minister to our pulpit. This duty was placed into the hearts and hands of Bro. Jerry Wagenbach, Jr. and his wife, Sis. Bonnie. We just pray Bro. Jerry can always feel the Lord's direction and strength when he is called to stand before us. We also think of their dear young children, Kyle, Clinton, Kory, Corin, and Karrie. May their young hearts feel our love and prayers also.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to our dear Sis. Verna Rocke in the sudden passing of her dear husband, Bro. Orttie. We know Bro. Orttie reached the higher ages of life, but it seems we're just never ready to let our loved ones go. May the Lord ever be her guide and strength in her lonely hours and may she look forward to the day they can meet again. We also extend our sympathy to daughters, Doris (Jerry) Kuntz, Annette (Harold) Massner, and Carol (Terry) Miller, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as we know they were all very special to him.

In loving memory of Sis. Leah Schaer, this poem was submitted by her family.

*"My Dear Loving Mother"*  
 God looked around His garden  
 and He found an empty place.  
 He then looked down upon this  
 earth and saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you and  
 lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful,  
 He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,  
 He knew you were in pain.

He also knew in Heaven, You  
 would never hurt again.

He saw the road was getting  
 tough and the hills harder to  
 climb,

So He closed your weary eyelids  
 and whispered, "Peace Be  
 Thine!"

It broke our hearts to lose you,  
 but you didn't go alone,

For part of us went with you, the  
 day God called you Home.

If tears could build a staircase  
 and memories a lane,

We'd walk all the way to Heaven  
 and bring you home again.

—*Author Unknown*

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all those who brought food, sent cards, called us, visited, and made the effort to sing for Mother before she passed away, as well as your many prayers offered on our behalf. Words cannot express the love you have shown to us in the loss of our dear Wife, Sister, Mother and Grandmother, Sis. Leah Schaer. She will be greatly missed.

*Your least ones,*

*Bro. Bernard Schaer*

*Sis. Vera and Bro. Tom Lindeen  
 and family*

*Bro. David and Sis. Sandy  
 Schaer and girls*

*Don and Sis. Sue Schaer and  
 family*

*Sis. Janet Schaer*

*Jane and Lester Reiman and  
 girls*

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Lisa Knecht**

"Let us therefore follow after  
 the things which make for peace,

and things wherewith one may edify another.”

*Romans 14:19*

Our Pulaski congregation extends a sincere thank you to Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), along with family and brethren who traveled with them for ministering unto us and sharing the weekend of April 26-27. We enjoyed the fellowship with you and believe the Lord will provide the blessing.

Our 8th grade graduates this May are: Brook Esslinger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy), Jeff Metzger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Patrice), Andrew Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy), Brian Schaer (Don and Sis. Sue Ann), Nathan Schock (Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), Sara Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Katie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn), Jacki Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita), Brent Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn). Our prayers are with them as they begin their high school years.

Just a note of thanksgiving to every believing father who continues to follow God's direction in guiding their household in the ways of the Lord.

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

### **Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart**

It was a blessing to have several visiting ministers serve us this past month. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) brought the Word to us on April 20. Then the weekend of April 26 and 27, Sis. Carrie Gress and Sis. Anne Schmidt gave their testimonies and were baptized. What a joy it is to greet them as sisters in the Lord. Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) were here to assist with this work. Other ministers visiting that weekend were Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Jim Knobloch

(Winthrop, MN) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We pray God's blessings and grace on all our Elders and ministers as they labor in God's vineyard.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber and their family as Sis. Emma's brother, Bro. Nathan Moser (Florence), of the Altadena, CA congregation passed away. Our prayers and sympathy also to Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger and their children, as they bid farewell to their father-in-law and grandfather, Bro. Orttie Rocke (Sis. Verna), of our Oakville, IA congregation. May both of these families feel God's loving arms around them as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Little Chyan Metzger (Roy and Angie) spent a few days in the hospital along with her Grandpa. Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della) spent more time in the hospital, but this time they are both home again and we pray that they regain strength each day.

Congratulations to Dennis and Allene Banwart (Des Moines) on the birth of their first child, Spencer Baldwin. Bro. Art and Madeline Banwart welcome the new grandson into their family circle. Maternal grandmother is Ruth Baldwin of Hot Springs, AR. May God be with them as they care for him.

As the school season comes to a close, we want to extend congratulations to our high school graduates. They are: Lyndi Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Jaylin Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen), Konni Haverman (Don and Mona), Bro. Kent Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen), Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen), Steven Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Bridget Metzger (Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy), Donald Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth), Karla Nelson (Dave and Cheryl Morrow), Clinton

Schneider (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue), Tracey Schneider (Louis and Joni), Krissa Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori), Katie Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie) and Sarah Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie). Our prayers go with them as many go on to higher education and some into the work field. May they always remember the teachings they were taught at home and Sunday School. We can obtain no higher standing in this life than to become a child of God.

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## SHIODA, JAPAN

### **Junko and Toru Saigusa**

On May 18, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Shioda Church. We were so happy to see again a lot of old friends who had attended our congregation before. We also missed several brothers and sisters who used to be members of our church, and didn't come that day. Many brothers and sisters from the Tutujigaoka Church visited us to celebrate together. We especially thank those who visited us from faraway places.

It was in July of 1956 that the Shioda Church was built and dedicated. And after that the Tutujigaoka Church was built in 1959 and the Tamahata Church in 1962.

On that morning of May 18, Elder Bro. Willis read and preached the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, which was the very verses he had read at the dedication 40 years ago.

We often wonder if Japan has good soil for God's holy message. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois have been sowing seeds for 40 years for us. As a result, we are here as Christians. We really appreciate Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle's long labor of love.

Our Elder Bro. Willis had written the summary of the history of our church for the anniversary,

and Toru read it aloud in public, and after that, many people spoke their thoughts and memories. Some old friend named Amemiya who had attended the Shioda Church in his youth said that he has lived in Kanagawa Prefecture (next to Tokyo) with growing seeds which was sown during the few years. He also spoke many young people had gathered together here, and that many had left here never to come back, but that God's seeds sown here in the Shioda Church was not in vain. In fact, he himself has lived as a Christian in his place. We were glad to hear such an old friend as him speak so.

We hope more and more people would come to our Shioda Church and everyone would repent and get ready to meet the Creator God. That's our prayer.

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
**Chris Aberle**

Greetings of love from Japan! May has come and gone so quickly but we have all enjoyed the sights and sounds of spring. The parks and Japanese landscapes are bursting with every color possible in flowers and bushes. To take advantage of this, the Inoue family, our family, and Sanada-san took a day-trip to a Tokyo area mountain. The day was beautiful as we hiked, ate our packed lunch, and enjoyed each others' fellowship. It really was a fun day and we even caught several freshwater crabs in the mountain stream to take home for souvenirs.

Akito and Marie's oldest son, Koichi, has finished his college and has been hired into a Japanese manufacturing company. He is training in many areas but will settle in the international purchasing department, partially because of his excellent English language capabilities. We are quite happy that he is able to stay in the

Tokyo area, live at home, and worship with us. We were holding our breath until his job placement location was decided.

In May, we had our annual business meeting in church. Church income, expenses, and financial positions were reviewed, followed by the church schedules and individual members' responsibilities. The entire church membership was present at the meeting, but small enough to fit around a large table. The excitement, involvement, and blessings we felt that day were those that only a small church can offer. We couldn't help comparing the differences between our large and small churches. We feel fortunate to have been part of the body in both a small and large church. Our conclusions were that involvement and spiritual edification were abundant in both.

Last week, Roy and Phyllis Getz and Ben and Jackie Pflederer from Morton, Illinois came to Japan. While our spirits were lifted by their visit, our hearts were saddened by the purpose for their trip. On November 4 of last year, Roy and Phyllis' son and Jackie's brother, Jeff, was hiking on a mountain and fell to his death. Now, six months later, the family was able to visit the area where Jeff lived and worked. They were very much moved by the warm reception they experienced and the charitable acts and attitudes that were received while visiting their son's/brother's many friends. Although Jeff was hired in Japan as an English teacher, he touched many lives by his loving, Christian example. Even at his young age of 30, Jeff had left behind him a trail of loving memories with those he had come in contact with. Jeff was apparently attempting to take a photograph of a beautiful mountain scene when he fell. But how much more beautiful the scene he is viewing in Heaven today. Our

prayer is that his family could continue to heal from their loss, and also that the spiritual seeds that were planted in the hearts of those that Jeff met here could continue to grow.

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Holly Meyer**  
**Lori Baumgartner**

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up."

*Deut. 6:5-7*

We are so very thankful for our earthly fathers, who as spiritual leaders in the home, have diligently tried to pass on their beloved faith to their children and grandchildren. We want to encourage you to prayerfully continue and to never give up!

The words of a father often have such a powerful influence in the life of a child. I am reminded of the story of an elderly father who told his son, "When I die, you shall inherit my business, but I know that you will ruin it." As time went on, the son lost the business, and his life became one of ruin. Tragically, he lived up to his father's low expectations. How differently the story might have turned out if only the father would have said, "Son, you will inherit my business. I know you are young and inexperienced, but I know that with God's help you can make it."

