



The Grapes Lining

There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard...

September 1997

“STAND FAST IN THE LORD”

Sermon by Bro. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, IN
Philippians 4

Paul was a great man—a great missionary. He spread the Word (the message) when he went out to establish the churches. He went out and preached Christ and Him crucified.

He endured many hardships, many things, even at the hand of those he was in contact with—even among false brethren. We can read in II Corinthians, chapter 11 of all the things he endured for the sake of Christ, and for the sake of spreading the gospel truth.

Here he is giving them a word of commendation because they cared for him and provided for his needs when he was in great need. He said, “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.” (Phil. 4:1). He acknowledged them as “dearly beloved...my crown and my joy!”

Beloved, what could be more wonderful than to know that we are a joy and a crown to God Almighty? These people were to Paul, and he added, “...so stand fast in the Lord.”

Beloved, how many times is our spiritual defense challenged and tested? Do we stand fast and not give out and give way to the powers of Satan and his evil influence? There is tremendous power in Satan and his host of angels. He is out deceiving the world and seeking to destroy, mislead, rob and to do every evil work because he knows his time is short.

Why doesn't he bother those who are lost? Because he knows they are in his camp. That is why he is testing us...you and I, beloved. Brothers and sisters, our faith is being tested on every side. We are being challenged, and we are racing towards eternity. The coming of Jesus is drawing

near.

He said, “...so stand fast in the Lord.” (Phil. 4:1). How do we stand fast? We don't move. Here is the anchor—the Word of God. We don't move from the Word of God to stand fast.

How many times today do people want to take the Word and distort it, and change it around to fit their life? We can't do that. We have to fit our life into the Word and use it and apply it in our daily living.

The Word of God must be alive and Jesus Christ must be real to us. We must focus our attention on the goal...the end of life...the victory! That's what we are striving for! Be willing to accept whatever God will permit to come to pass. Remember He holds the key. It is up to you and I to use it!

“I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.” (Phil. 4:2). Beloved, if there is ever a time to hold fast, it is today. Stand fast with the same mind, the same thinking, the same faith, the same love, and the same fellowship. Be the same!

Why is it today that people can repent and become a member of the church and all of a sudden they are dissatisfied and unhappy? What is wrong? What happened to the likemindedness? The same mind? Paul was telling them to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Oh, yes, those that depart from the faith will say they are not leaving the Lord. Aren't they? Stand fast in the Lord and be of the same mind in the Lord. It is in the Lord, and once we become in the Lord, how can we depart from something if we are not in it? If men are departing from the faith and the truth, they have to be in it before they can de-

part from it. So let's stay in it...and in the same mind. Stand fast in the Lord.

The Lord means everything to me. Doesn't He to you? Without Him, we can do nothing. With Him, we can do everything. Without Him, we are lost. With Him, we are saved. We can't really emphasize the importance of that truth. Let's not waver. Let's be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. (See I Cor. 15:58).

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel...” (Phil. 4:3). Beloved sisters in the Lord, we couldn't do it without you. You don't know how important you are in the household of faith. We depend upon you, but we don't acknowledge and give you the thanks and credit that is due you so many times.

But I think today is a good time to be remembered because Paul remembered the women in his time. You are important...you are precious, and we appreciate you. Maybe

Sermon continued on page 45

The Silver Lining (Vol. 51, #9)

RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

David Bertsch

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 1997

The Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments

For those of us who live under the new covenant, the question often arises concerning our responsibilities to the old covenant (i.e., the Old Testament).

Before delving into such a question, we need to be conscious of the scriptural passage found in II Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

The book of Galatians very simply describes the difference between the Old and New Testaments: "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Gal. 3:23-25).

The Scriptures teach over and over that God's law condemns all men as sinners. But law—any type of law—is not able to save anyone. The Law does have value, however, because it arouses people to recognize their need of a Saviour.

The Apostle Paul states he would not have known what sin was except for the Law's reminder, "Nay I had not known sin, but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, 'Thou shalt not covet'" (Rom. 7:7).

The Gospel of the New Testament fulfills the old Jewish Law of the Old Testament. We, as a new covenant people, see the Old Testament through the eyes (the general understanding) of the New Testament. The Lord Himself listed the two commandments which form the moral code of the New Testament: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these"

(Mark 12:30-31).

The Old Testament attempts to make men conscious of their sin, and to awaken them concerning their need of salvation. The New Testament sharpens God's moral law and is often more penetrating in its demands than the Old Testament.

Although there are many differences, the two testaments are closely related as the New Testament builds on the moral code of the Old. There are many quotes in the New Testament that are also found in the Old Testament. Approximately 1100 quotes and phrases of the Old Testament are found in the New Testament, thus providing continuity between these two testaments.

In many places, however, the New Testament supersedes the Old. While an eye for an eye was taught in the Old Testament, the New Testament teaches turning the other cheek to violence. Not only was it wrong to swear a false oath, the Lord Jesus taught that all oaths are to be eliminated. Further, while polygamy was present in the Old Testament, Christ taught in the new Testament that a man should have one companion (wife) for life.

Not only does the New Testament supersede the Old, but many of the Old Testament's teachings were also temporary and were not reaffirmed in the New Testament. For example, it is clear that today's new covenant believer is free from the ceremonial regulations of the Old Testament such as washings, holy days, unclean foods, the Jewish Sabbath, the new moon observation, feast days, etc.

The old covenant of grace and salvation is precious to us today. We have been made free from the bondage of the law, and if we repent for our sins, we are free as well from the bondage of sin and darkness.

The old covenant has been replaced

by the new covenant (Heb. 8:6-7). It is "established upon better promises" (Heb. 8:6). This is the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31. The priesthood has been changed. Today's believers are not under the Aaronic priesthood, but their priest is the Lord Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice was sufficient to cover the sins we committed while yet in a state of unbelief.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 10:4). Those who repent, become converted, and walk in sanctification and grace, are made righteous by faith in the shed blood of Christ Jesus. Their right standing before God does not require their keeping the Judaic law.

Nevertheless, the fact that we are free from the Judaic law does not diminish the importance of the moral aspects of the Old Testament. The moral law, as differentiated from the ceremonial law (i.e. washings, observance of holy days, unclean foods, etc.), is still valid and very beneficial for the converted believer in today's new covenant time. The moral law of the Old Testament, therefore, is validated in the New Testament.

The believer is to follow the moral law of God, but this is done out of love for God, and not to "merit" salvation. The Ten Commandments comprise an integral part of God's moral law, and new covenant believers benefit by applying these commandments to their everyday life.

While we benefit from the moral guidance and wisdom of the Old Testament, we now look to the cross of Christ and His shed blood for salvation. The new covenant of grace and salvation is precious to us today. We have been made free from bondage of the law, and if we repent for our sins, we can also be free from the bondage of sin and darkness as well.



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

New Church in St. Louis, Missouri

Church history-the beginning

The Apostolic Christian Church of St. Louis was the vision of Elder Bros. Roy Grimm of Taylor, MO, and Steve Rinkenberger of Cissna Park, IL. The church had its first meeting at a hotel in Earth City, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, on November 22, 1981. In January of 1982, the congregation began meeting at the Ben Franklin Motel in St. Louis. Services, however, were discontinued in June of 1985.

Another start

Services resumed at the Ben Franklin in September, 1986, when Bro. Loren Schrenk moved his family to the area. Twice per month, visiting ministers from Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas led the small group in worship. In May, 1988, Bro. Loren Schrenk was given the duties of the local ministry. By this time, the congregation was worshipping together every Sunday.

A new facility

In 1988, the members of the St. Louis congregation felt the need to have a permanent house of worship. With the generous support from churches across the country, the congregation purchased a one and one-half acre site in St. Charles County. Construction of the new church began in the summer of 1990, and the first worship service was held on March 3, 1991.

In the summer of 1996, the congregation purchased a house and land adjacent to the church. Currently, the church rents this house on a month-to-month basis to a family from the community. With this situation, arrangements can be made with the tenants to make this house available to a church family who wishes to move into the area.

Sunday School growth

Because of the number of children in the congregation, in the Fall of 1996, the members decided to split the single Sunday School class into grade school and Bible class. Currently, in addition to the visitors who are greatly appreciated, approximately twenty people attend church on a regular basis. This includes thirteen members and two converts.

St. Louis

Pierre Laclede founded St. Louis in 1764 as an Indian trading post. Named after King Louis IX of France, St. Louis is the home of numerous museums, botanical gardens, and a world-famous zoo. The metro area is also the headquarters for many large corporations including several listed in the Fortune 500. The city has a population of about 350,000. Like most cities, however, population growth is most rapid in the suburbs.

The city is widely known for its riverfront. Originally an outpost for fur trappers and traders, the riverfront is now home of the world famous Gateway Arch. Rising 630 vertical feet, this structure is a monument to Thomas Jefferson and our nation's westward movement.

Because St. Louis is located at the nation's center, it is an ideal place for business. Many national corporations have plants or offices here. Auto assembly plants make the area the second largest auto factory area in the nation. Health care and educational facilities in this area are some of the most advanced in the world.

All of these features make the area a prime vacation site, and brethren are encouraged to include a visit to the church when they come into the area. Christian fellowship can follow wholesome family activities to the benefit of everyone.



St. Charles

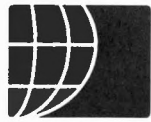
St. Charles is twenty-five miles west of the city of St. Louis. As noted previously, the church is located here. Founded in 1796 by French-Canadian fur trader Louis

Blanchette, the city of St. Charles was the site of Missouri's first state capital. It is mostly known for its historical district. The National Register Historic District is a nine block area of brick streets, gaslights, German-American and French Colonial buildings, and over 100 antiques and specialty shops.

The address of the church is 3333 Upper Bottom Road, St. Charles, MO 63303. The telephone number for the church is 314-447-8412. Bro. Loren Schrenk's home phone number is 314-994-1944.

Support of our brotherhood

The Mission Committee as well as our entire brotherhood is supportive of this church. We encourage our brethren to include St. Louis in their vacation plans, with a visit to the church. We also support new families moving into the area as God opens the way.



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

How to submit new World Relief projects in the U.S.

On Saturday, August 9, following our General Conference, the World Relief Committee met in Goodfield, Illinois. Three meetings are held yearly. At this meeting the Committee approved projects totaling over \$400,000, which came as gifts from our brotherhood.

Most of these projects originated from brothers within the church body. The World Relief Committee is primarily administrative, and seldom of itself generates new projects. There are five Boards which bring proposals for projects to this committee. They are: Caribbean, India, European, Mexico, and USA. These World Relief Boards function as separate entities, bringing their recommendations to the World Relief Committee at the three annual meetings.

Procedure to submit projects

As we labor for Christ, our first efforts should be in the area of personal godliness and spirituality. This then leads us into having concern for the poor as Jesus exhorted in the 25th chapter of Matthew and many other scriptures.

When Jesus departed this earth, He left the instructions to His disciples as recorded in Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

We take this to mean that our efforts should begin at home and progress throughout the world. It is our hope that brethren would consider situations in their local communities which require assistance. The goal of World Relief is consistent with the scripture that a balance is maintained between U.S. and international projects. The World Relief Committee has provided the following procedure whereby projects can be brought to the meetings for evaluation and approval in an orderly manner:

1. Inform local Treasurer-Representative
2. Visit with local Elder Brother
3. Present to area World Relief Committee member
4. Submit to the USA Board

Inform local Treasurer-Representative

When we become aware of a need, we should first find out as many details of the project as possible and then meet with our local Treasurer-Representative to evaluate the possibilities of making this an official World Relief project.

Visit with local Elder Brother

If it appears that this project could be considered, the local elder should be advised of the details, and help make the decision whether to continue. It is our policy when a religious organization is involved, that we evaluate their doctrine before proceeding. The World Relief Committee in accord with the Elder Body seeks to find organizations with doctrine as near ours as possible. The local elder can be of great help at this point in the research of the project.

In the final analysis, all of this work proceeds with the approval and blessings of our Elder Body. As we work together, our efforts continue to be more blessed, and the ties of love and esteem between the brethren continue to grow. It is beneficial that we respect each other's opinion for the overall welfare of not only the brotherhood, but also those receiving humanitarian aid.

Present the project to a World Relief Committee member

If everything is in order, the next step is to take the project to the World Relief Committee member who represents the area in which the project is located. There is a form used to list all of the details of the potential project which will be used to help present the project to the Committee. The project has a greater potential of approval when there is willingness of the brethren submitting the proposal to provide the needed leadership and organization.

Submit to the appropriate Board

When a project (in the U.S.) has met the above criteria, it should be forwarded to the Chairman of the USA Board, presently Bro. Arnold Gerst. He will assist in preparing the project proposal and make the presentation to the National World Relief Committee.

We encourage you

At the Goodfield meeting, the Committee was in agreement that there is a need for more local projects. These projects have high priority, and we encourage you to seek them out. Untold blessings can result when brethren and friends work together on a project close to their home. Great appreciation for our brethren and friends involved in all areas of World Relief was expressed. From the local work to the international efforts, they continue to be a blessing to everyone involved. For further information please contact:

Bro. Arnold Gerst
1107 Madonna Dr.
Quincy, IL 62301
217-223-8424

- 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>
August	3,222	28,189	392,232

* 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
Pulpit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.
- Available At Leo Bible Distribution Center -

sounding song coming from a person who is truly worshipping. God would hear that song on key because of the condition of the heart. Or imagine a disabled woman who slurs her pronunciation and ambulates in very small shaky steps, encourage another disabled individual, "Come into lunch, Kim. It will taste good." God would see that as a huge kindness because of the condition of the heart.

Let us stop and look at those around us in God's eyes. We will see much more beauty than just the changing of the season!

The staff from ACHH, Inc. would like to extend our sympathies to the family of Max Honegger. Max lived at our Oakwood Estate facility and was loved by all of us.

Birthdays for October are: ACHH - Tricia O'Donnell (1), Carol Fahrni (5), and Mark Mulnix (6). OAKWOOD - Lois Baumgartner (4) and Bryan Tiezzi (30). LINDEN - Kent Knobloch (14). 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Chad Gerber (9). 652 DETROIT - CILA - Anita Schuon (13).

GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Deb Graf

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:12

It is with great joy and humility we express our love and thankfulness for the generosity of our faithful supporters during our 21st Annual Auction. The Lord has certainly blessed us with many people who gave of their time and talents to donate items, help with set up, auction and purchase the items and help with clean up. Every person has

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As we view the outdoors and the wonder of seasonal weather changes, we are able to stand in awe of our Creator's power and ability to create beauty. If we expand our thoughts a bit, we would realize that God finds beauty in each and every one of His creations. We, as human beings, are so very limited by our "natural" eyes. If we would view sights and especially other individuals through "God's" eyes, we would perceive the world around us in a very different light.

Just imagine hearing an off key



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

Haiti Coordinator Needed

We are seeking brothers or couples to serve as coordinators for our work teams. Volunteers would need to be in Haiti for several months during the winter season.

Please contact Bro. Roger Sauder
(954)584-0947

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

their God given talents and we feel overwhelmed by your sharing of those talents with us. The total proceeds at the end of the auction day were \$216,000. Thank you for giving so freely to the Lord.

The Peoria Young Group blessed us with a visit to our campus on July 26. They helped with cleaning, painting, and maintenance. We finished the evening with pizza and singing. We appreciate their help and the opportunity to fellowship with them.

God has blessed us during the past month with many volunteers who were here a week or more. We thank Bros. Brett Heiniger, Randy Fessenden, Nate Wiegand, Zach

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

Sauder, Mike Rassi, Rob Honegger, Joe Sprunger, Jeff Waibel, Brandon Moser, Steve Domka, Jeff Strunk, Rick Kaisner, Ted Orsik, Jason Huber, Thad Heinold, Neil Banwart, Scott Mangers, Matt Graf and Sisters LaNae Reinhard, Rachel Rausch, Wendi Mathis, Brandy Girod, Aimee Meyer, Kami Isch, Molli Gilliom, Mindy Knapp, Gwen Kloter, Tessa Schamback, Maxine Sauder, Christy Stoller, Erica Kuntz, Rachel Conrad, Wendy Witzig, Carolyn Reuter and Carol Graf. May the Lord richly bless you in return for all you have given of yourselves.

WORK PROJECT DATES MEXICO CONSTRUCTION WORKTEAMS**December 3-9**

Contact Bro. Bill Gerber (Lester)
(712)478-4489

December 26 - January 2

Contact Bro. Terry Kuenzi (Silverton)
(503)362-3275

March 7-14

Contact Bro. Bruce Aschliman
(Bluffton)
(219)824-5160

March 21-28

Contact Bro. Tom Schifferer (Elgin)
(847)695-7510

**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.



**"...BUT GOD GAVE
THE INCREASE."
(1 COR. 3:6)**

Thank you so much for the loving response to our Twenty-first Annual Auction. Our total to date is over \$216,000! We are humbled and grateful for your consistent support of Gateway Woods. Your donations help to pay the daily cost of care for each child—especially those placed by parents who are unable to pay the full cost. Thank you for joining us in this mission...for the children!

