



The Silver Lining

God Giveth The Increase

August 1997

“THE PEACE OF GOD IS SUPREME”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Ray Sinn, Latty, OH
Psalm 15 and I Corinthians 10

The Psalmist begins this very beautiful Psalm with several very serious questions by asking, “Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?” They are referring to Heaven above. Then, “who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” (Psalm 15:1). Referring to the fact, as we have prayed, that we will each appear before God some day.

Thankfully and wonderfully, in the Word, we find that when serious questions like that are asked unto us as individuals, the writer was moved to give us the answer as to who will be there and who will abide in the tabernacle.

He begins by saying, “He that walketh uprightly.” (Psalm 15:2). We realize that can only be obtained by the grace of God. As individuals, we certainly understand the meaning of right and wrong, even in our unconverted lives, at least, to a certain extent. We knew that we were not supposed to cheat people, or treat people unkindly, or take advantage of people. We could just go on and on with that list.

Invariably, each of us found, as we tried to live lives that would please God to the extent that someday He would permit us to abide in that tabernacle, we finally resolved and understood that we, of our own strength, would be unable to accomplish that. God, in His great wisdom, even from the beginning of time, He well knew that we would be unable to do that. So, in His all-wise plan that He had laid out, the time would come when He would send His Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Then, He would provide strength, which we refer to as the grace of God, that we would be able to live lives that we can feel uprightly and we might stand before God. Simply meaning, we are right

in the sight of God. He further mentions a work of righteousness.

I believe it is in Matthew’s gospel we read that if we would count on the things that we would be able to do or the right things that we would be able to accomplish in our lives, in relationship to salvation for our soul, the writer there refers to those as filthy rags. They are just not good enough. Filthy rags, after they have been used for a time, eventually end up in the fire, don’t they?

He that “...worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.” (Psalm 15:2). We must be able to give a good testimony from a clear conscience from a fully changed heart and mind. Then we can give a good testimony of our experience with the Lord and our desire to want to serve Him. Then, by His help and grace, we are able to walk and live from day to day. He lists some things here that the natural man (that we are made up of) would have a tendency to lose ourself without the grace of God.

It says, “He that backbiteth not with his tongue...” (Psalm 15:3). We understand how much we need the help and the strength of the Lord, don’t we, to be able to not say those things that would be unkind or untruthful? We know how damaging those types of things are to people, if we make an expression like that.

We are not to do evil to our neighbor. Now we are talking outside the household of faith, loved ones. Who really is our neighbor? The Lord taught that so beautifully as He was on His way to the man who had fallen down along the way. The Lord asked that question and let the people know that in each person there would be a need about us or who would live

near by us or be our neighbor. We must not take up reproach against our neighbor to the point that we would cause difficulty and have a debate with the people about us.

“In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.” (Psalm 15:4-5).

In the beautiful hymn that we sang together, it certainly had quite a message as we sang the words together. It furthers this Psalm by saying in the first verse, “He who in the truth abideth...he who keeps his tongue from sinning...he who does not heed the godless...he whose hands are clean and spotless...” That is the person who will be in the Holy Hill abiding and will be privileged to abide in the tabernacle of God.

But then, as we think about those things basically being eternal, then we think of the wonderful blessings to be able to restrain from these types of things in our

Sermon continued on page 45

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

August 1997

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Conversion vs. Accepting Christ

Many times in our brotherhood we use terms interchangeably in a way that can cause confusion to those who are not part of our faith. Although there may not be a great deal of harm in some of this interchange of terms for those who are well acquainted with our faith, it is important that we all remember that each of the terms has a separate and important meaning in the plan of salvation. We must also remember that misuse of the scripture could be very damaging to those who are not well grounded in the Word.

Terms that are especially susceptible to this interchange are accepting Christ, repentance, conversion, born again and joining church.

Accepting Christ is a term from the world that is used to promote instant salvation. It is a term that is used to describe an easier way of salvation and can be the source of a great deal of deception. In reality, we must prepare our hearts so Christ can accept us. If a child of God uses this term, it must be done very carefully and perhaps in the sense that the Apostle John meant when he wrote "But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12) and the "...goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4). It should not be used as a description of the plan of salvation.

Repentance means to bear sorrow for our sins. However, godly repentance is more than simply being sorry. It means to bear sorrow in such a way as to be determined to make a commitment to change our behavior. Sincere repentance will help us reach a level of humility that will make us more likely to submit to the will of God. It will help us to seek forgiveness from our Heavenly Father and from our fellow man.

People repent for a variety of reasons and in a variety of situations. It is possible to repent frequently - both before and after conversion. Some people repent simply because they have been caught in a sin. Although they may be truly sorry, the sorrow does not always bring sincere humility nor does it bring forgiveness and cleansing. It is more an attempt to escape punishment than an attempt to change one's lifestyle.

One who seeks to become a child of God and seeks forgiveness that brings peace with God must repent with a much different attitude. It must be a repentance

that not only brings sorrow for sin but also a willingness and a determination to change the way he or she has lived. Repentance is required for salvation.

John the Baptist said "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2). Jesus Christ said "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3&5). The apostles taught, and continue to teach "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness," (Acts 8:22).

One who has been a true child of God and who has been walking in grace and favor with God may find that there are occasions when it is necessary to seek God's forgiveness and to draw closer to God. Thus, they may have allowed themselves to drift and become careless and therefore are truly sorry they have disappointed their Heavenly Father. This is a form of repentance and may occur numerous times in our life.

It would be possible for a soul to repent for an entire lifetime and never find true peace if we repented but did not fulfill the other scriptural commandments for salvation such as forgiveness, becoming converted, becoming submissive, and becoming as a little child.

Repentance must be accompanied by conversion. Jesus said "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). The apostles taught "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). The old, sinful nature in man must die and be replaced by a new, Christlike nature.

We cannot become a child of God without being converted, and it is impossible for man to convert himself. This must be the work of the Lord but it does not mean that we have no responsibility in the conversion process. We must be willing to be converted and to allow God to completely remake our attitude and to completely remold our lifestyle. We cannot become a child of God without being converted. This is an aspect of salvation that is so often overlooked in this day and time. If we are sorry for a sin and continue to repeat that sin, it is likely that we have not been completely converted. We will not be able to overcome temptation without being converted.

To be converted from the ways of the

world and become a child of God, we must reach the point where we are not only willing to give up the pleasures of this life, but we must reach the point where they become repulsive to us. The world will try to entice us to return to "wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22), but one who is converted must recognize the folly of doing so.

Jesus wanted us to understand that the only way for us to escape the flesh and to live in the Spirit is to be "born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Job recognized the brevity of the physical birth when he said "Man that is born of a woman is of few days..." (Job 14:1). Jesus told Nicodemus "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). This rebirth enables us to be regenerated and to become a new creature: "old things are passed away; behold all things become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Being born again enables us to have a new beginning in life. Unlike our physical birth, this new life in Christ will last throughout eternity for those who are faithful.

Although as a new believer we become part of the body of Christ, it is possible to become a member of a church without any significant change in one's life or attitude. Often when we hear of a new convert, we hear the comment that he or she is "joining the church". To the world this simply means becoming part of an organization that is called a church. To a child of God it means becoming a part of The Church, the bride of Christ, which requires one to become converted first.

In order to fulfill the plan of salvation, it is necessary for us to repent, become converted, to be regenerated and to become a part of The Church. It is possible, however, that one could become a member of a church or one could repent without being converted or regenerated. We must not neglect any part of the plan of salvation or we will find ourselves walking with the world rather than with the Lord.

Let us be thankful for the kind encouraging words of Jesus, "Come unto me, all ye that labor 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" (Matt. 11:28-30).



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Church Dedication at Paks, Hungary

A brief history

The faith of our fathers, begun in Switzerland in the mid 1800's, spread throughout the countries of western and eastern Europe as the decades rolled on. Since World War II, we have had continuing contact with our brethren throughout both Western and Eastern Europe. A part of this contact extends to the brethren in Hungary. At this time, our relationship is excellent, and continues to improve as we cooperate in assisting East European brethren, which includes Hungary.

Material and spiritual aid

In the past eight or so years, much material aid has passed from the USA to Eastern Europe, and some of it has gone through Hungary. In the course of administering this aid, we have learned to love and know the Hungarian and other East European brethren. By God's grace and mercies, as well as with the support of our American brethren, we have helped them not only with physical, but also with spiritual needs. Part of this assistance consists of building churches. We have reported on several building projects in these pages in the past, and hope to continue to do so as time goes by.



Paks, Hungary

The congregation at Paks, Hungary, a congregation of about 60 members, plus 35 friends and children, appealed to the European Board for assistance in building a new facility. After consideration, our American brethren agreed to assist them in this project. Some of this aid was

in the form of financial assistance, and some of it consisted of material goods such as building materials, clothing, food, and other necessities of life, which was sent to them in a sea container. This was greatly appreciated, and the brethren not only in Paks, but throughout Hungary wish to convey their most grateful thanks to the American brethren for this help.

Americans attended dedication

The new church at Paks was dedicated on Sunday, May 11, 1997. Since all funds for church buildings are approved by the Mission Committee, this body also approves trips to foreign lands. Approval was given to Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), and Ben Maibach (Detroit) to attend this dedication service as their representatives. George Hunyadi from the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) accompanied them as a Hungarian interpreter.

The group arrived in Budapest, Hungary on May 2. They visited several churches in Hungary and then traveled to Romania.

Romanian visit

While the group was in Romania, they inspected several sites of self-help projects which have had prior approval of the European Board. They also visited several Romanian churches and renewed acquaintances with the brethren there. After the collapse of Communism, this land has had a certain degree of free enterprise, but the transition continues to be a challenge, not only for them, but for the American brethren who are administering the assistance.

Difficult transition

Progress during the transition from a communistic to capitalistic system is slow, but visible. We believe our continuing assistance and support will further the cause of our precious faith there. The change is an agonizing process, and requires a reorientation of perception and purpose. The return trip was on May 13, and all the travelers give thanks to God for His protection, safe conduct, and the many prayers which were offered on their behalf.

Contributions for the
European Church Building Fund can be sent to:

Bro. Gene Marti
Apostolic Christian Mission Committee
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66283



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

Brethren continue to work in Haiti

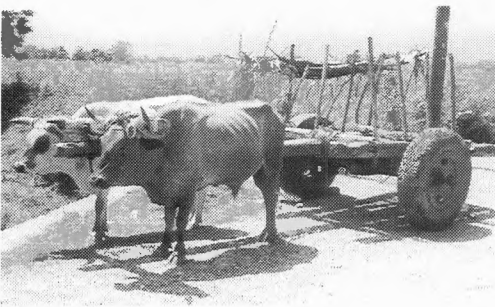
The work in the island nations of Haiti and Jamaica is approved and directed by our Caribbean Board, which answers to the World Relief Committee. This article is a report of some of their efforts.

From June 7 to 14, an evaluation team consisting of Bros. Richard Wuethrich, Duane Schieler, Darl Schieler, and his wife, Sis. Cindy were in Haiti. They visited the administrative personnel of our many ongoing projects, as well as the sites of these projects themselves.

A brief overview of the situation

Our brethren, as well as those of other organizations with whom we work, are reporting that a situation of extreme hunger looms on the horizon. Many of the forests have been cut down, mostly within the last 50 years, and sufficient rainfall in the former tropical paradise is now a rare occurrence. Eye witness reports tell us that due to the lack of rain, there is an increased degree of suffering. As we can learn from our own news media, the political situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate. The drought is particularly serious in the northern part of the country, where we ourselves have the least representation.

However, in this part of the country, people are in desperate need of food, and children are eating the green fruit of the mango tree, which is a sign of great hunger.



Many goats and sheep are dying from lack of food and water, and the people have begun feeding the grass reeds on their roofs to their animals.

Seed improvement is vital

Another area which is accepted as normal in the USA is the improvement of hybrid seeds for agriculture. This is not always the case in developing nations such as Haiti. We are thankful to have a good rapport with a Haitian ministry called S.E.E.D., which is administered by Franz and Doris Clotaire. This project has approval from our brethren, and the Caribbean Board monitors it closely. The visit from our work team confirms our support of this work. If the effort in self-help does not rise up from within a culture or society, nothing which comes from outside can be successful. We recognize this, and therefore are very supportive of this particular work.



Fresh water is a dire need

Brethren from Illinois and Indiana have been working for several years in southern Haiti to assist the natives in drilling and maintaining fresh water wells. They assemble simple hand pumps in their local areas, and transport them to Haiti. Our evaluation team visited not only the sites of the wells, but inspected the facilities in which the pumps are maintained. The cultural differences and work ethics are far removed from what

we have here at home, but the program seems to be working. Some pumps run day and night, worked by young and old alike.

Medical missions

Our health efforts are coordinated through a limited number of organizations, all of which have risen up within the Haitian culture. One of these is the M.E.B.S.H. group, for which our brethren have good respect. The team met with Dr. Morquette who expressed thanks for our support from this group.

Trade schools

Another effort which is ongoing in Haiti is that of supporting trade schools. The team members were very impressed with the progress of several trade schools which they visited. Haitian people teach skills through which their students can learn to earn their own livelihood. This addresses the root of the problem, and we are glad it is working.



Conclusion

The brethren agreed that our work in Haiti is bearing fruit, and hope that it can be continued by the grace of God and the support of our brethren. On the first evening of their visit, one of our brethren opened the Bible to the following: *"Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble."* PSALMS 41:1. May Almighty God direct us in the future as the work goes on.

- 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>
July	3,784	24,967	389,010

* 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.

*Old and New Testament Tapes - KJV Bible - Available
Puplit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.
- Available At Leo Bible Distribution Center -*

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Sometimes one might wonder how the account of Jesus healing the blind man in John 9 relates to daily life here at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. It seems the healing of this man speaks to the problem of human suffering and disabilities. Then as now, sickness has often been assumed to be divine punishment for sin or wrongdoing. Some of Jesus' disciples asked, "...Master, who did sin, this man, or his

parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). But Jesus answered them with a wonderful new truth. God can use human suffering or disabilities to reveal His glory. He said, "...Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (John 9:3). Jesus then showed what He was talking about by healing the man's blindness, thereby revealing Himself to be the Son of God.

All around us His glory is revealed if we take the time to stop and view Jesus at work. His glory

is seen when we observe a resident working hard to communicate an important thought, or participating in normal daily activities, or feeling good about a paycheck received after a hard week at work, or enjoying a hymn sing at Oakwood or Linden Estate, or hosting company in their "own" home, or learning a new skill which helps that person have a more independent, normal life. We see His glory when a staff member takes the time to teach a skill, or listen to an account of a visit with family, or lovingly provide physical care for a profoundly disabled person. It is at these times we can truly say, "His strength is made perfect in weakness."

We are thankful that our residents have continued to have opportunities to participate in activities of their choice this past month. Some examples include Friday night hymn singing with area churches at our larger facility, participating in the County Fair, joining Special Olympics tournaments, 4th of July fireworks, which were seen from the lawn to the north of Linden Estate and ACHH, weekly visits to the Morton Pool for water therapy, bike riding, summer camp, and mini vacations to various places. We especially appreciate volunteers who have participated in any of these activities as well.

Birthdays for September are: ACHH - Ed Green and Judy Vicic (both 3), Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin (10), Richard Harvey (14), Lester Miller (16), Lois Egli (19), Glenn Getz (20), Cindy Sigulas (22), Mike Bedford (26), Ethel Borinstein (29). OAKWOOD - David Maupin (20), Nancy Theis (25). LINDEN - David Taylor (13),

TEACHERS!*New On-grounds Education Program*

We are excited to announce a new education program at Gateway Woods. We plan to offer an on-grounds education program to residents who would benefit by a change from the public school setting. A few of our students find it difficult to overcome the negative peer pressure they sometimes face at school. We will be providing an alternative that gives them an opportunity to learn and grow in the same nurturing but structured environment as the one they come home to at the end of the school day. The on-grounds educational program will consist of one-half day of academic learning and one-half day of vocational training or community service.

Gateway Woods is looking for a full-time teacher to work with students in this new on-grounds education program. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the field. Special Education certification would be especially useful, as would training and experience in vocational education. If you have some of these qualifications and a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this might be the work He has in mind for you. For more information, you may contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder, P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, Office
219/627-2606, Home

David Bertsch, 11520 Souder Rd
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

Janet Christensen (16), Jim Maupin and Brent Rebeck (both 24), Doug Steffen (26). WAGLER - Marlene Esslinger (8). DETROIT CILA - Angie Massner (9). 241 MINNESOTA CILA - Janet Schweigert (10).

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

Lisa Kipfer

Recently I was challenged by a question someone asked me, "Do you serve God leftovers?" We were reading in the book of Malachi 1:7-14 about the blemished sacrifices the Israelites tried to bring before

**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.

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

**ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS
NEEDED**

We now have immediate openings for Alternate Houseparents. This position is for a married couple with a heart for troubled teens.

This is an opportunity for someone, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry with the rest of us at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and close working relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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

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

about giving God our leftover time. Like the Israelites, aren't we all tempted to give God just what He asks and nothing extra? The Israelites were required to sacrifice animals. So they just gave God the crippled and diseased animals instead of the very best. We should give God our best time and offerings, not our quick (because we got up late) early morning starter or our prayers with long yawns before we fall into bed. So many times we get so busy that we give God this little time here and there

WORK PROJECT DATES

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

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.

God, and how they could not see how that was so wrong. When I was asked the question, I had a hard time figuring out what was meant by "leftovers" and how that related to the blemished sacrifices. After much thought and discussion, I figured out that the question was

because we have a break. Or we do take time in the morning and night, but we do it out of duty instead of wanting to give God our best. The question was raised to challenge me to give God my best in everything, not the "leftovers". I just want to challenge you the same way. It may not be prayer and reading time that you struggle with, but all of us have a tendency to give God the "leftovers" and not our best in some areas.

As always, the summer has been busy. We had a fun packed weekend with Gridley Bible Class and Young Group on June 28-29. They were busy Saturday with planting and mulching trees around our pond, painting various things, and cleaning. Then there was pizza and singing in the evening. We appreciate all the hard work and willing attitudes. We would also like to thank our volunteers this month: Bros. Austin Smith (Bluffton, IN), Brian Blume (Wolcott, IN), and Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Sis. Andrea Rager (Bluffton, IN) for the time they spent here. We pray that God will bless all those who gave to make others' lives better.

"Top Quality" led by Bro. John Rassi is in full swing. The employees are Alex F., Courtney H., Samantha S., and Jesse S. These are residents who have been hired to work off-campus doing landscaping work. They have been busy landscaping at Gateway Woods, the church and various homes.