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways ac-



knowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

We wish to congratulate our high school and college graduates. We pray that they each may seek the Lord's direction as they embark upon new beginnings. Our high school graduates are: Bethany Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Jill Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat), Joshua Meyer (Keith and Debbie), Ember Moser (James and Ann), Aaron Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy), Eric Rokey (Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda), Steve Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene), Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona), Bro. Lynn Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby), and Bro. Dominic Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene).

Our college graduates are Gail Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Sis. Kristen Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Bro. Jason Strahm (Clayton and Miriam), and Becky Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona).

Needing hospitalization this past month was Sis. Louise Menold (Bro. James). We are thankful to have her assembling with us again.

April 26 was a special day for Fremond and Ruth Meyer as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception hosted by their children.

We are so thankful to welcome Bro. Dominic Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene) into the brotherhood. We heard his testimony and witnessed his baptism the weekend of April 26 and 27. We rejoice with Bro. Dominic and his family.

Here to share in his joy that weekend were three visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). We appreci-

ated their labors on our behalf. May the Lord bless them and their families.

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Roy Rokey (Sis. Lucy) and Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila) upon hearing of the death of their brother, Bro. Ira Rokey (Goodfield, IL).

Our junior high Sunday School students and teachers traveled to Fort Scott, KS the weekend of April 26 and 27. We thank all of you from the Fort Scott congregation who were involved in making the weekend a success.

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

*Psalms 127:3*

On May 5, Eric Jacob was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Kristen Meyer. He is welcomed home by two big brothers, Travis and Darin. Eric's grandparents are Dave and Virginia Mars (Sabetha) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Stanley and Dawn Feldkamp (Seneca). They were blessed with a little daughter, Kayce Lynn, on May 8. The happy grandparents are Waymer and Pauline Esslinger and Ernest and Margaret Feldkamp (Seneca).

*Note: We will be conducting our Silver Lining collection this month.*

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Tammy Sinn

The weekend of April 26, we hosted the Youth Fellowship weekend for Kansas and other area churches. We wish to extend our appreciation to ministering Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Mark Keifer (Denver, CO) for their labors during the weekend. Also, a special thanks to all who made an effort to be with us for

this weekend.

Our heartfelt love and sympathy is extended to Caroline Bantwart as her husband, Reuben, passed away on May 4. May she feel God's comfort at this time of great loss.

Those spending time in the hospital this month have been Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) and Betty Hartman. We pray that God's healing hand might be upon them.

Our sincere congratulations go to our college graduates, Sis. Janelle Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Julie Sinn (Carol Sinn). Chuck Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) has also graduated from junior college. We pray that they will always remember to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

### KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

*Psalms 119:133*

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) with us this month to read the Memorandum of the Conference. May the Lord bless them as they strive to shepherd the flock.

As we approach wheat harvest in our area, we certainly feel blessed as we see the amber waves of grain in the fields. As farmers, we are reminded that the Lord has dominion over us and we must seek Him for every spiritual and physical need.

Sis. Edna Reed was hospitalized this month and is now at home recuperating. We pray that she

feels the Lord's comforting hand.

A special thanks to Ft. Scott for hosting the junior high fellowship. As the seed is planted and watered, we look to the Lord for the increase.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Mary Kay Wenger**

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Grace Isabel Bailey was born on April 21 to Bro. Lafe and Debra Bailey. Landon, age 3, enjoys his baby sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey and Harold and Carol Bauer (Fairview, KS), along with great-grandmother, Sis. Tillie Wenger.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen Hartter were blessed with a son, Daniel Jay, on May 6. Welcoming a new playmate are Seth, John, Heidi, Maria, Micah and Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN). We are thankful for a return of good health to Sis. Charleen who required additional hospitalization following the birth.

Our retired minister, Bro. Carl Hartman, passed away on May 2 at the age of 87. We have fond memories of this faithful pillar in the church. Although we miss him, we are thankful he has won the victory. We extend sympathy to his son, Eugene Hartman, of Sabetha.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that

bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

*Psalm 1:1-3*

We appreciated the times our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti and his wife, Sis. Mary (Kansas City, MO), could be with us this month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Karen Beyer (Bro. Martin) as she recovers from surgery, and Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy) who continues to have bodily afflictions.

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

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

We wish God's blessings and guidance for all our graduates as they begin a new phase in life. Our college graduates include: Sis. Jeanne Edelman (Bro. Loren), elementary education; Rachel Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), education, from Kansas State University; and Cheryl Wenger (Dan), health information technology, from Washburn University of Topeka.

Graduating from Sabetha High School are Sarah Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen), Kara Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene), Bro. Kurt Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl), Kristin Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene), Chris Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian), Joshua Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie), Jeremy Meyer (Sis. Lisa), Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) and David Wysong (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice).

After working in various places of internship, Sis. Wanda Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) has returned to her home community

where she is pursuing her occupational therapist career. We welcome her back.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

Sis. Ann Farney and her family hosted a Mother-Daughter Tea the afternoon of May 10. We appreciate their making an opportunity for us as a congregation to renew past acquaintances and to thank God for His rich blessings.

The following day, Mother's Day, Sis. Lillian Bowers' family surprised her by not only spending the day with her in church, but by also hosting the fellowship lunch. One of the special treats of the lunch was for the mothers to be seated and served individually! We praise God for the values and dedication Sis. Lillian and Bro. Milton have instilled in their family.

Kathleen Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) and David Read (John and Sis. Paula) are our high school graduates this year. We wish them God's direction and blessing as they embark on the next step of their life's journey.

Sis. Nellie Lambert handed me the following note this past week:

"My heartfelt thanks to so many of you who covered me so lovingly with cards, gifts, flowers, and telephone calls in the last eight weeks of my mending. I cherish your love, and I love you so much in return."

*Nellie Lambert*

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Melanie Kaeb**  
**Michelle Oesch**

The days have been unseasonably cold here in Michigan and we are looking forward to the warmer days of summer. Being a farmer's wife, I've become more attune to the weather report. So much of our life is governed by the weather. We depend on the Lord's blessings of sunshine and rain to nurture the

seeds and help them grow. I think our lives are like the seeds in the ground. If we lean on Him, He will bless and nourish our life, providing our every need.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

*Matthew 6:33*

We have six students graduating from high school this year. They are: Sarah Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna), Ryan Erickson (Rick and Pam Price), Anna Oesch (Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna), Brett Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristin), Brian Knudstrup (Charles and Mary), and Chad Rairigh (Gregg and Sis. Rhonda). We ask the Lord's blessings for each one as they begin this very important time of their life, and may they lean on Him to guide their future.

*We Left You at the Door*

We took you down to school today,  
You're just beginning now;  
Although this year you're six  
years old,  
You seem so young somehow!  
We didn't take you all the way,  
For we'd been told before,  
“Don't go into his room with him,  
Just leave him at the door.”  
Up to this time we've always gone  
Together everywhere,  
And we have had a lot of fun  
While traveling here and there;  
But I well knew before it came,  
We're parted more and more;  
So many times we'll stand outside  
And leave you at the door.  
You're growing up so very fast,  
It's hard to keep in step;  
The fact of changing years is hard  
For parents to accept.  
You'll have to walk your path  
alone  
No matter what's in store;  
We'll bring you up to life's  
classroom,

Then leave you at the door.  
While you were ours these tender  
years,  
We treasured every day,  
Full knowing that the time would  
come,  
When you would go your way;  
And though this love will still  
remain,  
Within the heart's deep core,  
Our eyes will sting to see you go—  
And leave us at the door!

—James Singleton

Recently, on Saturday, May 10, some of the teens spent the day at the home of Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen. They worked together and planted over a hundred trees behind their house. They all had a good time and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta appreciate so much their kind efforts!

Our sympathies are with Jack and Sis. Laurie Pardo and their children, Megan and Chad, in the loss of Jack's father, Victor Pardo, to a battle with cancer. May they feel our prayers and the Lord's comfort in their time of sorrow.

We give honor to our fathers this month on Father's Day for all the lessons they taught us and for the love they gave. “Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a Dad.”

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Marlene Mosher**

**Rhonda Knochel**

We were very blessed this month as we had with us Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Larry Weninger (Latty, OH), and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We cherish all of our visiting brethren; it is such a wonderful blessing of our Lord.

We have been blessed to take

into our brotherhood two dear brothers in faith, Bro. Steven Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Jonathan Jacobs (Sis. Diana and Girard). We wish them the grace of God in their new walk of life.

We have had many in our midst with illness and we wish our Lord's healing hand if it be His will. Sis. Margaret Molmer has been ill. Sandi Knochel (daughter of Bro. Robert) had serious surgery. Bro. Glen Ruegsegger Jr. (Sis. Maria) had kidney surgery. Marcie Cowan (Stacey), daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Mylan, underwent surgery.

*A Morning Bright*

Another day is dawning  
As the morning star shines bright.  
My soul with joy is waking  
As I look to Christ, my Light.  
The moment of the day are there  
With toil, tears and grime,  
And yet I fret not of the day  
I know that Christ is mine.  
The moments of this day are His  
To do with as He would.  
I know that He will lead me  
To do that which I should.  
The toil may cause my heart to  
faint,  
But in His strength I wait;  
For He goes with me all the way,  
And He sustains the weight.  
Why should I fret upon this day,  
For I am His alone;  
And this I know, when work is  
done,  
He'll take me to His Home.