Sale Date for 1988:
Saturday, August 15, 1988

It is with sadness we say farewell to our summer employees, Sis. Abby Kipfer, Bros. John Rassi and Arlen Miller, as well as our long term volunteer, Bro. Nick Zaugg. We have many fond memories of their time here and look forward to a time when we will all meet again.

There are many changes in the homes across campus. We say goodbye to Aaron, Mandy, Dawn, Jesse, Zach, and Samantha. We pray they will all remember the love of Jesus and apply it to their lives. We welcome Tricia, Stephanie and Tiffany to our campus.

We continue to have a need for Alternate Houseparents and a high school teacher (for the new on-grounds school) to serve in the lives of children. If God is calling you to this ministry, don't put Him on hold. For more information and job requirements, please see the advertisement in this issue.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Molly Stickling

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the
world.

Another school year has officially begun at the preschool. There has been lots of excitement about new crayons, pencils, and especially some new children. Our theme verse for our first two weeks of school has been, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The new children remind us of our responsibility to be Godly examples.

As our summer comes to a close, we would like to thank those who came and volunteered their time with us. Thank you to Sis. Debra Blunier, Lexy Blunier and Warren Blunier, all from Eureka, IL. We are

always grateful for those who come and help with willing hearts and hands.

Recently, two children were having a disagreement on the playground. They were upset because one of the boys called the other boy a mean name. The teacher asked the child if he called the other boy a name and the child seriously replied, "I didn't say it, because if I did, I would of heard it with my ears." Although humorous, we at the preschool were reminded how the children really do have listening ears.

We are starting this school year with 34 children attending. Each child has their own uniqueness, and comes from a different home environment. We humbly ask for your prayers as we teach, guide, and show the love of God to these children and their families.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

As fall and harvest time rapidly approach, and the time goes by so quickly, we are reminded of the great harvest of the Lord that is yet to come. We need to take time to evaluate our life. First of all, are we ready, ourselves, for the Lord's return? Can fruit be seen in our lives? Second, are we sharing our faith with others so they can be in this great harvest too? Time is running out. We see the world around us continue to darken, even here in the Bible belt, and we realize that the time of grace will not last forever. One sister recently told me, "I feel I have been given so much, but what am I doing with it?" Let us try to "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16)

We do appreciate the added fellowship we have with our brothers and sisters when we have visitors. Special thanks to Bro. Byron Stoller

(Gridley, IL) and his family, as they came and shared a Sunday with us. We also had visitors from Fairbury, Oakville, Princeville, Roanoke, and Mark Klaus' family from Japan. Thank you for strengthening our ties to those of like mind and faith, who are scattered about.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Holding fast the faithful word..."

Titus 1:9

How thankful we are our Elders and wives could meet August 6-8 to fortify their firm belief; God is alive and His teachings and truths will be upheld in our Apostolic Christian Church!

Fellow believers, let us stand united; we cannot afford "watered down" versions of God's Holy Word.

God wants you for His friend. Several in our church family are repenting and we are rejoicing.

Visiting ministers we appreciated very much were Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

Sis. Josephine Pamer had outpatient surgery. Sis. Martha Elsasser is recovering from pneumonia as well as a broken hip and arm. We also pray for our many disabled shut-ins. Be assured God cares.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer became first-time grandparents on July 20 when Jennifer Lynn Rocke was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy.

Bob and Arlene Farney welcome two granddaughters also. Sarah Rachel Melson was born July 22; then on July 27, Lauren Elizabeth Farney arrived. We pray God's blessings on these three families.

Our sympathy to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry Beyer on the death of his brother, Floyd, in Wichita, KS. They were able to attend the fu-

neral.

Share God's love with someone who is lonely.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Martha Elsasser wishes to express her thanks and appreciation to all of her family and friends who so kindly remembered her with phone calls, cards, words of encouragement, gifts of love, prayers and concern during her recent surgery and recovery. May God's love reach out to each of you and bless you.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Our building committee has now received approval from the Elder body to proceed with the purchase of a lot, so we can move toward the goal of having our own church building, the Lord willing.

Bro. Harvey Smith (Sis. Ethel) suffered a heart attack to an already weak heart the last week of July, and even though he is once again assembling with us, he could use the prayers of all believers for the Lord's help, strength and healing touch, as He wills.

A wonderful evening of fellowship was enjoyed by approximately 120 who attended our corn-on-the-cob roast. We sang songs of praise amidst the pine trees for over an hour. We appreciated all that could come and those who stayed for Sunday to worship the Lord with us.

We have been so blessed by the ministers who have been so willing to come serve us from across our country. They included Bros. James Plattner (Princeville, IL), James Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Greg Gramm and James Emch (both of Phoenix). May God richly bless them and their families.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Sunday, August 17, was an emo-

tional day as we said goodbye to two young women who are headed off to college. Carrie Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) and our friend, JoAnn Cox, are about to begin their college careers. Carrie is headed to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ and JoAnn will be attending Adams State University in Alamosa, CO. We pray these young women will carry with them in their hearts what they have heard in church every Sunday. May God be with you both!

Bro. Steve and Sis. Marcia Bauer would like to express their thanks for all the prayers offered and cards sent on behalf of their little Allison during her hospitalization and recovery. We are happy to report she started kindergarten yesterday in good health.

All of our Tucson children started back to school yesterday and our prayers certainly went with them, from the kindergartners up to the high school students.

A birthday celebration was held recently for Bro. Al Zeltwanger who turned 91. God bless you, Bro. Al.

Our Sunday School started again last Sunday. We need to keep our teachers and students in our prayers as they gather each Sunday.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joshua Martinez

"They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them."

Isaiah 65:23

The only security we have in this fast-paced and ever-changing world is the love of our Father in Heaven. We feel comfort in knowing that no matter what we face, He will never forsake us, even when the future looks bleak and there seems to be no way to turn. There is a special pur-

pose in His perfect plan for everything that happens. His Word promises us that we shall not labour in His vineyard in vain.

As we start another school year, our prayers go out on behalf of our students and their parents. May we as believers strive to do our part in training these young hearts and minds. May we be shining lights showing them by example the joy that comes from following our Lord's way. May we teach them what it means to be in the "world" but not a part of it.

We are always thankful for ministering brothers who share the Word of Life with us. We were truly blessed to have had Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) in our midst this month. Our bonds of love and fellowship span great oceans, know no boundaries and are truly precious gifts from above. May God richly bless Bro. Akito for being a willing servant.

This month we were also privileged to have with us Dr. Surendra and Mrs. Damayanti Parkhe of the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India. After a church supper, we had the opportunity to see a slide show of their work. During his presentation, Dr. Parkhe told us of the hardships and discrimination Christians face under a Hindu government. As we saw the images on the screen, we were filled with emotions of shame, gratefulness and inspiration. We felt shamed at the bountiful wealth we enjoy in this country. We felt grateful at the same time that the Lord has blessed us with the resources to help and that He chose us to live in a nation that allows us the freedom of worship. Most of all, we were inspired to see the love of God reflected in the smiling faces of the children in the slides. May God bless Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe for their labors on our behalf.

On August 16, Bro. Richard Aberle conducted a Bible study on the

subject of "attitude". We were reminded and encouraged to seek the Author and Finisher of our faith for the perfect example of the attitude we ought to have. May God bless the words that were spoken and Bro. Richard for his willingness to serve.

We give special thanks to our many visitors this past month. We appreciate their fellowship and welcome all who would be traveling to Southern California to join us. Have a happy month!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

"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; they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

Our members are now listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. As we are encouraged and exhorted in our Faith, we pray that our Heavenly Father will richly bless our Elders for their labors of love.

Bro. Rory Strahm recently has been hospitalized and underwent another kidney transplant. He is in a lot of pain and needs much care at home and from the hospital. We pray that his strength will be quickly renewed by the healing touch of our Father's gentle hands. We are all encouraged by his continual courage and bright outlook on life.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Peter Petrovic, Sis. Marian and family as they have recently returned from Colorado Springs, CO where they laid to rest their brother-in-law, Paul Andrej (a brother in the Apostolic Christian Church/Nazarene). After battling six months with cancer, he leaves his wife, Maria, and nine young chil-

dren. We pray that Paul's family will feel the Lord's loving embrace holding and sustaining them through this difficult time.

We have been enjoying many visitors this summer. Thank you all for coming and do come and visit us again soon.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:1,2,23,24

May that be our sincere prayer and desire that God would search us, try us (to see if there's any wicked way in us) and lead us in the way of everlasting. And may our hearts be open and honest before Him.

We are thankful for all our visitors this past month. We are especially thankful for our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for preaching God's Word to us.

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

We are delighted to welcome another couple to our area. Bro. Mark and Sis. Dana Musselman have moved to northern Colorado with their two sons, Cole and Clayton. We hope they enjoy all that Colorado has to offer.

We had several visiting ministers this past month to whom we are very thankful. They are Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We are glad God has given us a church in which so many are willing to serve their fellow brethren.

As we go out into the world this month, let us rely fully on the Holy Spirit to fight our battles for us. May God be with each one of you and keep you safe in His care until we meet again.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

What a joy it was to host the Fort Sam Reunion this year in July. It is so uplifting to experience the beautiful singing, Christian fellowship and listening to God's Word as many brethren gathered together from many parts of the country. May we use these weekends to help strengthen our faith and to encourage each other upon life's way.

Visiting ministering brethren were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), and Bros. Arthur Baurer (Princeville, IL), William Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Also in our midst was retired Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker (Lamont-Gridley, KS). What a blessing it is to have faithful brethren who are willing to stand and preach unto us.

Precious little Kent Richard was born August 2 to Bro. Philip and Sis. Michelle Bahler. His two sisters, Amanda and Chelsea, and brother, Caleb, have a new baby brother to love. Grandparents are Sis. Maxine Bahler (the late Bro. Lee) and Richard and Lorraine Behling.

"God be with you till we meet again..." (Hymns of Zion #216). We bid farewell to Sis. Jeanie Hangart-

ner as she returns home to Roanoke, IL. She has fellowshipped with us for about 2 1/2 years and attended school in Massachusetts. Also leaving us is Bro. Brian Walder who was with us for the summer. He returns to Congerville, IL. May each one take the love and precious memories of the Rockville brethren with them.

Our hearts go out to James Jr. and Sis. Charlotte Trench upon the news of the sudden deaths of Sis. Charlotte's brother and sister-in-law, Norman and Edith Ludwig. Our sympathy to them and other members of the family and relation.

As many of our children and adults return to various educational institutions, may they overcome the peer pressure and worldly influences. Let us pray that they will reflect the life of Christ in their endeavors.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

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

Psalm 122:1

With our growing congregation and lots of visitors, our small homes could not accommodate everyone the Sundays in July when we could not meet at the hotel. We want to thank the Philadelphia congregation for their hospitality.

Searching for alternate facilities also gave us a deeper appreciation for the customs and traditions of our church. Some places would let us "hold a meeting", but we could not sing. Another place would not let us bring food, but would provide a lunch at \$10 per person.

Our minister this past month was Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We thank Bro. Ben and his family for coming to serve us.

Our prayers go with Gina Meylan as she returns home to Bay City, MI to complete her education. We enjoyed having her worship and fellowship with us.

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**

Assembled congregation with thanks and adoration, before God's throne appear. With pray'r and supplication each heart shall seek occasion to see the light of grace so clear.

Hymns of Zion #207

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

II Timothy 4:2

We were thankful to have Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) with us. May the Lord bless him for being willing to serve us.

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14

First-time parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke, are blessed with a precious daughter, Jennifer Lynn.

Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ).

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

I Peter 4:10

Our congregation is so thankful to report the installation of our new minister, Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea and daughter, Lindsey). We had a very blessed day with visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). It's always so encouraging to know that the Lord has a perfect plan beyond what we are able to see, and what a peace to know that He has placed a willing servant in this important position in our church. We pray for God's blessings upon Bro. Marvin and his family.

Though we will miss him, we rejoice that Bro. Ralph Yergler (Sis. Jeanette) has gone to his eternal Home with the Lord. Bro. Ralph suffered for such a long time, and now he will never know sorrow or suffering again. We do extend our sympathy to Bro. Ralph's family.

To Our Loved Ones,
Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much whatever the part.

God bless each and every one for all your love shown to us in the loss of our dear one.

The family of Bro. Ralph Yergler

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo - Melissa Sabo

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

II Cor. 4:17

After Wednesday evening services on August 13, Dr. Parkhe from Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India spoke to us. It was so interesting to hear how the Lord has worked in the hearts of men from such a far country. May the Lord bless Dr. Parkhe and his wife in their efforts to bring souls to the Lord.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

It's always such a neat miracle to see a soul come to know the Lord. We are rejoicing with convert Billy Schnell who has found peace with God.

We are very happy to see Bro. Erv Martin's smiling face back in our small congregation. We pray that God will continue to bless his recovery.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Sis. Helen Laparo in the recent passing of her husband, Charles. May the Lord ever be near her during the days to come.

Congratulations to Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo on the arrival of their first grandchild, Nathan Henry, born August 19 to

Bro. Nate and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Mansfield, OH).

Special thanks to Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for his willingness to share the Word of God. We also appreciate our home ministers as they faithfully stand before us and proclaim the Gospel in truth and sincerity. May they all be richly blessed for their efforts.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

We were blessed with three visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Sis. Carol Kaufman (Bro. Keith) had surgery this past month. We were thankful for the Lord's healing touch as she was able to assemble with us the following Sunday.

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

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Carlene Jepson

As the summer draws to a close and we change seasons to the fall, may we all remember Who created all the beauty we see in the change of color. Who else but our Lord could create such beauty! Let's all try to enjoy it a little more and not be caught up in the cares of life!

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Psalms 90:2

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) for ministering to us during the past month. Also, our appreciation goes to our Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) who shared the concerns of the Elder Body with us by the reading of the Memorandum.

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 truly appreciate all who decide to worship in Belvidere with us!

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON
Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

This month we were blessed by visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). Each of the brothers inspired, exhorted and challenged us to walk closer in the way of the Lord.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Sam and Dee Koehl for the passing of Sam's sister, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann, of Fairbury. May they feel God's comfort and love.

Our fall church campout was well attended by many of our church families. After the Friday evening meal, the evening program used Psalm 1:2 as the theme verse. The theme focused around the "Fruit of the Spirit". A blessed time was had by all who attended.

We are thankful for a dear soul who has found grace unto repentance. Molly Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine) has begun her walk in the Lord and we pray for God's grace and guidance.

Our church prayed for the Spirit of the Lord to be present as our Elder Brothers met in Gridley to prayerfully consider the issues of

spiritual concern for our precious faith. The congregation appreciated Elder Bro. Everett giving a brief explanation of the various topics that were discussed at the Conference.

It was a great blessing and joy for our church family to welcome many new students and parents on Sunday, August 17. It is always amazing to see the number of new students that are attending ISU, IWU and Heartland Junior College.

A special prayer and love go out to those who cannot worship with us on a regular basis.

There are times in life that we wonder why God doesn't give us an immediate answer to our prayer. Recently I received a poem that seems to explain the reasons why He sometimes tells us to "wait".

Wait

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;
 Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.
 I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate,
 And the Master so gently said,
 "Child, you must wait."
 "Wait? You say, wait!" My indignant reply.
 "Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
 Is Your hand shortened? or have You not heard?
 By faith, I have asked, and am claiming Your Word.
 My future and all to which I can relate
 Hangs in the balance, and You tell me to wait?
 I'm needing a 'Yes', a go-ahead sign,
 Or even a 'No' to which I can resign.
 And Lord, You promised that if we believe
 We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
 And Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry;
 I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!"
 Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate
 As my Master replied once again,
 "You must wait."

So, I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut
 And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting...for what?"

He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine,
 And He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
 I could shake the heavens, and darken the sun.
 I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run.
 All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would be.
 You would have what you want but, you wouldn't know Me."

"You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint;
 You'd not know the power that I give to the faint;
 You'd not learn to see through the clouds of despair;
 You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there;
 You'd not know the joy of resting in Me
 When darkness and silence were all you could see."

"You'd never experience that fullness of love
 As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove;
 You'd know that I give and I save...(for a start),
 But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart."

"The glow of My comfort late into the night,
 The faith that I give when you walk without sight,
 The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked
 Of an infinite God, who makes what you have last."

"You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
 What it means that 'My grace is sufficient for thee.'
 Yes, your dreams for your loved one overnight would come true,
 But, oh, the loss! If I lost what I'm doing in you!"

"So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see
 That the greatest of gifts is to get to

know Me.
 And though oft' may My answers seem terribly late,
 My most precious answer of all is still, 'Wait.'
 —Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

So quickly another summer has almost passed. May we remember as harvest time is nearly here how close the coming of the Lord for that Great Harvest may be. Let us strive to daily be prepared for that day.

With fall time approaching, school will soon begin again. Let us remember to pray for our children and the teachers who teach them the things they need to know in this earthly life. We are so thankful that each Sunday we can send our children to Sunday School where they can learn of Heavenly things. We pray each Sunday School teacher will be given God's grace to teach the children the Word in truth and that we as parents may each do our part.