Once again, the time is coming for our annual Gateway Woods Auction and Sale. It is Saturday, August 16, 1997. The items are starting to come in fast. We appreciate all those who donate items

and come to the auction to support us. The proceeds go towards Gateway Woods operations so we are thankful for all those who give so kindly.

We have recently received the approval of our Board and Counseling Elders to begin developing an education program for certain residents who will be better served on-campus before returning to the peer pressure and open structure of public school. Our intention is to serve a small group of residents beginning this fall with the addition of a full-time teacher (see the ad in this issue).

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Sis. Jill Gramm (Gridley, IL) will soon join our staff team as our Assistant Houseparent to replace Sis. Janel Frank who was recently married. She comes to us from a computer programming position. She will be in good company, as her sister, Terri, also serves as an Assistant Houseparent here.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Molly Stickling

Summer in the South means temperatures above 90 degrees every day. Any activities having to do with water excite the children, and the teachers too. We are grateful for the beautiful sunshine, and a wonderful safe summer God has given to the preschool.

"A friend loveth at all times," Proverbs 17:17 was one of our Bible verses this month. I asked the children what it means to love all the time, and some of their replies were: "We have to play with our friends again and again and again and again." "We have to love our friends, mamas and daddies,

and...teachers too!" Lastly, a child said, "That's what God wants us to do." I found these simple answers to have a lot of meaning and truth.

It is always a blessing when volunteers come to our preschool. We are thankful for Sis. Elaine Graf (Altadena, CA) and Kristen Fischer (Roanoke, IL) for spending part of their summer with us. God bless you for your willingness to be used. The children love our volunteers, and always ask who is coming next. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact the preschool at (205) 233-0591.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

We were reminded of the power of prayer as our Bro. Carl Haggemaker extended his thankfulness and appreciation for the prayers of individuals and the church during the long illness of his wife, Sis. Shirley. Sis. Shirley passed away July 4 and we know she will be missed by many. We again are thankful for our church family's support and love that is shown during these hard times. What a blessing it is to have those that care. We continue to pray for those who have been sick or in need.

We do want to remember the spiritual needs of our church and the brothers as they meet together for the Brotherhood Conference. What an important time this is for our church to be united together, to work toward the good of our entire church, and not lose sight of the biblical foundation which we have been grounded upon. Let us make it our personal commitment to pray for this Conference and the conclusions drawn from it.

As our summertime comes to an end, we are thankful to all who have come and visited with us here. The families of those living here, volunteers helping at the Preschool, and the individuals just making time to worship with us, have been much appreciated. We truly do enjoy the enriched fellowship. Thank you each one.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.”

Psalm 36:10

Time after time God’s love is our strength and comfort. When His kindness flows through us to others, we have a joy and peace that is abundant.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Fred Domka and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We are grateful for your messages.

One of our Sunday School lads, Jamie Richardson, was chosen by the Phoenix Boy’s Choir to tour the world. Singing in England’s big cathedrals was impressive, but his own church with Dad, Carl, and grandmother, Sis. Lucille Richardson, is best.

We have a continuing need for prayers. Mary Beth Sutton has been in the hospital for treatment, Sis. Clara Banwart for tests, and Sis. Martha Elsasser for broken hip and arm.

We welcome Sis. Kristen Lehman and Brenna Aberle from Bern and Sabetha, KS. Both have secured employment and we pray they feel part of our church family.

Our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde on his father, Vernon’s, death. The family flew to Wisconsin for funeral services.

We also extend belated sympathy to Sis. Eileen Mauer (Bro. Howard) and Bro. Robert Baum (Sis. Chris) on their aunt’s death. Also to Bro. Clarence Beyer (Sis. Gerry) on his sister-in-law’s death while they were in Kansas.

Relatives are very special! In times of sickness and death, it is very difficult to be away from our roots; we are most grateful God knows our extra needs.

June and July were rather cool, but we got to 114 degrees on July 15.

We pray for our Elder brothers as they gather for the Brotherhood Conference. Keep Christ in the Apostolic Christian Church.

Doubt sees the obstacles
Faith sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night
Faith sees the day.
Doubt dreads to take a step
Faith soars on high.
Doubt questions, “Who believes?”
Faith answers, “I”.

—unknown

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

Our summer so far has been very dry and we are looking forward to our “monsoon” season that usually comes in July and August.

The Massner family reunion was held in our area over the 4th of July, so we were blessed with many visitors in our assembly that Sunday.

We wish to thank our ministering brothers this last month: Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), and retired

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), who always so willingly and lovingly serves us when another brother is unable to come. May God bless them all for their service of love.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

As summer is here, there is not much to report from the Tucson church. Our temperatures reached their normal range a few weeks ago giving us days with 109 degree heat. We didn’t have to suffer long as the monsoon rains are apparently settling in and temperatures have cooled off for awhile.

Many of our families vacationed at the same time this summer making for small groups for a few Sundays. We are almost all home now and thankful for the safe journeys God provided.

July will be our last month of vacation from fellowship suppers and Sunday School and then we will resume both activities in August.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joshua Martinez

“Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”

Ephesians 3:7

We feel thankful and blessed for our visiting ministers and their families this month. Thanks to Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for sharing the “unsearchable riches of Christ” with our Altadena family.

On July 19, Bro. Frank Sauder gave a presentation on the Ten Commandments. The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. We are grateful for the messages inspired through the love of our Lord and Saviour. We thank Bro. Frank for his labors on our behalf.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalms 127:3

On July 20, a blessed afternoon of fellowship at Hamilton Park was sponsored by the Sunday School. We appreciate everyone's hard work and cooperation in making it a successful and happy time. We are especially thankful for the children, for their enthusiasm and involvement in songs and activities. We are also thankful that our Lord provides those who are willing and able to teach our children each Sunday. May the Lord bless each of the Sunday School teachers and may the truths taught bear much fruit in years to come.

We pray for God's traveling mercies upon all those who plan to attend the annual Brotherhood Conference in Gridley, IL. May our Father's Almighty Spirit be with our Elders as they prayerfully seek His will and direction in guiding the flocks and preserving the faith.

We want to thank each one of our visitors this month. We want to extend a special invitation to stop in and visit our Altadena family should your travels bring you to this area. Have a happy month!

Correction (June issue): The report of the passing of Bro. Nathan should have read Bro. Nathan

Moser.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huetten

The previous month has been just wonderful. We had beautiful weather with lots of sunshine and low humidity, and we were richly blessed with many visitors. Amongst our visitors were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), and ministering Bros. Bill Dotterer and James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Fred Domka and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA). We certainly appreciate the many precious teachings delivered to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

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

Hymns of Zion #23

We thank Sis. Camille Vogt for her dedication and love as she taught the youngest Sunday School class for the past few years. May God bless her richly. Sis. Yasmine Petrovic will be the new teacher for the same class as Sunday School commences in September. May God be with her in this new endeavor.

David James Herrmann was born June 10 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (San Diego, CA). We rejoice with these families as they enjoy their new son and grandson.

Bro. Rory Strahm became very ill and was hospitalized for a short time. He is now home again and

doing better. May we continue to lift him up in prayer.

Sis. Frieda Minger who continues to reside at the Maple Manor Board and Care is in our prayers also. We miss her and wish her God's blessings.

Sis. Rose Kaplar who recently had surgery has been dismissed from the hospital and is doing much better. She was even able to attend church for morning services. She wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, love, cards, flowers and visits.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter

“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy; for by faith ye stand.”

II Cor. 1:24

“For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed.”

II Cor. 10:8

“Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.”

II Cor. 12:19

We are fast approaching the time of our annual Brotherhood Conference and it may already be past by the time this article is printed. I was recently reminded that the authority God has given our Elder brethren is for our benefit. Their authority, practiced in love and biblical truth, is from God

to help increase our faithfulness and therefore increase our peace and joy in serving Christ. It is not for a burden to us. Let us walk faithfully and obediently in the Lord.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

I Thess. 5:12-13

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month that came to labor in the Lord on our behalf. Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We are also very thankful for all of our other visiting brethren and friends.

We welcome all visitors who are planning to be in our area to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Christian greetings across the many miles!

We've enjoyed seeing those of you who have visited so far this summer and certainly look forward to seeing more of you before the summer ends. We are thankful God gave us such a beautiful state to share with you all.

We welcome two new families to this area. They are Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer (previously

from Detroit, MI) and their two children, Carrie and Caleb; and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue Steffen (previously from Elgin, IL) with their children, Britt and Whitney. We are glad God has directed them in our direction even though we know they will be missed in their home churches.

We appreciate the willingness to serve on the part of Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). We want to thank you brothers for letting the Lord work through you to bring us a message of hope.

A challenge for each of us would be to bow our hearts before God in humility and pray He would send His Spirit down in fullness among all the believers in His church.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Cherie Galat**

Let us hear and give attention,
God's own teaching to embrace...
Zion's Harp #217

It is that time of year again when our dear beloved brethren come together at the annual Brotherhood Conference to consider matters that affect our church. May we all pray for each brother who speaks and for God's will to be done. Let us heed to instruction so that we are found faithful.

May we never be found lacking to pray for our brethren on the pulpit. It is a blessing to have visiting ministering brethren and we thank Bros. Donald Manz (Junction, OH), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) for sharing out of His Word.

Many gathered on June 21 for

the annual Sunday School picnic. Thanks be to God for His blessing upon our Sunday School and for helping us serve Him better.

On June 19, Chad and Lynne Luginbuhl were blessed with a baby girl, Macy Alexandra. Grandparents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Pam Luginbuhl and Bob and Jean Kozuch. Bruce and Karyn Kloter also received a blessing. Benjamin Bruce was born on July 6. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter and Al and Margaret Krause. May these two dear couples look to God for guidance in the upbringing of their children.

July 13 was the wedding day of Bro. Dale Gerber (Bro. Everett and the late Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Mary-Ann Schneider (Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona). May their lives be filled with joy as they walk as one.

We welcome Bro. Shannon Stahl (Chicago, IL) who will continue his education here in the Northeast. May he feel the love of the Rockville brethren as he fellowships with us.

Our prayers are with those that have recently undergone surgery. May God be with Bro. Ernest Balasy (Sis. Aline) and Sis. Sandra Koch (Bro. Joseph) as they recover.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

This month we welcomed Bro. Tyler and Sis. Terisa Reimschisel to our congregation. Bro. Tyler is a resident at a hospital in Baltimore. Our locals now number sixteen; we are growing.

Our ministers this past month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia,

PA), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to visit us. The Sunday Bro. Dale and family were here was not one of our regularly scheduled Sundays and we thank Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen for opening their home to all of us. Other visitors this month were from Tremont and Fairbury, IL; and Philadelphia, PA.

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

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

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

We, as the members of Christ's body, have a responsibility to pray for the Elders and ministers and also to be obedient to them. As the Elders meet for several days before the Brotherhood Conference and then speak at the Conference, may

we remember them in prayer.

We are happy to have Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen) Luginbuhl assembling with us. He was in the hospital for several days but is now home and doing well. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Children are a blessing and so are grandchildren. Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Sutter are happy grandparents of Peter Winston. Peter is welcomed by his parents, Bro. Win and Sis. Amy Stoller (Peoria, IL).

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYER'S
Anjie Baum**

Our congregation would like to thank Bro. Roger Sauder and Elder Bro. Darrell (Bud) Klopfenstein for bringing the Word to us this month.

Our dear Sis. Kay Eisenmann will be having surgery this next week. She is in our prayers that the Lord's healing hand will be upon her.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32

The Lord recently gave me an amazing example of a forgiving heart. How easily He forgives us and how unconditional His love is. Often times those in our lives who are the most difficult to forgive are the ones most in need of forgiveness and most need to feel the love of Jesus. We are all challenged to follow Jesus' example.

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

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff Sabo and Sis. Rachel Koehl as they were united in marriage on July 13. It was extra special with both fathers participating in the marriage service. Parents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl, all of Sarasota.

Our congregation has been blessed with two new precious babies! On May 29, Gabriel Lynn came to join the family of Sis. Lynne and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III and big brother, Jeffy.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer also welcomed another son, Noah Elias, born July 6. Joseph and Mary love their new brother! Grandparents to both babies are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter II of Sarasota, and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS).

We also want to welcome Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Engst and their daughter, Sis. Rachelle Gudeman, who recently moved to our area.

Both old and young enjoyed a Sunday School excursion to Kennedy Space Center on June 21!

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp**

This summer has been uplifting and a joy to our congregation as many families have assembled with us while vacationing. May God bless each one who made the effort to come our way.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL). We appreciate these ministering brethren

who traveled a great distance to come and labor on our behalf.

As another school year begins, we pray that the Lord will guide and protect our children as they continue their education.

The Atlanta church is located south of the city. Take I-85 south to exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Carlene Jepson

It is hard to believe that it has been six years since the Belvidere church began holding regular Sunday services. So it was with joyful hearts that we could worship with some of our Elgin brethren during the first two weeks of July while their new church building was finished. We were also blessed with a large group of young brothers from many churches that worshipped with us on July 6. It was a blessing to have such a full church. The fellowship and beautiful singing were truly a "foretaste of glory divine".

We would like to welcome Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori Rumbold and their children, Katlyn, Tyler, and Kalie, as they moved to the Sycamore, IL area. We are glad to have them and hope they feel at home with us! We also welcome Bro. Thad Heinold (Cissna Park, IL) who is working in Milwaukee, WI during the summer.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana Schifferer and family for the passing away of their dear father and grandfather, Ed Schifferer (Sis. Dorothy), of Elgin, IL. May they

continue to seek God's comfort in this time of sorrow and loss.

May God be with our dear Elder brothers as they meet this month. Our prayers are with them as they consider the many issues that confront our Brotherhood.

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!

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Janice Horner - Carol Sauder

Bro. Matt Knapp and Sis. Dana Banwart (Fairbury, IL) were married June 15 in Fairbury. Parents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp and Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart of Fairbury. They will be making their home in the Chicago area. May the Lord bless them richly as they start anew.

The young adults and older adults were melded together as they went on a spirit-filled work team to Bethany, KY during the week of June 16-21. July 9 was a highlight for the work team as they shared their experience with our congregation. Each of the participants spoke of their specialized job and how it contributed to the Bethany home. In the evenings, they held Vacation Bible School lessons and crafts for the children. The children presented a program on the last night, which was very well attended by parents and many in the Bethany community. We glorify our great God for His love toward us.

June 29 was the date of our annual Sunday School picnic at Com-

lara Park. Our children always love this picnic and we appreciate all the efforts from their teachers in planning this event.

We thank Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) for selflessly ministering God's Word to us on July 6.

Sis. Sue Grusy (Bro. John) recently underwent back surgery. She is at home slowly recovering, and she would appreciate our continued prayers for her to heal quickly. Her husband and their four little sons are eagerly waiting for Mom's health to return.

Lindsey Jean was born July 7 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Karen Kieser. She joins older siblings, Jason, Melissa, and Travis. Grandparents are Louis and Jean Kieser, and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evelyn Hangartner (Roanoke, IL).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Acts 15:6

As our Elders come together from around the globe to consider the weighty matters concerning our church at this year's Brotherhood Conference, let us pray earnestly that God's wisdom may rest upon each one, that His Holy Spirit may be amongst them, and that His will might be done. However, our duty does not end in just praying for them. Let us also obey their exhortations and chastisements, for in so doing we obey the voice of God. Finally, let's lift them up and encourage them for they watch for our souls.

In August, talk of harvest may not seem relevant (unless it pertains to some items from the garden). But there is a harvest that knows no particular season: the harvest of souls into the Lord's sheepfold. For whenever we may look upon the fields of souls, they are always "white unto harvest"! Bryan Klumpp has recently answered God's call unto repentance. Parents are Bro. David and Sis. Barb Klumpp. May God grant him the grace to undergo a true repentance and conversion that he may be among the "harvest" of the saints some day.

This past month we were also privileged to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Brent Kieser to Sis. Fawn Esslinger (Peoria, IL). Parents are Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser and Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Pulaski, IA). May God bless them with His favor in their engagement time together.

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

Growth and expansion seem to be something of a theme for us this month. We have had two weddings, at least one new person move in, one family move on, and another believer added to the fold. On June 22, we gathered at a farewell picnic for Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy Schieler and their children, Abbey and Jarod. Eric has moved with the company he works for, and they will now be attending the Elgin, IL church. As Eric mentioned earlier this spring, this is actually an expansion of our church and we expect to see them back with us from time to time.

Moving into our congregation

was Bro. Matt Graf of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He will be working this summer and will be attending Parkland College in the fall. We hope that he feels at home with us and does not mind trading waves of ocean for waves of grain.

"How great is God's goodness to have given you to me to love for a lifetime." (Anon.) This summer seems to be busy with weddings involving young couples who are making Champaign their home church while in school. Our Bro. Aaron Carnahan married U of I student, Sis. Jill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). Aaron works in sales at an auto dealership and Jill is studying pre-medicine. Their new address is 502 W. Main St., Apt. 311, Urbana, IL 61801. If Aaron and Jill need to borrow some eggs for breakfast, they can just run downstairs to the newly established couple of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy (Mott) Rassi. Andy is from the Chicago congregation and is studying computer science at U of I. Sandy, of Morton, will begin her graduate studies in speech pathology at U of I in the fall. Their address is 502 W. Main St., Apt. 116, Urbana, IL 61801. We wish these newlywed neighbors many blessings as they combine establishing a Godly home, work and education. We are very happy to have them as a part of our church family. A church singing shower for these two couples was held in July.

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve;...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

There is now a sense of completeness to the home of ministering Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen

Banwart. Neil, their youngest child and a sophomore at U of I, gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of July 13. We don't have many young adults who have lived here all their lives as Neil has, and he is a very special person to our church family. It has been a true joy to observe Neil's growing-up years and these past several months during his conversion. It was a special blessing to hear his testimony and witness his baptism. The purity of heart, the evident change of purpose, and the willingness and eagerness to continue to grow in spirit seem to shine out from our new brother with striking clearness. We welcome him into the brotherhood and ask for the continued fervent prayers of believers that many more who have not yet made this life-changing decision to accept the sacrifice made by Christ would order their priorities and do so quickly.

With school scheduled to begin in just a short time, whether it would be in kindergarten as it is for our son, Joel, in graduate school, or as a classroom teacher or support person, it is important that we keep this event's importance in our thoughts and prayers. As Christians, we have a great opportunity to serve as examples to those around us. In the public setting of school, we have an opportunity that we might not otherwise have to be a light to others. We have seen in our local congregation that our numbers have grown as associates from school see living lights around them and start coming to church and making changes in their lives. Perhaps a good song for us to recall would be "This Little Light of Mine". We need to

make an earnest effort to keep from hiding our light under a bushel.