—Charles G. Ramsey

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer**

Lately, I've been spending most of my free time painting and decorating my new home. Many people find this therapeutic. I, on the other hand, find it time consuming and at times stressful! The trick to making the work go by faster is to

listen to music. I love music and recently I've been considering what a large part it plays in my daily life as a Christian.

How many times have you heard a song and connected it to a specific moment in your life? Baptisms, weddings, funerals—it touches us in so many ways!

Detroit has experienced many such moments this month. "Christian Friendships" may have been started or renewed when the Francesville, IN Bible Class spent a weekend here.

There are friendships that we  
cherish  
In our daily walk of life  
Friends with whom we meet and  
labor  
In our earthly toil and strife.  
Friends among the aged and  
youthful,  
Friends that live from us apart,  
Friends of higher rank and  
station  
Find a place within my heart.

Two couples were united in marriage. Many in Detroit were honored to witness the "unity" of Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Jesse Sr. and Theresa) and Sis. Bonnie Wieland (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn) in Bay City on April 27. In Atlanta, Gretchen Weigele (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary) and Brad Fields (Sammy and Deborah) made their vows of love to each other on May 18.

Thus united and in concord  
Let us walk the path of life  
Hand in hand oh may love bind us  
For each other's welfare strive.

Bro. Steve Wieland made his covenant with the Lord and was baptized on May 18 in Bay City.

*The New Birth From Above*  
Glory to God in Heaven,  
Praise to Christ our Saviour

Great!  
By the power of Thy Spirit  
A new man Thou didst create.  
Angels see in joyous rapture  
God's own Word in deed fulfilled;  
And amid our glad embraces  
Is this child of God revealed.

Detroit is blessed to have Bro. Steve make his home here as he finishes his schooling and seeks employment in the Detroit area.

One of my favorite recordings has a song entitled "I Have Had Singing". We can all attest to having had some wonderful singings in our fellowship, but what joy to think of the singing that awaits us in eternity!

"The Singing. There was so much singing then and this was my pleasure too. We all sang...the chapels were full of singing, always singing."

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### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth."

*Psalm 96:1*

*Begin the Day with God*  
Begin the day with God, my  
friend.  
Spend time with Him in prayer.  
Make your requests known unto  
Him,  
Then leave them in His care.  
  
Spend time just listening to Him  
speak  
The words that He would say,  
A heart to heart communion in  
The dawning of the day.  
  
Then as the birds their carols  
sing,  
Lift up your voice in praise.  
Sing to the Lord a joyful song  
For all His wondrous ways.

Go through the day with God, my  
friend,  
Tho busy you may be,  
No matter where you find yourself  
Still seek His company.

A day that's spent in tune with  
God  
Will bring you sweet content.  
You'll find your day more  
purposeful  
With blessings heaven-sent.  
—*Beverly J. Anderson*

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. John Wiegand, Bro. Damon Knobloch (substitute), Sis. Melody Knobloch and Sis. Diane Stewart (substitute). May God grant them the wisdom from above for this very important duty to teach our youth, which will be the future church. We express our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Ted Schmidt and Sis. Bonnie Rocke for their time and dedicated service in teaching our children. Also, a special thanks to past substitute teachers: Bro. John Wiegand and Sis. Diane Stewart.

Sis. Millie Schmidgall was injured in a car accident, and we are thankful that God spared her from serious injury.

Sis. Ethel Bednarski was in our thoughts and prayers as she was hospitalized for knee replacement surgery. God has granted His healing touch and she is making a speedy recovery.

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) visit us this month. May God richly bless him for bringing us the inspired Word. We always enjoy Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily's visits.

Rejoicing with their first little bundle from Heaven are Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke. They welcomed into their hearts and home a little son, Adrian Ross, born on May 6. Also rejoicing are his grandparents, Bro. Norman

and Sis. Lola Young (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL).

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

*Genesis 2:18*

We extend our best wishes and Lord's blessings to Bro. Sam Moser and Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) upon the announcement of their engagement and forthcoming marriage. The wedding is planned for June 22 at Goodfield, IL. Their parents are Dale and Sis. Fredora Wiegand (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser (Morris, MN).

Congratulations to our graduates from high school: Tera Deragisch (Dan and Lola) and Jeanette Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb); and Stacy Fritz (Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry) from the University of Kentucky with a Masters in Physical Therapy. May they seek the Lord's guidance for their future plans.

We welcome back Bro. Jeremy Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, Indianapolis, IN) to the Minneapolis area to further his education this summer. We greatly enjoy his fellowship.

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

#### *Tribute To Father*

A father is a guiding light  
Sent to us from above.  
He listens to our sorrows  
And soothes them with his love.

A father is a teacher  
Whose place no one could take,  
For he's the source from which  
We learn to think and navigate.

A father is a gift from God  
From which we learn to be

Patient, strong and loving,  
Filled with integrity.

—*Byron P. Tousignant*

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank each one for the prayers, cards, and visits during my surgery and since returning home. May God richly bless all of you.

*Sis. Ethel Bednarski*

### **MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Linda Schmidgall**

**Nancy Wulf**

...We drink one cup; we break one bread;

One Saviour suffered in our stead.

*Zion's Harp #25*

What a blessing it is to set aside one time a year in remembrance of God's love for us. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Art Nohl with Communion the weekend of April 26 and 27.

We were blessed that same weekend to hear the testimonies and welcome as brothers, Kevin Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Andrew Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy). Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was with us for the provings. Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) was also here that weekend.

We are thankful for the Lord's guidance in directing two hearts to be together. Sis. Kim Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy, Lester, IA) and Bro. Todd Massner (Oakville, IA, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara) look forward to that union July 20.

Sickness often comes upon us, and we can be thankful for God's healing powers for our hospital patients, Bro. John Schaefer (Sis. Esther), Angela Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Anthony Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelley) and Jody Schmidgall (Trevor).

### **MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Becky Braulick - Jan Messner**

Greetings! We would like to thank Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen) from Ft. Scott, KS for spending a weekend with us this past month. We are thankful for his laboring on our behalf bringing forth God's message and for helping our Elder Bro. LeRoy in the reading of the Memorandum. We pray that we can all stand fast in our battle against sin, for our Lord will bless us if we overcome.

Our annual voting took place this past month. Sunday school teachers elected to share God's teachings are Bro. Verl Schmidt and Sis. Joleen Elder (substitute). May the Lord be near to guide them as they fulfil their duties.

As Father's Day approaches, may we all reflect on the special relationship that we share with our earthly fathers. They have so much to offer in teaching us so many things in life. Especially raising us to please our Heavenly Father. Some of us may have fathers who have passed on into eternity, but we can cherish the precious memories left behind.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Gerry Messner (Bro. Marvin) and Sis. Pearl Liene-mann. We pray that God will provide strength for our dear loved ones as He deals with their bodily afflictions.

### **MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**

**Brent Kellenberger**

The month of May is a time of major change in this country. We make the transition from spring to summer, high school students graduate, college graduates enter the work force, students take summer jobs, travel increases and many other changes take place.

After finishing their schooling in Iowa, Mike and Patty Fehr have

moved here from Ames, IA. We want to welcome them and wish them God's blessings as they establish their home here. We are looking forward to having them and their three children worship with us.

We are thankful God has blessed us with another healthy baby. Collin Michael is the new son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan Fehr. He joins big sister, Brittany, and brother, Austin, in the Fehr home. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Barbara Fehr (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

Congratulations to Quinton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara) who is our high school graduate this year. Our prayers are with him as he embarks on his college education.

Wayne Anliker (Sis. Dawn) is graduating from KU Medical School and will be moving to Indianapolis to continue preparing for a career in ophthalmology. Our thoughts and prayers go with their family as they move to their new home.

Sis. Jodi Reimschisel will be moving home to Wichita to finish her final two years at KU Medical School. We enjoyed her presence in Kansas City and wish her God's blessings as she continues her studies.

Bro. Trenton Banwart from Ft. Scott has recently moved here to continue a career in aviation. We are very grateful for his presence and support. We also welcome Sis. Jeanelle Edelman (Bern, KS) for the summer. We hope her internship and her time in Kansas City is beneficial.

May 3-4 was a wonderfully busy weekend. On Saturday evening, we listened to Sis. Julia Pyle (Todd) and Sis. Dawn Anliker (Wayne) give their testimonies. As usual, it was an uplifting experience to hear two dear souls express their desire to shun the world and

follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Visiting ministers Saturday night were Bros. Tim Zimmerman and Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Staying the entire weekend were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). We are thankful for their willingness to be used in God's service. We are also thankful for their families and each one that traveled to be with us and witness this inspiring event.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Carolyn Banwart**  
**Martha Kellenberger**

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

*Proverbs 3:6*

We congratulate our High School graduates, Sis. Kristen Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) and Sis. Carol Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy). As they make plans to further their education, our prayers are that they will be led and blessed by our Heavenly Father.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

May 5 was a day of rejoicing for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen, as it was the birth day of their third child, Claire Christina. Big brother, Clayton, and big sister, Camille, happily welcome this new addition to their family.

Bro. Jon Ginzel has graduated from Washington University with his Law degree, and his wife, Sis. Amy, has also graduated from Washington University with her Masters Degree of Nursing. They have been faithful Sunday School

teachers, so our little congregation will keenly feel their absence as they relocate in Kansas City. We thank God for the time we had them here in St. Louis, and wish them rich blessings in their new endeavors.