Little Samantha Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly) spent a few days in the hospital last month. We're thankful that she is again well and able to be brought to church in her mother's arms. Bro. Ben Ehnle (Sis. Audrey) has spent some time in the hospital also. We pray God will be near him and grant him comfort and health if it is His will.

We had many visiting ministers this month for which we are always thankful. Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) was with us one Wednesday evening and again when the Ft. Sam Reunion was held in Bradford. Along with Bro. Jim, we were blessed to have Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) with us that weekend. We enjoyed all the visitors the reunion brought to us. Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI)

was also with us this month for a Wednesday evening service. May God bless each brother for sharing God's Word with us.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

In the news department, this month has been something of a dry spell for us and the topics we correspondents are given as "idea starters" were just not working for me. As I was trying to think of what to write and was not being very productive, God provided some inspiration. I went to church and the reading was from II Timothy 4. The ministering brother asked the question: "What would you give up that another might look forward to the glory of Christ?" I've never really thought of that question before. Have you? What would you give? I've thought of what I'd want to save if I was about to have my possessions taken from me in a disaster such as a flood or fire. What would I give up in order for someone else to have salvation, which is worth so much more than any earthly possession? Verses 2-4 include the following: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;...For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine:...And they shall turn away their ears from the truth." We were reminded that we are all ministering to others by both word and deed and we should be ready to give an answer at any time. That's something to think about.

The past month has brought our area a real variety of weather, from sweltering heat and humidity to cooler beautiful days to rolling thunderstorms and gentle rains. It was on one of those very hot and humid Sundays that we were scheduled to have our Sunday School Picnic at a park. The teachers took the children out for activities after church, then

the picnic became a potluck at church where it was nice and cool and had not even one picnic bug! This was a very nice way for the teachers and students to end the year of Sunday School. We thank outgoing teacher, Sis. Margie Heintz, for her years of love and dedication to the young children.

Sis. Ila June Hari was a hospital patient for several days in early August. She has gained strength under the loving care of her husband, Jerry, and the prayers of friends. We wish her God's comfort and continued healing.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sarah Steffen and family are relocating to the Rockford, IL area for a better job opportunity. We thank them for the time they spent with our church and wish them the best in their new location.

We had just one visiting minister this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) for coming to visit his sister and spending part of his weekend on our pulpit. During the summer months when many students are gone, we are especially grateful for all of those visitors who stop by for church. May God be with each of our visitors as they travel about.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

It seems each year as August draws to a close and September begins, I marvel at how quickly the summer has slipped by. How easily that can also happen with the seasons of our lives. The writer of Psalm 90 had much to tell us about the passing of our days and how we should handle them:

"For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past,...Thou carriest them away as with a flood."

Psalm 90:4-5

We extend our love and sympathy to our Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann at the loss of Bro. Dale's mother, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann (Fairbury, IL). I'm sure as the family thinks back of the many loving memories they have of "Mom" and "Grandma", the days seem like they have been carried away like a flood.

In contrast, it is with great joy that we welcome two new baby girls to our church family. Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen were blessed with little Sierra Raquel on July 26. Sierra is lovingly surrounded by two big brothers, Jade and Brock, as well as grandparents, Don and Sis. Helen Brown (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie Leman are the happy parents of Courtney Nicole born August 9. Courtney also has older brothers, Marcus, Stephen and Andrew, to welcome her home. Courtney's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Leman and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL).

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

We pray that both families can number the days that they have with these precious new babies and apply their hearts unto wisdom.

As always, we are sincerely thankful for our visiting ministers. Thank you to Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) who chose to spend some of their days with us sharing the Word of God.

Sunday School resumes during this season of the year and we want to encourage our new Sunday School teachers, Sis. Nancy Pfeifer, Sis. Marie Sauder, and Bro. Brad Eisenmann, as well as all of the

teachers.

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

Psalm 90:17

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

We are grateful to the following ministers for serving us this past month: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), and Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). We appreciate the service of each of these brothers and know God will bless each of you according to His promise found in Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

Psalm 126:3

Truly blessed by the Father up above are Adrea and Ryan Wells. They have been given a precious little baby boy, Skyler Lee, to love. Skyler's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Ray and Carol Wells. Sis. Lucille Walder is Skyler's great-grandmother. May there be much joy in store for this new family.

"...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelation 2:10

Three of God's children finished

their earthly race and went Home to receive their crowns. Bro. Walt Kaufmann went into God's merciful arms July 22. Left with many precious memories are his wife, Sis. Aldean; two daughters, Eldora Harwood, Sis. Denise and Bro. Hartzell Kaeb, and four sons, Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann, Wally and Ronda Kaufmann, Arlan and Clem Kaufmann, and Bro. Wes and Sis. Lisa Kaufmann. Bro. Walt's three sisters in our congregation are Sis. Marie Laubscher, Sis. Laurine Kaufmann, and Sis. Arcelia Bauer.

On August 2, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann was "Carried by the angels to the land of rest..." (Gospel Hymns #389). She will be missed by her family, Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann of here, Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann (Forrest, IL).

Sis. Anna Hari went Home to her everlasting rest. She will be especially missed by her sister, Sis. Lucille Walder, of here along with her stepsons, Bro. Marvin Hari (Sis. Caroline), and Jerry Hari (Sis. Ila June) of Champaign-Urbana, IL.

What a wonderful promise from God we find in John 14:18 "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." May God seem extra close to each of you during this parting time.

"The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

Psalm 145:9

Sis. Ellen Hofbauer is one of God's "works". We pray she can feel the mercy and faithfulness of the Lord, as well as the love of all of us who care, as she battles illness.

We pray God will add His blessings to the union of Vincent Lober and Gail Rudin as they became married July 19 at the fellowship hall. Gail's parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin.

Celebrating 60 years together is Bro. Art and Sis. Lou Hari. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Hauptli just observed their 40th anniversary. In a day and age when marriages are failing, it is wonderful to see examples of commitment. May God continue to bless these unions.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts I received for my 90th birthday. God bless all of you.

Sis. Ernestine Eisenmann

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Missy Banwart Sandy Steiner

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Jon and Sis. Andrea Knapp as God called Home their precious little daughter, Bessyanna Kathleen. What a comfort to know she is safe in the arms of Jesus. Bessyanna's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp.

We were blessed by many visiting ministers this past month. We thank Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Tom Leman (Denver, CO).

Our prayers are with Sis. Sheri Dietrich (Bro. Bill), as she recovers from surgery. Our prayers are also with Sis. Carolyn Gudeman (Bro. Ralph) as her mother recently passed away.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist are thankful to have a new baby boy, Nathan Michael, born August 9.

Caleb, Kali and Zachary are his brothers and sister. Grandparents are Bro. Rusty and Sis. Joyce Zobrist and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee Schambach were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Tyler Matthew, on July 23. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker.

We were thankful to learn that Dan and Stephanie Cargill have found peace with their Lord. We wish them His continued grace and guidance.

We wish God's blessings upon the engagement of Andy Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Kim Weaver of Columbus, IN. They are looking forward to a July 1998 wedding.

August 9 was the wedding date chosen by two of our dear friends, Renee Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) to Tom Schermerhorn of Woodstock; and Tony Feucht to Angie Johnson of McHenry. May they feel God's guidance as they begin their lives together.

Our church was filled with song and praise at the wedding of Bro. Fred Dietz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell) from Bradford and Sis. Shaena Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) on August 10. We will miss Sis. Shaena as they establish their Christian home in another community. May God's blessings go with them.

We were richly blessed with many visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Walt Hermann

(Princeville, IL), Gary Brown (Forest, IL), Dale Stoller and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Nate Stoller and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO).

Our surgical patients this month were Bros. Charles Schambach (Sis. Leola) and Earl Steffen (Sis. Kay). We are thankful for answered prayers.

There is a pond between our church and nursing home, which is frequented by many geese. Because of the mess they make, different steps have been taken to discourage their presence. Even though they are often not appreciated, maybe we can learn some "Lessons from the Geese":

* As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

* Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

* When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies as the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership — with people, as with geese, interdependent with one another.

* The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up

front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging, not something less helpful.

* When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow their fellow member down to help and provide protection. They stay with this member of the flock until he or she either is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or to catch up with their own flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by one another like they do.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

Work for the night is coming, under
 the sunset skies;
 While the bright tints are glowing,
 work for daylight flies.
 Work till the last beam fadeth,
 fadeth to shine no more;
 Work, while the night is dark'ning,
 when man's work is o'er.
Hymns of Zion #282

As the children go back to school and the days get shorter, we seem to work outside until the daylight fades. As we labor in the yard or in the field, may we also consider our labor in the Lord and work while we have God's light.

We wish Sis. Cyndee Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen, Gridley, IL) God's blessings and direction as they announced their engagement on July 27.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein are happy to welcome their first child into their hearts and home. Abbie Jo was born on August 2 and her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner (Goodfield, IL).

We enjoyed the many visiting ministers that the annual Confer-

ence brought into our area. We thank Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Floyd Frieden and retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

We rejoice with Darin Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) and Kevin Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) who gave their testimonies and were baptized on August 17. We certainly pray that God will bless them and that they will always keep His Spirit in their hearts and lives. May God bless the labors of our Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) who were with us that weekend.

Our prayers are with two of our sisters, Sis. Ada Zimmerman and Sis. Clara Bach, as they have recently had surgery.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

We gathered in solemn assembly on Wednesday evening, July 23, to remember again the suffering and death of our Saviour through Holy Communion. Sharing the evening with us were Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). What a blessing to feel the unity of the Spirit as we partook of the Lord's supper and reflected deeply on what He has done for us!

A humble offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee!
Zion's Harp #163

On July 26 and 27, we heard testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Carol VanScoy (Caroline), Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Gene Denick (Karen) and Bro. Justin Cottrell (Larry and Doris). We welcome them as our new sister and brothers in faith. Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were with us that weekend.

Also serving us through the ministry of the Word this month were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bob Miller (Portland, OR), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Todd Feller (Lacrosse, IN). Other ministering brothers, who did not share the pulpit, were also with us for Friday evening services after the Conference. We were indeed abundantly blessed with visitors. Thank you all for your willingness to share with us.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

John 12:32

We are thankful that the Spirit of the Lord has drawn Randy Peilfer unto a life of serving Him. Randy has been assembling with us for some time and recently began on the pathway of repentance. May the grace of God be with him.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain..."

Revelation 21:4

Sis. Lydia Eisenmann, 87, passed into eternity on August 2. Formerly from Cissna Park, she had been living at Fairview Haven. We extend

deepest sympathy to her family, which includes Bro. John of Forrest (Sis. Beverly), Elder Bro. Dale of Chicago (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Kenneth of Cissna Park (Sis. Sharon); four brothers, Dick and Sam Koehl of Fairbury, John Koehl Jr. of Plainfield, and Dean Koehl, Chattanooga, TN; two sisters, Sis. Ruth Vaughn and Sis. Leona Bentley (Phoenix, AZ); 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. We will miss her faithful example.

George Schupbach (Cissna Park, IL), brother of Sis. Lucille Steffen (Bro. Manny), passed away on July 30. May God comfort you in your loss.

Also we extend sympathy to the family and relatives of Pauline Feldman, 61, of Chicago, who died suddenly on July 24.

Sis. Lucille Meiss welcomed a new little great-granddaughter, Elsa Paige. She was born to Dr. Kenneth and Marli Meiss on May 16. Curtis and Janice Meiss are the baby's grandparents.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Alma Steidinger (Bro. Maurice), David Steidinger (Deann), Rachel Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie), Ben Kaisner (Kathryn) and Sis. Sally Schieler.

"The faith of our fathers" was the theme at the annual Brotherhood Conference hosted in Gridley. It reminded me of an incident from the past that has made a great impression on me. In 1852, Elder Bro. Joseph Virkler was at a wedding supper in the Congerville area and was invited to join in a game of dominoes. Feeling that it was a frivolous pursuit, he quietly said, "No, that's not for me." His response impressed the young bride so much that she wondered what he had in his heart that she did not have. She and her husband subsequently became converted and from this was born one of our churches (see *Marching to Zion*, pg. 131-132). This incident en-

courages me greatly when I am asked to participate in something I don't feel comfortable with. And I wonder how many more lives in this world we could affect if we could always quietly and gravely say, "that's not for me," instead of reluctantly going along with or even actively participating.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank each and every one for the many deeds of kindness and for the prayerful support during the many months of Ross's medical struggles. We were helped by so many in so many ways. Each one was greatly appreciated! We are thankful to be able to say that with God's divine blessing, Ross has outgrown his hypercalcemia and is doing very well. We have much to be thankful for! Once again, thanks to all, and may God bless you, each one!

Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and famil

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We were privileged to host two Ft. Sam Reunions in Forrest this past month. The first reunion was held on July 20. We thank Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Don Gude-man (LaCrosse, IN) and Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH) for sharing God's Word with us that day.

The second one was held on August 3. Spending the day with us were Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS),

Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We were thankful Bros. Bill Brake and Hartzell Kaisner stayed for Sunday evening services and were joined by Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

With the Conference being held close by in Gridley, we were blessed to receive God's message through several visiting ministers. Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) spent Wednesday evening with us. Friday evening, Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bros. Everett Gerber and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) were in our midst for services. Spending the day with us Sunday was Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN). We thank these many brothers who were willing to lend themselves in God's service.

Kevin and Georgia Ricketts are the parents of twins, Brody James and Josephine Cheyenne. Big brother, Brenton, and grandparents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts, welcome them home.

Planning a September 20 wedding are Charity Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Andy Atteberry (Nora and the late Frank, Champaign). May they look to God for guidance as they make wedding plans.

We welcome Sis. Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Sis. Shara Dotterer (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy), and Bro. Jason Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) as our new sisters and brother in faith. We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) spend this blessed weekend with us.

May God comfort those in our

congregation who have experienced the loss of loved ones. Funeral services were held August 4 for Max Honegger. May the message so kindly brought forth by Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) comfort his family: six sisters, Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL), Sis. Verna Shaefer (Morris, MN), Sis. Leona Tanner (Goodfield, IL), Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT), Sis. Ruth Roth and Sis. Donna Leman (Forrest), and four brothers, Bro. Perry, Bro. Ed and Harley (Forrest), and Bro. John (Peoria, IL).

We extend sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann and their family in the death of his mother, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL); and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Doris Koehl and family in the death of her sister, Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Leah Honegger and Julie (Mark) Shambrook. May God restore health according to His will to these loved ones.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Max Honegger wish to express their sincere thanks to those who remembered them in the loss of their brother, with their prayers, memorials, cards, food and other acts of kindness. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

It is a joy to announce the birth of several new babies! July 2 is the birthdate of Macie Kay Sauder, daughter of Jeff and Jodie Sauder of Roanoke. Happy grandparents in the Goodfield congregation are Duane and Vermeda Freidinger.

On July 15, McKenzie Kay Funk joined the family of Keith and Lavonne. Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Kathryn Funk (Washington, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis.

Marge Fischer (Roanoke, IL).

On July 16, Avery Thaddeus Walter made his long awaited appearance. Grateful parents are Bro. Thadd and Sis. Molly (Witzig) Walter. We pray God's blessing on each family as they adjust to their newest member, and His guidance to all the dear parents.

Our hearts ache with the Knapp family since God has taken their little two-year old Bessyanna Home with Him. She was a very special child and is especially missed by her parents, Bro. John and Sis. Andrea (Congerville), and grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN). Prayers are daily reaching heaven on your behalf as you adjust to life without your dear, darling Bessyanna.

Joining our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp on July 20 were Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). It was a unique experience to have four congregations represented on our pulpit, yet one common last name. Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) ministered to us the next Sunday, July 27.

Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) visited our congregation on August 10. We heartily thank all the Brothers for allowing God to use them to serve us.

Sis. Susan Schwenk has accepted the marriage proposal from Bro. Dan Meister, and their engagement was announced August 3. May God's grace continue its testimony in their married life as it has in their single lives. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Myrna Schwenk and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL).

The following Sunday, August 10, Bro. Don Baum's engagement to Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Taylor, MO) was announced! Our congregation shares their joy because we have

watched Bro. Don weather the rough winds of widowhood, and we are so thankful God has brought him safely through the storm. Sis. Marge, you have a special spot awaiting you in the Goodfield congregation!

As summer winds down, we thank God for His traveling mercies throughout the vacation season. Hopefully vacation refreshed us in our spiritual life as much as it refreshed us physically and emotionally. With our students headed off to school, whether to kindergarten or to college, we pray God's protection and direction for each one of them.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

During the week of August 4, our congregation was privileged to host the annual Brotherhood Conference. Gridley had previously been host in 1959, 1972 and 1983.

It was a wonderful time as the various committees had engaged in intricate planning over several months. So it was with sincere expectation that we welcomed (already on Tuesday, August 5) those Elder brethren serving on special committees.