As a special reminder to any new students coming to school in Champaign-Urbana in the fall, the annual New Student Welcome Sunday is scheduled for September 7. All parents are encouraged to accompany their student(s) to church, then join in a large picnic at a local park. A mailing regarding the welcome day has been sent out to those who were known to be coming to Champaign-Urbana. Any questions or need for further details could be directed to the secretary of the student group, Sis. Staci Schambach at (217) 355-1751.

From time to time, we have an "invite a friend" Sunday or Wednesday evening. At this designated Wednesday evening in June, Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) was our guest and spoke on "The Blessings of Worship". Others who visited our pulpit over the past month include Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Andrew Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We appreciate the time that each of these men and their families sacrifice in order to help us all grow spiritually.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

"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;..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

We offer our sympathy to Bro. Jay Leman (Sis. Teri) and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Bro. Tom) at the passing of their mother, Sis. Myra Leman (Bro. Jim), from Roanoke, IL. But we know their sorrow is mingled with joy as Sis. Myra's grandson, Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean), has turned to the Lord in repentance.

"...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"

Eccles 3:2

We heartily welcome three newcomers to our congregation this month: Bro. Phil Conrad (Cissna Park, IL) and Anthony and Katalin Tolgyesi (Hungary). We look forward to fellowshiping with them and pray that the "transplanting" process can be fertilized by the church.

"A time to love..."

Eccles. 3:8

Bro. Andrew Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) and Sis. Sandra Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) were united in marriage on June 22 in Morton, IL. Sis. Melinda Knapp (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia) and Bro. Larry Gramm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille) announced their engagement July 6. We wish both couples God's blessings and warm congratulations.

"...a time to speak;"

Eccles. 3:7

July 7-11 we were blessed to have five Godly men speak to us during our Vacation Bible School.

Our topic was "God the Master Planner." Ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) each taught us about a piece of God's Master Plan.

The children were also filling their minds with different areas of God's Master Plan and shared some of what they learned in song during a program on the last evening. We pray that the learning that occurred both for the children as well as the adults can have far-reaching effects on the Kingdom of God.

Also ministering to us this month were Bros. Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We certainly appreciate your willingness to serve.

King Solomon grappled for some time with the meaning of all of life's activities. As we go about the busy activities of summer, let us keep in mind Solomon's concluding thought:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Eccles. 12:13

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

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

Psalms 122:1

One June 28, several couples in

our congregation hosted the Camp Pickett reunion at the fellowship hall. Many of the couples joined us for Sunday as well. We are thankful for the willingness of Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) to share the Word with us. What a blessing comes from fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

July 6 was the day Sis. Melinda Knapp and Bro. Larry Gramm's engagement was made known. Parents of this happy couple are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm of Eureka, IL. Plans are being made for an August 24 wedding.

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

Psalm 127:3

It is always exciting news when new babies are born. On June 18, Jared Max was born to Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb. Happily welcoming him home were his siblings, Joanna, Michael, Benjamin, Julia and Joel, and grandparents, Sis. Grace Bauer and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. Alan James was born on June 23 to Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb. His welcoming family includes siblings, Leah, Ryan and Evan, and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannie Kaufman and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb.

Grandparents, Jim and Betty Hofbauer, are excited to announce the arrival of a new grandchild, Daniel William, born July 3 to Karl and Jill Weiss of Channahon, IL. May God bless each little family with godly wisdom as they raise

their children.

We were saddened at the passing of our Sis. Elizabeth Knapp. Although she had not lived here in her latter years, we still remember her as a very loving sister in Christ. Her funeral was held here on June 30.

Our hospital patients this month include Sis. Mary Bauer, Bro. Aaron Bauer, Bro. Herman Bauer, and Sis. Elsie Ehman. May God restore each one to good health again.

Sunday, July 13, was the day for the all church picnic. After a delicious meal, planned activities and games were enjoyed by the Sunday School students.

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

Colossians 3:17

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Linda Knobloch

Missy Banwart

On July 7, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette Knepp were blessed with their third child, Joshua Douglas. He joins his sisters, Dawn and Heather. Gary Knepp and Sis. Nancy Knepp and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma Stahl are the thankful grandparents.

We appreciate the efforts of our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Those who labor not in love labor in vain.

—Gibran

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Peggy Heiniger

Norma Schambach

Sunday, July 20, was the first service in our new church. We are truly grateful for all God has given us. It was mentioned that it was like visiting another church except we knew everyone and didn't need to spend hours on the road to get home. Is this what Heaven will be like? We will be in a new place, know everybody, and we will have reached our home. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into building this earthly temple. Are we working as diligently and with as much enthusiasm in our own spiritual life, as our heart is the temple of God?

September 13 and 14 have been set aside for Open House and Dedication. We extend a hearty welcome to all.

Micah Bachtold, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty, is stationed in San Diego on a tour of duty with the marines. Remember him in your prayers. We're sure he would appreciate hearing from you.

REC. BACHTOLD

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San Diego, CA 92140-5594

Many others, young and old alike, will be leaving home to attend school. How exciting it is for little ones to learn to read. We hope that someday their favorite book to read will be the Bible. Our churches will feel the void as our young people go off to college; our prayers go with them.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). Once again, we thank them for their

faithful service.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ruth Schurter in the loss of their son, James, of Stevens Point, WI. He died June 22 after a lingering illness. God alone can comfort the sorrowing heart.

July 4, Sis. Dorothy Schifferer said goodbye to her dear husband, Ed. Sis. Dorothy endured much as she watched him battle illness after illness. May God reward her for her unflinching love. We trust His nearness will be felt by her and their children, Bro. Bill (Sis. Lana) of Belvidere, and Bro. Glenn (Sis. Shirley), Mary LaBuy, Judy Alfors, Kenneth, and Jim Wacker.

August 9 is the wedding of Tony Feucht (Chuck and Carolyn) and Angie Johnson (Rick and Terry) of McHenry. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home.

Tony and Kenda Martin are thankful for a new son. Quintin Anthony was born on July 8. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin.

God works in miraculous ways as He draws the stranger afar off to come sit in heavenly places and eventually find the need of repentance and salvation. We praise God for His mercy in bringing Eric Humbrach to our congregation. He found blessed fellowship in the many hours he gave of his time during the building of our church. We learned to know and love him and pray that God will guide him each step of the way.

We are thankful Bro. Earl Steffen is able to assemble with us. May God be with him as he faces another surgery.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to each one who remembered me with your prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls, food and visits since my surgery. May God bless each one for your deeds of kindness shown to me and my family.

Bro. Earl Steffen

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:42

We were reminded recently in a sermon that the one thing that is needful is to choose to be close to Jesus. We should take example from Mary and Martha and be careful that we are not encumbered with the cares of life inasmuch that we make the wrong choices.

We thank Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for serving us in the ministry recently.

We will miss the cheerful presence of Sis. Elizabeth Knapp who was called to be with her Lord on June 25. Her funeral was held in Cissna Park. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara Zimmerman's new little baby son, Noah, was recently in the hospital for a few days. We pray that he will soon be well again.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me on my 90th birthday.

Bro. Sam Leman

My sincere thanks to all for prayers, flowers, fruit, cookies, cards, and many other kind deeds of friends since my hip fracture. Also for solace at the passing away of our dear sister, Sis. Louise Finck. God bless you all.

Sis. Caroline Moser

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

We were blessed once again to have had two dear souls come into our fold as sisters-in-faith. Sis. Carolyn Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Jessi Maurer (Steve and Sis. Donna) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on June 22.

We thank Elder Bros. Arthur Nohl (Morris, MN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in this work. Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) also visited us this month and we thank them for their labors of love.

June 29 was the wedding of Bro. Chris Steidinger (Bro. Donald, and Sis. Alice, Gridley) and Sis. Carol Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) at Princeville, IL. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home.

We rejoice and thank God that Karla Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) has answered God's call to repentance. May God grant her grace, faith and guidance along her way.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Steidinger are happy first-time parents of a baby boy, Colton Michael, born June 23. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey and the late LeRoy Menold (Sabe-

tha, KS) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Lila Rokey (Bern, KS), John and Loree Menold (Sabetha, KS), Alfred and Helen Dettwyler (Silverton, OR) and Ollie Steidinger.

As the Brotherhood Conference in Gridley, IL approaches, may we all pray that our beloved Elders feel the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen) and Bro. Bill Schmidgall (Sis. Anna) have been elected to teach our youth in Sunday School. We wish them God's guidance. We thank Bros. Randy Steidinger (Sis. Dawn) and Rich Huber (Sis. Dawn) for their love in teaching our dear children.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy (William) Strieb in the death of her brother, Harvey Zehr, 81, on June 20. Also we extend our sympathy to Sis. Emma Meister and Pauline Lawrence in the loss of their brother, Edward Meister, 82, on July 6.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Emma Meister, Bro. Melvin Hartman, and Sis. Sally Schieler. We are thankful for the healing power of God and hope they have a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Acts 15:6

It is again the time of year when our dear Elders and brethren gather together to meet and feel God's Spirit give direction on the many matters facing the church

today. We trust they will feel our prayerful support.

Little Philip Steffen has arrived in the home of Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts. Welcoming their new baby brother are big sisters, Emily and Laura. His grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen.

We were happy to have Bro. Tom Leman and his wife, Sis. Marlene (Denver, CO), spend a Wednesday evening with us. May God bless him for his willingness to share the Word of Life.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub in the death of her brother, Harvey Zehr (Fairbury, IL). We also sympathize with Don and Marge Stephens in the loss of their son-in-law, Jim (Pam) Weeks (Forrest). We pray that they may feel God's nearness and comforting Spirit during this time of sorrow.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Elmer Ifft as he has undergone heart surgery. May he feel God's healing power during his recovery from this serious operation and we hope he will again be blessed with good health.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Jan Beer

The family of Ira Rokey wishes to express their sincere thanks for all the prayers, love, cards, memorials and many deeds of kindness during the recent illness and passing of their beloved husband, dad and grandpa. May the Lord bless you.

Carolyn Rokey, Gene and Dolores Metzger and family, Doug and Myrna Schwenk and family

"I can find no words to fully express how we've been touched by the true love shown to us by so many! Thank you for all the prayers, cards, gifts and many other deeds of kindness shown to us during the time of my surgery, treatments, and continuing recovery! May the Lord richly bless each one of you!"

Ben and Kris Bauman and family

The above expressions of gratitude are a wonderful reminder to all of us that we are truly a family. When one family member hurts, we all hurt. When one family member grieves, we all grieve. Likewise, when one family member rejoices, we all rejoice. On June 22, we all were rejoicing with Sis. Ruth Wiegand as she pledged her love to Bro. Sam Moser, and then an engagement was announced! Now we all are rejoicing with Sis. Anna Hohulin and Bro. Darren Schrock (Congerville, IL). Parents of the couple are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock. We wish our newly married and our newly engaged couples God's richest blessings and continued guidance in their lives.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa Rieke, Brittany and Robbie are happy with the addition to their family of Seth Brian born June 23. Grandparents are Rick and Fonda Rieke and Sis. Elna Grimm. There's nothing sweeter than a newborn baby!

On June 28, Elder Bro. Joe Braker assisted our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp with the testimonies of Gary and Connie Allen and Connie's daughter, Chanel Zacha. They testified of the love and grace

of God and the very personal experience they had with the Saviour. Those who give their testimonies to the church may not realize what an encouragement it is to the rest of us. The sacrifice Jesus made for us was re-emphasized in my mind when Connie said, "When God turned His face away from Jesus on the cross, that was awful!" Thank you for your testimonies, Gary, Connie and Chanel—we heartily welcome you as our Brother and Sisters in the Lord.

After the baptisms on Sunday, June 29, our annual Sunday School Church Picnic was held at the Fellowship Hall.

On July 6, Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Lemman (Denver, CO) visited the Goodfield congregation. We rejoice with Sis. Kris that you could spend some time with her and the family. Thank you, Bro. Tom, for your service in the ministry.

Bro. Matt, Sis. Laurie, Grant and Maci Hohulin have come "home" for their first family visit since being transferred to Belgium this Spring. It was wonderful to exchange a hug and kiss with them. Isn't it reassuring to know that God lives in Belgium too?

During the vacation season, we pray God's traveling mercy upon each traveler. May your time together as a family strengthen the family unit and bring praise to our Father in Heaven.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Someone once said, "The burden isn't heavy when everyone lifts." This is true when considering our walk of faith.

Each member of Christ's body finds the Christian walk a little

easier when the yoke of belief and lifestyle is equal—when we are able to meet the Bible's ideal of being perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgments.

A distinguishable feature of our faith over the years has been our sense of consistency and common practice as we have sought to be a "light" for Christ's glorious cause.

Our quest for unity can be realized as the flesh is crucified at the time of conversion, and humbleness of mind and manner becomes prominent. And each day thereafter—day in and day out, and year in and year out—we must by God's grace, and like the example of the Apostle Paul, crucify the flesh. To become dead to the world and alive unto Christ is a continuing challenge for all of us.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

A daughter was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Schlipf. Their first child was named Bethany Lynne. Grandparents are Sis. Marge Schlipf and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol Baurer (Princeville, IL).

Sis. Jamie Knapp and Bro. Casey Knobloch were united in marriage on July 13 at Taylor, MO (her former home church). Her parents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Luann Knapp. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Judy Knobloch (Bloomington, IL). We wish this new young couple much happiness in the days ahead.

Sis. Mary Stoller (Bro. Harold) was recently hospitalized.

Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) was a guest minister on July 13.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

June 22 found us rejoicing with Sis. Sandy Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) from Chicago, IL as they exchanged their wedding vows. May they maintain the threefold cord not lightly rent apart.

Sis. Tasha Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly) and Bro. Tom Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy) from Washington, IL became one in Christ Jesus as they were married July 6. We rejoice with them as they establish a new home with Christ as the Head.

Harold Hofmann is now residing at Meadows Mennonite Home, Chenoa, IL 61726. May the Lord be with him as he makes this adjustment.

We welcome Bro. John Feucht to our Morton congregation from Elgin, IL. He recently moved to our community and is residing at our church Parkside apartments.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisemann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Jim Rinkenberger and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us this past month. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

Every year when August comes around, we think of all the students returning to school. Whether they are home taught or going to a neighborhood school, or whether they are venturing away

to college or a first time job, we pray a special prayer of protection for them.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

Bro. Jim Hoerr's final pulpit service was on June 22 on Proverbs 11 and Galatians 5. God has given us more than we expected. "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord" (vs. 11), but we are going to be glad when the Lord tips the balance in our favor on Judgment Day. The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 go hand in hand with a child of God and should be reviewed from day to day to demonstrate the power of God and His influence over our lives. Bro. Jim has preached the Word faithfully and dynamically over 40 years to the edification and benefit of the Peoria congregation and many others. He expressed the hope that the Word will continue to shine forth as a beacon on a hill from 3420 N. Sheridan Road. We sincerely thank Bro. Jim for his untold labors in the service of the Lord and wish him God's richest blessings and rewards. "...he that winneth souls is wise." (vs. 30).

Many thanks to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall (Morris, MN) for their visit on June 29 and Bro. Floyd's sermon on I Samuel 5 and Luke 6. The Philistines were a warlike sea people in the southwest coastal strip of Palestine and had a higher culture (using iron extensively) than the Israelites, yet afraid of them because they seemed to have something special in their God. After capturing the ark in battle, they expected to overcome the Israelites but the priests of their pagan god Dagon advised to return it to the Israel-

ites because plagues had befallen them. If we worship anybody but God, we are idol-oriented. We cannot forget that God must come first in our lives and our spiritual vision must be in focus. Jesus healed the man's withered hand on the sabbath and caused the Pharisees to lose glitter and standing, but He gave us a better value than the old law by fulfilling it and providing the plan of salvation.

Bro. David Obergfel's topic for the family night service on July 2 was "Freedom in Christ". The 4th of July reminds us that our forefathers declared independence from Britain and confirmed it with the constitution. Our spiritual fathers were striving for independence from Satan and the law, without a flag, but rallying around the cross. Jesus sets us free from sin and death if we follow Him and do His will.

"Knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:6). God provided the clothing for Adam and Eve; minimal progress was made during the Dark and Middle Ages, but today we live in an unprecedented age of hi-tech accomplishments, such as the landing of Pathfinder on Mars on July 4 after a seven month journey of 119,000,000 miles. God had put everything on our planet during creation which was needed and only sunrays and an occasional meteorite have been added from the cosmos since then. Man was permitted to discover, invent and develop today's amazing environment, creating an annual world gross product of \$30 trillion. Has faith in, and knowledge of, God increased proportionately? God expects us not to just cope, but flourish in the spirit and expectation of the eternal blessings He has

promised His followers.

The engagement of Bro. Brent Kieser (Bradford, IL) to Sis. Fawn Esslinger (Pulaski, IA) was announced on June 29. They plan to make Peoria their church and we wish them God's blessings for their life together.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Robert Beyer, Sisters Katherine Hoerr, Marie Kieser, Lillian Ramseyer, Marie Schafer and Lucille Knobloch. Our prayers are with them.

Sis. Lydia Stoller (93) passed away at the Skylines on June 24 and Sis. Elizabeth Knapp (Sinn, Kammerer) (93) passed away on June 25 at the Eureka Home. Sis. Elizabeth immigrated as a young girl from Schabenhäusen, Germany and has enriched the congregations of Peoria, Cissna Park, Sarasota (FL), and Eureka with her dignified and cheerful presence. Bro. Emil Schubert (97) finished a long journey of years and miles on July 1 at the Skylines. He came as an infant with his parents from Lichtenstein/Saxony (East) Germany to Philadelphia and then Peoria. We visited Bro. Arno Markert and three sisters then living in that part of (East) Germany a few years ago and saw the now empty lot where the Schubert home place once stood. Bro. Emil Schubert Sr. was a well-known Elder for Peoria and other midwest congregations for many years. Sis. Emma Leman (97) finished her earthly course on July 17 at the Skylines, where she had resided since 1979. Those who mourn have the promise of being comforted.

Brahm's Lullaby was in order on June 29 for Peter Winston, first child of Bro. Win and Sis. Amy (Sutter) Stoller; on July 8 for

Avery Suzanne, third daughter of Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill (Stoller) Gutwein; on July 11 for Jake Herbert, third child of Bro. Brent and Sis. Marti (Stoller) Gutwein (Francesville, IN); and on July 9 for Wyll David, fourth son of Bro. Brent and Sis. Lynne (Pflederer, Elsasser) Teubel. Congratulations to the happy parents and grandparents.