Bro. Peter Schrenk is happy to graduate from high school. He plans to attend the University of Illinois in the fall. It is of such benefit to a young person to first seek the Lord, and then seek His will and guidance for his life.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We celebrated Holy Communion, had our annual business meeting, and heard the Memorandum the first weekend of May. What rich blessings we received from these dear brothers who were willing to come, along with their wives, to serve us so faithfully.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Tina Sutter**

We have been richly blessed to have two new brothers join God's army. Bro. Michael and Bro. Jason Stratton were baptized May 11. We are so thankful that they realized the need for Jesus today. Thanks to Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for his willingness to come and help in this most blessed event.

Other ministers that came to visit this month were Bros. Bob Meyer and Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN). Thank you so much. We appreciate visiting ministers.

Bro. Shannon Haerr and Sis. Angie Scholl (Bloomington, IL) announced their engagement on April 27. We are thankful when God has a hand in bringing two souls together to share their lives. Bro. Shannon is the son of Sis.

Angie is the daughter of Sis. Carol and Bro. Rolland Scholl (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Jim Sutter was hospitalized this month. It would be much appreciated if many could put Bro. Jim on their prayer list as he struggles with illness.

Proverbs 31:30 says, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Is this what we truly believe? This verse has really gotten my attention recently. As we catch glimpses of the world on our Christian journey, we can so easily become deceived, as so much emphasis is put on the outward beauty. Do we admire people with physical beauty more readily or do the more Godly characteristics capture our attention?

Christian men, wouldn't it be well, if you could be an encouragement to your wife, mother, sister, or daughter by genuinely admiring her for a Godly attribute instead of any superficial reason? This is the real beauty that we, as Christians, should be seeking.

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Alice Virkler**

Our visiting minister on Wednesday evening, April 30, was Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Joan. We thank Bro. Loren for bringing God's Word to us in its truth and purity.

Two families have welcomed new babies into their homes and lives. Noel and Tina Schneider have a daughter, Emma Jean, who was born on April 24. Adam is excited to have a little sister and playmate. Grandparents are Bruce and Betty Richie, and the late Emerson Schneider and Francis and Carol Balash.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer Mangold are the parents of another son, Benjamin Michael, born

to them on April 25. His brother and playmate is Andrew. May each of these little families look to God for guidance in training their children in His ways.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler who was called Home on May 15. She leaves four daughters, Sis. Rita (Donald) Petzoldt, Arlene (Ray) Grau, Sis. Regina (Bradley) Herzig, and Norma (Melvin) Zehr, and three sons, Bro. Ted, Jr. (Sis. Mae), Nathaniel (Sheila), and Kendall (Marlene), who all live locally. She also has a brother, Harold, and a sister, Marion (Kendall) Smith, both of Lowville, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. May God comfort each member of her family with the assurance that their loved one is now at home in Heaven "Safe in the Arms of Jesus". We look forward to that great reunion in Heaven when we can again converse with our dear sister.

June is the month when we have a date set aside to honor our fathers on this earth. We should also hold our Father in Heaven as the best Father that each one of us could ever have and may He be the One we follow each day.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Diane Jarrett  
Joyce Gasser**

Zoltan Fodor of Hungary has been assembling with us, for which we are thankful, and he gave his testimony in our congregation of his conversion while still in Hungary, and Zoltan was added to our membership. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer during this testimony.

Sis. Juliet Graf has reached her 94th birthday. Best wishes to Sis. Juliet. She is a very alert and inspirational resident at the nursing

home.

Sis. Barbara Graf was hospitalized and had surgery. We are thankful that she has been released from the hospital, and we hope she continues to grow stronger with a good recovery.

After being hospitalized recently and released, Bro. Irvin Walker was subsequently readmitted and we are thankful that again he has been released.

We are thankful that some of our Sunday School students participated in preparing and serving lunch on Mother's Day.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
Nancy Banks**

There are several graduates ready to embark on new paths in the "road of life" from the Columbus congregation. Travis Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) graduates from high school and will be attending Malone College in Canton, OH; Sis. Jennifer Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) graduated from Ashland University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing; and Paxton Williams (Denise) graduates from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. We wish our graduates God's richest blessings. May they seek His will in the choices they must make.

Saturday, May 17, Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) were with us to serve Holy Communion. We are so thankful for their labors of love.

Throughout the month, we were pleased to have Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and their wives sharing with us.

We honor our fathers who so dutifully work to support their families and help raise their children. We are so thankful for their loving care and dedication.

loving care and dedication.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Sandra Manz

Tears of sadness mingled with joy over victory won by two precious souls as they were laid to rest. Sis. Frances Dotterer died in the hospital on April 23. She is survived by her faithful daughter, Sis. Ruth, and nieces and nephews. She will be lovingly remembered for her uncomplaining ways and interest in the welfare of others. Bro. Emmanuel Manz (Sis. Louise) passed away in his home on May 6. In addition to his wife of almost 22 years, he is survived by children, Roland Manz (Merrie Beth, Union, MO), Sis. Verginia Manz, Bro. Paul Manz (Sis. Sandra), Sis. Viola Manz, Sis. Helen Hurd (Bro. Pete), all of Junction; stepchildren, Bill Drayer (Judie, Cissna Park, IL), Sam Drayer (Ann, Rankin, IL), Bro. Wayne Drayer (Sis. Gloria, Forrest, IL), Helen Burgett (Elmer, Goodwine, IL), Sis. Edna Martin (Princeville, IL), Velma Echhoff (Wayne, Crescent City, IL), Mabel Dearth (Duluth, GA), Diane Verkler (Randall, Cissna Park, IL); one sister, Sis. Anna Manz (Junction); 45 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. We can be comforted to know that his last words in this life were "I want to go to my Heavenly Home." We appreciate the comforting words of visiting minister, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) who held the funeral services.

A most joyful weekend was spent when Ted Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon) gave his testimony and was baptized on May 18. Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) assisted on the pulpit Saturday evening, and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) lent himself on Sunday. How we wish that others could share the joy that radiates from Bro. Ted.

In the month of June we honor and thank our earthly fathers for the heritage they have left us. May God richly bless them from on high.

## OHIO, LATTY

### Joyce Klopfenstein

#### Kathy Sinn

The Lord again has touched a heart in our congregation. Greg Greutman (Kristy) has answered God's call of repentance. May he allow the Lord's hand to work in his life and convert his mind and heart to follow God's perfect will. We pray that the Lord's presence will continue to be felt in their home.

Another Christian home has been established in our congregation. Bro. Tim Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) and Sis. Marlene Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Garden Grove, IA) were united in marriage on April 20. May the Lord grant them the necessary grace and strength to continue to strive toward that eternal home. We will sure miss them in our Young Group.

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

*Matthew 19:6*

The wedding brought several visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) for their work on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless them now and much more in all eternity.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

*Psalms 48:14*

The Lord called Bro. Dave Stol-

ler home to be with Him. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Irene; and his children: Linda Honegger (Kenneth), Harvey Stoller (Susan), Portia McCoy, Bonnie Evans (Tom), Sis. Betty Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord), and Clark Stoller (Mary), and his grandchildren. Surviving Bro. Dave are his brothers: Bro. Eugene, Jesse, Victor, and Bro. Glen; and sister, Sis. Aldean Le-man.

As another school year comes to an end, several young people from our congregation will be graduated from high school. They are Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Amy Laukhuf (Doug and Joyce), Darin Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie), Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Beth), Scott Parady (Robert and Sis. Sharon), Jessica Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam), Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Doug Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce), and Trina Whitman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen). May these graduates trust in the Lord and ask for His guidance and direction as they plan for their future. By our quiet example of this, they could be encouraged to follow the Lord's teaching and plan for all mankind.

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

*Psalms 32:8*

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Cari Mann

Shall we meet beyond the river,  
Where the surges cease to roll?  
Where in all the bright forever,  
Sorrow ne'er shall press the  
soul?

*Hymns of Zion #217*



Last month, I neglected to express sympathy to Sis. Pam (Bro. Dan) Sauder in the passing of her father, Everett (Sis. Dorothy) Martin. I apologize for this oversight, as we were deeply saddened to hear of his sudden passing.

This month, we have had many touched by those passing from this life. Sis. Barbara Baumann won the final victory on May 1. May Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina and their children, Bro. Dave (Sis. Lucy), Sis. Esther and Mike (Lilly) and their children feel our prayers abounding during this time of adjustment without their mother and grandmother. Her other children include, sons, John (Marilyn) of Bellville, OH and Mathias of Lexington, OH, and daughters, Magdalena (Joseph) Gutai of Mansfield, Barbara (Donald) Mueller of Dublin, OH and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Larry) Labudde of Glendale, AZ.

The same weekend, we were notified of the passing of Sis. Betty (Bro. Gaylord) Dotterer's father, Bro. Dave (Sis. Irene) Stoller, of the Latty congregation. May Bro. Gaylord, Sis. Betty, Gale, Grant, Matt, Chris, Jesse, Lydia and James feel our prayers as they adjust to life without their father and grandfather.

We also wish to express our deepest sympathy to Sis. Betty (Bro. Joe) Pamer in the passing of her mother this month. May they also feel our heartfelt prayers during this time.