Church services were held on Tuesday evening. Guest ministers were Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Bro. Inoue had the main sermon. Twenty elders extended greetings from their congregations.

On Friday evening, August 8, worship services were also held. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) who had the sermon. Also present were ministering Bros. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) and Brace Wieland (Leo, IN).

Our visiting ministers on the Sunday following the Conference were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), and Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL).

The general Conference on Friday, August 8, resulted in close to 900 attendees. Along with those from the host church, the crowd exceeded more than 1,000 in the Gridley sanctuary and adjacent areas.

It was a day of great joy and intense introspection as believers across the land gathered to be stirred up, by way of remembrance, of our precious faith and special heritage.

Symbolizing the attitude of those in attendance was the beautiful Zion's Harp song, "The Fellowship of the Saints" (#33). As hundreds of men's voices soared strongly toward Heaven, the words were so appropriate:

Heart with heart in love united,
Seek upon God's heart repose.
Let your love to flames ignited,
To the Saviour upward flow.

He the Head and we the members;
He the light and we the glow;
He the Master, we His brethren,
In true fellowship we grow.

The doctrinal and lifestyle foundations—which have thrived among us, and have created a special closeness for generations—were both reiterated and reinforced, as led by the Spirit.

This year's theme, "The Faith of our Fathers", was fitting as commemoration was made of our church's 150th anniversary in America. Eleven speakers rose to articulate our beliefs, and to stimulate a greater sense of faithfulness.

We truly have reason to rejoice at the doctrinal solidarity that exists across our more than 85 congrega-

tions in 23 states, and in Canada, Japan and Mexico. This at a time when religious researchers are stating that denominational loyalty is at an all time low (USA Today, June 21).

It is heartening to note that brethren are carrying on in their loyalty to God's Word. The church's loyalty to the infallible and inerrant Word results in loyalty to the church, which is Christ's body here on earth.

Woven throughout the day's comments was the concept that our life as a believer is to be one of faithfulness, and the submissive following of Christ and the Apostles. It was stated that the Word compels us beyond the popular, contemporary doctrine of "faith alone". While we are saved by grace through faith (in Christ), the Word teaches us that our life is to produce fruit, and the keeping of God's commandments. We must, by God's grace, overcome until the end.

Recently baptized and taken into the fold were Sisters Amanda Harris and Sarah Hock; and Bros. Andy Zimmerman and Matthew Zehr. We wish them God's grace to walk faithfully. It is wonderful that in their youthful days souls can serve the Lord.

Tom and Beth Schreiner (Minneapolis, MN) became the parents of a girl, Camille Louise, on July 16. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Dorothy Ringger. Great-grandmother is Sis. Martha Stoller of the Eureka home.

We are thankful that two of our sisters, Sis. Betty Klopfenstein and Sis. Mary Stoller, are recovering from their illnesses and are able to assemble with us for worship.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

Our Sis. Eunice Albers, 92 years

old, went to be with the Lord on July 22. She will be missed by her nieces, nephews and many friends.

The engagement of Sis. Vicki Link (Dave and Jane) to Bro. Jed Taufer (Bro. Dana and Sis. Chris) was made known. We rejoice with them and their families. How thankful we are when another Christian home is established.

We are thankful that six dear "lambs" have repented, been converted and baptized into the family of God. We heard their testimonies of faith on July 26 and witnessed their baptisms on July 27. They are Bro. Rick Winn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Funk), Sis. Nancy Gould (husband, Jack), Sis. Jesse Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry), Sis. Nicole Knobloch (Sis. Jennifer and the late Bro. Don), Bro. Aaron Kupferschmid (Matt and Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Diane Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette). May they continue to walk the narrow pathway of life seeking to do our Saviour's will.

Bro. Kevin Schaefer and Sis. Tammy Strunk were united in Holy Matrimony on August 10. Their parents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk. We wish them God's guidance and richest blessings as they go through life together.

The Morton ministers held graveside services for Sis. Hilda Bauer of Cissna Park, IL. May the Lord comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Walt; her son, Ron Bauer; her daughter, Jan Kavulich; her brother, Al Strunk; and her other relatives and friends.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Janice Schick welcomed home their new daughter, Jacey Jane, who was born on August 19. Her big sister and brother are Kelly and Justin and her grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick, all of Morton. We rejoice for

this new blessing to their family.

Many enjoyed the Ice Cream Social at Restmor Nursing Home on August 12. It is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with residents, staff and other family members. Thank you to all who had a part.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers who proclaimed the Truth to us this month. They are Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), and ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Rich Sutter and Brian Webb (both of Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

In Numbers 22 and 24, Bro. Mike Rieker's text on July 29, we see the weakness of Balaam, and how God sometimes speaks plainly to us. Balaam wanted his own way and was so angry that he did not see the donkey as being the angel of the Lord. We must cap our anger and not let it go through the roof, need steering and help from above and depend on the advice of those who have Jesus in their hearts. Balaam told Balak not to go to war but let his people intermarry with the Israelites. This did more harm, and in the end Balaam was killed in battle. The purpose of God's Word is not to be judgmental, but let us see ourselves as we are, stay true and faithful to the end, pray for each other and not say or do anything we will regret. If we ask God for direction, He will provide in ways we cannot imagine.

Bro. Rick Plattner meditated on II Thess. 2 on August 3. The end of the world is when we take our last breath, whether the Lord has come or not. But what if it is us, or a loved one, who has to fall away first? The more we adopt the mind of Christ,

the less the things of this world mean to us. The Bible is the best-selling and least-read book. We must not treat it casually, thinking we have read it many times before, but realize God can reveal new truths to us. God holds back the floodgates of evil today, but many are deceived. Do we appreciate the privilege to assemble as often as the Word is preached? We need the blood of Calvary as the foundation upon which to build our house with the components the Lord has provided; also traditions are part of our faith and framework.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18) was the topic of Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) for our family night service on August 6. We need a vision of a harvest with effective laborers for the Lord. If there is a little flame in our heart, allow the Word of God to fan it, and it will grow. Sometimes weariness obscures our vision, but God gives power to the faint and they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) added the thought that 220 years ago our forefathers had the vision of freedom to serve God. Now we are so free we do what we want. Let us examine our vision and follow Jesus so we will have a home in Heaven! May the Lord reward these brothers for their service.

The following are some of the thoughts Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) expressed in his meditation of Col. 3:1-17 on August 10: We could be responsible for souls we are not even aware of. All unrighteousness is sin, but He is considerate of our weaknesses; nevertheless we will pay the penalties for actions outlined in verse 5. A lie is not always done by our lips, but also by untruths in our actions, and God knows all things. We should not use weakness as an excuse but focus on

the power of God. As Christ is looking us eye to eye in the Spirit, let the Word of God be our mirror to see whether we are presentable. Jesus adds to our prayers when we pray to God, for He looks out for our welfare. We thank Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary for their visit and service.

The engagement of Bro. Daniel Meister to Sis. Susan Schwenk (Goodfield, IL) was announced on August 3 and we wish them God's blessings in this second most important step in life.

Bros. Vic Stickling and Harlan Thomas were our hospital patients. We are thankful for Harlan's fast recovery and trust Vic will also soon be back at the Skylines.

The first "Silver Lining" was issued 54 years ago (October 15, 1943) by Bros. Eli and Henry Souder of Grabill, IN to keep our WWII servicemen in touch with each other and give them a flavor of the happenings at home and encourage them in their Christian walk of life. Bro. Harold Thomas sent this letter to the editor in September 1945, which showed how much this publication was appreciated: "Greetings! I have received several copies already and long before this I wanted to write to tell you how much I appreciate your good work. Each month I look forward to receiving the next "Silver Lining". It is always filled with things of interest. If you continue in the present vein then surely God's blessings will rest upon your work. Your quotations, sayings and writings are all very instructive and I also believe your research into the history of the Bible and accounts thereof are important, especially for young folks to lay a firm foundation for their faith when they become believers. At least I found such teachings very helpful when my time came to seek God and His righteousness. I'll close this letter with a prayer to God that you may be able to continue this good work

you have started. May God's blessings rest upon it."

Over the years, it has evolved into a monthly publication of 6,200 subscribers nationally (235 in Peoria). It's manifold local news, World Relief and Mission reports, transcriptions of sermons, historical information and lead articles covering many points of mutual interest and concern have become an enhancement to our fellowship and antidote to occasional ups and downs in our Christian lives. Bro. Harold's prayer appears to have been answered. May the "Silver Lining" continue to be a unifying factor to our brotherhood in years to come. Thanks to the efforts of Bros. Alvin Domnick and Gary Unsicker, we have a fairly complete library of issues going back to October 15, 1943, which is available to anyone interested.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"Faith of our Fathers" — We were encouraged in the Conference this year to follow the path of faith that our forefathers walked. May God grant each of us the grace and strength to journey on in faith and to support our Elders in the decisions they have made.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."

Hebrews 11:1-2

One of the greatest blessings we have within our faith is the opportunity to travel from congregation to congregation and meet brethren of like mind and like faith. We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we had this past month. Those ministering brethren were Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Rex Frieden

(Lamar, MO), John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH).

Our hearts go out to Sis. Stephanie Challacombe in the loss of her grandfather, Ray Challacombe, of Dunlap.

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Psalm 34:11

We are thankful that Byron Joos (Bro. Roland and Sis. Linda) has heeded the calling of repentance and has made a beginning in the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with Byron in his repentance.

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

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

Hymns of Zion #46

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

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

Psalm 34:19

We have had many prayers on our hearts for those who were hospitalized this past month: Bob Ott (Marilyn), Sis. Ruth Hodel (Bro. Slim), Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Rich), Bro. Bob Luginbuhl (Sis. Jean), and Amy Schwind (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb). May the Lord's healing hand be upon each of these loved ones.

We want to extend our love and prayers to Sis. Jean Luginbuhl (Bro. Bob). Sis. Jean's mother, Helen Miller, passed away August 12 at our Home in Roanoke.

We also extend our sincere sym-

pathy to Bro. Dan Maher (Sis. Kim) at the passing of his father, Charles Maher.

Mike Pfister and Cori Schumacher exchanged wedding vows on June 6. Parents of the couple are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister and Ed and Judy Schumacher.

Bro. Kevin Hodel and Sis. Amy Yergler were united in the Lord on August 10. Their parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel and Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Yergler (Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Lora Braker and Bro. Reggie Wuethrich were united in marriage on August 16. Their parents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN).

Bro. Cory Gerber and Sis. Gini Knapp became one in the Lord on August 17. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol Knapp and Jack and Deb Gerber. May God richly bless each of these couples as they begin their lives together.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;"

Isaiah 1:18

How uplifting it is to hear of more souls turning to the Lord in repentance. We have five new converts at our Roanoke congregation: Drew Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne), Mary Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen), Jason Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy), Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Matt Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan).

We are so thankful for visiting ministers who come to share God's Word with us. Those who labored for us this month were: Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and Ed Aeschliman (Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Jon

Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

On August 10, Bro. Kevin Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marjorie) and Sis. Tammy Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce) were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray that God will direct their pathway together as they strive to serve Him as one.

Bro. Darrel and Sis. Brenda Ehnlé have been blessed with the birth of their first child, Cameron Taylor. He was born July 26. Happy grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Kathy Rocke and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnlé (Bradford, IL).

Hospitalized this month was Amanda Reinbeck (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb). We are thankful that she is now home recovering from her automobile accident.

We again wish to express a special thank you to those brothers who have lent themselves to us through the ministering of the Word this past month: Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless them for their efforts.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank our many friends, brothers and sisters for remembering us with prayers, love, and cards for our 35th anniversary. Our fellowship is a real blessing to us. May God bless you all.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert**

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Frank

Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) lent themselves to the speaking of God's Word. In addition, our prayers were with the Elder Brothers as they gathered in Gridley for the Brotherhood Conference. We thank you brothers for your faithful service.

Sis. Lindsey Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol) was welcomed into the fold after her testimony and baptism. We are thankful that God's Spirit still moves the hearts of men and women to turn their lives over to serve Him. What joy it brings!

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Sue Ruppert and Bro. Lloyd Moser. May God's healing continue for both of them.

Many of our congregation have been gone at various times for vacations before the school year and Sunday School starts. However, we in turn have been blessed by visitors to fill the benches. We have such freedom in this land to go from place to place, without fear of governmental intrusion, and with havens of love across the land, such as we find in all of our congregations.

There are still those among us who remember when travel was limited to how far one could walk or ride a horse. Now we are able to travel thousands of miles in just a few hours. Someday, when our bodies are transformed to our immortal clothes, we will not be limited by time and space. Our Lord Jesus, after He arose from the grave, could suddenly appear in a room, the walls having no effect on him. We will be like Him, and we won't think a thing about it. Praise be to God for the wonderful hope of joining Him in Heaven someday!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Kim Maller
Trudy Eisenmann

Once again we greet you from our homes in Bluffton. Many of us have traveled many miles while on vacation, or some of us just enjoyed our own homes with family and good friends. Nevertheless, summer is coming to a close, school children are returning to their classrooms and farmers are looking toward the harvest.

Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene Isch, along with their two girls, Keelin and Katie, depart from our Bluffton congregation and make their new home in Detroit, MI. We wish them well and pray they will have many safe trips back to Bluffton.

"Thank You" to the Gridley, IL congregation for your hospitality you have shown to all who attended the Elder Conferences this year. May you be blessed for your kindness.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of retired Elder Bro. Theo Beer of Milford, IN and it is our prayer you will be comforted.

We have had a few who were in need of a physician this past month: Bro. Richard Reinhard, Bro. LaVerne (Sis. Rose) Ringger, and Bro. Steve (Sis. Renee) Reinhard. We hope they have a speedy recovery.

United in the Lord Jesus Christ this month we have: Bro. Jason Habegger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene) to Sis. Janel Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) on July 20; on July 30, Bro. Richard (Dick) Clark to Sis. Lucille Steffen; on August 10, Bro. Kevin Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita, Roanoke, IL) to Sis. Amy Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce). As they are united in marriage, we wish them many blessings from above.

Also this month we have been blessed with a few engagements. Sis. Deb Neuenschwander (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris) to Bro. Gary Garmin of Leo, IN; Sis. Nicole Reinhard (Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg) to Bro. John Johnson (Steve and Judy); Sis.

Sarah Steffen to Bro. Art Kipfer; and last but not least, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger would like to announce Sis. Jamie Johnloz to Bro. Luke Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne).

With all our happenings this month and with all the summer travels, we have been blessed with many visiting ministers for which we are very thankful. From Roanoke, IL we had retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Bro. Bill Hodel; from Wichita, KS we had Bro. Max Reimschisel and Bro. Al Langhofer; from Phoenix, AZ we had Bro. Bill Dotterer; from Philadelphia, PA we had Bro. Jerry Isch who returned home to Bluffton to visit; and from Leo, IN we had Bro. Lynn Stieglitz.

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

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

I Corinthians 15:58

Truly it is not difficult to labour for the Lord, for we have confidence in His faithfulness!

We were blessed to have Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) with us. It is such a blessing to be encouraged and know God's Word is being spread, far and near.

We're thankful God continues to reach out to the heart of man. Nathan Bertsch and Matt Drayer have made a beginning in repentance and we rejoice with their families. May God be near unto them and grant them peace.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Ann Gerber have been blessed with a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, born August 12. She has a brother, Josh, and sister, Stephanie, who will enjoy taking

care of her at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber and Norman and Mary Schulz of New York.

July 19 was the wedding of Bro. Jason Habegger and Sis. Janel Frank. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene Habegger and Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank. Bro. Dick Clark and Sis. Lucille Steffen were also united in Holy Matrimony on July 30. May God richly bless these dear couples!

It's a privilege to announce the engagements of Sis. Jami Johnloz to Bro. Luke Rinkenberger. We extend our best wishes to her father, Gary, and mother, Candy, along with Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger, with whom she has been residing, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN).

Engaged on Sunday, August 17, were Bro. Todd Brege to Sis. Carla Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Todd is the son of Rev. Bill and Ruth Brege. Carla is the daughter of Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber.

Also betrothed were Bro. Art Kipper and Sis. Sarah Steffen. May God richly bless these couples as they begin their married lives together.

As our children return to school to learn more knowledge, let us remind them and ourselves of this verse about wisdom. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I John 1:7

We rejoice with five souls that gave their testimonies. Those who were baptized were Bro. Michael Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel), Sisters Teresa Houston (Diana), Carmen Cook (Sis. Debbie), Betsy Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), and Mandy Metzger (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Judy, West Bend, IA). We thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) for their service during the blessed weekend.

July 23, Mark Allen was born to Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein. Thankful sisters are Tess and Alisha as well as grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam Metz and Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein.

May God be very near to Sis. Elsie Yaggie, Sis. Valera Culp (Bro. Walter), and Bro. Lester Nuest who have spent time in the hospital.

We warmly welcome two couples to our church family. They are Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr and their five children and also Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz.

August 16, Bro. Reggie Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Lora Braker (Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha, Roanoke, IL) were united as one in the Lord. May God bless their home in the Indianapolis area.