"We wish to thank everyone for the good wishes, cards and gifts on our 65th wedding anniversary. May the Lord bless you all." Bro. Ernie and Sis. Anna Schneider. May God continue to bless them from day to day and let them feel His nearness and support.

Sis. Stella Bessler was hospitalized some time ago and has submitted this note: "I wish to thank all for your prayers, flowers, cards and gifts of love while I was in the hospital and since returning home. God's blessings to all."

"Josia was eight years old when he began to reign and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." (II Chronicles 34:1-2). He must have had zeal, motivation, a good attitude and, no doubt, tutoring and assistance from able teachers and advisers. May our students, who will soon begin a new school year, be blessed with the same essentials.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Joanna Herrmann

In Hebrews chapter 13, the Lord would have us to "remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." (13:7). We are also told to "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they

watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (13:17). Let us earnestly pray for our Elder and ministering brethren, and the upcoming Brotherhood Conference, that "...the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (II Corinthians 4:7)

The month of June was a month for weddings, as we witnessed three couples make their marriage vows. On June 1, Sis. Wanda Baer and Bro. John Kinsinger (Elgin, IL) were married. Sis. Wanda is the daughter of Ray and Sis. Janna Lou, and Bro. John is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy of Elgin. We will miss Sis. Wanda in Princeville.

On June 22, Sis. Tonya Wieland and Bro. Kevin Stoller (Leo, IN) were married. Sis. Tonya is the daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Nancy, and Bro. Kevin is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Patricia of Leo, IN. They plan to live in Danvers, IL and will attend our congregation in Cissna Park, IL.

Sis. Carol Streitmatter and Bro. Chris Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) were married on June 29. Sis. Carol is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane, and Bro. Chris is the son of Bro. Donald Steidinger of Fairbury and Sis. Alice Steidinger of Gridley. We pray God's nearness and guidance be with these three couples as they build their Christian homes.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda Kieser have been blessed with another little girl. Heather Lynn was born July 1. She joins older siblings, Amanda and Chad. Thankful grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser, and Bro.

Ike and Sis. Donna Martin.

Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold were also blessed with another girl. Claire Joann was born July 2. Claire's big sisters are Lynelle and Rhea. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress of Bradford.

Sis. Sheryl Martin will be the new Silver Lining correspondent, replacing Sis. Joanna Herrmann; also Sis. Sonia (Bro. Gale) Stoller will replace Sis. Joanna in Sunday School. We pray God's presence and guidance be with these two sisters in their duties.

WHICH DISTURBS YOU MOST?

Which disturbs you most? A soul that is lost or a scratch on your new car? Your missing a day in the house of God or missing a day at work? A sermon 10 minutes too long or lunch a half hour late? A church not growing or your garden not growing? Your Bible unopened or your newspaper unread? The millions who do not know Christ or your inability to keep up with the neighbors? The cry of the multitude for bread or your desire for another piece of German chocolate cake? Support for God's work decreasing or your income decreasing?

WHICH REALLY DISTURBS YOU MOST?"

G. Christian Weiss

*(borrowed from Silver Lining
May 1979)*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

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

Psalm 127:3

Jeff and Jodie Sauder have been blessed with a new baby girl. Wade and Taylor welcome Macie Kay as

their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder and Duane and Vermeda Freidinger (Goodfield, IL).

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). May God bless these brothers, along with their families for their labors of love.

Our heartfelt thanks is extended to our Bro. Jim Leman who has retired from the ministry. May God bless Bro. Jim and his family for all the years of faithful and dedicated service to the Roanoke congregation.

Bro. Jeremy Zimmerman and Sis. Angie Suttor (Peoria, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on June 1. Their parents are Rick and Sis. Raylene Zimmerman and Bro. Steven and Sis. Jane Suttor (Peoria, IL).

Recent hospital patients were Elaine Hodel (Roger), Sis. Kathy Fehr (Ben), Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Ruth Hodel (Bro. Warren). May they feel the prayers and concerns of their brethren.

The weekend of July 19-20, four dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Bro. Matthew Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Bro. Martin Rebeck (Bro. Marty and Sis. Patty), Sis. Lydia Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Emily Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary) as our new brethren in Christ. May they feel God's love as they have sought Christ in their youthful days.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord.
His love and truth with one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

Note of Thanks:

The family of Ralph Knepp would like to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness in the past 2 1/2 years. Whether you stopped in for a visit, took Dad for a ride, prayed for him or provided food or memorials after his death, we truly appreciate each act of love. May God bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elders as they meet and consider the divers and strange doctrines that they are faced with in this day and time in which we find ourself. May God grant each of them His abundant grace to carry out their duties to His honor.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Mark 16:15-16

After many years of walking in the ways of this world, our friend, Helen Bolliger, was able to answer God's call, give testimony of her belief and faith in God and be baptized. We welcome her and count it a special privilege to be able to meet her as our new sister in faith.

We also wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) for coming and ministering the Word of God to us. May God richly bless him for his labor of love.

Josiah John was born June 19 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi Koch. He was welcomed home by a brother, Gabriel; grandparents, Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller

(Leo, IN).

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Robert, Sis. Doris Baer and family as Bro. Robert's sister, Alice Baer, was called home; and to Bro. Ron, Sis. Lynnette and family in the passing of Bro. Ron's father, Bro. Joe Menold, Sabetha, KS. May God grant those who are sorrowing an extra measure of His comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

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

James 1:2-4

A boy visiting his grandfather on the farm was fascinated watching the hatching of a chick. He was worried about the chick's struggle. The chick would peck and peck until chips of shell would fall. Repeatedly, the chick would stop and lay almost motionless in complete exhaustion. But then it would be back at it again. "Why don't we help the chick, Grandpa?" asked the boy. "Have patience and watch. If we help him, it would hurt him. It might even kill him." After the chick finally hatched, Grandpa explained, "The struggle to be hatched prepares the chick for life. The battle gives it strength and determination."

We often wonder why God doesn't do something about our struggles and burdens. Some people give up hope and think He doesn't care. But adversity makes

us stronger. We trust God more and our faith is strengthened. Jesus Himself was not exempt from struggles or temptations. Yet He was victorious as He took the burden of our sins upon Himself at Calvary. He understands our struggles and gives us power to place our hope in Him and persevere.

We rejoice with two young couples as they were united in marriage this month. The first couple is Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha (Kaiser) Steffen. Bro. Tom's parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen. Sis. Tasha's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser (Morton, IL). The second couple is Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina (Metz) Hodel. Bro. Eric's parents are Kent and Janet Hodel. Sis. Gina's parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL). We pray for a long and happy life together for all.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers attend our church. Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) conducted our monthly Bible study. Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) all spoke from the pulpit. Thank you, brothers, for being so willing to share and let God work through you.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Dolly Schick and family in the death of Sis. Dolly's brother, Bro. Sam Feucht, of Portland, OR. May the Lord provide strength to endure their loss.

We would like to welcome Emily Rose Endress. She is the adopted daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Endress. She is from South Korea and is four months old.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Trudy Eisenmann

Kim Maller

On the weekend of July 13, our high school Sunday School participated in Christian Endeavor. It is a good opportunity for kids to meet churches and to participate in activities in a relaxed atmosphere.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Evelyn Graber celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. What a testimony!

We regret the passing of Doug Sipe; Bro. Clarence Steffen (Sis. Freida); and Sis. Ada Gerber (late Bro. David), and extend our sympathy to their families.

Coming into the world were Hannah Vandentop, daughter of Jim and Rhonda Vandentop; and Kayla Sue, daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler.

Ronnie Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie) has accepted God's call to salvation, as well as Wes Axson, and Alan Macklin (Bro. Carl and Sis. Betty). We rejoice with them in finding the truth of Jesus!

We are prayerful for Sis. Sandy Ringger who is slowly recovering, and Bro. Herb Frauhiger (Sis. Lucille) and Bro. Richard Reinhard who were in the hospital.

We rejoice with Bro. Marvin Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) and Sis. Brittany Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) who were married July 13.

On July 20, we celebrated the wedding of Bro. Jason Habegger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene) and Sis. Janel Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy).

We also are happy for three couples who were engaged this month. Bro. Kris Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Heidi Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) an-

nounced their engagement; Bro. Kevin Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita, Roanoke, IL) is engaged to Sis. Amy Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce); and Bro. Dave Stieglitz (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan of Leo, IN) is engaged to Sis. Paige Massner of Taylor, MO (Bro. Al and Sis. Rosie). We are excited for them.

Thanks goes out to Sis. Brenda Bertsch for helping Sis. Kim Maller write this column for so many years.

Hope you all have a great summer!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

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

Romans 5:1

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) for bringing us the message this month. May we always be prayerful for the ministers who put forth the effort to share the Word with us.

We are thankful for two souls who have found grace unto repentance. They are Nathan Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Becky) and Alan Macklin (Carl and Betty). May God always guide them as they begin their walk in the faith.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler welcomed Kayla Sue into their home on July 3. She joins Shawn, Jessica and Rebekah at home. Grandparents are Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler and Bro. William and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander.

On July 13, Sis. Brittany Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) and Bro. Marvin Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis.

Genny) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new life together.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life."

Psalms 42:7-8

Truly have we heard His precious song in the night and witnessed His lovingkindness in the daytime these past months as 14 souls have given the Lord their broken hearts. He promises us that "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). We thank God for His abounding mercy and grace.

Our theme for the week of Bible School, June 23-27 was "Pressing toward the mark on our journey of life" based on Philippians 3:13-14. We appreciate the effort made by all the ministers who took the time to prepare and be with us: Bros. Steven Baner (Gridley, IL), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Phil

Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and our home minister, Steve Gutwein.

Thanks also goes to Bro. Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) for sharing with us in God's Word this past month. May the Lord bless you for your labor of love.

We have many more reasons to give thanks yet this past month. Sis. Elsie Yaggie is back at home after being in and out of the hospital for some time. Also, Sis. Viola Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil) is in church with us once again after having been out since January due to surgery.

May God bless Brandon and Rosa Wuethrich as they began their new life together on June 21. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy Wuethrich and Jose and Kathy Mojica.

Also celebrating new life are Bro. Brent and Sis. Marti Gutwein. Jake Herbert was born July 11 and met his sister, Heike, and brother, Victor, for the first time. Grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Marian Gutwein.

Christian Endeavor was held at Francesville July 12-13. It was such a joy to hear so many of the young people were willing to pitch in and work together on the World Relief projects Saturday and to see them fill the church on Sunday. You were an encouragement to us.

A special thank you goes to Sis. Val Gutwein (Bro. Jan) for the five years she has written as our correspondent for the Silver Lining. The time and thoughtfulness she put into her work has been a blessing to all. "...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth

labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Dotterer

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Revelation 1:3

Revelation was the theme for the high school Vacation Bible School held June 16-20. They learned what God had to say about the churches, about the seals, trumpets and bowls, and what Heaven will be like. God promises that everything will be new! (Rev. 21:5)

The preschool through 8th grades learned what it means to be a promise maker. They learned about several people in the Bible who made promises and kept them. For example, Ruth promised Naomi to follow wherever she goes and take care of Naomi. Because Ruth promised this, God blessed Ruth by sending her to Boaz' barley field where much food was gathered and also placing her in the lineage of Jesus. The students also learned that God's promises are trustworthy and true.

We want to welcome Ryan and Holly Meister to Indianapolis. We are excited to see our church growing in number! However, we will miss Bro. Lance Pfeifer who is moving to the University of Michigan to finish his Ph.D. in Chemistry and Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr and family who are moving to Francesville, IN due to a job change. We know that God is faith-

ful and will be with them no matter where they live.

We also joyously welcome little Leah Marie born July 8 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Baumgartner. Big brother, Zachary, welcomed her home.

Thank you to all our visiting ministers this month and sharing the Word with us. They included Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

Hearts are warmed and arms are full as little Jaela Quincy Gudeman was born to Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole Gudeman. First-time parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlouser (West Bend, IA).

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Gene Heinold escaped with minor injuries when a piece of farm equipment rolled over him. We thank God for His protection.

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) was present to help Elder Bro. Curt Frank with testimonies and baptisms of our new brothers, Scott Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Neil Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie). Visiting ministers on this blessed day were Bros. Chris Wuthrich (Francesville, IN) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller and their children will miss

the presence of their little granddaughter, Bessyanna Knapp, daughter of Bro. Jon and Sis. Andrea Knapp of Congerville, IL. During the two short years of her life, even though she struggled with the effects of severe hydrocephalus, she brought untold blessings, comfort, love, and sunshine into the family circle. God sent this little blossom for us, and now she has been called Home to be with Jesus—free of the limitations of bodily afflictions.

Wind and tree are playing a dirge
And sighing soft condolences;
Above my head upon a bough
A little sparrow balances.
I hovered in the borderland
Dividing flesh and spirit's zones.
The respirator's beep and hiss
But made me reach for gentler
tones.
Mother knew she held an angel,
Held my fragile little frame.
Daddy squeezed my miniature
fingers.
I wiggled weakly when he came.
Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep.
To trumpet's sounding I'll awake
When that eternal dawn shall break.

May God grant that each of us will make preparation for that final call into eternity—that when the trumpet sounds we may awake in the glories of Heaven.

We rejoice that Molly Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) has answered the call and has begun her repentance. May the Lord grant her the needed grace to find the firm foundation.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” (Psalm 127:3). “He

blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly...” (Psalm 107:38). “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...”

Deut. 6:6-7

We rejoice over the birth of three new babies.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Bowie welcomed Dunkin William on June 6. His siblings are Alicia, Lydia and Matthias.

On June 22, Kray William was born to Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita Klopfenstein. He was welcomed home by his brother, Austin, and sisters, Abby, Alyssa and Kacie. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington, IL).

On July 7, Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer were blessed with their seventh child (did you notice she was born on the seventh month, seventh day, in 1997?). Little Charity Anne's sisters and brothers are Laura, Peter, Bethany, Andrew, Philip and Taletha. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fischer and Bro. Glen and Sis. Christa Moser (Roanoke, IL).

Congratulations, and may the Lord bless these families.

Bro. Bill Blunier was hospitalized, but is thankful for many prayers and the Lord's healing hand.

A busload of young people from Illinois arrived June 29 to help at Gateway Woods. Sunday noon we were blessed as they sang some special numbers for us.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Deane (Ernie) Stoller in the loss of her mother, Dorothy Allshouse.

Sis. Lillian Pfister was called Home in the night of July 3. She had attended services on Wednesday evening and the next morning her son, Dave, found she had passed away in her sleep. Our sympathy to all of Lillian's family, who have precious memories of their mom. She was a faithful example to all of us.

Bro. Kevin Stoller and Sis. Tonya Wieland became one in the Lord on June 22. They are making their home at Danville, IL. May their home be an honor to the Lord that He will add His blessings.

Our ministers attended the wedding on June 22 at Princeville, IL and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz was in Bluffton for baptisms, so Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) came in the morning to assist Bro. Jack Bollier with the services. It is a blessing that both Bro. Jack and Elder Bro. David Bertsch, who are retired, are willing to step in again and share the Word with us.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Carroll Gerber and Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate their loving service, and also that their wives accompanied them.

We sang a farewell song for Sis. Janel Frank as she left Gateway Woods and our congregation in anticipation of her marriage at Bluffton, IN. She and Bro. Jason Habegger will make their home in Bluffton following the wedding on June 20.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz announced the engagement of their son, Bro. David, to Sis. Paige Massner of Taylor, MO. Her parents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie (Taylor, MO). Our prayer is that

the Lord will bless this union.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

Romans 8:29

We are thankful for those who escaped serious injury in accidents and for those in the hospital that are now home. Bro. Dan (Sis. Deb) Beer and Bro. Will (Sis. Sue) Schieler met with accident and Bro. Phil (Sis. Millie) was hospitalized. We thank God for His protective and restoring power.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam Beer were blessed with their first child, Austin Robert. Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer are grandparents. Bro. Howard and Sis. Eleanor Beer and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker (Francesville, IN) are great-grandparents.

Our Sis. Edith Baumgartner was called suddenly out of this life on July 8. Sis. Edith never married but loved the little children in the church. She is survived by one sister, Helen Funk, of Milford.

We wish to welcome Bro. Marvin Wieland who has taken employment in a nearby hospital. We trust he can feel at home in our congregation.

The emerging of Christ's image in us is of prime importance to the Heavenly Father. God works in us, developing us, firming us, and deepening us so that the character traits of His Son begin to take shape. God has made us that we can bring glory to His name.

"But we all, with open face be-

holding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord."

II Corinthians 3:18

God is like an artist painting a portrait of us. He is constantly working in our life—adding this color, that shadow, this line. He is striving to make us into the very image of His beautiful and sinless Son. We do not want to struggle against His hand. If we must question something today, ask this: "How will the circumstances of this day make me more like Jesus?" We need to then thank Him for the circumstances and receive His grace to walk through them. God loves us with a tender love we cannot imagine. May we, by His grace, allow Christ to live and radiate through our lives.

O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, come in

Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

—Chisholm

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Patti Bahler

In Luke 15:10 we read the words of our Saviour. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Our church is filled with joy as Amanda Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) has turned her back on sin and is seeking the Lord's will for her life.

Our congregation has said our farewells to a family this month. Bro. Leon, Sis. LeAnn Kaeb and family have relocated in the Congerville, IL area. We will miss them and extend a warm welcome

to come back and visit us often.

On June 29, our church gathered together for our annual Sunday School picnic. A special thanks to the teachers who have put in much time and energy to teach our students the way, the truth and the life. A warm welcome to the new teachers, Sis. Beth Virkler, Bro. Alan Schambach and Bro. Mark Bahler.

On July 12, Ryan Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) and Hollie Pearson (Michael and Joyce Pearson) were united in marriage at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center in West Lafayette. Ryan and Hollie will make their home in Greenwood, IN. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Sis. Mary Zickmund has been hospitalized for surgery this month, but is at home again. We pray the Lord will continue to grant His healing power on Sis. Mary.

Lee Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) and Jodie Moore (Lebanon, IN) have announced their engagement. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they make marriage plans.