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;"

*Romans 10:8*

How thankful we can be that we have brethren who are willing to stand before us Sunday after Sunday and preach the Word of faith unto us! We were blessed to have

Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sis. Linda, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) with us for Mother's Day services. May each of these brothers feel God's blessings for their willing service.

I recently heard a man tell a story about the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The way the story goes, when the Tower was being built, the builders could already tell that it was going to lean. They discovered that the problem was that it wasn't built on a firm enough of a foundation. He went on to say that we need to build on a firm foundation so that we will be able to reach our heavenly goal. My thoughts as he was telling the story went in a different direction. We who are Christians still need to lean as we are building our firm foundation. We need to be firmly grounded on the Rock that is Jesus Christ and we also need to lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus Christ. May each of us ever strive to be more firmly grounded and yet also to lean more heavily on the One who died that we might live.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

**Carla Stoller**

**Michelle Dotterer**

Three precious little girls have come into this world. On April 19, Rebecca Marie was born to Mike and Kristen Gasser. Her older siblings are Barrett and Brad. Grandparents are Sis. Doris Gasser, and Bruce Graber and Elizabeth Chirillo.

April Elizabeth was born on April 28 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda Schar. Grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier.

On April 29, Tory Sue was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler. Her two older brothers are Mason and Baylor. Grandparents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane

Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH).

On April 27, the engagement of Bro. Phil Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) to Sis. Michele Geib (Gary and Mary Bowman) was announced to the congregation. May God bless you and your family.

On April 21, Bro. George Rigggenbach (Sis. Minnie) passed away. His children of our congregation are Bro. Ed (Sis. Anita), Sis. Marge Stoller (Bro. Everett), Sis. Carol Steiner (Bro. Carl), Sis. Jane Hartzler (Bro. Vincent), Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Bro. Merle), Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan), and Bro. George Jr. May God comfort their family.

Those hospitalized recently are Arlene Rupp, Bro. Marvin Ramsier (Sis. Terri), Sis. Anita Rigggenbach (Bro. Ed), Bro. Reinhart Kiper (Sis. Betty), Bro. Stan Winkler (Sis. Margaret) and James Gasser (Becky). We are thankful that God is able to heal and we pray that His will be done.

Our graduates this year are: Jamie Bauman (Daryl and Ivy), Tiffany Bauman (Bro. Allan and Rose), Brandy Bickel (Dale and Beth Steiner), Nathan Garrison (Rick and Kathy), Steven Gasser (Bro. Virge and Sis. Lois), Jody Hartzler (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen), Linden Moore (Randy and Sis. Bev), Jerry Rigggenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen), Kevin Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha), Luke Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Tony Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne), Justin Walley (Carl and Kate), and Rachel Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane). We wish our graduates God's guidance throughout their lives.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone for each gift of kindness given me during my illness and convalescence. May the Lord richly bless you always. Sincere greetings of love.

*Sis. Myrle Rufener*

## OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

Greetings, loved ones. It has been a rainy month for Monroe County, but we are thankful God is still with us; for rain and sunshine together make the earth green again. We appreciate the visitors that came to Sardis this month.

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took the bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

*Luke 22:17-19*

With thankful hearts, we partook of Holy Communion on April 26. We thank Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle in this work. May we each keep in mind the holiness and blessedness of Communion. We appreciate Bro. Gene lending himself for the Lord on Sunday.

With joyful hearts, we welcome two new precious children into our church family. First to arrive is Jared Mark Ramsier, born May 1 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice. His big brothers welcoming him home are Josh, Nathan, and Sammy. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Colette Harmon (Toledo, OH).

On May 9, Trent and Christy Indermuhle received a second son, Ryan Seth. Big brother, Jordan, will welcome a new playmate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob

and Sis. Karen Indermuhle and Mr. and Mrs. Frances Long.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

We wish to congratulate two sisters who have graduated from college. Sis. Julia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) graduated from the University of Akron on May 10 with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech and Hearing. Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) graduated from West Virginia Northern Community College on May 17 with an Associate's Degree of Applied Science in Nursing. May God bless each of them as they would strive to do God's will in their lives.

"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

*Mark 1:4*

We rejoice with Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) as she had opportunity to give her testimony of faith and be baptized on May 17. Many of the thoughts and convictions expressed the evening of her testimony were appreciated and called each of us to a closer walk with our Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ken in this wonderful work. Ministering Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) was with us as well for the weekend and we thank him for lending himself to the Lord.

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

*Proverbs 4:1*

As Father's Day nears, may we each remember our earthly fathers with love and respect, with thankful hearts that they instructed us in the knowledge of our Heavenly Father. May God bless each of our fathers.

Once again, the month of June is upon us, and with it a reminder that we will be having our annual New Martinsville, WV church service the last weekend of the month, June 28 and 29. There will be a 7:30 service, Saturday evening, at the Sardis church. All that wish to come are welcome. If there are any questions, please call Bro. Ken Indermuhle at (614) 483-1593.

## OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller - Julie Maibach

We were privileged to hear testimonies and witness baptisms of four dear souls. On April 20, Sis. Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Bro. Eric Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith), Sis. Diane Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), and Bro. Paul Moore were baptized. How encouraging it is to see God's plan fulfilled in the lives of loved ones.

Visiting ministers during this month were Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We thank them for their labors of love.

We wish to extend sympathy to Bro. Glenn Riggenschach and his family in the death of his father, Bro. George Riggenschach. May we find comfort in the promises in God's Word. Some bright morning we shall meet again!

We welcome John and Jennifer Brewer who have recently moved to this area. May God bless them and their family.

Kolstin Landric was born May 2 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Pam Hartzler.

well as grandparents, Everett and Jo McIntire and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler, welcome him.

Graduation time is here again. Passing this milestone are Kara Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Karen Dotterer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda), Seth Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith), Ryan Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail), Shaun Riggerbach (Bro. Art and Lynn), and Sarah Rufener (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan). As each graduate decides his or her future path, may each one look toward the path that leads to true joy and eternal reward.

### OHIO, TOLEDO

#### Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

*I Corinthians 10:16*

We were blessed in partaking of Holy Communion on April 18. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted with this remembrance service.

A baby is always a special cause for rejoicing. Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint are the happy grandparents of Marisa Margaret. Marisa's parents are Richard and Kelly Chamberlain of Cornelius, NC.

A recent visiting minister was Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). We appreciated his willing service in bringing the Word to us. May God be his rewarder.

Congratulations are extended to our many graduates. High school graduates are Bro. Joel Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee), Suzanne Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn), Carrie Fetter (Michael and Laurie Jackson), Samantha Harris (Sharon), and Nick Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie). College graduates are Bro. Garth

Gucker, Sis. Faith Maibach (Smithville), Bro. Doug Reinhard, Bro. Vince Schlatter, and Sis. Dawn Stoller (Latty). May God direct each one's steps as they go on in their lives.

### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

Our prayers go out to Sis. Ann Rumbold who suffered a stroke last month. She was able to return to the retirement home where she lives and is slowly recuperating. We miss seeing her in church and hope and pray she will recover so that she will be able to worship with us again. Our hearts also go out to her family who has been standing by her throughout this hard time.

Also still needing our prayers and support are Sis. Golda Ditch and her husband, Lowell. Sis. Golda underwent back surgery not too long ago and we are thankful this seemed to have gone well. Our thoughts and prayers are surely with her as she is trying to regain her strength. We hope that both Sis. Golda and Lowell will be able to return to their home before too long.

We have enjoyed quite a few visitors this past month; some from out of state. Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen had a sizeable group of relatives staying here in Oregon for a reunion. Among them were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and his wife, Sis. Marilyn (Elgin, IL). We truly appreciated him sharing the Word with us. Other visitors were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) from Silverton, OR. We thank them for their efforts in ministering unto us.

We are thankful for the nice weather we have been enjoying lately and hope this summer will bring us more of the same as well as more visitors. We appreciate

each and every one visiting our small congregation.

### OREGON, SILVERTON

#### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

April and May are usually considered the beautiful spring months here in Oregon with so many flowering shrubs and orchards in bloom. This year, April was so wet with a bit more than the usual "April Showers", that May seems particularly pleasing with day after day of bright sunny weather. We are very thankful for the sunshine and the rain that makes our country what it is, but the sunshine does bring out our enthusiasm quicker than the rain.

Another form of April shower was a wedding shower hosted by Sis. Linda Hari (Harold) at her home for Danny and Penny Hari who were married March 8. Parents are Phil and Pat Hari (Hubbard) and Steve and Donna Usoltseff (Woodburn). May God bless them now as they begin their lives together and all through the years.

There were two special opportunities in the last month to serve our Lord with the work of our hands and sweat of our brows. April 26 was the annual spring clean up day for our church, both inside and out; and May 10 and 17 was another Work Project at Restless Surf to recover from the flash flood damage of last January. Both events can bring blessings to the projects as well as to the participants, as a feeling of satisfaction of a job well done is coupled with the fellowship of working together. Thanks to all who contributed, from the planners to the doers, and also those who helped through sending food, child care so others could attend and for prayerful support.

We are pleased to welcome Bro. Greg Wackerle (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine), Bay City, MI, to our

Lorraine), Bay City, MI, to our area and congregation. He had been a frequent helper on our church building project in the past and has found work here in his trade as a brickmason.