We thank Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), John Laukhuf and Dwight Stoller (both from Latty, OH) for bringing forth the Word of Life.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank our many friends for all the lovely cards and best wishes we received for our 50th anniversary. It was so nice to hear from so many of you. God bless you and we thank you so much.

In Christian Love, Bro. Wally and Sis. Rosella Bucher

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Dotterer

We rejoice with Bro. Reggie Wuethrich and Sis. Lora Braker who were married August 16 in Goodfield, IL. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker (Roanoke, IL).

We welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel into our church family. They, with daughter, Shelby, and son, Billy, will be worshipping with us.

We thank visiting ministers and families, Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

We celebrated a 25th wedding anniversary with Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller with an all church reception. Many friends and family were here to help them celebrate.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

"But Only One Mother—Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world."

—Kate Douglas Wiggin

There is no replacement for the love and prayers of a God-fearing mother, therefore we sympathize with Sis. Norma and Bro. Gene Nuest and their family since Sis. Norma's mother, Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), has gone to her eternal rest.

David Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. MaryLynn) has been hospitalized for surgery. Sis. Sandy Heinold and Joan Cambern are continually

in our prayers as they receive chemotherapy.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Levy are thankful to be in their new home at Parkview Haven in Francesville.

Saying farewell to Sis. Diana Heinoold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) leaves a hard place to fill as she has departed for college in Indianapolis. Her cheerful smile and kindness will be missed in our congregation, and she will be in our prayers.

A dear Elder brother, who departed for the place where time is no more many years ago, often ended his exhortations to the church with the words, "and when the roll is called up yonder will you, will I, be there?"

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it..."

Song of Solomon 8:7

Bro. Gary Garman and Sis. Deb Neuenschwander were announced to be married. Our prayer is for God's special blessing on their lives. Their parents are Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman and Bro. Charles and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander (Bluffton, IN).

On July 27, a busload from Peoria, IL worshiped with us and sang several special numbers at noon. The group included Bros. Richard Plattner and David Obergfel who faithfully expounded the Word. We appreciated their visit which included a work project on Saturday for Gateway Woods.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 10 with a reception at the Fellowship Center. Their five sons and families attended the afternoon service. Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) had the message.

Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) was also here that day and ministered God's Word in the morning.

We witnessed another miracle of God on August 16, at Gateway Woods auction. With storms all around us and occasional dark clouds, the Lord held back the heavy thunder storm until all was over, even the clean-up. When the lightning flashed and thunder rolled, my first thought was the words of Jesus in John 6:26 "...Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." I pray the results of the days of activity be "Labour...which endureth unto everlasting life..." (John 6:27) and may we ever glorify our Lord and Saviour.

Andre Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny) received a concussion, stitches and clamps to his head following an accident during the time of preparation for the sale. Again, the Lord was good; he recovered quickly and was in church on Sunday.

We welcomed a host of visitors on Sunday, who stayed over, including Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) who ministered to us. What a blessed day we shared together.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. William Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We were truly blessed and may God bless them all for yielding themselves in His service.

We welcome Sis. Jill Gramm who has come to us from Gridley, IL. She will be the assistant in the Fiechter Home at Gateway Woods.

"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord...Bless thou the

Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 104:33-35

INDIANA, MILFORD Linda Beer - Renee Beer

This summer our congregation has enjoyed many visitors who have spent a Sunday with us. We want to thank Bros. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Ron Kipper (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Sis. Linda, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

We pray for healing for Abbey Beer (Bro. Sam and Sis. Rachel) as she suffered a broken arm, and Tillie Kasbaum who has a broken collarbone.

We are so thankful for the safe arrival of Cassidy Renee Stewart on July 25. Brian and Marlene are the excited parents with Stan and Sis. Ginger Price being the grandparents.

We pray that the Lord will bless Brian Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Amanda Parker (Michael and Debra) as they plan a November 8 wedding.

On July 26, retired Elder Bro. Theo Beer received his eternal reward. Bro. Theo was 99 years old and was blessed with good health and a very keen mind. He was a faithful member for 77 years. From 1929-79 he served as a minister and from 1957-97 as our Elder. Surviving are four daughters, Sis. Marguerite (Bro. Robert) Hoerr, Miriam (Lewis) Speicher, Rebecca (Arnold) Doll, and Sis. Mary (Bro. Carl) Fiechter; three sons, Bro. Phillip (Sis. Millie), Dr. Alan (Dorothy), and Bernie (Peg); one brother, Peter; 37 grandchildren; 90 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. We extend our sympathy to the family that we know Bro. Theo loved and respected so much. He often finished his prayers with

the last verse of Blest Be The Tie:

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156

Several of our congregation spent time working on the World Relief Construction Team in Juarez, Mexico. We are thankful for their safety and the many hours spent improving the conditions in Juarez.

We think of all the students starting another school year. We pray the Lord will give them guidance and protection throughout another year.

We have started listening to the Annual Conference tapes and appreciate the many hours our Elders continue to labor in the Lord's vineyard.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

We were most blessed in Remington this month with the addition of three souls into our church family and the Lord's family. We welcome Sis. Charity Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane), Bro. Eric Frantz (Joe and Sis. Cheri) and Sis. Sara Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) into the fold and thank God for His grace that still abounds to call souls unto everlasting life. Two more souls have found grace to seek the Lord in repentance. Jenny Bahler and Ashton Bahler are both daughters of Ed and Annette Bahler. We rejoice with their family and thank God again for His plan of salvation made available to us.

Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) spent an evening with our church for a topical Bible study. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he shared with us what the Bible says about "commitment". We appreciated being challenged to strengthen our commitment to our Lord Jesus

Christ.

We thank all of our visitors who came to worship with us this past month. Among them were many ministers to share God's Holy Word with us. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

Our dear friend, Loren Wilson, spent some time in the hospital this month, but is at home again. May each of us remember Loren in prayer as he fights his battle with cancer.

On August 3, Austin Ryan was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi Schneider. His big sister, Erika, was excited to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf (Akron, OH).

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you to all who sent cards and well wishes on my 90th birthday. Your kindness and thoughtfulness was much appreciated. May God bless you all in His most special way.

In Christian love, Sis. Eliza Getz

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

The Lord's greetings to all of you. We've all had a very busy summer so far and it doesn't seem possible that when we are all reading this edition of the Silver Lining that our children are already back in school. May the Lord watch over and bless all involved in our school systems.

In this past month, we had our VBS and want to thank all of you who came and shared God's blessings with us. Thanks to all who did their part to make this another successful week. Special thanks to the brothers who came and shared

God's Word with us: Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). Thanks for letting God have free course and the Spirit working in your lives. You will all surely be rewarded in Heaven for your labors and sacrifices.

Also following VBS, we had our Sunday School picnic along with the VBS program. All had a wonderful time of fellowship as we broke bread together. Certificates were passed out to the children, and teachers were given thanks for their labors in this past year.

Also joining us on a Wednesday evening service was Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us. God watch between us with the many miles we are apart.

We were sad to hear that Bro. Dennis (Sis. Marsha, Tosh and Logan) Weiss' father passed out of this life. Our hearts and prayers are with you.

We bid you all farewell and pray God will watch over us all. May we be pleasing in His sight.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

It seems such a short time ago that summer stretched before us, vacations and summer family visits being planned. Now the children are back in school and household routines change again. We pray that the children can hold Bible truths close to their hearts throughout each day as challenges and temptations arise.

We are thankful that Jeremy Schieler has found the grace for repentance. Our prayers are with him as he begins his walk with the Lord. We rejoice with Teresa Schwab as she has found peace with God. We look forward to hearing her testimony in the future.

We are happy for Phillip and Sandy Kyburz as they welcome little

Trenton Robert Kyburz into their home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Kyburz.

We are prayerful for those who are recovering from accidents or hospital stays. Sis. Pat Kyburz (Bro. Lloyd) is at home recovering with a broken leg. Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon) and little Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) both underwent surgery this past month. We are glad they are able to be home once again. We were sorry to hear that Sis. Edna Kyburz once again suffered from a stroke. We ask for God's healing touch and hope to hear of her return to Parkview Haven soon.

We are grateful to Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) for coming and sharing God's Word with us. May God grant him a blessing for his willingness to serve. We also thank Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for his services on a Wednesday evening. Our Bible topic for the evening was Commitment. We are thankful that Bro. Andy so willingly gave of his time to speak to us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner

Monica Eisenmann

We have been privileged to have a number of visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), along with ministering Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) were with us for the marriage of Bro. Michael Messner and Sis. Rachel Massner on August 17. Also, Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) brought forth God's Word to us recently. May God richly bless them all for their willingness to faithfully serve us.

Once again we have had several people in the hospital. Sis. Edith Massner, Bro. Jody Eberhardt, and

Sis. Katy Schumacher have been in our thoughts and prayers, that they can return to full health if it be God's will.

Bro. Steve Lanz (Rockville, CT) was in our area for part of the summer. We were thankful that he could assemble with us. May God be with him and direct him in the future, as He has the past.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

He was admitted to the E.R. and placed on the cardiac floor. Long hair, unshaven, dirty, dangerously obese, with a black motorcycle jacket tossed on the bottom shelf of the stretcher, he was an outsider to this sterile world of shining terrazzo floors, efficient uniformed professionals, and strict infection control procedures. Definitely an untouchable.

The nurses at the station looked wide-eyed as this mound of humanity was wheeled by, each glancing nervously at Bonnie, the head nurse. "Let this one not be mine to admit, bathe, and tend to..." was their pleading unspoken message. Then to their surprise, they heard Bonnie say, "I want this patient myself."

As she donned her latex gloves and proceeded to bathe this huge, very unclean man, her heart almost broke. Where was his family? She hummed quietly as she worked. It seemed to ease the fear and embarrassment she knew he must be feeling. And then with a whim she said, "We don't have time for back rubs much in hospitals these days, but I bet one would really feel good. And it would help you relax your muscles and start to heal. That is what this place is all about...a place to heal."

The thick, scaly, ruddy skin told a story of an abusive lifestyle: probably lots of addictive behavior with

food, alcohol, and drugs. As she rubbed those taunt muscles, she hummed and prayed. Prayed for the soul of a little boy grown up, rejected by life's rudeness and striving for acceptance in a hard, hostile world.

The finale was warmed lotion and baby powder. Almost laughable—such a contrast to this huge, foreign surface. As he rolled over onto his back, tears ran down his cheeks and his chin trembled. With amazingly beautiful brown eyes, he smiled and said, "No one has touched me for years. Thank You. I am healing."

—Naomi Rhode

"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

We give our loving support to the following who were given new duties at our recent annual election: Bro. Kent Getz (Trustee), Bro. Scott Fehr (Jr. Bible Class teacher) and Sis. Betty Getz (Primary class teacher). May God bless as they serve. Our thanks to Bro. Lon Butikofer, Bro. Tim Butikofer and Sis. Heidi Butikofer as they complete their terms.

With open arms we welcome Bro. Jim, Sis. Marcy, Kami, Caleb, Kirstin and Kendra Knoblock back to our small congregation. May God continue to be their guide.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was well attended and enjoyed as young and old shared food and fellowship. Even though many of us are no longer Sunday School age, we are still in the school of learning and can benefit from these times together. Many times the young can teach the older valuable lessons in life.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Delores Reinhard

Each step I take my Saviour goes
before me
And with His loving hand He leads
the way...
Gospel Hymns #364

As we go down this pathway of life, each step is taken physically and spiritually. It is so important that we go in the right direction, and that is toward our Heavenly Home.

A visiting minister once told us of a man that was running in a race. He ran hard and fast and kept ahead of all the other participants. He got so far ahead he thought he could slow down and still be the winner. Before he realized, there were three others that ran around him, and he lost the race.

This is so true with our spiritual life. We need to keep running to stay ahead of Satan; as he is chasing us and trying to catch us when we slow down. This means being negligent in reading the Bible and praying. We certainly want to win the race and enter Heaven's portals.

At times I feel my faith begin to
waver,
When up ahead I see a chasm wide.
It's then I turn and look up to my
Saviour,
I am strong when He is by my side.
Gospel Hymns #364

We again want to thank our visiting ministers, especially Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for coming and sharing Holy Communion with us. Also those sharing the precious Word were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God's blessings be with each of you.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! Another blessed, busy month has passed. We were blessed with several visiting ministers, including Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chi-

cago, IL), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We also hosted the Latty/Junction, OH and Elgin, IL single groups and hope they were as blessed as we by the hours of Christian fellowship we enjoyed. Many other visitors from near and far came to see relatives or stopped by on their way to another destination, and we appreciated each one of them.

Several of us were privileged to attend the General Brotherhood Conference in Gridley, IL. As the Elder Brothers lovingly related accounts of the early apostles and the brethren who first brought the Apostolic Christian faith to America, we were all challenged to examine our lives to see if we are doing all we can to preserve the faith for future generations. May we be cognizant of the fact that history is still being written and that we are the current "characters"—the ones who are influencing the future and of whom others will speak some day, whether with thankfulness, as we speak of our forefathers today, or with regret.

With mixed feelings we bid farewell to our Bro. Christopher Eland as he follows God's leading to accept a teaching position in Kingman, AZ. We rejoice with him in knowing God is leading and will provide his every need, and that this is an opportunity to shine the light of Faith in a different geographical area. But as a small church family, we know we will miss him, and we also know that his being two hours from the nearest church (Prescott, AZ) may be a trial for him. We can only trust him to God and send him with our love and prayers, knowing he will be happy and safe in doing the Lord's will.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

We rejoice to hear that Curtiss

and Laurie Knoblock have peace in their hearts. Our prayers are with them as they await baptism.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Jeff Leuthold and Sis. Cari Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) and Sis. Tara Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley). We were grateful for the labors of Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) who assisted our Elder brethren.

We are also thankful to our home ministers and our visiting ministers who share God's precious teachings with us. Our visiting ministers include Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL). We pray that God will bless them and their families.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Bro. Earl Knobloch. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Vera, and to his children, Tami (Brian) Culver (Emmetsburg, IA), Eileen (Clarence) Scholten (Marcus, IA), Bonnie (Mark) Johnson (Peoria, IL), and Jerome (Tulsa, OK). Our thoughts are also with his siblings, Dietrich (DeSmet, SD), Bro. Ben (Eureka, IL), Bro. Wilbert, Adolph (Algona, IA), Julia Plattner (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Emma, Sis. Pauline, Wilma Hoogeveen (Rock Rapids, IA), Lydia Moser and Sis. Violet Luthi (Lamar, MO).

Our prayers are with all those who suffer bodily affliction. Bro. Ernst Metzger (Sis. Ella) and little Jacob Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda) and Rosalee Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) were surgical patients.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

We welcome Sis. Kim Massner

(Bro. Todd) to our congregation in Oakville. She and Bro. Todd were united in Holy Matrimony in Morris, MN on July 20. Also rejoicing with them are their parents, Bro. Virg and Sis. Barbara Massner and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA).

We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Marc Wagenbach (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Monica Behne (Jeananne Pyle, Urbana, OH) as their engagement was announced to the congregation on August 10. May they look to God for continued direction in their lives as they plan an October wedding.

Once again, our dear Elder brothers have gathered to discuss their concerns for our precious faith. As we listen to their words of warning and encouragement, may we keep our hearts soft and pliable. Let us consider the matters that are often a burden upon their hearts and willingly follow their advice that our lives may reflect the true love of God.

Little Austin Robert has joined the family circle of Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly Lanz. Orrin, Kaylee, and Vienna are happy to have a new baby to call their own. Also thankful for little Austin's safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Marvin and Dorothy Austin (Wapello).

Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) have recently spent some time in Oakville on their travels to the west. We were certainly encouraged and uplifted to have them in our congregation and may God reward them for their diligent efforts in His service.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning

will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."

Psalm 5:3

*The First Thing Every Morning
and The Last Thing Every Night*

Were you too busy this morning to quietly stop and pray?
Did you hurry and drink your coffee then frantically rush away,
Consoling yourself by saying "God will always be there
Waiting to hear my petitions—ready to answer each prayer."?
It's true that the great, generous Saviour forgives our transgressions each day
And patiently waits for lost sheep who constantly seem to stray,
But moments of prayer once omitted in the busy rush of the day
Can never again be recaptured, for they silently slip away.
And no one regains that blessing that would have been theirs if they'd prayed,
For blessings are lost forever in prayers that are often delayed.
And strength is gained in the morning to endure the trials of the day
When we visit with God in person in a quiet and unhurried way,
For only through prayer that's unhurried can the needs of the day be met
And only in prayers said at evening can we sleep without fears or regret
For all of our errors and failures that we made in the course of the day
Are freely forgiven at nighttime when we kneel down and earnestly pray.
So seek the Lord in the morning and never forget Him at night,
For prayer is an unfailing blessing that makes every burden seem light.

—Helen Steiner Rice

We were encouraged in our walk of faith once again by our visiting ministers. We wish to thank each one and their families for visiting our congregation: Bros. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop,

MN), and Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) could spend the weekend of July 20 with us and assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in hearing of the testimony of Paul Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly), and then to witness his baptism. We welcome Bro. Paul into the brotherhood. May it take us all back to the day when we made those sacred vows in the baptismal water and give us all a new zeal to serve the Lord more faithfully.