I read recently that "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." May each of us spend time in prayer as our Elders, ministers, and brethren plan to meet in August. As the cares of the church seem overwhelming at times, we must remember it is not what we can do, but rather what God can do through us. The words in the second chapter of Haggai are applicable to our church leaders today. The Lord spoke to Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple: "Be strong", "I am with you", "I will bless you", and "I have chosen thee". (Haggai 2:4,19,23). These

words from the Lord should encourage our Elders. God is with you and He will strengthen you for the work He has called you to do.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

How thankful we are that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1). Such beautiful promises of hope. Our small congregation is rejoicing over the news of two young men who have answered the call of God in their lives. These young men are Drew Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane) and Reid Bucher (Tom and Sis. Cheryl). Our prayers are with them as they begin their walk with Christ.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen frequently fill in for our own brothers and they do so willingly. We believe God will repay their kindness to us.

Many of our congregation surprised Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser with a celebration for their 25th wedding anniversary. We wish them many, many more years together in the Lord.

We are eagerly anticipating Vacation Bible School which is set to begin this week. Many hours of preparation and prayer have been spent on behalf of each who will attend. We pray God will richly reward each effort made.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb

is his reward..."

Psalm 127:3

Two families have reason for rejoicing with the birth of precious new babies. Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody Bahler were blessed with twin little girls on June 28. Larissa Marie and Leandra Jane were welcomed home by big sister, Amber. Grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler and Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Lee and Michelle Huff are thankful for the safe and healthy arrival of Joel Michael on July 8. Brandi, Heidi and Austin will be big help for mommy. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear.

Once again, the protecting hand of God intervened and saw fit to spare Sis. Lisa (Bro. Troy) and Angie Furrer as they were involved in an automobile accident. Little Angie suffered a fracture and some cuts, but she is doing well. We can't be thankful enough for our Heavenly Father's mercy and compassion towards His children.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) brought God's Word before us on a recent Sunday afternoon. Many thanks to Bro. Dan for his willingness to minister to us. May God bless all of His faithful servants who often stand before us and proclaim the message of salvation.

Lee and Melinda Rufener (Athens, WI) welcomed Matthew Lowell into their home on July 9. He has one brother, Emmanuel, for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener (Smithville, OH).

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Monica Eisenmann****Edith Massner**

We rejoice with our dear ones whose betrothal was announced, Sis. Rachel Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) to Bro. Michael Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy, Morris, MN). We're thankful that Bro. Michael recently found employment in our area, and hope they can make their home here for a long time, Lord willing. We pray God's special blessings on them.

At this time, we think of the week of Conference meetings in Gridley, IL planned for August. Our ultimate concern, of course, is for the sake of the souls of all men to find and maintain salvation. May God bless and direct all efforts as we all pray. Special prayers are for our dear Elders to receive wisdom from above as well as a heart of gratitude for those in Gridley who are willing to be hosts.

Ken Massner had surgery and is recovering slowly; we're thankful he is able to assemble with us again.

IOWA, ELGIN**Gloria Frieden**

What a blessing is the privilege of prayer. This communication line with God is always open. Not just 12 hours a day, but 24. Not just on Sundays, but seven days a week. God takes no days off. While it is natural and good for us to seek God with our own cares and concerns, we are also encouraged to...

"Pray One For Another"

As our youth prepare for another year of schooling, we commit them into God's care. Along with the good teaching and needed edu-

cation, they are also subjected to negative peer pressures and evil temptations. Surely young and old, we all need the prayers of those we love.

"...Let Your Requests be Made Known Unto God..."

As we near the time for our annual Brotherhood Conference, may we remember our beloved Elders as they seek God's Divine direction for the edification and sanctification of our precious church. May God's will be revealed and upheld.

"In Every Thing Give Thanks"

We have so much to be thankful for. God has blessed us with three visiting ministers (and their families) this past month. We appreciate their willingness to be used in God's service and pray a special blessing from God on each one. They were Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN).

We are also thankful to God for His healing hand on little Sydney Butikofer (Tom and Darla). After spending a few days in the hospital, she is now home and feeling better.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**Delores Reinhard**

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

Psalms 27:1

We thank our visiting minister, Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for his sincere efforts in bringing us the Word this past month. May God continue to lead him.

Soon our children will be going

back to school. "Education with God, is like a ship without a compass." When I read this, I felt it was worth repeating for all of our students who will soon be starting a new year of learning. A ship is a strong vessel capable of doing great things, but without a compass, it is likely to become shipwrecked. Likewise, without the fear and reference of God in our hearts, all we have is empty knowledge, likely to do us more harm than good. We must seek to know God and to become like Him, for in Colossians 2:3 it tells us that "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this month, including Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We sincerely thank these brothers and their families for being willing servants.

Nathan and Dana Stoller welcomed Erica Michele into their hearts and home on June 17. Drew is looking forward to a playmate when she gets older. We just got acquainted with Erica when we had to bid the family farewell. Our prayers go with them as they move to Florida the end of July.

While there are many Scriptural directives regarding our daily pilgrim walk, an application of principles of defensive driving may also be beneficial.

1. Get the big picture. Often Satan tries to get us burdened down with our daily cares or sidetracked with an earthly problem or

desire. If we could always approach every problem or decision from an eternal perspective, how different our reaction might be.

2. Aim high in steering. Let us set Heavenly goals, not be content with earthly ones. May we have spiritual goals as well as our earthly "to do lists" that we conscientiously attend to on a daily basis.

3. Watch out for the other guy. This has at least two applications—watch out for Satan, whose sole aim is to see us fail and lose our eternal reward, and watch out for our brother, who may need a guiding hand or encouraging word as he travels with us on the pilgrim way.

4. Make sure they see you. Remember, others, including your weakest brother, the unsaved, and your children are watching! Make sure your light is shining brightly even when you don't expect others to see.

5. Leave yourself an out. The Bible instructs us to abstain from even the appearance of evil. Don't get yourself into situations where your faith becomes endangered or your convictions compromised. If we do find ourselves facing a temptation, God has promised never to allow any without providing a way of escape. Let us be looking for the escape doors and using them when necessary.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

"...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15

It is with thankful hearts that we have three dear souls who have

turned their backs on the world and have started repenting for their sins. Our converts are Kyle Knobloch (Becky) and Willis and Lori Nester (son and daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley). Our prayers are with these dear ones as they make this important change in their lives.

Among our summer visitors, we have been privileged to have as guest ministers: Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). Sincere thanks is extended to these brethren for giving of themselves so unselfishly.

A precious little bundle from Heaven has arrived in the home of Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer. Jaden Louis was born on July 1 and is the couple's firstborn. Happy grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

Several of our brethren, along with many friends, have aided flood victims in North Dakota. The time spent there was involved with the helping of the removal of sandbags, general clean up in residential homes, as well as assisting in the Salvation Army Distribution Warehouse. Another trip is planned to return to this flood ravaged area later this summer.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the Feucht family with the sudden passing of their brother, Samuel Feucht, in Portland, OR. Likewise, let us remember Sarah Feucht and her family whose brother, Ed Schifferer, of Elgin, IL was recently taken from this life. May they be comforted in their time of sorrow.

Sis. Sherryl (Bro. Larry)

Knobloch is recovering at home since having surgery on her foot but spends most of her time in the wheelchair. Also, Wes Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn) is recuperating at home following surgery. Bro. Larry (Sis. Emily) Peterson is again worshipping with us after having extended treatment in Iowa City, IA. We miss seeing Sis. Freida (Bro. Andy) Mogler who has been confided to her home for several weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every dear soul as they endure bodily afflictions.

Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith Knobloch celebrated 40 years of marriage with many of their family and friends. May they be blessed with many more years together.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We recently were blessed to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Laura Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn). We're thankful she has repented, become converted and we can now greet her as our sister-in-faith. May she ever feel the Lord's guidance and direction as she now walks the path of life with Him as her guide.

Tricia and Regan Lanz are rejoicing with their new little bundle from Heaven, a daughter, Raiann Elizabeth. Also thankful for her safe arrival are her grandparents, Dave and Phyllis Tapp (Winchester, IN) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman and Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker (Morton, IL) welcome into their family circles a new little grandson, Tate David. Tate is the

second son born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Staker (Bloomington, IL). His big brother, Bryce, is also excited about his new little playmate.

May the Lord bless these families as they strive to raise these little ones by His strength and guidance.

We want to thank Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) for visiting and ministering to us this month. May the Lord bless him and his family for his labors.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Greetings of love from Pulaski!

A special thank you is extended to Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) for visiting and sharing God's Word to our congregation.

We appreciate the young adults and teachers of Iowa City, IA and Sabetha, KS who came to share the weekend of June 21-22 with our Bible Class students. We enjoyed this time together.

We were happy to hear of God's leading in the lives of Sis. Fawn Esslinger and Bro. Brent Kieser, both of Peoria, IL. We pray the Lord's presence for them during this special time of engagement. The wedding is planned for October 12 at Peoria, IL. Their parents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger and Bro. Verle and Sis. LaVonne Kieser (Bradford, IL).

At this time we think of our Elder brothers in prayer as they gather together for the Brotherhood Conference. May God grant them courage and wisdom in preserving the faith as we feel the pressures of the world growing stronger.

"Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity...For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance."

Psalm 94:12-14

IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

On July 6, we enjoyed many visitors, a large number of them coming for family reunions. Among our visitors, several ministers and their families brought us special blessings. Laboring in God's service were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). May God bless them for traveling to be with us.

We are thankful that God has touched His healing hand upon Bro. Art Mogler (Sis. Eula) and Trent Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) as they were recently hospital patients. Louis Schafer remains hospitalized following hip surgery. May God grant a good recovery.

On July 10, Corbin Michael came to join the family circle of Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch. Thrilled to have a new baby brother are Amanda and Braden. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA). Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr.

We have several couples who have announced their wedding engagements. Bill Banwart (Bob and Kay) and Rhonda Swensen (Mr.

and Mrs. William Swensen, Clive, IA) are planning a September wedding.

Clay Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Wendy Ward (Norman and Bonnie Ward, Ames, IA) are planning an August wedding.

Carolyn Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie) is planning to become the bride of Scott Kenney (Ayrshire, IA) in September.

It is our prayer for all these couples that they will feel God's blessings on their wedding day and throughout their entire married lives together.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with the upcoming Brotherhood Conference in Gridley, IL. A special prayer goes heavenward for our Elders as they consider matters pertaining to the welfare of the church. May God lead and guide them into Godly wisdom and His will, and may we encourage and support them in prayer.

KANSAS, BERN
Holly Meyer
Lori Baumgartner

As I was tucking my children into bed this evening, one of them asked, "Mommy, how long has there been a heaven?" This innocent little question led to quite a lengthy discussion. As I left their rooms, I had to think that of all the highlights of the summer, these "little heart-to-heart talks" with my children beam the brightest. I'd like to bottle up some of those discussions we've had while working together this summer, podding peas or stemming beans. Often times, it seems that our children teach us as much as we teach them. They truly are precious gifts from our Heavenly Father. As we begin another school year, may we

as parents remember to uphold our precious children and their teachers in prayer.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

On June 18, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey were blessed with a precious gift from above, a son, Blane Michael. He is welcomed home by his sister, Amy. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr (West Bend, IA). There is cause for rejoicing in the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey as they have been blessed with another grandson, Colton Michael. He was born June 23 to Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). We rejoice with Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer on the birth of their second son, Grant Alan. He was born on July 13 and is welcomed home by his older brother, Benjamin. His grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne Meyer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

We were so thankful to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Miriam Strahm (Clayton) on June 22. We gladly welcome her as a sister-in-faith. May she continue to feel the Lord's nearness.

Here to assist Elder Bro. John Lehman the weekend of June 22 was Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO). We had one other visiting minister this past month, Bro. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL). We appreciate the labors of these brothers on our be-

half.

Several from our congregation have needed hospitalization this past month. We are thankful that Bro. Leonard Baumgartner (Sis. Nancy) and Ruth Meyer (Fremond) are now home following their surgeries. Also, Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Kathy) and Sally Grimm (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharon) spent time in the hospital. We can be thankful that we have medical professionals to go to when there is a need.

We feel a sense of relief when a loved one can pass on and be relieved of earthly suffering. Yet it is always hard to say that last goodbye. We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Leonard Baumgartner (Sis. Nancy) and Les Baumgartner (Leora) and their families on the death of their aunt, Sis. Mary Mauer, of Sabetha. Also, we wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Joann Edelman (Bro. Fred), Sis. Marge Edelman (Bro. Morris), Sis. Helen Meyer (Bro. Leroy), Sis. Miriam Strahm (Clayton), Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bro. Joe), Bro. James Menold (Sis. Louise) and Bro. Don Menold (Sis. Pat) on the death of their uncle, Bro. Joe Menold (Sis. Tillie), of Sabetha.

We are happy to announce the wedding engagement of Brian Strahm (Clayton and Sis. Miriam) and Christie Sylvester (Eldo and Virginia Sylvester, Sabetha). Their wedding date is set for August 30. May this be a special time of preparation for them.

On July 8, we enjoyed our annual Sunday School picnic at Sycamore Springs Resort. We appreciate the efforts of the Sunday School teachers in organizing this event.

We offer our prayers and our

support as many brethren gather together at the Brotherhood Conference in Gridley, IL. May our Lord and His Word be magnified!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

O how lovely 'tis to be
With our Lord in unity
And united voices raise
Him to bring our songs of praise.
Zion's Harp #181

At this time of the year many are returning from vacations refreshed and ready to begin their normal routines. We are always glad to have everyone back to worship with us.

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.”
Psalms 71:17

As the beginning of another school year approaches, we think of our precious youth and how impressionable they are. May we hold each of them up in prayer that the Lord's will may be done in their lives.

We appreciated all those who gathered at the nursing home this month for services. One of the residents, our dear Sis. Rachel Kraft, moved this month. Her new address is: The Sterling House, 7535 W. Herner Rd., Apt. #112, Oklahoma City, OK 73162.

Sis. Edna Reed was hospitalized this month. We pray that the Lord will comfort her as she recovers.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

Our prayers are with our dear Bro. Floyd Isch who recently suf-

ferred another stroke. A burden that may seem quite hard to bear when our spirit and our mind seem to be captured within this earthly body. Earnestly we pray for Bro. Floyd that he can feel God's warmth and presence within him.

We are truly thankful for our new sister in Christ, Sis. Ester Knobloc (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri), and thankful also that Sis. Ester has found peaceful shelter in the house of the Lord, and can now "sing to her heart's content!" We cannot forget that we, each one, are "sheltered" one with another, when we come into Christ's love and forgiveness. Thanks be to Almighty God! Our appreciation is extended to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for being here to assist our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in this wonderful work.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti was here to present his Eastern Europe slide presentation and share with us some of his experiences. We're so thankful to be given the opportunity to see God at work in all parts of the earth.

I failed to report that Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd) had been a recent surgical patient, requiring eye surgery. Joann made the comment "how glad she was to be able to see again!" A privilege we all can identify with, if it is once taken away. Oh, the heavenly beauty that our eyes have the privilege to behold. Thank you, God, for the gift of our eyesight!

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

After a hot summer day, God shared with us a beautiful sunset. Sometimes the trials of life press heavy upon us but we need to think about the reward God has

awaiting the true and faithful.

Two pillars in the faith have gone to their reward. Sis. Mary Mauer passed away June 25 at the age of 97. Bro. Joseph Menold was hospitalized when God called him Home on June 29. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Tillie, and son, Bro. Ronald Menold (Tremont, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter who are happy grandparents of Grant Alan Meyer born July 13 to Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer (Bern, KS).

We pray for our Elders as they assemble for our general Conference in Gridley, IL. As God sends forth the sunshine and rain to bring forth a beautiful harvest, we know He will bless the labors of our Elders.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

On the weekend of June 28-29, the Wichita young group entertained visitors from the following locations: Peoria, Detroit, Sabetha, Bern, Dallas, Athens, Tulsa, Kansas City and Nashville. While the activities were centered around the young adults, the rest of us could rejoice in their presence. How refreshing it was to see the front pews in the church filled and to hear the many talented voices praising God in song!

The Wichita congregation is looking forward to August when we can expect Sis. Katie Wertz of West Bend to take up residence in our city. She has employment at St. Francis Medical Center. May God bless her in this move.

Bro. Roger Reimschisel reported that Bertie's surgery went well. We give God the credit that there were no serious complica-

tions.

Among the possessions that came to Bro. Godfrey and I after his dear mother's death (Sis. Ada Hartman), was a devotional book entitled Bread For Each Day by DeHaan and Bosch. We recently read a devotional on enjoying the sermon. At the conclusion of the devotional was this quote: "A poor listener seldom hears a good sermon." Yes, that statement convicts me. May we all assume the responsibility of supporting the minister in prayer and then focusing on being good listeners.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Car-nahan were privileged to visit their son, Nathan, who was hospitalized in Hawaii. We are thankful for their safe passage. Nathan has been sent back to Korea and still needs our prayers for healing.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Melanie Kaeb

Michelle Oesch

We missed last month, so will try to bring you up to date.

Long Live America...

Next to God, the most sacred word in all the world to me is America. When I hear that word, something begins singing in my heart and sometimes the tears come in my eyes. I am not ashamed of those tears. For in that one word, America, are enshrined all my love, my dreams, my hopes, my faith in a future when not only I but all men shall be free. Who would not fight and if need be die for this blessed land of ours? Long live America.

—*unknown American immigrant*

In the day and age that we live in, sometimes we forget to be thankful for the blessings of freedom which have been given to us by God here in this country. Many

people have fought and died that the right to worship the Lord where and when we choose might be ours.

Two special couples began their married life here in Alto. Alan Grile (Bob and Virginia) and Jenny Oesch (Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna) were united on June 14 in a beautiful outdoor wedding. On June 28, David Stouffer (Dave and Bonnie) and Julie Hutt (Jim and Rose) made their vows to each other. We pray that they will make the Lord the Unseen Guest in their home as they begin their lives together.

Our children were reminded of the faith of Joshua and Moses and other men of the Bible at Bible School the week of June 23-28. May the seeds that were sown in their young hearts take root and someday blossom. We are thankful to Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for coming and giving of their time in the Lord's service that week.

Again we have reason to rejoice for the Lord has touched more hearts to serve Him! Jacob Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna) and Rose (Linda Koehl-Jones and Dennis Koehl) and Terry Watson have made a beginning in the Lord. We pray for them that they may have the needed grace to seek His will and find a peace that passeth all understanding.

We are thankful to the visiting ministers who came to Alto these past two months. They include Bros. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer

The Lord has blessed us all so much with these beautiful days and in our Detroit congregation we've been fortunate to have had many various activities and occasions to fill them up with. Elections were held in July and several posts have been filled. New Sunday School teachers include Bros. Dana Knochel, Keith Beyer and Sis. Dawn Bahr and Sis. Martha Gleichman as secretary. May these brethren be blessed for taking on these important duties and giving freely of themselves.