Special thanks to Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman (Roanoke, IL). We appreciate their visits and thank the brothers for their willingness to serve our congregation while here.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Carl Schmid, Sis. Edith Sinn (Tom) and Shelle Kuenzi (Brian). Thankfully, all are much improved at this writing. Also needing our prayers, as he has been unable to attend church for several weeks, is Bro. Lawrence Gehring (Alice).

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#### **PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA**

**Franz Soni**

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head; they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

*Isaiah 51:11*

We were sorry to hear of the passing of the father of Brad Gramm (Sis. LuAnn). Bro. Robert E. Gramm died on April 11. Also surviving are his wife, Sis. Nola Jean, Normal, IL; two daughters, Sis. Barbara Prevo, Gridley, IL and Sis. Jaclyn Leman, Batavia, IL; his mother, Sis. Louise Gramm, of the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home, Eureka, IL; one sister, Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Gridley, IL; three brothers, Bro. Harold Gramm, Hancock, MN, Bro. Herb Gramm and Bro. Don Gramm, both of Gridley, IL; and 11 grandchildren. May God comfort Brad and his family during

these difficult times.

Sis. Beverly Rocke (Bro. Merle) was recently hospitalized and we are glad to see she is feeling better and able to worship with us again.

Sarah Aeschleman (Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) graduated from college and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

We had our annual church spring cleaning on Saturday, May 17. We thank all who pitched in.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

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#### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**

**Gwen Leuthold**

Father's Day is a day set aside in June to honor our fathers. Our earthly fathers are an inspiration and a blessing to us. When we need their help and guidance, we can ask them and they will reach out a hand to help us. I recently heard a story about a father and a son playfully racing against each other. After running a fair distance together, the son began to get tired and started to lag behind. The father noticed this and stretched out his hand to help the son. With the Father's help, they began to run together again. In this story, the son found his load lightened when he felt his father's help. Our Christian walk can be likened to this. We have a Heavenly Father who can help lighten our load if we will call out and ask him for help. He will then take us by the hand and help us. My uncle once told me a touching story that every morning before getting out of bed, he reaches for the hand of the Lord to help and guide him through the day. This Father's Day, let us not only thank and honor our earthly fathers, but also be thankful and praise our Heavenly Father.

On May 4 and May 18, we welcomed Elder Bro. Don Sauder

(Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), respectively. We welcomed other visitors from Mansfield, OH and Chicago, IL. We also welcomed Bro. Harold and Sis. Carolyn Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) into our Nashville congregation. Bro. Harold and Sis. Carolyn have temporarily moved to the Dyersburg, TN area and will be worshipping with us during this time. We wish them and all of our visitors God's grace and blessings.

This past month, another milestone was reached in our church remodeling project when the parking lot and sidewalk concrete was poured. Greg Sauder from Mansfield, OH headed up the work team to complete this. We thank him and those that came with him for their hard work and efforts. May God bless all of you.

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#### **TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA**

**Lois Gray**

We recently said farewell to Sis. Beth Beery who returned to Rittman, OH after having completed her nursing assignment in Austin. We hope Sis. Beth is again assigned to our area in the near future.

This month's visiting ministers were: Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), and Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Pulaske, IA). We appreciate the ministering brethren who travel to share God's Word with us. We also appreciate the presence of their wives and the fellowship we all share.

If you are traveling through Central Texas, we warmly invite you to meet with us for services and fellowship. We customarily serve no lunch between services, but share a meal together following services, either in the home where we assemble, or when we meet at the hotel, at a cafeteria nearby.

Our schedule is: Dallas holds services the FIRST Sunday of the month. Central Texas services are held the LAST Sunday at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The Sundays in between services are held in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 71 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Contact persons are: Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 and Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222. Please call ahead, as our schedule is known to vary occasionally.

### TEXAS, DALLAS

#### Dee Rapp

Did you know that rainbows are round? They are! As earthbound people, the horizon limits our vision but if the sun shines while it rains and you are in a small plane or helicopter, you will see that complete circle.

Webster defines "bow" as anything curved or bent (not a circle). So if the rainbow is a complete circle, why did God call it a bow? Was it because a half circle is all that many of us would ever see? We will probably have to wait for the real answer.

However, our lives are somewhat like that rainbow. As unbelievers, we see only half the picture of who Christ really is. It is possible that even the disciples did not see who Christ was until after His resurrection.

Once we believed, our eyes were opened, we saw the full circle of His loving arms and were enveloped in the glorious colors of His love. Is this why God made rainbows round?

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 Roundtop. 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 noon. Contacts are: Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp at (792) 867-4074 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA

#### Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl feel blessed as the Lord opened the door for them to adopt one of their foster children. Erika Marie became one of the family on April 16 at the age of 21 months. Rejoicing with their parents are: Sandra Garcia (Roy), Terry (Peg), Lloyd and Julie. Also excited and happy for Erika are their foster children, Albert, Tina, Dixie, Annie and Jessica. The people attending the Zapata Apostolic Christian Church have learned to love Erika and are happy to know she will have a chance to be brought up in a Christian home.

A wealthy Persian was very content until he met a priest who told him if he could own a diamond mine he could do or have anything in the world. He began thinking about these diamonds and became quite discontented. He sold his farm and possessions and left his family in care of a neighbor. He searched and

searched until he was broke and defeated. He committed suicide.

One day, the priest went to visit the Persian's home to see if he had returned. On the mantle was a large stone—a diamond! The owner said it was a stone found in his garden. It turned out that the Persian's land sat on the most magnificent diamond mine in all history.

—*More Beautiful than Diamonds*

This is comparable to our Christian life. If we become discontented and search for another faith once we have become a member of our church, we just will not find what we have now. We possess our diamonds in having fellowship with brothers and sisters in faith, having faith in God and in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

This story also makes me think how powerful our minds are. The wrong words told us can bring defeat, discontent and a pessimistic nature. The right words can bring contentment, optimism and a cheery outlook on life. A smile and compliment brightens the whole day for the one receiving them and also the one giving it.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain."

*1 Timothy 6:6*

Erika Marie Nohl (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce) was a hospital patient this month. She is home again and we are looking forward to seeing her in church.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

We know what happened to him. He ended up being hanged by his own hair. It is a story that we need to remember as a lesson for all of us. Sometimes, when we think that we are getting ahead, God can bring us up short and stop us.

“And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.” (Mark 9:36-37).

You know, God put this in the Bible so that we might understand that God knows the hearts of children. He knows that there is not any real pride there. They just don't have that pride, do they?

Those of us that have small children, it is a wonderful thing to see their innocence and just how tender-hearted they are. God wants us each one to be that way. We need to work toward that each day. We need to look at the example that we can draw from our little children and see that innocent smile on their face and those first, innocent words. It is a wonderful thing. They are there for our learning and for our example.

“And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.” (Mark 9:38-40).

I do not know exactly the real deep meaning of those few verses there, but when you think about it, I guess the first thought that comes to me is that we are all different, even in the household of faith. Just in our Apostolic Christian Church, there are differences.

We are different people, and it is pretty easy for us to be offended by some little thing.

I remember a brother saying one time that if we are offended, a lot of times, it is because of pride on our part. So, we need to be careful that we do not get offended, that we do not put ourselves above our brother so that something our brother does would offend us.

Then, what does the Word say? It says, “And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.” (Mark 9:42). So we need, each one, to be careful and prayerful that we do not do something that might offend a weaker brother, a brother who maybe is struggling a little bit with pride or whatever the situation might be.

It is so easy to just think we are in our own little world and that we can do whatever we want. We are serving God by praying to God every day and reading God's Word. We have repented and turned our life to God. We may think, “I do not care what this brother or sister thinks. I am going to do what I very well please.”

That is not what God's Word teaches us, is it? It says that if we offend one of these little ones that believe in Him, it would be better that a millstone be hanged about our necks and were cast into the sea. That is pretty serious words, isn't it? We need to be careful. We need to each one work on that.

“If thy hand offend thee, cut it off” (Mark 9:43). Here He is talking about ourselves. Look at yourself. Is there something in your life that should not be there? Is there a problem standing between you and God? It may be like that cloud between the sun and the earth that is causing a problem between you and a brother, or you and God.

You know, many times, we find

things in our life that we can do without. Even though we think that we have to do it, we get used to a certain life pattern and lifestyle. Pretty soon, our luxuries become necessities. We just keep moving up. Our lifestyle just keeps getting higher and higher. The things that we once would never have thought of doing, now we do. Pretty soon it becomes a habit. Some of those things, we can just do without, can't we?

We need to just get them out of our life. Each one of us probably have certain things like that, that maybe they are different. Maybe every one in here has something that is different from everyone else. But we know what they are, don't we? We know the things that are separating us and making us just a little bit lukewarm.

In Revelations, it talks about the church that was lukewarm. God says, “I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Rev. 3:16). God does not want that. I believe one of the brothers talked about that Sunday, how we need to be hot in our spiritual life.

We need to be finding ways that we can draw closer to God. We don't need to be looking for things that we can just maybe get by with. Or maybe God will not be too displeased if we do this or that, or if we have this or that. We need to be looking for things that will edify us and each other, and lift each other up that won't offend our brother.

“And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:45-46). So many times we think that God's Word is really harsh, and it is in certain places, isn't it?