On the weekend of August 3 and 4, we were privileged to have Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) speak God's Holy Word to us. On Friday evening Bro. Mike spoke to many of us at the Fellowship Center of his experiences in his youth living under the communist rule in Yugoslavia. We who have been born and raised in a free country cannot comprehend what life would be like under such rule. Many of our forefathers were persecuted and endured much suffering so that the faith could be kept. It makes us think of what little we really have to give of ourselves when we live in such a free country.

On the weekend of the 10th we were blessed once again to have two more visiting ministers: Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May we take all the teachings of these servants and try and walk the path to Heaven more fervently. May God bless them all as they were so willing to serve us.

We remember in prayer our loved ones who have been ill or hospitalized. Sis. Judy Fehr (Bro. Dennis) underwent hip surgery and is recov-

ering at home. Little Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy) is also recovering at home after a brief stay in the hospital. May God continue to bless and heal them and keep them in His care.

Our sympathy to Adolph and Jean Knobloch on the sudden death of Adolph's brother, Bro. Earl Knobloch (Lester, IA). May God comfort and heal the broken hearts as only He can do when loved ones are taken from us.

It is our prayer that God will be with Katie and Michelle Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila) as they have moved to other areas. We will miss their presence among us. Katie has found employment in the Wichita, KS area as a nurse, and Michelle will attend college in Bloomington, IL. May they feel God's love and Spirit among our brethren in these congregations.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to Clay and Wendy Schmidt as they exchanged wedding vows on the evening of August 7. Parents of the couple are Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt and Norman and Bonnie Ward of Ames, IA. May they feel God's guidance and blessings as they begin their married life together.

As August is quickly flying by, we see the college children returning to their different fields of studying and the younger children getting ready to ride the bus again! Our thoughts and prayers go with each and every one of them, asking God for His protection and to guide them so that they can make the right decisions among their many choices. May they never forget all the teachings they have learned at home along with their days in Sunday School.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo. We were glad to have record attendance at

Tokyo church services for the month of August. This is usually the month people are traveling or going back to their hometowns, but we had a very good gathering each week. This included several first time attenders. It is a great joy to see new faces in church—something that I wish we could always experience.

As we close out the summer, we are also thankful that all who were traveling abroad were brought back safely.

Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue traveled to the U.S. for several weeks to, among other things, attend the Elder Conference. Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle and family were in the U.S. for a 2-month visit and returned in August. Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa traveled to Russia and Hungary. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and family came back in July after a 3-month stay in the U.S.

The ones who stayed here experienced three typhoons that swept by Tokyo in June and July, months that usually have none, but thankfully there was no major damage.

Our church enjoyed two days in the mountains at our annual summer "shuyokai" (fellowship meeting) August 1-2. It was Shioda's church to host, and Bros. Toru Saigusa and Willis Ehnle shared with us the Word with the theme being "The blessings of God's Grace."

We spent part of an evening at the shuyokai all pitching in together and filling in our Zion's Harps, which are bound books. Sis. Reiko Furuya of Shioda and others had translated into Japanese over half of the Zion's Harp years ago, including all the commonly sung hymns. Just recently, Sis. Reiko completed the translation of the rest of the book. Now all 253 hymns can be sung in Japanese.

In order to get a feel of what churches in democratic Japan are

like, perhaps I can share with you some statistics of the Japanese Protestant Churches. On the average, attendance is 35 per church (7700 churches total, population is 125 million), which comes to about 0.2% of the population. In the average church, there is a little over 3 baptisms per year. If that is true, then it seems that churches would double in about 10 years. Unfortunately that is not the case, as there are backsliders. The 0.2% rate of attendance has in fact been declining since reaching a peak of about 0.5% 30 years ago.

Contrast this to communist China where recently there has been very intense persecution against Christians, some of the worst in years. In such a country, last month a Chinese leader said that for every Bible that is brought into China, there are 10 new converts, which creates even more demand for the Word. There are many who risk their lives to bring the Word to them at any cost. The need there is incredible. Someone from China wrote last month, "I have three thousand people in house churches that I visit and teach. They have three complete Bibles and two New Testaments between them." God does not need a lot to work big miracles.

Wherever we are, may we seek to further His Kingdom by, as we learned in church last Sunday, realizing that all true Christian witness is allowing God to work in our lives. It is not using "enticing words of man's wisdom" but is through the "demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (I Cor. 2:4). God will work in ways that we cannot imagine.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer

"Daniel answered and said,

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons..."

Daniel 2:20-21

As we enjoy the night sounds (crickets, locusts, etc.) of a late summer in the Midwest, we are reminded that another season is closing in on us. May we, like Daniel, praise the name of God for His awesome power to change one season to another. As the days and nights cool down, it is refreshing to the soul to welcome another Fall season, with all its beauty and natural splendor.

Our congregation has enjoyed two special weekends in a row this month. On August 10, Sis. Jeanelle Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) was joined in Holy Matrimony to Bro. Brian Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) from Sabetha. May they seek the Lord's guidance, as they have in the past, to establish and keep a Christian home. Manhattan will be their "first" home while they both finish their educations. A sincere thanks goes to Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and ministering Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and their families for sharing in this weekend. How uplifting it is for a congregation to welcome three young brothers into the faith. On Saturday evening, August 16, we enjoyed the testimonies of Ryan and Trent Menold and Timothy Lehman, and witnessed their baptisms the following Sunday. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman, respectively. Again we thank our visiting ministers and their families: Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

In youthful days His blessing seek,
With heart that's tender true and
meek,

And while the years draw on apace,
You'll praise Him for His love and
grace.

Hymns of Zion #135

How thankful we are that souls are still answering God's call! In her youthful days, Belinda Stoller is seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with her and her parents, Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria, and the rest of her family. May she be a godly example as she enters her high school years.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller and their families, as Glenda and Gloria's father, Bro. Nathan Grimm (Sis. Lois), of Sabetha has passed from this life.

Bro. Harlan Stoller (Sis. Pearl) has spent some time in the hospital and we pray that he will be able to assemble with us again soon. We are thankful that Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) has made a speedy recovery from her foot injury!

On Saturday evening, July 19, our Bible Class gave a slide presentation of their week spent working at the deaf school in Kingston, Jamaica. It was an enjoyable evening to all and we thank the students for their efforts.

Our Sunday School is also in recess during the month of August and we would like to thank those teachers who have given of their time and talents: Bros. Todd Rokey and Duane Meyer and Sis. Jill Hartter.

As many of our students are leaving home for college, we extend a warm welcome "back home" to Bro. Ryan Hartter who has been worshipping with the Belvidere, IL congregation while attending dairy school.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Tammy Sinn

We have been abundantly blessed with ministering brothers this past month. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation are extended to Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) for expounding God's Word to us. May God richly bless those who made the effort to assemble with our small congregation and encourage us on our pilgrim journey.

Sis. Ruth Sinn spent some time in the hospital recently. We are thankful for God's healing mercies upon her.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul..."

Psalms 23:1-3

One misty morning this past month, on vacation, I sat beside still waters with the gentle rain making tiny sprinkles on the beautiful calm of the water, and the verses of the 23rd Psalm came to life. We get so wrapped up in our busy, tempestuous lives and sometimes forget to take the time to sit down and let God's beauty and peace restore our hearts and souls. My prayer as I sat there beside those still waters was that when I went home and my world became topsy turvy again, I might take a moment, close my eyes to remember the peace and calm of God's beautiful creation, and then pick up my cross and carry on with a smile on my face and joy in my heart.

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

Psalms 127:3

As our children again start school, we parents have our work cut out for us! Yes, we are busy with school activities, but the work I am talking about concerns the protection of our precious heritage from the devices of Satan when they are away from us at school or college. The teaching of right and wrong according to God's Word must start at home when they are young, but our prayers can go with them everywhere, and we all know from experience that prayer is our most precious possession and has miraculous results. So let's pray and in faith send them off in the care of the One who loves them even more than we do.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Kristen Farney (daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay Farney, and granddaughter of Sis. Helen Farney), was united in marriage to E.O. Flavell, Kiowa, on Saturday morning, August 9. It is our fervent prayer as they move to Lawrence, where E.O. works and Kristen attends college, that God will be the Center of their new home to love, guide, and bless them in their new life together.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Brenda Grimm

Mary Kay Wenger

We want to welcome Bro. Kent Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) back home after spending a few months working in Morris, MN.

One of Thy children is coming home,
Open Thy merciful arms,
One of Thy children's too tired to
roam,
Open Thy merciful arms...

Gospel Hymns #784

With these words we bid our final farewell to a dear brother as he was laid to rest. On July 16, Bro. Nathan Grimm passed from this life into his heavenly reward. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his wife, Sis. Lois, and children, Bro. Gerald (Sis. Ruby), Sis. Glenda Rokey (Bro. Allen, Bern, KS), Bro. Rodney (Sis. Arlene), Bro. Doug (Sis. Jeryl), Sis. Gloria Stoller (Bro. Darrel, Bern, KS), Gayla McKee (Dan, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Kevin (Sis. Nita).

Brian and Sis. Kristy Schweitzer announce the adoption of a son, Ryker Jeff, born July 23. He is welcomed by his brother, Connor, age 3 1/2, and his grandparents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell.

During the month of August, our Sunday School is in recess. We want to thank the teachers for their many efforts in helping plant the seed of life in those tender hearts.

Sis. Alma Aberle celebrated her 90th birthday on August 1. May God continue to bless her life as He has in the past.

On August 2 and 3, the Sabetha/Bern Single Group hosted an In-vite-A-Friend weekend.

Ministering Bro. James Kaeb (Bern, KS) spoke on a topic titled "Understanding God's Blueprint for your Life." The six steps he pointed out are: 1) information, 2) confirmation, 3) application, 4) confrontation, 5) inspiration and 6) realization. Any time a decision is facing us, may we diligently pray and seek God's Word that His will might always be done.

August 10 was the wedding day for Bro. Brian Plattner (Bro. Donald and Sis. Ada) and Sis. Jeanelle Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda, Bern, KS). We want to welcome Sis. Jeanelle to the Sabetha congregation and may the Lord bless their new life together. They will be making their home in Manhattan, KS for

a short time while they finish college.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

Our prayers are with those that were hospitalized this month. They include Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy), Bro. Don Strahm, Sis. Selena Brownlee (Steve) and Sis. Evelyn Wysong. May God's healing touch be upon each of them.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for your love, prayers, cards, flowers, memorials, food, phone calls and your kind expressions of sympathy at the passing of our loved one.

The family of Bro. Nathan Grimm

I feel unworthy of the many cards and letters with their messages of cheer and encouragement sent by friends and brethren near and distant in observance of my 90th birthday. My heartfelt thanks to all for your kindness.

Sis. Alma Aberle

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation was blessed with visiting ministers during the month of July. Early in the month, Bro. Wally Ramsier ministered. He and Sis. Helen were visiting relatives in the area. Later in the month, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller and Sis. Emily spent the day with us as they were en route home from a vacation. Then the last week in July, Elder Bro. Akito Inoue conducted Wednesday evening services. While we can never appreciate our local ministers enough, it is refreshing to have the same message brought by

a visiting minister.

Another group of travelers spent a Sunday in our assembly on August 10. A group from Illinois had spent ten days in Juarez, Mexico on a work mission and were en route home. One brother mentioned in his prayer that the Wichita church was like an oasis. I take it that the experience of worshipping with us was refreshing for them as it was for us.

We have many opportunities to lift up in prayer those from our congregation who experienced health problems. Bro. Milton Bowers was hospitalized. Praise God, he was well enough to be in church August 10. Another faithful, Sis. Nellie Lambert, has been home bound and absent for at least three Sundays.

Also, we have watched with concern as Floyd Beyer's health problems became more severe. He died Tuesday, August 12, at the age of 85 years. His daughter, Barbara Dilli, took him into her home and lovingly ministered to his needs. Floyd is also survived by a son, Dr. Everett, of Peoria, AZ, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

We wish Sis. Kristi Kellenberger farewell as she leaves our area after a four month work term here in Kentucky. May God richly bless her as she plans her next work location. We will miss her fellowship in Lexington.

We also want to thank Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing a weekend with our congregation. A meal and singing were enjoyed by all and then on Sunday, Bro. Wayne shared the Word with us. In addition, Bro. Randy Gasser and Sis. Sue (Leo, IN) shared the weekend and pulpit. A special thanks to these families for taking time to be with us and the brothers for sharing

God's Word.

The Sunday School students enjoyed a trip to the Rittman, OH area on the last Saturday of July for Ohio Youth Day. On Sunday, we went to Mansfield for our church services and enjoyed a blessed day of fellowship. Many thanks to these churches for their kindness and hospitality during this special weekend for our youth.

As our youth begin a new school year, may we as parents do our part to keep in tune with them in their studies. As a teacher, I see the hidden curriculum that is developed and being developed for our public school children. Self-esteem and pride seem to pervade the text books and a desire to climb to the top of the social ladder, no matter what the cost to faith, family or friends. Perhaps we need to instill at home the following thought:

Some people reach the top of the ladder of success
Only to find it is leaning against the wrong wall.

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

Matthew 6:33

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Michelle Oesch Melanie Kaeb

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth

beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 2:17-21

We have the security of the promise given in Acts 2:21, that no matter what signs of the times appear in the latter days, we have nothing to fear because we are the children of God.

A tiny miracle arrived at the home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Baumgartner this month; Carly Elise was born on August 3. She is welcomed by big brothers, Blane and Brendon, and grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen and Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN).

We were also blessed here at Alto with another kind of birth this month. Jonathan Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna) and Andrea Steiner (Brent) were baptized on August 17. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) assisted with the provings. Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) was also present. The other visiting minister this month was Bro. Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS).

We are excited to welcome Sis. Maryann Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) to Alto. She will begin her new job as a deaf interpreter for Holland Public Schools on August 25. We wish her God's blessings in her new endeavor.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher Rhonda Knochel

Our Vacation Bible School was once again a very blessed week teaching and enjoying children, preschool to 8th grade during the day

from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 9th grade on through our membership in the evenings. Our theme was "Jesus Wept" (John 11:35).

The Birth of a Disabled Child - Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN). Song: I Must Tell Jesus

Living with Depression - Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). Song: Jesus Knows Thy Sorrow

Drawing Away from the Heart of God - Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City). Song: I Love To Talk With Jesus

A Child's Mistake - Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). Song: All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

The Loss of a Spouse - Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). Song: Never Alone

Main song each night: Does Jesus Care?

May our Lord bless and grant a healing hand to all of those who have been and are ill: Bro. Earl Ramseyer (Sis. Mary), Sis. Leanore Knochel (Bro. Norman), Marcie Cowan (Stacey), daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Meylan, Bro. Sam Wackerle (Sis. Lorraine), Sis. Blanch Wieland, Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor), Elenor Knochel (Bro. Victor), Bro. David Schlatter (Sis. Margaret), Sis. Laura Wieland, Sis. Peggy Jackson (Bro. John), and Bro. Alan Wackerle.

We were also very privileged and blessed to have with us Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL).

In His Steps

Dwell not in the valley of despair,
waste not another day.
Arm yourself with faith and prayer,
and then be on your way.
Yield not unto temptation

which leads the soul astray,
But focus on the light ahead
and walk the narrow way.
Your Guide shall always lead you
and shield you from harm's way,
But you must follow in His steps
and listen and obey.

His strength shall never fail you
as you stop awhile to pray,
For at the end of your journey
you'll find a brighter day.
At the end of life's great journey,
Heaven's just a step away
For all who follow in His steps
and listen and obey.

—Clay Harrison

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us...that ye should follow his steps:"

I Peter 2:21

Bro. Gerald and Sis. Lois Wieland have had the Lord's blessings to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They have four children, Marilyn Westphal, Susan Wenglikowski, Mark Wieland and Sharon Schwarz. We wish our Lord's grace to these two as they travel further on life's way together.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer

Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 21 with the theme being "Standing on the Promises." The children learned about a few of the many promises of God, but as we know, it would take much longer than a week to learn them all.

On Saturday, July 19, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger spoke to us on God's promises as we were reminded that God's Word is always true and that He will always be with us. We are an impatient generation, as technology has made it so that we can have immediate access to almost anything and when we have to wait, it can be very trying. The Lord promises us that if we wait on Him, He will renew our strength.

We were privileged to have visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) with us this month. We want to thank them and their families for worshipping with us.

Crystal Ramsier has heard God's calling as she has given her life to Him in repentance. We wish her God's grace and will miss her smiling face as she was with us for a short time and is now going back to school in Ohio.

Being in an area where there is a lot to offer in education and job opportunities, we see people come and go. As one is leaving, we welcome Bro. Lance Pfeifer from the Indianapolis congregation who is worshipping with us. He transferred to the University of MI as part of a doctorate program for a couple of years.

Big brothers, Gavin and Grant, welcome Madison Leigh into their family, as do parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker. May God bless their family.