We were fortunate to have Bro. Perry Klopfenstein speak to us about our church history.

May our congregations across the world continue to grow and may we never forget those who came before us to lay down our firm foundation.

Fifty years of marriage were celebrated by Bro. Guy and Sis. Rosie Wieland. Truly golden are those years for, through the good times and the bad, if the Lord is at the head of the household, it will prosper.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with those who have been ill or injured. May speedy recoveries be given to Sis. Hilda Bauer (Bro. Walt), Bro. Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche), and Lauren Ringger (Bro. Von and Sis. Janelle).

Detroit hosted a reunion for those brothers and sisters who have given of themselves to serve in the missionary work being done in Haiti. Ministering to us that weekend was Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL).

"Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men."

Psalms 66:5

We rejoice with Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) as he comes to the Lord in repentance. May he and our other converts treasure these days of discovering just how wonderful a life that is given to Jesus Christ can be.

When it is cold outside, we often feel that the warm summer months will never come. As I sit outside writing for the month of August, I now realize that our summer is almost at an end. Let us treasure these long warm days and try not to have them go by too quickly. May our spiritual lives bloom and grow as beautifully as the flowers in our summer gardens.

A DAY WELL SPENT

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have
done,
And, counting, find one self-denying
deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who
heard—
One glance most kind,
That fell like sunshine where it
went—
Then you may count that day well
spent.

—George Eliot

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

A New Beginning

With the newness of each morning
When the sun begins to rise,
How our hearts are filled with joy
As we gaze up to the skies.

For each dawn is filled with gladness
We're so grateful for the day,
One more chance to do God's
bidding
And make amends for yesterday.

As we spend these precious hours
 May we ever be aware
 That this gift of one more day
 Is but a gift to spend with care.

Every day's a new beginning,
 Though the last it may well be,
 But if we spend it well, we'll spend
 Our life with Him eternally.

—Polly Thornton

“The grass withereth, the
 flower fadeth: but the word of God
 shall stand for ever.”

Isaiah 40:8

We were richly blessed with the
 Word of God in the past month.
 Visiting ministers were Bro. Brian
 Huber (Francesville, IN), Bro. Jim
 Knobloch and Elder Bro. Leroy
 Messner (Winthrop, MN). We ap-
 preciate their willingness to serve
 us and pray that God will bless
 them and their families.

We rejoiced with Bro. Sam
 Moser and Sis. Ruth Wiegand
 (Goodfield, IL) as they were united
 in marriage on June 22 at Good-
 field, IL. We pray God's blessings
 on them as they strive to serve
 Him together. A warm welcome is
 extended to Sis. Ruth from our
 congregation.

On June 29, a picnic was enjoyed
 by the students, teachers, parents
 and friends ending another Sun-
 day School year. The children es-
 pecially enjoyed playing games
 provided by the teachers. Sunday
 School classes will resume on Sep-
 tember 7.

Thanks to all the brothers and
 friends who helped in the installa-
 tion of the underground irrigation
 system for our church lawn. A spe-
 cial thanks to Bro. Matt Zimmer-
 man (Eureka, IL) who came the
 many miles to engineer and assist
 with this project and to the sisters

for preparing and serving the deli-
 cious meals and snacks.

We have been blessed with
 many visitors traveling through
 on their vacations and/or visiting
 our area. We truly appreciate each
 one and thank them for worship-
 ping with us.

By now the annual Brotherhood
 Conference has already been con-
 cluded. We pray that our beloved
 Elders felt our prayers and the
 Holy Spirit's guidance in all their
 endeavors.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Linda Schmidgall

Nancy Wulf

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

Genesis 8:22

How blessed we are to have a
 Heavenly Father who has planned
 all things that we may enjoy them
 at times when we need them most.
 After harvest and winter and
 springtime, God gives us these
 beautiful summer months to en-
 joy. It is a time we all use to do
 something other than our usual
 work routines. Whether it is vaca-
 tions, the kids home from school
 when they are all ours again (let us
 all make the best of that time to-
 gether), a time to freely travel and
 get some visiting done, to do those
 odd jobs around the place that
 have been waiting for nicer
 weather....Summer - truly a time
 to sit back and reflect on the areas
 of our lives that need attention,
 and henceforth act on them ac-
 cordingly. May the Lord richly
 bless each of us, as we remember
 His goodness and thank Him al-

ways, as we prepare for another
 cycle of seasons approaching.

We appreciate the efforts of
 many ministering brothers and
 their families who have visited this
 past month. They are Elder Bros.
 Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL),
 Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO),
 Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapo-
 lis, IN), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield,
 IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL),
 Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Brian
 Huber (Francesville, IN), and
 Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). May
 God bless your labors on our be-
 half.

July 13 was the wedding day for
 Bro. Dan Schaefer and Sis.
 Shadow Fehr (parents are Bro.
 Paul, Jr. and Sis. Pam Fehr, and
 Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer).
 May God richly bless them as they
 look to Him as the Head of their
 household.

Looking forward to that same
 joining of hearts and hands on Au-
 gust 17 are Bro. Michael Messner
 (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy) and
 Sis. Rachel Massner (Bro. Dennis
 and Sis. Gail, Burlington, IA). We
 rejoice with them and their par-
 ents.

We are especially thankful, and
 rejoice with converts and their
 families, when souls answer the
 call to repentance as did Lisa
 Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis.
 Linda) and Myra Wulf (Bro. Doug
 and Sis. Joyce). May they seek dili-
 gently until they find that Peace
 that passeth all understanding. No
 one can comprehend the love of
 God until they have come on
 bended knee and given their all to
 Him. Would that so many more
 would answer that call before it is
 too late.

May God's healing powers sur-
 round our loved ones who were in

the hospital this month. Sis. Diane (Bro. Wallis) Feuchtenberger, Bro. Gary (Sis. Sandy) Fehr, and Bro. Randy (Sis. Shirley) Koehl all spent time there recently.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you to all for cards and gifts of money on our 50th wedding anniversary. God bless.

Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
Greetings!

We were thinking more about the cover of our Silver Lining this month and God giving us the increase, which made us think of this verse:

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

Philippians 4:11

The Lord knows our needs and therefore will provide. However, no matter what the Lord gives us or not we must continue to learn to be content and live with what blessings He does bestow upon us. Remember, learning takes time, commitment and continual diligent prayer.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), and Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA). We so appreciate them bringing forth the Word on our behalf. We also wish to thank our visitors for coming and spending some of their summer vacation with us.

Our thoughts and prayers go

with our brethren as they travel to the Brotherhood Conference this month. May God's presence be with our Elders during their meetings prior to the main conference.

Sunday School will once again be starting and we pray for our teachers and children as they start another year. How precious it is to watch that seed be planted and grow within our children's hearts.

Our hospital patient this past month was Jason Berskow (Joy and Jeff Berskow; grandson of Sis. Dorothy Jacobson). May the Lord continue to watch over and heal him.

Note of Thanks:

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

Bro. Roland Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

The month of August is certainly a time of great change. Many of us leave our home or summer job to head back to school. I'm always reluctant to leave summer behind, but autumn is a wonderful time as well. I actually feel very blessed to live in a four season climate. School wouldn't be as challenging without those negative windchills and pouring rains.

I hope everyone will say a prayer as our Elder brothers meet for the Conference. I doubt very many of us fully realize the amount of work and prayer these brothers do for us. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Charles Sinn and Sis. Karen (Ft. Scott, KS) were with us on a

Wednesday evening. Bro. Charles spoke especially to the older Sunday School children. The visit was definitely a blessing for us all.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Martha Kellenberger

In the summer, we often have more visitors and we appreciate and enjoy each one. We extend a special thanks to ministering Bro. Lloyd Kraft and his wife, Sis. Nadine, from the Lamont-Gridley, KS congregation for being willing to serve us. May God richly bless them.

Our Bro. Ray Luthi (Sis. Violet) is once again assembling with us after surgery. It is so good to see him recovering, and we're thankful to God for His healing mercies.

As our Elder brothers make plans to meet again in August, our prayers are with them that they will truly feel led by God, and that He will ease their heavy burdens.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Our little congregation was blessed with many visitors this past month, and we thank each one for the efforts they made to assemble with us. We know that, unless church attendance is a high priority while on vacation, it would be easier to just skip it. It takes extra packing and planning...but we know what an important example this sets for the children and conversely, what it says to them if we neglect to go to church. We hope each one felt thankful for the blessings received, as we did!

The ministering brothers who visited us and brought us God's precious Word were Steve Ringger

(Bluffton North, IN), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Thank you.

Sis. Krista Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) is finishing up a three month assignment as a traveling occupational therapist in Greenville, IL. We have appreciated her assembling with us several times this summer.

I Corinthians 1:10 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

After reading this one Sunday, the minister used the example of our singing in four-part harmony. We sing the different parts, and use the gifts that God has given us, but we all are singing the same words, and the result is beautiful and a glory to God. What if we each would insist on singing the hymn that WE wanted? The result would be chaos. So we agree to cooperate and defer our own choices for a blessed end result. We need to consider how our attitudes and behaviors in other ways affect our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and affect our church as a whole. Can we, for Christ's sake, all speak the same thing and not have divisions among us? I am reminded of the little poem recited at the Conference last year: "What kind of church would my church be, if every member were just like me?"

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tina Sutter

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation."

Psalm 85:6-7

The Taylor congregation has been blessed to have Bro. Jeff Thames and his family with us. Much truthful council was given on how to maintain a Godly marriage. We are so thankful that this was made possible for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda to share this valuable and biblical wisdom to us.

Another special event took place on July 13 when Sis. Jamie Knapp (Bro. Michael and Sis. Luann) and Bro. Casey Knobloch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy) were united in marriage. Marriage is such a special union when God has His way in it.

We are thankful to have had many visiting ministers with us on this blessed occasion. Special thanks to Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), and Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for being willing to share the Word with us.

We share in the joy of Sis. Paige Massner and Bro. Dave Stieglitz (Leo, IN) as they have announced their engagement on Sunday, July 13. Sis. Paige is the daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie Massner, and Bro. Dave is the son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Among those in our prayers are Anna Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) and Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) who were hospitalized this month. Both suffer from chronic conditions.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

Now it is accomplished!
My soul He hath healed;
A portion in heaven to me He hath sealed.

O, may He direct me through joy
and through ill;
I'll never forsake Him, but follow
Him still.

The words of this beautiful hymn #209 from the Zion's Harp were sung after the baptism of Sis. Norene Virkler on June 29. Not only are they for our new brothers and sisters, but for each one who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. May God lead Sis. Norene all the days of her life. We thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Sis. Maxine for being with us on the weekend and for Bro. Andy's service to us and to God.

Our Sunday School children enjoyed the annual wiener roast held on June 23 at the Croghan Recreation Park. It is held at the close of the school year and within only a few weeks from this writing, they will be beginning another school year. May each of them look to God for strength and wisdom for each day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each one who is not able to assemble with us each week, whether they be in nursing homes or in their own homes.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Walter Rumpf (Alice) as his sister was called from this life. May God be a comfort to this family.

OHIO, AKRON
Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser

The engagement of Sis. Joanna Schamback and Bro. Doug Ingold was announced. Sis. Joanna is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback and Bro. Doug is the son of Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold of Rittman. May the Lord bless them and continue to guide them in all their plans.

Sis. Janet Graf has had a new defibrillator installed with a short overnight hospital stay. We pray that she will continue to have God's blessings.

Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa Palitto are the parents of a new baby, Justin Bryon, born July 10. The little boy has two sisters welcoming him in their home, Brianna and Katie. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ron Palitto and Boyd and Barbara Acker.

Charlotte Kaufman is reaching the four score years as she will be 80 on August 29. We pray for her that the Lord will continue to bless her with health in having an active life.

We appreciated Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) ministering to us recently.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

Greetings from Columbus. Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We are thankful that Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH)

and Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) traveled the miles to expound the Word to us.

Our Senior Sunday School class was privileged to travel to Falmouth, KY to help with the clean-up operations in the flood-ravaged areas. Working with the Junction Sunday School, the youth gutted and cleaned two homes and readied them for construction crews. It is our prayer that this long weekend provided many blessings and memories for the work teams involved.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

Our sympathy is extended to the Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser family as his mother, Sis. Bertha Gasser, passed away in Smithville. At the same time that they deal with her death, they are also occupied with the stresses of another session of treatment for Bro. Roger in Chicago. May the Lord watch over their family as they are separated for a season and help us all accept God's plan.

We are so happy for Inez Rose (Lee) who has felt the need for repentance. Although she has only attended our church a few times, we know that through reading the Bible, inspiration through the Spirit, and fellowship with believers, she can find the guidance that her soul needs.

Corbin Schlatter, Cheryl Manz and Mark and Cathy Manz are our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) were here to assist with their testimonies. Other visiting ministers here to share the day of bap-

tism on July 13 were Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). We welcome these young people to the fold and pray for the safekeeping of their souls.

The junior high Sunday School invited Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) to speak to their class. May God bless him for his efforts and for sharing the pulpit on July 20.

Our church attendance has made a change. We had a farewell singing for Sis. Louise Manz who will be making Cissna Park, IL her permanent home. Her presence and bubbly personality will be greatly missed, but we know Cissna Park welcomes and appreciates her. The good news is that Bro. Oliver and Sis. Annabell Spangler have returned to our congregation. Also, Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth Reinhard will be making Junction their home church. We are happy for their presence.

OHIO, LATTY
Joyce Klopfenstein
Kathy Sinn

Numerous Latty brethren were privileged to travel in safety to Silverton, OR for the wedding of Bro. Mark Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Diane Sinn (Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian). We enjoyed the warm welcome and pleasant weekend with the brethren of many miles away. We are looking forward to having Sis. Diane join our Latty congregation.

Many prayers were answered as several young men answered the call of God. Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Jeff Ross, Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) and Kurt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) humbled them-

selves and accepted the grace of God to begin this walk with Him.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Isaiah 55:7

During the month, Sis. Buelah Stoller was hospitalized for tests. We are thankful that she has returned home and is able to again assemble with us. Sis. Mary Eisenmann had surgery and spent time in the hospital during the past several weeks. She is now recovering at home. May the Lord grant her strength for her spirit and healing for her body. Bro. Joe Schlatter, Sr. (Sis. Elsie) had surgery after a heart attack during the past month. We pray the Lord will provide for his well-being as it is His will.

We sure wish to give prayerful support to the Elder Body as they gather for the Brotherhood Conference. May God grant them the needed grace to strive as humble men of God to discern the perfect will of God for our beloved brotherhood and heritage.

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

Proverbs 15:22

As we come to the end of August, we realize that school will soon begin again for our children. As you send your children to school, remember to pray for them, their peers and their teachers. The influences that affect

your children often come from the individuals who are not prayed for. As you pray for God to protect and guide your child, please include everyone who plays a part in your child's day. When your prayers are answered, we all have a blessed day!

Note of Thanks:

We were greatly overwhelmed with the many prayers, cards, flowers and memorials that were offered and received in loving memory of Bill Rager, my dear husband, father and grandfather. Thank you so much for the many deeds of love and kindness that were demonstrated and were so much appreciated and which helped to ease the pain during this time of our great loss. May God richly bless each one of you.

Elsie and the families of Bill Rager

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

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

Proverbs 22:6

Even when the children of God have reached an age that we would call "old" on earth, we can always use more "training". The week of June 16, we had our Vacation Bible School. The children were trained in the Sunday School rooms while the adults were trained upstairs. Our speakers were Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) who spoke on "Fellowship with Believers"; Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) who guided us to "Faithfulness in Small Things"; Bro. Dwight Stoller

(Latty, OH) who told us about "Expectations"; and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) who taught us how to have "An Abundant Life". May each of us strive to apply these teachings to our lives as we walk toward that heavenly goal.

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalms 29:11

We are rejoicing with our friend, Brenda Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue), who has found peace with God and man. May she continue to draw closer to God as she now awaits baptism.

As this article is being prepared, the annual Brotherhood Conference is yet almost a month away. We know that Christ will be in the midst of our dear Elder brothers because we have the promise "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20). It is not too early to increase our prayers that the Spirit be felt as our Elder brethren gather first, then are joined by the other ministering brethren and finally by the general brotherhood. May each of us ever be fervent in our prayers for our Elders and ministering brothers.

OHIO, RITTMAN Carla Stoller Michelle Dotterer

On June 29, Bro. Phil Schar and Sis. Michele Geib were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Gary and Mary Bowman.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki Schar welcomed another baby boy into

their home. Luke Gary was born on July 7. Older brother is Levi and grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH).

The engagement of Bro. Doug Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Joanna Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce, Akron) was announced on June 22. May God bless you all.

We want to thank our visiting ministers. Those who have preached the gospel to us recently were: Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH).

On July 4th weekend, many single groups came to our area. Thank you all for coming; we had a blessed time together.

Those hospitalized recently are: Sis. Diane Gasser (Bro. Dan), Gladys Bauman (Richard), Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth), Sis. Lucy Gasser, and Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Liz). May God be near each one and grant His healing.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

II Timothy 1:5

On June 29, the annual memorial service at the New Martinsville, West Virginia church was held. There were many in attendance and we appreciate each one who made the effort to come.

Among those who traveled to be with us was Elder Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois (Altadena, CA). We thank Bro. John for bringing forth the Word on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. The service had added meaning as Bro. John told us how he had sat, as a young boy, in the very pews we were sitting in at the Limestone Ridge church.

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

As our Elder body would once again convene for the yearly Conference, may we keep each of them in thought and prayer. May all of us, with humble spirit, be willing to uphold the doctrine and traditions of our precious faith as we are so reminded at this time each year.

And one last thought, as we would see our dear children beginning another school year, may our prayer be that what they are taught at home would hold greater impression and significance in their young minds than that which may come through the master of deceit in the classroom and on the playground.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Eccles. 3:1

"A time to be born..." We welcome three new babies to our congregation within the past month.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach have been blessed with the arrival of Rachel Maria on June 27. Big sister, Miranda, will be happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach.

On July 1, Crystal Sue arrived to bless the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon Gasser. Awaiting her arrival was big sister, Courtney, and also grandparents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser (Rittman, OH).

On July 11, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carrie Gray became parents to their second child, Jacob Harrison. Jacob joins big sister, Jessica, and also grandparents, Sis. Janette Blough and Ron and Marie Gray. May God's nearness be felt in each of these three homes, as the parents seek to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

"A time to die..." Sis. Bertha Gasser was at last released from her earthly burdens, to go on to her Heavenly Home at the age of 90 on July 3. She is survived by nine children, Bro. Paul (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Grace Gasser, Walter, Bro. Don (Sis. Carol), David (Gail), John (Rita), Sis. Ruth Gasser, Sis. Edith Miller (Bro. Larry), and Bro. Roger (Sis. Sue). She is also survived by a brother, Bro. Vernon Hartzler.