Over at the fellowship hall at one of the Bible studies for the friends, one of the questions was, “Why does our church preach the

fear of the Lord instead of the love of Jesus?" What is the fear of the Lord, anyway? What does it mean to fear God?

I believe when the Bible says we should fear God, it means the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, as we read. I believe it means a respect. It does not mean that we are scared of Him as a hard taskmaster, but we need to have that respect for Him. We need to realize that He can send us into heaven or hell and that He is in control here on this earth.

The devil would like us to think that it is not true, that God is some mean-type being that will try to cast people into hell someday if they take part in a lot of sin on this earth and that is all that God is all about. But God is love, when you think about it.

We just read about how Jesus came down on this earth to die for each one of us. Most of you in here probably have children; at least half of you have children. You know how hard it would be to sacrifice to let one of your children die, for any reason. We would do anything, especially for our little babies. We almost panic when they get a bad cold and have a fever that starts rising up to 102 or 103. We think, "Oh no, now what are we going to do?" We pray that God will take care of them.

Then we think how God is such a loving God that He gave His Son to die for a world that is lost, a

world full of sinners. We do not have to have part in this hell, where the fire is not quenched.

"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another." (Mark 9:50). Whether we are at work, at school or wherever, we need to be that salt. We need to make other people's lives just a little bit better, just as salt makes food better.

If we are just like the world, if we are just like everything else in this world, which is getting more and more corrupt, we are not going to have much of an affect. There is not going to be any affect, really. We need to have something that people can see, hear and know about us that will make them feel better and see that there is hope.

I think about our first reading where the people chided with Moses. They were discouraged, weren't they? They argued with Moses. They said, "You brought us out here to die in this wilderness. We would have been better off in Egypt." Moses was just doing God's will. He was a leader who was appointed by God. He was struggling to do God's will, yet the people were mad at him, were angry with him and they chided with him.

They were discouraged and blaming Moses. God was very displeased. I think in the book of Joshua where Joshua, in one

place, went to God and said, "God, I have tried to get these people to listen to me. They won't do Your will even though I tell them and tell them and tell them." He was blaming himself.

God said, "It's not your problem, Joshua. They are not rebelling against you; they are rebelling against me." That is what God told him. He was a man appointed by God.

Sometimes we get a little bit blinded in our church. Sometimes we think that maybe listening to our elders is just too much...they are just men and we don't have to listen to them.

But we need to believe they were appointed by God, don't we? We need to believe that this church is the household of God, and God is over all of us.

God is here in our midst. He had a hand in appointing our elder brothers, who are striving to the best of their ability to help us along the way and to encourage us and try to send out a warning here or there. That is their duty. Someday, they will be held, each one, accountable to whether they have given us the true word or not. We need to be obedient, and not chide with them as the children of Israel did there.

It says there, "Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another." (Mark 9:50). May God help each one of us to that end.

### *Trust in God*

To trust in God and to fully depend  
Is to count Him the nearest, more faithful  
of friend.  
To give up your dreams and your hopes  
and you will,  
And to know that His plans will be far  
better still.  
To trust is to go where you yet cannot see,  
But where you know God has asked you to  
be,  
Not because you know the reasons just why  
But because you know God's ways are best  
by and by.  
To fully depend is to realize that you

Need God's direction in all that you do,  
To wake up each day and to ask God for  
His grace,  
To help Him today just by filling your place.  
Trusting in God is the faith in each day  
That no matter the thorns you may meet on  
the way,  
God in His goodness will always impart  
Through wells of salvation a joy in your  
heart.  
Trusting is learning that minute by minute.  
God has a plan and you're indeed in it.  
Trusting is knowing that God is preparing  
Your home in Heaven and through His  
great caring

And through forgiveness and Christ's  
selfless love,  
There is a hope that you'll soon rest above.  
For trusting is knowing that you'll be there  
someday  
By following close in His will and His way.  
'Cause trusting is learning that God's by  
your side  
In all that you do in this world big and wide.  
It's having the promise you know will not  
rust  
And learning the joy of just learning to trust!

—Author Unknown

## Faith of our Fathers

Within the busy lifestyle of today, there is so much to occupy our mind. What about tomorrow or a month from now? The future is to the Lord as yesterday and the last minute is to us. We have finite minds that have been gloriously designed by God our Father, however those minds are still finite because God wants us to live by faith. On the other hand, God's thoughts are infinite and therefore all knowing. We struggle with the unknown, while God speaks to us through His word, the Bible, and says that we should trust and believe on Him. *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. St John 14:1*

We often ask ourselves a very deep question, which is, "How much energy do I expend in trying to learn God's desire for my life?" We have learned from experience that we can actually delve too deeply into some subjects, however there is no limit to seeking out what is the Lord's desire for our lives. God wants obedience above sacrifice. God wants to be loved above all. God wants us all to live in harmony. These are just a few things that God desires in our lives and it behooves us to try to search for ways to serve God through acquiescence of His will.

We are often brought to our knees when we see how mightily God can work, even though His timetable is often slower than we would wish for. We know, for example, that God is at work right now with some infinite plan that may come together in a day or a hundred years. We, with our finite thinking, do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. It is God.

We know there is no new thing under the Sun and that history has a way of repeating itself, which

in turn catches man making the same mistakes over and over. It is true, almost without fail, that it is pride that causes our fall. If we could learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others, we would eliminate many of our problems and therefore escape the stumbling that occurs in our lives. The closer we walk with the Lord, the safer we will be and if we desire to be obedient to the Word of God, we will fulfill His almighty will.

The **Faith of our Fathers** is a good lesson and learning for our souls, which when studied sufficiently will reveal both the good deeds and the bad mistakes of the past, so in turn we can escape making the same mistakes over again. As we meditate upon the history of our faithful fathers, our heart is pained and we realize that once again in this present day, things are set for a fall. The pride of man is mounting, and knowledge is increasing with an information network that has not been equaled in the past. When God seen that man was becoming too intelligent for their own good at the time of the Tower of Babel, He brought about confusion. Will God cause confusion to happen again or is the increased knowledge of today a part of His plan for the future.

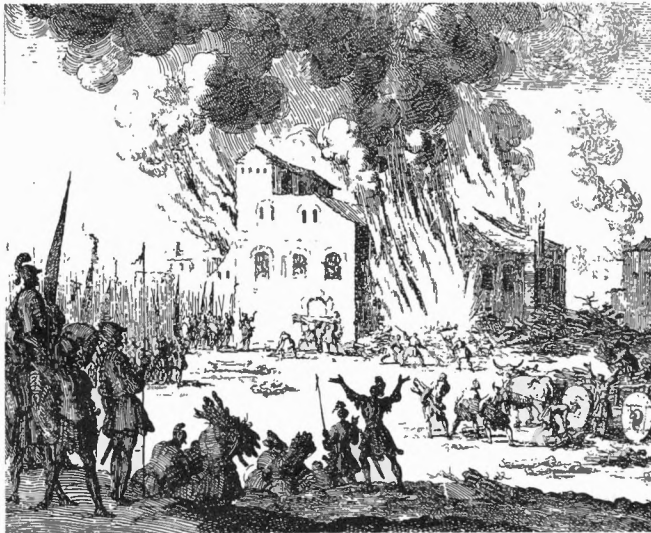
We are vividly aware of the fact that at times of plentiful wealth, man becomes complacent. Some men will overlook sin in others as long as the financial situation is okay. Can we? We must ask ourselves, "Where is the world headed?" Do we want to follow the world and it's sin? Can we in effect live in a world of sin and be a separate people? The answer is yes, because the Bible says we can. *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and*

*will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. II Corinthians 6:17-18.* However the day will come when we can no longer expect that we will be able to lead a life without persecution. Persecution from without, as it came from the Roman government many years ago and persecution from within as we have seen it occur in the past.

When Flavious Constantine, the Roman Emperor 306 - 337, was converted to Christianity, everyone thought that Christians would now flourish. Indeed the Christians no longer faced the terrible government persecution, however they did face persecution from the affluent world church. Leaders of the Christian State Church became powerful and answered to neither king nor man. The Church leaders took on the false feeling of diety and within their group they took on the epitome of pride, inerrancy. They would not admit that they could make a mistake because they felt errancy was a sign of weakness. This period of history brought disaster to the Church because those who felt inerrant were convicted by the simple faith of the true believer of the Church of Christ. No one can lead if they cannot admit their mistakes. I am wrong, I am sorry and I forgive you are three avenues to humility and subsequently receiving God's grace.

We have, with a diligent and humble heart, looked at the Faith of our Fathers and seen how the persecution of that time, made them stronger in their faith in God. With fire licking at their feet, martyrs of a past time remained strong and faithful. There was no question of their conviction level. The more severe tribulation





*Christians were burned in their Meeting houses in 250 AD*

they received, the more grace was given and our fathers of faith stood firm against the devil.

In the third century, after Christ's ascension, men and women alike were being killed for their faith. It is the hope of this writing that all who read will endeavor to feel the trial and hurt of the fathers of faith, who through example, gave us who are living centuries later, a road map to perseverance in holiness.