On August 9, Sis. Hilda Bauer passed from this life into eternity. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Bro. Walt Bauer. Our sympathy and prayers go with Bro. Walt and family, Ron and Mary Bauer, and Joe and Jan Kavulich and their families as they have lost a mother and grandmother.

We would also like to express our sympathy to Bro. Frank and Sis. Sancha Denes and their family on the passing of his mother, Sis. Ilona. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Ferenc Denes.

Our prayers go with Sis. Arlene Belsley's granddaughter, Amy Barta, as she is being treated for leukemia.

As summer is coming to an end and fall is around the corner, our prayers go with the students who are returning to school.

As we reflect on the past month of activities, we know that if we

trust in the Lord, He has promised to take care of us. We were reminded in a recent sermon to give thanks in all things and know that God will work for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Thus ever on through life we find
To trust, O Lord is best,
Who serve Thee with a quiet mind
Find in Thy service rest,
Their outward troubles may not
cease,
But this their joy will be—
"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
Whose mind is stayed on Thee."
—*author unknown*

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"Let your Light shine" was the theme for the Vacation Bible School held July 14-18. We thank all those who so willingly gave of their time and talent to make this a special week for the children. We especially want to thank Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for coming and speaking to us. It was a blessing to all who attended.

OUR PURPOSE

We have a purpose here on earth
That spans the passing years,
It goes beyond our daily needs
The laughter and the tears.

It goes beyond the earthly cares
And all the joys of living,
Beyond our loved ones and our
friends
The taking and the giving.

It even goes beyond our church
The preaching and praying,
The fellowship in one accord
The organ softly playing.

That purpose lies beyond our home
Our church and occupation,
Beyond the city where we live
Beyond our dear nation.

We have a purpose for our lives
And things that we must do,
For there are sinners all around
That we must witness to.

We need to be a witness here
But that is just a part,
For sometimes people only hear
The message of a heart.

The heart that reaches out to man
To show a Savior's love,
Will make them feel His presence
here
Not just somewhere above.

A kindly deed, a helping hand
His lovelight shining through,
A purpose for each child of God
Some service we must do.
—*Gertrude B. McClain*

This past month we were richly blessed with many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We truly appreciate their visits and for lending themselves to serve us from God's Word. We pray God will bless them and their families.

Additional voting was held to replace positions in the church vacated by families moving away.

Newly elected to offices were Bros. Damon Knobloch (Sunday School teacher), Duane Rocke (Substitute teacher and Trustee), Dave Stewart (Usher), Jim Tilbury (Handicapped Home Correspondent) and John Wiegand (Sunday School Superintendent). We prayerfully support and wish God's grace for those who have taken on new responsibilities.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.
Hymns of Zion #156

This seems to be the year of farewells in our church. With sadness, we bid another dear couple farewell. Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz leave our congregation to make their home in Monticello, IN. We thank them for all their love and support given to our church over the past 7-1/2 years. They will be missed greatly, but know our loss will be another's gain. We wish them God's blessings in their new home and church.

Also leaving this month were Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Jeremy Freed (Indianapolis, IN) as they return to further their education after working on their summer internships. We really enjoyed their fellowship and hope they both will return after they graduate for permanent employment in our area.

We have enjoyed several events in our newly completed Fellowship Room in the lower level of our church. A special thanks to the Fellowship Room Committee and to everyone else that helped to complete this project. Your labors are truly appreciated and the room will be enjoyed by many in the years to come.

THE CHANGE OF SEASONS

The air turns cool, the leaves turn
brown,
A change is taking place,
And everywhere the signs appear
Of Fall's approaching face.

The birds begin their southward
flight
That takes them far away,
And in their plaintive song and cry
A fond goodbye they say.

A season dies, a new one's born
Like night gives way to day.
Such is the wondrous work of God
In His own chosen way.

—Harold F. Mohn

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Linda Schmidgall

We had the pleasure of sharing the joy of two more weddings. Bro. Todd Massner (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Kim Knobloch (Lester, IA) were united in marriage on July 20, and Bro. Bob Domnick and Sis. Cindy Nohl were married on July 27. Both couples pledged their lives to each other fulfilling God's own command: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:..." (Gen. 2:24). We wish you all God's grace in your life.

Parents of the couples are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara Massner and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl.

We rejoice that Kari Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May she feel God's nearness and grace as she goes through this time of repentance.

God's Word was so beautifully brought to us this past month with messages from visiting ministers. We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bros. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

God has once again blessed our congregation with two new babies. On July 16, Laura Jo was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Marci Domnick. Paul is happy for a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester,

IA).

Bro. Shane, Sis. Ruth, Amber, Bethany and Katie Jones were thrilled to get a son and baby brother. His name is Aaron Ross and was born July 21. Grandparents are Sis. Gladys and the late Bro. Ernest Koehl.

We pray that God will be with these dear ones as they raise their young families.

We pray for God's continuous blessings for strength and health to our hospital patients this month. They were Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger (Sis. Emma) and Mitchell Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley).

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Jan Messner - Becky Braulick

Greetings!

"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."

1 Cor. 3:8-10

May we together as a band of believers continue to worship Him and do His work diligently and to strive toward that Heavenly Home.

Our congregation is happy to welcome its newest addition. On August 7, Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll brought home their little baby, Michael Gilbert. Michael is welcomed home by his sisters, Victoria and Stephanie, and brother, Trey. We wish them many blessings as they continue to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Saviour, bless us as we part,
Fill our souls with love divine,
Comfort ev'ry troubled heart,

May we feel that we are Thine.
If on earth we meet no more,
Let us meet at God's right hand,
Where we shall each other greet,
'Mid the glories of that land.
Farewell, farewell, If on earth we
meet no more;
Farewell, farewell, May we meet on
heaven's shore. Amen.
Gospel Hymns #774

We would like to say farewell to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch, along with their children, Kami, Caleb, Kirstin and Kendra. They are once again making their home in Elgin, IA and we pray that God will continue to watch over them. We will miss you all and hope you visit us soon!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

This month we were thankful to host the meeting of the National Building Advisory Committee. It was a joy to have most of the committee members and their families stay for Sunday. We were especially thankful for the presence of Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for being willing servants in ministering on God's Word. The weekend was truly a blessing for all.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Charles Marti (Lamar, MO). We are grateful for these brothers and hope they will return in the future.

Reflecting back on summer, I am remembering how hot it was. Jonah 4:8 just struck me as being very relevant. "And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live."

When I think of the air conditioned houses I am now accustomed to compared to the childhood years when I went without, I wonder how

hard it would be for me to give it up. God has asked us to "give up" or leave behind many things to walk with Him. God's grace is always sufficient to help us leave these things behind. Someday, as we read in Revelations 13:17, we may have to give up many things to remain loyal to God. If we have problems giving up little things today, what will happen when we can no longer buy food, or even the seed to grow it?

When the gourd God provided for Jonah withered and died, he was angry. When we start losing things we've enjoyed our entire lives, I hope we will have the attitude of Job, who said "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21). Considering the reward we are striving for, when the end times are troubling us, we need to remember that charity endureth all things. I wonder if God ever looks at us the way we look at a kid who whines because his peas are touching his hamburger.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martha Kellenberger
Carolyn Banwart

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) as she has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance.

We were thankful to have Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) expound God's Holy Word to us. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

Our hospital and surgical pa-

tients this month were Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Edith Hohulin (Bro. Martin). We trust God will continue to heal and bless them.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Vi Luthi (Bro. Ray) on the death of her brother, Bro. Earl Knoblock, from Lester, IA.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

If you or anyone you know are planning to visit the St. Louis church in the next few months, please be aware that, due to road construction on Jung's Station Road, you will need to approach the church from the north rather than the south on Upper Bottom Road. Take Hwy. 94 to Hemsath Road (about two miles south of I-70) and turn east. Go to Upper Bottom Road and turn right (south). The church is at 3333 Upper Bottom Road on the right. This way is very hilly and winding, but it is the easiest way to get to the church until Jung's Station Road is reopened.

We have had changes again in our little congregation. We bade farewell to Bro. Mark Leman in July. He has taken a job as a traveling respiratory therapist, and will be at one location for three months and then move on to a different spot. Bro. Peter Schrenk is now living in Urbana and is a student at the University of Illinois. We welcome Bro. Kevin Schrock (Congerville, IL) as he begins a three-year occupational therapy program at St. Louis University; and also Bro. Bill Geyer who has moved to St. Charles and will be assembling with us. We pray that God will bless and protect these young men as they adjust to the changes in their lives. And we pray that they will be bright lights and good examples to all of the new people they meet.

Our visiting ministers were Bros.

Walt Herrmann and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO). We deeply appreciate these brothers and their wives and families, along with all of our numerous guests, for their efforts made on our behalf.

Our family was privileged to spend a Sunday in Ixtlan, Mexico, visiting Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and their growing congregation. That same Sunday, there were three ministers in St. Louis, and more than 70 guests! We thank God for His many blessings.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tina Sutter

We are thankful when souls find peace with the Lord. Sis. Julie Hoerr is our new sister in Christ and we are thankful that she has founded her life on the Solid Rock. Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) was here to assist Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in this very special occasion.

We are grateful to Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) who stood before us proclaiming the Gospel.

We are joy filled to acknowledge the engagement of our Sis. Marjorie Knapp to Bro. Don Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Among those hospitalized recently were Sis. Marj Gerst, Bro. Jim Sutter and Sis. Diane Sutter's mother, Verine Scott. Your prayers on their behalf would be appreciated kindly.

We are grateful to all who took their turn in Sunday School teacher vacation this month. It was an enlightening experience to those of us who were able to be of service in this way.

Dr. Parkhe and his wife (India) were with us and shared a slide presentation and information on the work they are doing in India. It was

quite interesting and inspiring to learn that almost every aspect of their life is devoted to bringing souls to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:13

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler**

Our annual business meeting was held July 28. We thank those who have completed their positions in teaching our Sunday School children and helping to keep the house of God in order and ask for God's blessings on those who will fill these positions in the coming year.

Best wishes and congratulations go to Tracie Farney (Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) and Dan Getman (George and Theresa) who were married on July 19. May God be the Unseen Guest in their home as they begin their lives together.

Bruce (Gayle) Hirschey was involved in an accident while he was engineering a train when it collided with a milk tank truck at a railroad crossing on a country road. We are thankful there were no serious injuries. Bruce is recovering from a broken ankle.

Urban (Sis. Julia) Karcher remains hospitalized after having undergone surgery twice in the past month. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him and we pray God will continue with him in his recovery and that he will be able to return home soon.

Scott and Tonya Greenwood have many reasons to be thankful after a safe return from Cambodia where they were spending time with their Aunt earlier in the summer. Their stay was lengthened several days

after the turmoil erupted in Cambodia. This trip will always be in their memories as well as with their parents, Dean and Joyce, their sisters, Heather and Amber, and grandmother, Sis. Elvera Martin. We are also happy to have them home again and thankful for God's protection over them.

Lewis and Cynthia Courtney of Syracuse welcomed their first child two months early when he was born in Baltimore, MD where they were spending the weekend. Noah Avery was born on July 28 and is progressing well at this time. His grandparents are Nat and Sheila Virkler. We hope they can return home to Syracuse to be together as a family in September. May they look to God for guidance in raising their new son.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on August 2 at Happy Hollow and the beautiful day was enjoyed by all. Our Sunday School children will be returning to school soon and we pray for God's guidance for each of them in the new school year.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL) and Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). We thank God for allowing them to visit us and be used in bringing forth His Word to us. We also want to thank the many others who have visited our congregation during the summer months. What a blessing it is to travel throughout the country and visit those whom we may or may not have known before and to find the same faith and fellowship of God's people.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser
Diane Jarrett**

Greetings from Akron. In the past month, our congregation was blessed by the ministering of Bro.

Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciated his labors in the Lord.

On July 17, Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf were blessed with a precious daughter, Annaliese Rose. Andrew, Adam and Adeline welcome their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf, and Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

Sis. Martha Palitto (Bro. John) underwent surgery this month and we are thankful for her recovery.

Bro. Irvin "Bud" Walker went to be with the Lord on August 11. Our sympathy and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Mary Ellen, and family: Don and Pat, Pam and Keith Weir, Kerry and Chris, Sis. Terri and Bro. Marvin Ramsier (Rittman), John and Deb Gerber, Joe and Ann Gerber (Rittman), Sis. Pam and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura Gerber (Rittman).

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise,
Some time, some time, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks**

Our small congregation has felt the loss again of beloved friends and family. We bid a sad farewell to Paxton and Denise Williams as they have moved their family to Ann Arbor, MI to relocate for Paxton's employment. Our prayers are with them as they settle into a new life, far from home and loved ones. Our little Sunday School will truly miss Amanda and Colby.

We also are sorry to hear of the

departure of our friend, Ted Strahm, who is returning to Bern, KS after living and working in the Columbus area for the past few years. It is so hard to say good-bye to these loved ones and their departure leaves many empty spaces in our church and in our hearts.

Among our summer visitors, we have been blessed to have as guest ministers: Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

Our prayers are with our children as they prepare to return to school. Whether it is grade school, high school or the college campus, we commit each one unto God's care and keeping.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

It has been an eventful month. During a prayer at church, one brother was moved to thank God for not just adding to but multiplying our church. Within two days, two souls were baptized, two engagements were announced, and two more began their repentance.

On August 10, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emy) announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Warren Schlatter, to Sis. Cindy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee, Latty). Also announced was Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty) to Sis. Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee, Latty). May the Lord draw their hearts together during this time of engagement.

That same afternoon, Julie McCullough (James) and Amy Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy) spoke their vows in the baptismal waters and became our new sisters. We pray that their sincerity will last a lifetime. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO) for

coming to share in our joy and to lend themselves on the pulpit.

The following day, we rejoiced again as word spread that Jill and Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) had surrendered their lives to the Lord and were repenting. May they find relief for their burdened hearts.

Our Sunday School hosted a small group from the Columbus, OH Sunday School at our annual picnic. We appreciate these opportunities to initiate and renew acquaintances within the church.

Bro. Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen), Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Vera Manz (Bro. Russell) have been entrusted with teaching God's ways in Sunday School. We wish them the wisdom and patience needed for this task. Many thanks to Bro. Russell Manz and Sis. Karen Schlatter for their years of service.

Ministering Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) shared timely messages with us on August 17. We extend our thanks to them and their families.

Most of us can't comprehend the amount of time our Elders spend in behalf of their churches. We know that their families must often make sacrifices that go unnoticed by the rest of us. As Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emy Schlatter celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, we express our special thanks to their entire family and wish them abundant blessings in the years to come.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Joyce Klopfenstein

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers in the past month. We pray God will bless Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Ron

Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO).

Bro. Donald and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and Linnis and Lula Saylor welcomed home a new grandson, Scott Andrew. Parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni Wenninger and big sisters are Jessica and Staci.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager, David, Alisha, Daniel, Jesse, and Isaac welcomed home Tianna Rose. Grandparents are Sis. Elsie Rager (the late Bro. William, Sr.) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller (Wolcott, IN).

Cory Austin is the newest member of Mike and Tammy Tierney's family. Big brother, Caleb, and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Whitman, also welcome Cory home.

On August 10, we were privileged to hear the engagements of Sis. Cindy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) to Bro. Warren Schlatter (Elder Bro. William and Sis. Emily) of Junction, OH; and the engagement of Sis. Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) to Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty) of Junction, OH. May these couples feel God's guidance as they plan their futures together.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Mary Eisenmann (late Bro. Lee), Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom), Sis. Esther Schlatter, and Bro. Joe Schlatter (Sis. Elsie) as they recuperate from surgeries and medical complications.

August 14 was the day Bro. Sam Laukhuf went to his Heavenly Home. He was preceded in death by 6 brothers and 4 sisters. We pray God will comfort his many nieces and nephews.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

Okay, I admit it. I read the signs

in the yards of the churches I pass on my way to work. Often it gives me additional food for thought during my day. One of the signs recently said, "Come expecting a blessing." That one lingered in my thoughts for a long time. I had to ponder, do I "come expecting a blessing" every time I gather with loved ones in God's house or even at someone's home for a singing? God has promised us His blessings. Are we therefore failing Him when we don't look for those blessings? May each of us always be looking and "come expecting."

With friends on earth we meet in gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,
That we must say "Good-bye."
We'll never say good-by in heaven,
We'll never say good-bye...
For in that land of joy and song
We'll never say good-bye.
Hymns of Zion #122

It is with saddened hearts that we bid a fond farewell to Bro. Dan, Sis. Pam, Lauren and Lanae Sauder as they have moved to the Central Texas area. We trust that the Lord will be with them wherever they go. May they ever feel our loving prayers as they are separated from us.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

On July 20, our church was filled to capacity to witness the wedding of Sis. Traci Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Tim Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue). It is our prayer that the love they feel for each other only grows deeper with each passing year. May they always feel the Lord's blessings upon them.

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt. 10:7

Joining us for the wedding were Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), David Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) also was with us this month for our Annual Ohio/Michigan Youth Day.