We are so happy to report another soul is seeking the Lord in repentance. Pam Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) has made known her desire to serve the Lord. We wish her much grace in this most important step in life.

Another Christian home has been established in our congregation, as we witnessed the wedding

of Bro. James Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Susan Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda) on July 13. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin a new walk of life as one in the Lord.

Visiting ministers during the past month have been Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH). We thank these brothers for lending themselves to God's service.

May God's healing touch be felt by Barbara Carmany, as she recently submitted to surgery.

We welcome Bro. Garth Gucker to Smithville, as he has moved here from the Toledo area. We hope he will feel welcome with us, and that God will bless him as he seeks employment in this area.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

We enjoyed a visit from the Mansfield Sunday School for our annual Sunday School picnic. Other visitors that were with us that weekend included Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). We appreciated his service in ministering the Word.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) fulfilled this command on our behalf. May God bless their efforts with increase to His glory.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

Psalms 34:19

Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa) was recently hospitalized for hip replacement surgery. He is now home. May God bless him through his recovery.

We enjoyed the fellowship shared by a group of visitors from Latty. It was so nice to have our church full. The blessings of fellowship are a precious gift from God.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

As I travel on life's pathway,
Know not what the years may hold,
As I ponder, hope grows fonder;
Precious memories flood my soul.
Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul,
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious sacred scenes unfold.

Gospel Hymns 408(a)

The words of this hymn brought tears to many eyes as it was sung when we bid our earthly farewell to our beloved Sam Feucht. Sam had suffered a stroke ten days earlier and shortly afterwards went into a coma. He lingered with us for a few days yet and then passed away on July 13 at the age of 85. In spite of his age and heart condition, this was still unexpected because he was always so active and energetic. Losing a loved one can be such a trial for the ones left behind, even though there is the promise of Heaven. Words fail to describe what Sam meant to us. Whether we have known him for almost a lifetime or just a few years, his positive attitude, kind-

ness and generosity will surely be remembered.

Sam left behind his wife, Leona, and six children: Dennis (Dottie) from Meadville, PA; Lewis (Carol) from Clackamas, OR; Ken (Betsy) from Puyallup, WA; Karen (Steve) Chambers from Portland; Gaylon from Portland; Gloria Almroth from Sunriver, OR; and eight grandchildren. He was born and raised on a farm in Lester, IA with 14 brothers and sisters. His surviving brothers and sisters are: Emil (Ruby), Sis. Emma (Bro. Ted) Gerber, Paul (Jo), Bro. Carl (Sis. Emma), Bro. Alfred (Sis. Marie), Bro. Raymond (Sis. Marge), all from Lester, IA; Sis. Martha (Bro. Les) Wagenbach (Peoria, IL), Bro. John (Morton, IL) and Sis. Pauline Schick (Washington, IL).

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

Matthew 5:4

We extend our sincere sympathy to all the family. May the Lord be near unto them in their time of sorrow.

All that can be said in closing is that Sam Feucht's death leaves an emptiness in our small congregation that will be felt deeply for a long time.

We thank all visitors for coming our way this past month, especially ministering brethren Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), and Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) and Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks for the

cards, gifts, flowers, and most of all your love and prayers when I had my stroke, and for my birthday. Everything was so much appreciated.

Sis. Ann Rumbold and family

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We pray for the Lord's blessings on the marriage of our Sis. Diane Sinn (Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian) and Bro. Mark Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) of Latty, OH. We will miss Sis. Diane and wish her and Bro. Mark well as they begin faithfully serving the Lord together as husband and wife.

Again we have families with new babies to welcome. We've had two each month for the last several months, but this time we have four!

A new brother for Mitchell when Brian and Shelle Kuenzi brought home Evan Brian, born June 25. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi and John and Helen Farlow.

Kaitlin Rebecca was born July 8, introducing Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi into the adventure of parenthood. First-time grandparents on both sides are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi.

Brian and Milena (Reljin) Suster were happy to welcome little Alexandra into their family as were her sisters, Angela and Adriana. Grandparents are Steven and Adina Suster.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi are also thankful grandparents this month. Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn (Kuenzi) Meyer (Lester, IA) welcomed Jaden Louis into their hearts and home on July 2.

Lester grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer.

We were blessed to have the Word brought to us by several visiting ministering brothers in recent weeks. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

Several in our congregation were hospital patients recently, but thankfully at this writing all are well on the mend and again able to assemble with us. They are Bro. Carl Schmid, Bro. Mark Sinn (Sis. Elsie), Sis. Esther Dettwyler and Sis. Linda Hari (Harold).

We welcome Bro. George Schuster to our congregation; he is retired and has recently moved here from Phoenix, AZ. Bro. George has often visited here in the past and was a familiar sight helping out during our building project.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

Psalms 143:10

Philip Aeschleman (Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) and Jennifer Borden (Bonnie Borden, Moorestown, NJ) were married Saturday, July 5. We wish them God's blessings.

We thank the following brothers who visited us this past month: Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). May God richly reward them for their ef-

forts.

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

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Last month I was traveling on business and had the desk clerk at the hotel fax my article. Another fax was going through at the same time. Instead of waiting to make sure the fax went through, I elected to pick up the fax upon returning from dinner. Needless to say, when I returned, a different desk clerk handed me my fax and said it went through. You can imagine my shock at not finding the article in last month's edition. Evidently the fax did not get sent at all. I therefore apologize to you and submit news from the past two months. Aren't you glad and thankful that you don't have to worry about whether or not your prayers are reaching the Heavenly Father? His lines of communication are always open, and He is always ready and willing to listen and help us anytime we call upon His name. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..." (I Peter 3:12)

Over the last few years, as many of you know, we have been remodeling a building with the hope that one day it would be dedicated to the Lord and become the Apostolic Christian Church of Nashville. It is with great joy that we announce (Lord willing) plans to hold Open House on August 31 and Septem-

ber 7. Dedication services are then planned for September 21. We invite all who wish to come and share these joyous occasions with us. Please contact your local Elder or minister or someone they designate with your plans to come. A singing will be held at the church on Saturday prior to the Open House and dedication services. Please remember us in your prayers if you are unable to come.

During the weekends of May 31-June 1 and July 5-6, we were privileged to have buses bringing friends and loved ones from the Goodfield, IL and Tremont, IL congregations, respectively. Ministering Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL - retired), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) delivered God's Word to us. On the other church Sundays (June 15 and July 20), Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) ministered God's Word to us. Other visitors joined us during the past two months from Atlanta, GA; Cissna Park, IL; LaCrosse, IN; Bern and Sabetha, KS; Lexington, KY; and Rittman, OH.

Many thanks to all of our visitors for traveling and worshipping and fellowshiping with us. Truly we felt God's Spirit among us and pray that His Spirit and blessings will continue to be with us all.

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.
Hymns of Zion #91

If you are traveling and passing through the Nashville area, please call and let us know. We usually meet for services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. On the other Sundays, we would be glad to meet for a tape service. Upcoming services are scheduled for August 31 (Open House); September 7 (Open House); September 21 (Dedication); October 5 (Fairbury, IL); and October 19 (Eureka, IL). Please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

TEXAS, CENTRAL Lois Gray

Lila Plattner and Rick LaGrange were married Saturday, July 12, at San Antonio, TX. Rick is employed by a Houston based company and Lila is in graduate school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. They are living in San Antonio. Parents of the couple are Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner, and Ross LaGrange and Catherine LaGrange of Rio Grande City, TX. Our very best wishes are with them. May God bless them richly.

Sunday, July 13, the day following the wedding of Rick and Lila, services were held in San Antonio. We were blessed with an attendance of more than four times our

usual dozen or so. We would enjoy more visitors anytime.

Visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) on June 22; Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) on June 29; and Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) who served the weekend of June 12 and 13 in San Antonio.

Our usual schedule is: at Dallas the FIRST Sunday of the month, at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger the LAST Sunday of the month, and at Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy 71 on the Sundays in between. Services begin at 10:30 and 12:00 noon.

Contacts are Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 and Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222.

We welcome visitors and ask you to please phone ahead as the schedule sometimes changes.

TEXAS, DALLAS Dee Rapp HOLINESS

It is important that we gain an understanding of who God is and what God has done. One of the key character traits of God is His holiness.

Leviticus 11:44-45 - "For I am the Lord your God...ye shall be holy; for I am holy...ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." I Samuel 2:2 - "There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God." Psalm 77:13 - "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?" Psalm 99:2,3,5,9 - "The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. Let them praise thy great

and terrible name; for it is holy. Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy. Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." Ephesians 1:3-4 -"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

Are you living a holy life? Are you portraying God's holiness to those around you at home, at work, and at play?

We want to thank the brothers who have faithfully served us this past month. Dallas services are held on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 and 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn, DeSoto, TX.

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The remaining Sundays will be held at

the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contacts are Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp at (972) 867-4074 and Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner

God Cares!

When His eye is on the sparrow
And each budding leaf that grows;
When He sends the dew each
morning
And the sunshine to the Rose;
You may know beyond all doubting,
In this trial you're passing through.
God cares...and every moment
He is watching over you!

—Keith Bennett

It is so wonderful that we have all the signs of nature to remind us of our Heavenly Father. God created birds of many colors, shapes and characteristics. Some literature I was reading stated that there were over 350 different species of birds near Zapata. Just to name a few of the brighter colored

birds, we have the Green Jay, the tiny Humming bird and the Oriole. We have a native bush in our yard called the Bird of Paradise. This is not like the Bird of Paradise house plant we are familiar with up north, but it has the same colors, and mornings when the Oriole sits on the bush and picks bugs out of the flowers, the color of the bird and the colors of the flowers blend together. It is a colorful scene. We enjoy watching the Road Runner run along the ground then fly to a low branch of a bush or tree. The Scissor-Tail-Fly-Catcher sits on a wire in the air and when it sees a grasshopper a long way off, will fly down and get it. We also enjoy watching the big white Pelicans swim on the lake. God has created so many interesting things on earth. What will we see in Heaven?

Two of our winter residents, Bro. Russell Stoller and his wife, Sis. Melvene, are spending a few weeks in their home in Zapata this summer. Bro. Russell is one of our church trustees.



Silver Threads

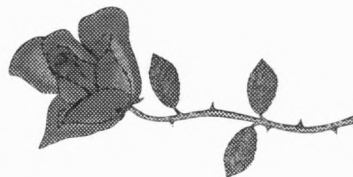
The End Of The Road Is But A Bend In The Road

When we feel we have nothing left to give
And we are sure that the "song has ended" —
When our day seems over and the shadows fall
And the darkness of night has descended,
Where can we go to find the strength
To valiantly keep on trying,
Where can we find the hand that will dry
The tears that the heart is crying...

There's but one place to go and that is to God
And, dropping all pretense and pride,
We can pour out our problems without restraint
And gain strength with Him at our side —
And together we stand at life's crossroads
And view what we think is the end,
But God has a much bigger vision
And He tells us it's ONLY A BEND...

For the road goes on and is smoother,
And the "pause in the song" is a "rest",
And the part that's unsung and unfinished
Is the sweetest and richest and best —
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
and LET GOD share your load,
Your work is not finished or ended,
You've just come to "A Bend in the Road."

—*author unknown*



Sermon continued from page 2

life, and how it adds to our life here below. It makes the day more joyful if we can have that total peace within our heart.

Then we realize that we are not doing ill to the people about us, but we are actually trying, by the grace of God, to multiply the love that the Lord has placed within our lives. We are trying to be helpful one to another. We believe that we are trying to do that.

When we think about that, then we are simply doing what God would ask us to do. We are maybe doing nothing real special, but we are simply serving the Lord and our fellow men around about us.

This last verse that we read in First Corinthians, chapter ten is the bottom verse and the bottom line of the whole chapter. Generally speaking, the Apostle Paul, in this last set of verses, may seem just a bit clumsy as we read them. But, really I think he is trying to impress upon the believer there, that they need to be careful as to what they become involved in or how they handle themselves so it would be proper for the souls of men that many might be saved.

In the first part of the chapter, the Apostle Paul goes through a dissertation of some of the experiences of the children of Israel. Some of those things that happened to them really were very difficult for them or for some particular reason, they had to wait to have opportunity to come to serve the Lord, as far as the Jewish people were concerned. We are thankful that we do serve a God of love and mercy where He will again give that opportunity.

I think we read some key verses. Starting in verse seven, it says, "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." (I Cor. 10:7). I think we read from that, there was no reference unto God. There was no thanks unto God given. Basically, within the heart of the people, was this "eat and play idea."

As earthly time continues to pass by, we as believers in Christ also

need to observe that. We do observe a lot of that taking place. We need to be ever so careful that we do not develop that type of attitude within our own lives, that somehow we are deserving of the blessings of God and that God sort of owes them to us. But, rather, that by a very, very grateful heart observing and really concentrating on the fact that without the blessings of God, we certainly would be terribly in want.

Then he reminds them of the weakness of man. In verse eight, we could have several thoughts. We could think of the physical fornication and then we could also think of spiritual fornication because we know in the Lord's preaching there was a lot of controversy. There were people who would draw nigh to Christ and seemingly accept His teachings and yet, He found that as time went on, even before He went to the cross, there were numbers of people that again walked away from Him.

Basically, their thought and reasoning was that the way of the Lord was just simply too hard. He was just simply too restrictive with an effort that they might also enjoy life.

I guess, loved ones all, when we look at the Bible yet today, sometimes maybe within the household of faith, we have a thought that it seems in some areas, if it is a basic, fundamental church, we might feel that maybe some things are a bit too hard or a bit too tight. Again maybe with the thought we are not permitted to be quite as casual as we would like to be.

Really, loved ones all, when we look at the Bible, the Bible is much harder, isn't it? The Bible is much more specific. We see here how it displeased God when the people would turn from Him. Apparently, there was a lot of idolatry in that time. That is not a sin that we really talk a lot about today, do we? Maybe we develop in our minds, and think of things that we can just simply see. We think about an idol being something that would take our attention and our real center focus away from God and we would give more atten-

tion to some things.

I don't find a better word than just "some things" in everyday life. We know that there are certainly some things out there that we could let our lives become involved with today. The list is so large.

To name a few, we would leave out so many, but I know each of us have a number of things that we think of that could be idols.

One of them that stands out in our mind in the Old Testament, is when Moses went up the mount to pray to God. There the people became very impatient with Moses. So, while he was gone, they needed to have something that they could visually see before their eyes. So they built the Golden Calf and fell down and worshipped it. Simply meaning, that meant more to them for a number of reasons, no doubt; just being able to see it was quite impressive unto them. It was something that they could visually behold and gave them a certain amount of assurance.

Now keep in mind, loved ones all, God has made each one of us. Down deep within our heart and our being, we are just so designed and created by God that we want to worship something. It is good that we think about that from time to time that we just want to worship something. We want to have something. We are so blessed to have about us people, families. Perhaps it was part of the reasoning of God that He designed families for it. It means so much to us just to have people about us.

Certainly, when we are lonely, or just on an everyday basis, it is good for us to have someone who we are able to visit with. From a spiritual aspect, it is extremely important that we have people about us who we can depend upon and talk to, especially when the way is somewhat difficult. We need to have that person to reassure us that our walk of faith is still in line with the Word of God.

I think the next verses bear this out. It says, "Neither murmur ye, as

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Sermon continued from page 45

some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." (I Cor. 10:10). Now comes an explanation of why Paul gives us these verses. He says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples:" (I Cor. 10:11).

How we appreciate examples yet today, don't we? It helps us when we know a person and meet a person and we can feel like they are honest people. Then, it is more impressive if we can feel that they are really godly people. It has a good influence on our lives. It says that "...they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (I Cor. 10:11).

Then, the next verse is one that I think we often think about. It is a very effective verse in our lives. At times, we might feel ourselves a bit strong. Maybe everything in everyday life is going pretty well. Financially, things are rolling along at a pretty good pace. Family, marriage and everything seems to be going along pretty well.

Unfortunately, the flesh would like to take advantage of that and cause us to think that we are standing on pretty firm ground. Here, the Apostle Paul says, "Be careful." I don't think he is causing us to be a pessimist. I don't think he wants us to run around everyday and say, "My, I'm afraid I'm going to fall. I am afraid something will befall me."

Occasionally we meet people like that, but it seems there are a lot of negative things in their lives and it is really difficult in that situation to be able to behold life and be encouraged to walk from day to day. He says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12).

The next verse, probably, is a verse that so many times we use in our lives. From the person that is seeking the Lord in repentance, to the person young in the Lord walking and living, to the families—fathers and mothers who are raising children and at times have difficulty, I think we think of this verse.

Then, you know, Satan is so experienced, that as we grow older in life,

when really it should be a time, as far as serving the Lord, it should be a very strong time in our life, we might think. But there Satan is with his thoughts and ideas. It helps us to know, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful," (I Cor. 10:13a). Isn't it comforting, loved ones all, to grasp in faith that when we are in a trial and test of life, Jesus has gone through all of them?

We might say, "But He was divine." That is true, but keep in mind as He walked here on the face of the earth, He walked like you and me. He had flesh and blood. We know that to be true with Satan's temptation to jump off the pinnacle of the temple. He said, "Jump off! If you are the Son of God, you will not get hurt." Jesus told him that we do not do it that way. "We live by every Word of God," indicating that Jesus needed grace. He needed encouragement from God. We see when He was about to succumb to the cross, there He prayed to God that if this could be removed to take on the sin of the world, but not my will but Thine be done.

We see Jesus walking as a man who knew no sin, but yet took upon Himself the sin of the world. We are unable to really correlate that. We, as individuals, know that sin is in our lives. The Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23).

There is not a person that sits here this morning that God has separated out and made us special by keeping sin from our lives. Whether it is the sin of unbelief or whatever the sin might be, we all have become involved, indicating that all of us are in need of salvation.

"...who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;" (I Cor. 10:13b). It is a pretty popular thought of Satan when we are in trial. He tries to convince us that we will not be able to bear it or that we are the only person who is going through this test. If that is the case, then God apparently has left you, or there is no business in this, that God is supreme in your life. Satan comes

with different thoughts and ideas.

But here, since God is faithful, we have read the promises that He will not permit more to come over us than we are able to bear. That is part of the good news of the gospel. I don't think that any of us could buy a publication (and there are thousands of them today), or we could go from one end of the earth to the other to try to find some publication or visit with some influential person that would be able to tell us they have a remedy they will share with us that we will be able to bear everything of our own strength.