Listed by the annals of history, to name only a few, are beloved ones such as Metras, a God-fearing elder (old man), was pierced with reeds, and stoned to death, for the name of Jesus Christ's sake, at Alexandria, AD 252. Co-intha, a believing woman, was dragged through the streets of Alexandria, and stoned for the testimony of the Son of God in that same year. Pionus, Bishop of the true Church at Smyrna, was nailed to a piece of wood and burned alive, in the city of Smyrna, for his faith in our Lord and Saviour in the year of our Lord, 254.

Three pious peasants, Priscus, Malchus, and Alexander, who sought heavenly crowns, were torn by wild beasts, at Cesarea, in

Palestine, about the year 263 AD. In this persecution under Valerian there were three very noted and God-fearing martyrs at Cesarea, in Palestine, who nevertheless were but simple peasants, the first called Priscus, the second Malchus, the third Alexander. Eusebius writes, that, as they lived near the suburbs of Cesarea, a divine zeal for the faith was kindled within them, and they accused each other (and each himself, says Mellinus), of slothfulness, since heavenly crowns of martyrdom were distributed, or at least offered, in the city, and they were so little inclined to ask for them, notwithstanding our Lord and Saviour had said that the kingdom of heaven must be taken by violence, and therefore it did not become them to remain so earthly and slothful. Having exhorted one another with such words, they went into the city, and addressed and reproved that cruel tyrant, the criminal Judge, demanding of him, why he shed so much Christian blood. The tyrant instantly replied saying: "They shall be thrown before wild beasts, to be torn by them, who do not like to see the blood of the Christians shed; which, it is stated, was done

to them."

A. Mellinus, writing in defense of the aforementioned three peasants, against those who would pronounce them too bold, says after other remarks: "Who are you that judge your brethren? How do you know of what spirit they were? No one has courage of himself; but it is the gift of God, not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His name: hence, neither is of ourselves. They also did not seek their own honor, but to magnify the name of Christ by their death-to which, no doubt, they were impelled by divine zeal, since their zeal was not without knowledge, but proceeded from the power of faith- whereby they were prepared through the divine Spirit to proclaim the honor of God through their death; for this was their sole object."

Several years after the death of the preceding martyrs, 284 AD, Diocletian attained to the reign of Emperor of the Roman Empire, and shortly afterwards issued his first edict against the Christians, which was followed by the second in 302 AD. This second edict was referred to as the tenth and most severe period of persecution for the Christians. God in His almighty wisdom seemed to see the periodic need of persecution to try by fire the **Faith of our Fathers**.

Can God be pleased if we do not take the faith, handed down from our fathers and bought by the precious Blood of the Lamb, sincerely? Can we hate our brother and love the Lord? Can we gossip about our brother and love the Lord? When someone speaks to us about conviction level, we need to return in word, "I hope my conviction level is the same as the brethren who burned at the stake and were willing to die for their faith in the Lord."



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### **Part VI -Facing Many Challenges**

The 53-year period from 1847 until the turn of the century witnessed a growth surge of our church here in America.

The roots of the faith were put down by devout brethren who, by God's grace, faced many obstacles. The biblical zeal ignited by the spiritual revivers in Switzerland, Germany, and areas of Eastern Europe helped to solidify the new congregations in America.

By 1900, a total of 45 new local congregations had been established in 11 states. Ironically, two of these had already been closed (Weiner, Arkansas in 1900 and Ashtabula, Ohio in 1892). Thus, as a new century unfolded, there were 43 churches in 11 states.

It was a time of great challenge—both in a physical and a spiritual sense. It was not an easy time.

In a bodily/physical sense, our forerunners were challenged to the utmost. The mere fact of emigrating, traveling and adjusting to a new nation were unnerving; and required nearly unlimited strength and character. The presence of God surely helped as they became established in America.

Nearly all aspects of life were hard. Privation was almost always the norm. These believers often endured pitiful circumstances. They could not have imagined the plenty we enjoy today.

Traveling from Europe to America was anything but comfortable. The story is told of young Nicholas Bach (who settled in Fairbury, IL). He was eight years old when he came to America with his parents. While riding on a train from New York to the midwest, the inside of the car was so cold the windows were frosted on the inside. He had to use his fingernails to scratch the frost so he could look outside.

In coming to Illinois, the Bach family

stayed overnight in downtown Chicago. At their hotel, they stayed on the "immigrant" floor. It was on the third story—which constituted a huge hall where immigrants slept on the floor with straw for a mattress. This typified, in part, the discomforts our beloved brethren endured over the years. It very likely made them stronger in a spiritual sense.

In the spiritual realm there was much activity. Settling in a new country and establishing new churches were major challenges. The Lord, however, blessed their efforts. Many congregations were founded during 1847 to 1900:



1847-1860	15
1860-1870	9
1870-1880	7
1880-1890	9
1890-1900	<u>5</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

While success manifested itself and a new church denomination began to grow, the enemy (Satan) took note and was subtle in disturbing the Lord's work. Discord was coming.

The "first split" occurred around 1906. Already in 1866, when Swiss Elder Henry Geistlich visited all the American churches, there was some unrest here and there due to "cultural differences", as he noted in his diary. There had been emigrants who came from a variety of areas across Europe. Shedding nationalistic traits and evolving into the new American "melting pot" was not always easy.

While the division could be attrib-

uted to several causes, the focal point seemed to center on the wearing of a mustache. This might seem difficult to comprehend, but when viewed in a historical context, it is explainable.

Those brethren who came to America were essentially from two demographic areas—Western Europe and Eastern Europe. Most who came from Western Europe had a Mennonite/Anabaptist background (prior to coming into the "Froehlich" churches). A major tenet of Anabaptist doctrine was "peace" and a refusal to bear arms in war. They were sensitive to anything that even remotely resembled the military (in this instance, a mustache).

On the other hand, many brethren who came to America from Eastern Europe tended to wear mustaches, a cultural trend in the Balkan states. While not intended as a military symbol, it appeared that way to brethren of Western European origin.

Thus, a schism took root over this issue.

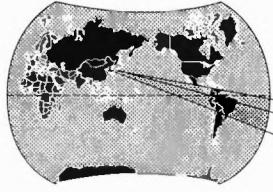
Elders, both in Europe and in America, tried their best to resolve this matter. Correspondence was made difficult by the ocean that separated them. One "solution" was to ask brothers to cut their mustaches as short as possible, but not totally. The issue was thought to be resolved, but eventually the accord broke down.

About 25 percent of the membership departed and became known as the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene). Seventy-five percent remained, and this constitutes our group. Today, our church has approximately 12,000 members. There are about 3,000 members in the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene).

We learn from history. One notable fact resulting from the first division is this: Both sets of Elders grieved that they had allowed the split to occur, and deeply regretted it.

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

### “In Time”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

On one occasion, my family and I had plans to go to America but the night before departure, a typhoon struck our area and knocked out the highway and the railway between our home and Tokyo. It takes about two hours to downtown Tokyo and then about another two hours to the airport. That day, a friend of ours took us by car to a train station south of Tokyo but the train we got on moved very slowly and we feared we would miss our flight. I called our travel agent and he called the airport to let them know that we were on our way. On that very hot summer day we carried much luggage up and down many flights of stairs and probably sweat more than we ever had before or have since. We rushed into the check-in counter and they were waiting for us. The place was empty and we received prompt service. We hurried onto the plane, sat down, and the plane took off. We were in time but not on time. We were supposed to be there two hours before flight time.

In Hosea 10:12 we read, “It is time to seek the Lord.” Here is something where being in time, or not in time, has eternal consequences. Why doesn’t everyone repent and believe on Christ right away, in plenty of time? Christ’s teachings are very good for us and save us a lot of sorrow already in this life. It may be that there is an emotional storm, put there by Satan, which blocks the road. That storm may have arisen as a result of the fact that there are some things we don’t want to give up. I was told by my Elder, Bro. Schupert, that whatever you give up for God, He recompenses you abundantly for it, and in my case, I’ve found it to be so. May we all be in time to make peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Besides being at peace with God, we need to be at peace with ourselves, which is to accept ourselves as we are if we are really surrendered to God. Let’s be in time to make peace with ourselves.

I suppose all of us think of things we wish we had told our parents or

other loved ones, after they are gone. The kind things we want to say and the apologies we want to make should be taken care of in time to do some good. We should be in time in making peace with our spouse, I would say every night. With our children and with many others, it is not only a matter of making peace, or maintaining peace with them, but it is also a matter of cautioning them in time, where it is necessary.

In Romans 13:11 we read, “It is high time to awake out of sleep.” People who sleep too much are often late. You can be late but still be in time, if they hold the plane for you, but don’t count on it.

Ephesians 5:16 instructs us, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” In this case, redeem means to make use of. We must not let Satan cause us to procrastinate on the things which are most important in life. Let’s be in time in doing the things which are most precious.

# 希望の光



## **Gridley, IL -1874**

*(pictured in 1939)*

The first church building in 1874 was first surrounded on three sides by horse barns, which was the custom in those days. After morning services, some of the men would go out and feed the horses. Such were the "good old days." The Gridley area prospered in attendance by the immigration from Europe and those who took the risk of buying ground, which was overgrown by Prairie grass. The first Gridley church was enlarged in 1938 when a basement was placed underneath the old structure and the outside was enhanced by brick facing. In 1970, a new church edifice was built north of Gridley and serves the congregation today.

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