God says that with the temptation, there will also be a way of escape. Now we are in the second phase of God's promise. First, He says, "Nothing will be so strong that we won't be able to overcome it." Then, He gives us a way to escape. We are thankful for that. At times, Satan, as he does come to us, wants us to think that there is no way of walking through or getting out. The last part is that we will be able to bear it. Now we are down to the total strength of God. We go in the strength of the Lord.

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." (I Cor. 10:14). How does that speak to us today, in the present church age? What are some of the things about us that we classify as being idolatry? Maybe we think of our young people most of all. Not that us old people don't have idol potential, but there is so much potential for idolatry for young people today. Since the world stands, there are so many things—there are people, there are all types of ideas and philosophies that want to capture the minds of our young people.

We really need to stand fast, brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents. We need to collectively—just really—stand together against all of the things that could come into our home through publications, over the networks, through books, just about anything imaginable that could capture a young person and take them away from God.

This week (and I think I will mention this), a magazine came to our

home. I guess it was probably for recruit. It was a sporting magazine. I got the mail from the mailbox and laid it on my pickup seat. I traveled through the day and got home at night. When I picked up the mail, there was the most vulgar thing in that magazine I can imagine. I thought, "What kind of a magazine is coming to our home that would look like that?" It was a sports magazine.

Parents, I urge you to take a good look in your home. Something that seemed so innocent a few years ago. Sports Illustrated was what it was; I might as well expose it. I called the publication company and asked them, "What is going on here?" The lady started giving excuses. She said, "Once a year, we print the 'bikini edition'." I said, "You know, the man from Playboy was put in prison for this." She said, "We only do it once a year." I said, "That is once too often." Our conversation went well. We need to be careful. It was just a filthy thing. This is the type of thing that we deal with.

Years back or maybe only five years ago, I don't think it was that accelerated. I don't think it was. There is just a number of things that we do not want to sell to young people. Like an old man this morning that doesn't know what he is doing and cannot understand the Word, but it is real, very real. Satan is going to continue to go forth, robbing from people the most wonderful, blessed plan of life—a plan that grants us a tremendous amount of total freedom (people are looking for a free way of life) and we can have total freedom from serving Satan.

That is wonderful! In place of that type of ugly, filthy, messy type things, we can enjoy the peace of God. The Bible says, "The peace of God passeth all understanding." (see Philippians 4:7).

I really believe, loved ones, and I speak to myself first, I don't think that we really are able to grasp that all. For the most part, all that we have known in our lives is love. We have known about God as a young person. We have known about His Son, the Saviour of the world. We have been taught that He is going to come back again.

With that, I think that we just accept that and receive that as a tremendous amount of assurance in our lives. When we see these ugly, filthy things about us, we know that after life, it is not going to be that way. That is what the Bible says.

"I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. 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 Cor. 10:15-16).

I think here the Apostle Paul is starting to exhort about the blessing of communion because he follows this chapter up—in the mid-part of chapter eleven—with the meaning of communion. He asks again the question, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" "For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread." (I Cor. 10:17).

Then he goes into a little dissertation about Israel again. "Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?" (I Cor. 10:18-19).

Then there is a part pertaining to the Israelite people as far as the sacrifices that they brought unto God. It served as a means that they again could be forgiven of God. That was really the way that, if they obeyed God, again they could be

right in the sight of God.

Then, He says, "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." (I Cor. 10:20). Here again he is bringing to their attention that in the Gentile dispensation, if we would practice somewhat the same practices, that is not applicable in the day and time of grace. He says you would be doing it as unto devils.

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." (I Cor. 10:21). He is saying that we have to choose. As Joshua, years ago said to the people, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve;" (Joshua 24:15). That is such good advice, isn't it? As we are drawn out from this world of sin and darkness and unrighteousness, unto this marvelous way of life, we choose to serve God all the rest of our days. How long? The rest of our days.

It is a privilege and a blessing to be a child of God. It is nothing that we have done, but the goodness of God, through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then he is saying, "Be careful, people." He says, "Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?" (I Cor. 10:22). That is a pretty good question, isn't it?

If we would take things in our own hands, so to speak, even though we have become the children of God, if we would think, "I can go out and do this or allow that or go there and go out and do this." He says that you are provoking the Lord to jealousy. "Do you think that ye are stronger than he?" Oh, we are not, are we? We know better than believe that, don't we? Yet, we have to battle the flesh.



Faith of our Fathers

The faith of our fathers is a subject that is so dear to the heart of the believer because of the appreciation that we have for the preserved faith in the one and only true God, which art in Heaven. We often ask ourselves to what extent we in this modern day are doing to preserve the faith for our posterity. If the Lord tarry, we will be referred to, in the years to come, as the fathers who upheld the true faith.

Our era of time is marked with computers, technology, and communication like never before in the history of mankind. We can access billions of bits of information in seconds, we have compounds that have been invented, which will prevent grain from spoiling, satellites that can beam down on to earth and tell the time on a wrist watch, and alternate means of identification, read by scanners at extremely fast rates. All of this technology is a fulfillment of the prophecy, *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* Daniel 12:4

This unprecedented knowledge is not Godly wisdom by any means and it can leave mankind with a sense of independence and superiority. "...knowledge puffeth up..." saith the Lord. Even as it is with wealth, we must possess it as if we do not have it. The word for that is humble. Do we even know what humility really is? With that thought in mind, let us go back in time to 400 AD and look at a portion of the history of the world.

This period of history was a time of nations breaking away from the Roman Empire. The Britons, Belgium, Germany all were fighting a giant government that became corrupt from within. The Romans spread out too far and were unable to lead the people who desired freedom. They were unable to inspire the populace because they them-

selves became proud of their power. Pomp and glory cannot be found in anything from the world to the Church down to the family unit, if we expect God's grace.

With Rome declining as a government, so much more did the "general church" increase. Power and corruption in the "general church" gave the leaders a feeling of inercency. It was a time of "me-ism" and "my opinion." When someone did something that convicted the world church, such as feeling a need for faith to believe before being baptized, that "general church" would retaliate. The golden thread that comes from God was revealed to a small percentage of people, however they were adamant as to their faith.

Persecution followed, of which much has been told on this written page. People started to become bolder in their preaching of baptism by faith, and the authorities became more ferocious in their desire to stamp out the new found belief, which was already 400 years old.

In 424 AD, eleven years after the Emperors Honorius and Theodosius had issued their bloody edict against the Anabaptists, the government leaders were confronted with a kind and pious teacher by the name of Cyril of Alexandria. Cyril planned to spread abroad the wonderful message of Jesus Christ, when a new subtle false teaching was beginning to be promoted. This was the teaching by one Nestorius, who alleged the existence of two persons, one divine, and one human, in Jesus Christ. What subtlety do we see in this false allegation? ***No lie is so bad as one that contains a little truth.*** If we would ascertain as truth that conclusion, we could attribute anything we wanted to the human person, which would nullify the divine nature of our Lord's sojourn and teachings while He was on earth. Even though they admitted that one person of Jesus was divine, they di-

minished all by saying that another person was on earth that was human, making for confusion, which is the tool of Satan.

Cyril was commanded to accept the false doctrine of Nestorius upon severe punishment if he did not. It seems to us that in those days Satan was bold enough to make frontal attacks upon the true believer by changing the truth to a lie. Is it any different today? There is an attempt by Satan to destroy our faith and the Church yet today by causing many versions of the Bible to be written. Man's motive may be mostly financial, but Satan wants confusion. There is a book, called the Quele bible, which is based on "the gospel of Thomas." The author claims accuracy from the fact that he claims his findings come from the Dead Sea scrolls. In this false book are claims that only two words, that were spoken by Jesus in the Lord's Prayer, were really spoken by Him. Another very subtle version takes out the word fornication, while still another changes Master to teacher, and still another leaves out repentance. All of these books are disguised as being the Word of God, when in fact they are man's work of falseness. Will we always be able to detect the truth? By God's grace we will if we strive to stay close to Him and let the small still voice of the Holy Ghost speak to us.

Persecution continued as the true believer brought conviction upon the false world church. In 456 AD, another believer found himself in conflict with a king of Persia. This believer, Benjamin, was a deacon of the Christian Church in Persia, who, when opportunity offered itself, also proclaimed the doctrines of the Holy Gospel to the people, at which Geroran, the King of Persia, took such offense, that he caused him to be cast into prison, where he remained without deliverance for two years.



God's Judgment on King Honoricus

After this, a certain ambassador came to the King to transact some estate business. Having heard of Benjamin and his dreary confinement, he besought the King to set him free. The King consented, yet on the condition that the prisoner should not speak to any of his magi or priests of the Christian religion or dispute with them. The ambassador promised the King in Benjamin's name that his command should be heeded. But when he came to Benjamin, and admonished him to this, Benjamin answered: "I do not wish to do what you have promised in my name. I cannot withhold the doctrine of the light of the Gospel, which I have received from God, from others, not communicating it to them; for I have learned from the Gospel how severely those will be punished, who bury the talent which has been given them to gain something therewith, in the earth."

In the meantime, the King, knowing nothing of the answer which Benjamin had returned to the ambassador gave command to release him from his confinement. Benjamin once more free, ceased not to exhort the people as before, and to set the light of the Holy Gospel on the candlestick. When this had continued for about the space of one year after his liberation from

prison, new complaints were brought against him before the King, who had him brought before him, and commanded him to renounce the God whom he served, on pain of bodily punishment. Then Benjamin asked the King: "What punishment, beloved King, does he deserve, who deserts and renounces thee and thy government, and submits himself to, and serves another lord?" The King answered: "Such a man deserves punishment on body and property, yea, the severest penalty of death." Benjamin asked again saying: "What punishment does the man deserve who forsakes his God, the Creator of all things in order to exalt one of his servants as God, and to give to a creature the worship due to God alone?"

These words so incensed the King, that he commanded his guards to sharpen twenty reeds and to thrust them between the flesh and the nails of his fingers and toes. But when the King saw that the pious martyr endured all this with steadfastness, yea, regarded it but very little, he, after other torments, ordered the executioners to prepare a knotty stick, which by cutting away the branches, was made as sharp as a stick of thorns. This he caused to be thrust into the nether part of his body, and then pulled backwards and forwards, until the

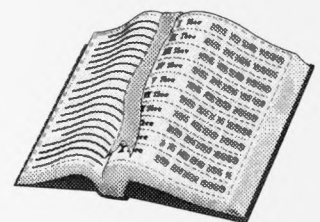
faithful servant and professor of Christ ended his life under the hands of the executioners, like a defenseless lamb that is led to the slaughter and opens not its mouth.

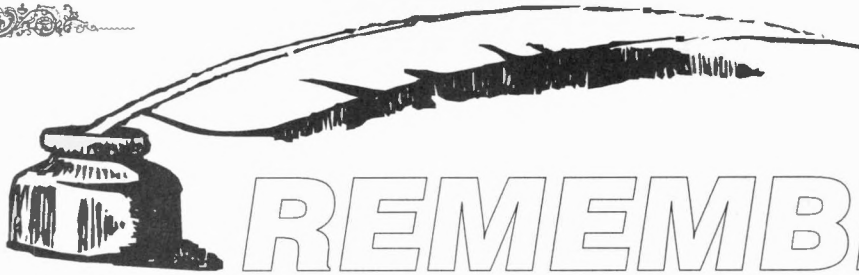
A.D. 477, Honoricus, King of the Vandals, an adherent of the Arian sect, arose with great violence against those who would not assent to his views, cruelly persecuting, and lamentably maltreating them.

When he proposed to many that they should swear an oath, some thought it not contrary to God, but the bishops and elders of the church of Christ would not swear, saying that it was prohibited in the Gospel, since Christ says: "Swear not." Thereupon they were martyred, or at least severely punished. Those, however, who had been prevailed upon to swear, did not escape free, for, according to ancient writers, he punished both alike; these, because they had sworn contrary to the command of the Gospel, and those, because they refused to swear.

In the meantime, the distress and misery were so great that scarcely a house could be found that was not filled with wailing and lamentations.

After this terrible tyrant had put to death, by these and similar torments, as well as exiled, a countless number, God, after many plagues had been sent upon that country, awfully punished him: worms and lice so gnawed his flesh that his whole body became putrefied, one member dropping off after another, so that he was buried piecemeal, thus coming to a horrible and not less ignominious end—the evident vengeance of God for his tyranny against the Christians.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

VIII - A Nation In Turmoil

By 1920, the church had experienced reasonable growth in the United States. And while it was the recipient of much joy in the Lord, it had endured many hardships as well.

The most difficult trials early in this century were the first division in 1906-1908, and the court proceedings of five Elders in 1908. To a lesser extent, the anti-German attitudes that surfaced during World War I, which ultimately resulted in the church adopting the English language in its worship liturgy, also was unsettling for the brethren.

These hardships, perhaps, prepared the church for upcoming turmoil. Although it had been growing incrementally over the decades and was successful in preserving and nurturing its deeply held beliefs, it soon faced additional stresses as the nation itself was threatened, both from within and from without.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, the nation was plunged into economic chaos and the Great Depression resulted. Our members felt the affects of this national economic downturn (in which the unemployment rate reached 25 percent), but not to the extent of other, less spiritually bonded Americans. The fact that so many of our members were farmers, and thus more economically self-sufficient, helped to ease their difficulties. But the brethren indeed felt the monetary crunch, and practiced the traits of thrift and frugality.

Motivated by an idealism to endure sound doctrine, and to carefully apply God's word to everyday life, the church continued its pattern of doctrinal separation and avoidance of seminaries and Bible colleges. By doing so, it remained unaffected by the intense religious rivalries engendered by the modernist-fundamentalist controversies that raged amid American Christianity in the early part of the 1900's.

It's worth being aware of the religious conflict of that era. From our church's

standpoint, there was never any doubt that the Bible was literally true and that its promises were sure. The infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures were (and are) never doubted. Yet, the literal interpretation of the Word was severely challenged by a "higher criticism" method of interpretation. This approach alleged the Bible was not entirely true. It just "contained" the truth. It denied the virgin birth of Christ, His bodily resurrection and other central points of doctrine. This vastly broader outlook was called "modernism".

Some aspects of American Christianity strongly opposed modernism (as might be expected). This movement became known



as "fundamentalism" because they defended (very vigorously) the core doctrines. Controversy became profound. Yet, our people were far removed from these ongoing arguments. A literal approach to Scriptures remained (in our church), and we benefit yet today from such a doctrinal carefulness. It helps us to maintain a sound doctrine.

In 1932, a second division took place regarding the issue of retaining the German language in worship; and over varying standards of holiness. About 10 percent of the membership left to form the German Apostolic Christian Church.

This was sometimes called the "30-year split" because it occurred approximately 30 years after the first split that took place soon after the turn of the century. (In 1955, a group of milder attitude left that church to form the Christian Apostolic Church. Various people from this latter group have recently become part of the Apostolic Christian Church.)

When World War II broke out, our young members and friends of the truth left for the armed forces, but they served

without bearing arms. It was a very sad time as young men witnessed their mother's tears in departing for duties and dangers unknown. It was a sad, heart-rending time!

Many young men went into combat unarmed. The Lord's teachings were not forsaken: "Do violence to no man", "Turn the other cheek", etc. Scriptures were obeyed as our boys worked mostly as medics—serving the wounded and dying.

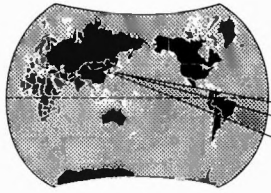
1,200 of our young men served during World War II. Only one lost his life. He was Dale Aeschliman (Bluffton, IN) who was killed one dark night in January, 1945, on the island of Luzan, the Philippine Islands. He had administered medical aid to a comrade. On crawling back to his foxhole, he was hit by friendly fire and mortally wounded. An account of this heartbreaking incident is given by his boyhood friend, Bro. Homer Reinick, on page 529 of *Marching to Zion*.

Another incident during war is worth remembering, but it happened during World War I. Several young men of the church were training in the U.S. Army at Camp Wheeler near Macon, GA. Elder Barthol Rapp (Morton, IL) and Bro. Gustave Bucher (father of Bro. Harry Bucher, Gridley, IL), traveled to Macon to attend worship services scheduled at Hotel Lanier. As the group of 25-30 young soldiers from our various churches gathered in a hotel room, they pulled down the window shades, locked the door and began singing from their German Zion's Harps—this at a time when America was at war with Germany. As the singing wafted through the halls and into the downstairs lobby, the sounds were "treasonous" to the hearers. The police were summoned, arrests made, and the group thrown into jail.

They were soon released when military authorities assured Macon officials they had previously authorized the meeting.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: *Post-War Growth*



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Who is God”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently I have a new English student in his early 40's who wants to use the Bible as his text. We started out in Genesis but he wants to study about Moses so we have moved to Exodus. We were sailing along in Genesis at a pretty good pace, about God creating everything, when he suddenly stopped, looked at me intently and asked, “Who is God?” I replied immediately, “God is the Creator.” He repeated my statement and seemed satisfied. Fortunately for me, he did not ask who the Creator is, as this could go on and on without any clear identification as to who God is.

In our last English lesson just two days ago, we were studying Exodus 3:13-14 where Moses was also concerned about how to identify God when speaking to the children of Israel. God told Moses to tell the children of Israel, “I AM THAT I AM” had sent him. This indicates that God does exist and that He doesn't need a driver's license or a passport for identification. Here comes the need for

faith, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

The next Sunday after telling my student that God is the Creator, he was enthusiastically telling a group of us in church that it isn't only the big, beautiful flowers that are god, but the small insignificant flowers are god just as much as the big ones. He had told me that he was a Shintoist and Shinto teaches that many things and even animals are gods. It looks like I have more explaining to do as to who God is.

Someone may say, “Tell your student that Jesus Christ is God. After all, Jesus said, ‘He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.’” However, this might hinder us from teaching that we should not worship human beings but only the Creator God. I conclude that I do not worship the physical body of the Lord Jesus Christ, but I worship the Son of God who lived in

that body. Also, Jesus prayed to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane so there is a distinction between the Father and the Son.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24). This is important in explaining who God is, but our knowledge of the spiritual world is limited and if we blunder into the spiritual world without faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ, we run the risk of being swallowed up by evil spirits who also inhabit the spiritual world.

God has no birth date but is from everlasting to everlasting. He has no limited dwelling place but can be everywhere at once. He is a Spirit. He knows everything and can do anything. He is the Creator and deserves our complete devotion and allegiance. He is our Saviour in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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