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

Eccles. 12:1

On July 27, the seventh through twelfth grade students gathered for a day of fellowship. It is our prayer that all of those youth will remember what they heard during that weekend and will seek out their soul's salvation as a result. May each one of them ever know that God is with them always.

On August 2, many gathered for the annual Sunday School picnic. The good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

My dad works in a steel mill. In his early years there, he worked as part of a team called "the labor gang". These men were often given the dirtiest, most undesirable jobs in the mill. Often they were required to work sixteen-hour days, seven days a week. However, when Labor Day rolls around each year, the mill slows its processes down and works with a skeleton crew so the men can have "the working man's" holiday off. As Labor Day 1997 approaches, I had to think that we as born again believers are part of the Lord's "labor gang". Are we willing to take on His dirtiest, most undesirable jobs and work sixteen-hour days seven days a week? Or would we rather have the "gravy" jobs eight hours a day five days a week? I confess that I am guilty of sometimes desiring the "gravy" job and not the "labor gang" job. May each of us, myself first in this case, be willing to raise our hand and say

"Lord, I'll take that 'labor gang' job" as we labor each day in His service.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Carla Stoller

This past month we have welcomed ministering Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). May God bless them for their service.

Todd and Kelly Jenkins welcomed Ashley Nicole into their family on July 19. Rochelle and Kelsey are her sisters and Sis. Clara Jenkins and Carolyn Smith are Ashley's grandmothers.

Sydney Marcia joined the family of Ross and Lori Maibach on July 22. Sydney's brothers are Evan and Taylor and her grandparents are Dale and Dixie Maibach and Mr. and Mrs. Randy Carpenter.

We wish to remember those who have been sick recently: Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Don Walder (Sis. Martha), Sis. Brenda Zollinger (Bro. Rudy), Roger Hessidence (Evelyn), and Sis. Jean Bauman.

Certainly we rejoice as Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) has begun his repentance. We trust that Chad will look to God for strength and guidance.

We extend condolences to Bro. Bob Gasser (Sis. Neva), Sis. Mid Christian (Bro. Ralph) and Twila Robinson on the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Carolyn Gasser (Smithville, OH).

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Mary Ellen Walker on the death of her husband, Bro. Bud, and to children, Sis. Terri Ramsier (Bro. Marvin), Bro. Tom Gerber (Sis. Laura) and Joe Gerber (Ann).

We also wish to remember Bro.

Dale Pelfrey (Sis. Beth) at this time, as his mother, Jean Pelfrey, has passed away.

Sunday evening, August 10, after a singing at the Fellowship Hall, we enjoyed a slide presentation given by Dr. Parkhe of India. We were thankful to have Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe assemble with us for the day.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

Ephesians 4:4-7

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new brother and sister in faith, Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia Rigenbach, the weekend of July 20. May they always stay true to the Lord and His teachings. We thank Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for their willingness to share in the weekend.

We had several visitors during the month and we thank each for coming our way. Special thanks to ministering Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) for sharing the message during his visit to Sardis.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller - Julie Maibach

Ring the bells of heaven!
There is joy today
For a soul returning from the wild;
See! the Father meets him out upon
the way,
Welcoming His weary, wand'ring
child.

Gospel Hymns #622

We rejoice with the angels that two more souls have recently turned to the Lord. Rachel Maibach and Crystal Ramsier heard the tender call of the Shepherd and have opened their hearts to Him. May God bless them with His wondrous peace and joy.

We always appreciate visiting ministers. This month, Bros. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) shared God's Word with us.

Bro. Don Stoller was recently hospitalized and underwent open heart surgery. We pray for God's healing hand upon him.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dave Colvin in the death of his grandfather; and to Nancy Jordan in the death of her mother, Sis. Carolyn Gasser, 66, who recently passed away. May the Lord comfort their hearts.

We would like to give a warm welcome to Garth Gucker who has recently been attending Smithville.

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

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

Proverbs 22:6

Mike and Tammy Tierney have been entrusted with another precious baby boy. Along with Caleb, they welcome Cory Austin into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman (Latty, OH). May God help them to teach them His ways.

We extend our congratulations to Rick Steiner (Rittman, OH) who has completed his education at the University of Toledo. May he feel God's direction as he moves back to Rittman and begins a new job.

Bro. Garth Gucker has accepted

a teaching position in Akron. We will miss him in our congregation, but wish him God's blessings as he begins teaching.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

We are thankful to have had visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). May God richly bless them for their service to us.

Sis. Ann Rumbold has moved to a new home. We pray that God will bless her. Her new address is: 1153 Molalla Ave., Apt. 101, Oregon City, OR 97045.

We feel really blessed that our remodeling project is well under way and we are seeing wonderful progress made. It will be so nice when it is complete. We just want to thank those who have spent time helping us out on this project. We don't anticipate it will be completed until this winter, but feel fortunate that we have been able to continue to worship in it with very little inconvenience. We have had to discontinue Sunday School for a time, but hope to start up again very soon.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Here in Oregon, the harvest is very nearly completed. The wheat and grass fields are stubble, with few exceptions the fruit crops are picked, the beautiful fields of flowers for seed or bulbs are bare, most of the bush beans are harvested and the sweet corn picking is in progress. And yes, the farmers are already planning for "next year" when perhaps the spring won't be so wet, the various quirks of plant disease or pests will be better controlled and maybe the price will be up. While thankful for this year's harvest, the ever optimistic and tenacious farmer plans for the next

year's harvest almost before this year's last load is delivered.

Most of us either live on a farm, were raised on a farm or have close family members who do, so even if our current experience with growing things is limited to memories or our gardens or house plants, we can relate to the many scripture and hymnal references to seed time and harvest. "Bringing in the Sheaves", "Seeds of Goodness We Are Sowing", and "Scatter Seeds of Kindness" all clearly remind us that we will reap what we sow. When that final harvest comes...the time for planning future improvements will be past.

Repair, after last winter's flash flood at Restless Surf, continues. Plus some improvements that had been previously planned have taken place also. Several work sessions have resulted in restoring the landscape, painting the entire outside, and repainting all the walls on the first floor.

This was only possible after the earlier work sessions that removed tons of rock, mud, trees and debris. The first floor carpet and underlayment flooring had to be removed because it was ruined by the water that flowed through and the mud that was left behind. Work is scheduled in September to lay new underlayment flooring, carpet and vinyl. Furniture and some appliances are also being replaced. We are very thankful for the willing brethren and friends who have donated many hours to this ongoing project. The two upper floors remain available for use and enjoyment of the beautiful coastal area throughout the restoration process. You may call Sis. Judie Knecht at 503-632-3570 for availability information and reservations.

Our love and sympathy is extended to the large group of family and friends who mourn the passing of Sam Feucht, whose funeral was

at the Oregon City/Portland Apostolic Christian Church on July 17. His warm smile, hearty handshake and enthusiastic participation in every activity of either Portland's or Silverton's congregations will be definitely missed.

Summer brings many welcome visitors our way and we thank them for including Silverton in their travel plans. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We do appreciate these brothers being willing to stand and speak God's precious Word for us.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

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

Isaiah 40:8

John Clough and Ruth Dapper of Sarasota, FL were married on June 28. We wish them God's blessings.

Christopher Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) recently underwent surgery. May God provide His healing hand for young Christopher.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke have been blessed with a granddaughter, Jennifer Lynn, born on July 20. Happy parents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Nancy Rocke (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller hosted a reception August 17 for Philip and Jennifer Aeschleman who were married on July 5.

Special thanks to Bros. William Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God bless them and their families.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Serv-

ices are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

Every September Labor Day is celebrated in honor of labor. May we as Christians continue in our labor for the Lord placing confidence in God's Word that our labor for Him is never in vain.

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

I Cor. 15:58

This past month, we were privileged to have ministering Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). We thank both of these brothers and their families for traveling and worshipping with us. May God richly bless you as well as our other visitors from Princeville, IL.

Our upcoming worship services are scheduled for October 5 (Fairbury, IL); October 19 (Eureka, IL); November 2 (Milford, IN); November 16 (Morton, IL); and December 7 (Kansas City, MO). If you plan to join us, please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 851-8864; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

**TEXAS, CENTRAL
Lois Gray**

Our thanks to the ministering brethren who visited us the past month: Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Todd Feller

(Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). We appreciate those who travel many miles to minister to us.

In reply to the often asked question, "Where is Round Top?": This picturesque village and its 81 residents can be found midway between Austin and Houston, on highway 237, approximately 20 miles southwest of Brenham. Round Top has no motels but has a number of bed-and-breakfasts. Several are within walking distance of the Zeltwanger residence where services are held the LAST Sunday of the month. Driving time from Austin is 1 1/2 hours, from Houston 2 hours, from San Antonio 2 1/2 hours, and from Dallas 4 hours. Should you plan to be in the area, please include us on your itinerary.

Services are held in Dallas the first Sunday of the month. Central Texas holds services the remainder of the month. The last Sunday we meet at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. Otherwise, we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy 71 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Visitors are most welcome, and are reminded to call ahead in case of a change in schedule.

TEXAS, DALLAS Dee Rapp

Sweet Hour of Prayer

The author of this hymn was a blind preacher living in England. He asked a pastor friend to write down a poem he had composed in his head. Three years later, that minister visited the United States and gave the poem to a newspaper editor. Unfortunately no one knows what happened to the blind author of this hymn. But the identity of the hymnwriter is not as important as knowing a God who hears and answers prayer.

Have you ever thought about

spending one hour in prayer each week with your Lord? Following is an outline to follow, spending five minutes in each section:

Praise - Adore God for His attributes and character. Ps. 22:3, Ps. 115:1, Heb. 13:15

Wait - Waiting is a time of silent love towards God. Ps. 130:6, Ps. 62:1, Is. 40:31

Confess - Confess not only your own sins but those of your family. I John 1:9, Ps. 66:18, Dan. 9:4-19

Pray Scripture - Read through Scripture making it a personal prayer. Jer. 23:29, I Thess. 2:13, Heb. 12:5

Watch - Be alert to the schemes of the enemy. Matt. 26:41, I Pet. 5:8, Is. 62:6, Eph. 6:10-18, Rom. 8:26-27

Intercede - Intercession is prayer centered on others. Pray for our church and those in leadership that we will have an impact on the world for God's glory. Matt. 6:10, II Thess. 3:1-2, Rom. 10:14-15

Petition - Bring your specific needs to God. Matt. 7:7, Matt. 6:11

Give Thanks - Give specific thanks for all God has done for you personally and for our church. I Thess. 5:18, Ps. 116:17, Phil. 4:16

Sing - Sing songs you know or use a tape. Ps. 100:2, Eph. 5:19-20, II Chron. 20:21-22

Meditate - Think about God. Focus on Him. Ps. 1:1-2, Is. 26:3, Ps. 104:34

Listen - What is God saying to you? Eccl. 5:12, Kings 19:9-13

Praise - Exalt the Lord and magnify His name. Ps. 52:9, Matt. 6:9, 13, Ps. 48:1

If one day this week you will get up one hour earlier to pray through this list, you will find it the most rewarding and fastest hour ever spent with Him.

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 noon at the Holiday

Inn, DeSoto, TX.

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Roundtop. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12 noon. Contacts are: Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (972) 867-4074, or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Lila Plattner and Rick LaGrange were married in San Antonio on July 12 by Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). Lila is the daughter of Bro. Leland Plattner and Sis. Mary Plattner and Rick is the son of Catherine LaGrange and Ross LaGrange of Rio Grande City, TX. The day after the wedding, Sunday, July 13, the Central Texas congregation was blessed with visitors from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Ohio who had come to the wedding. Although services were scheduled for the Austin area, they were moved to San Antonio for that week due to the number of visitors that had traveled to San Antonio. Rick and Lila will be living in San Antonio and attending church with the Central Texas congregation. Love believes and endures through all things. We wish these loved ones joy and happiness and God's blessings as they share their married life together.

The telephone area code for Zapata has been changed from 210 to 956; please take note of this change.

We are thankful that we could spend a few weeks traveling to Illinois and Iowa to visit family and friends and return home safely.

Silver Threads

“It Was Not You, But God...”

“It was not you, but God who sent me here
So do not blame yourselves and do not fear,”
Thus Joseph spoke unto his brethren
Who stood before him, broken,
trembling men.

With loving words, he gently them assured,
He did not speak of all he had endured;
Of all the cruel deeds that they had done
Unto their father Jacob’s favorite son.

He did not speak of the horrors of the pit
Where in the slimy darkness he did sit
Of the wary journey with the Midianite band
Alone, a stranger in a foreign land.

He did not speak of all the mental anguish
He surely felt while he in prison languished;
Believed by Potiphar to be untrue,
Accused of vile sins he did not do.

Nor did he tell of hope’s elusive gleam
When he interpreted the butler’s dream
And, after waiting long, hope came to nought
When for several years, the butler him forgot.

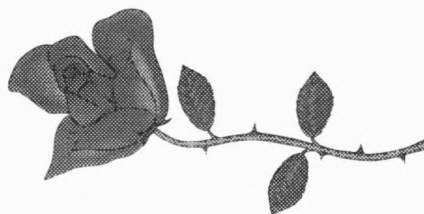
He did not speak of it, because he knew
That God had planned it all and seen him
through;
And he knew that God who all his life had
planned
Held every detail in His loving hand.

Should he then stain his heart with bitterness
And harm himself with what God meant to bless?
For man could do to him whatever they would
But God would make all things to work for good.

How can I then, a child of God, do less?
I, who the name of Jesus do confess
And, through the Spirit, should like Him behave
He, who His life so freely for me gave.

If there is a person in my life should be
Whose words or actions have brought hurt to me;
O let me then like Joseph strive to live
And humbly love and freely all forgive!

—S.J. Fehr



Sermon continued from page 2

we don't tell you like we should, but we really appreciate you, dear sisters, just for being there...being present...being with us. Your fellowship is beyond the comprehension of men's thinking. We need each other, and we need you as a vital function of the church...the beautiful voices...the ministry of singing...oh, you lend yourselves so graciously!

"...which laboured with me in the gospel..." (Phil. 4:3). What would a church be without singing? Did you ever think about it? If we would not sing in our church, what would happen? It would be so different. So that is a ministry in itself. Singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. Oh, the beauty of singing! It has a language all of its own, and it reaches to the very depth of the cores of our heart...the beautiful singing, the blending of the voices. Oh, there are so many blessings!

"...and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life." (Phil. 4:3). Beloved, can we ask you today, are you sure that your name is recorded in the Book of Life? It is only a question, but it has eternal consequences. Is your name written in the Book of Life? Because we can read in Revelation 20:12 that the books will be opened, and another book will be opened, which is the Book of Life.

It is so important to have our names recorded in the Book of Life and, I believe, the saddest sentence in the entire Bible is Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." That is real, and it is going to happen! Let's have our names recorded in the Book of Life.

The next verse says, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." (Phil. 4:4). Are we rejoicing today? Today is the greatest day that we have ever lived, because nobody has ever lived today before. It was brand new this morning, and we got up and prayed on our knees

that God would be in our midst to bless and provide our needs for today.

Oh, yes, let's remember: yesterday as a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is already cash. Let's spend it and use it wisely. Today is the greatest day we have ever lived because we are getting ready to meet the King!

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." (Phil. 4:4-5). He reminded them almost two thousand years ago that the Lord is at hand. When will it be? Today men are seeking and trying to figure it out.

We know when the Lord is going to come, don't we? No! Nobody knows. Only God. Why do men become so involved trying to figure out the prophecies of the Scripture to find out when the Lord is coming? Because we know it is going to come as a thief in the night when we don't expect it. That is when Jesus is coming. He may shorten the days, or He may allow a little bit more time, if we pray.

We need a praying church like never before. There are men dying daily going to graves without Christ and eternity stands before them. Today, let us keep praying. It is my faith and I believe with all my heart that if we pray earnestly and sincerely, God can add, maybe, another day.

He did for Hezekiah, and gave him fifteen more years. But he prayed and prayed and begged for it. The Lord heard and answered that prayer. He had said, "Set your house in order for you are going to die." (See II Kings 20:1).

The same message is for today: "Get your house in order for you are going to die." We don't know if He is going to give us another year or two or a week or what. But we know that if we keep praying, the Lord will hear us and He may give us just

a little more time so that your daughter or your son or your uncle or aunt or someone else can still be saved.

Because life is serious and it is real. Someday it is going to end and we will be face to face with our Maker.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6).

Oh, beloved, today we are living in a whirlwind of time at a tremendous speed. We are almost being engulfed in the tide that leadeth to destruction. Let us watch and pray that we do not become over anxious. That's what this means, don't become over anxious. Just be prayerful and be thankful.

Did you know that a thankful Christian and a prayerful Christian is a happy Christian? Aren't you happy today? I know that you are, because you know Jesus personally. If we are a praying Christian, then we are a happy Christian.

We are supposed to pray with "supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6). We may say that God knows it all. That is true, but...He wants to be acknowledged.

God needs to be revered, and respected with awe and wonder...the great and mighty God...the Supreme Ruler...the Majesty that dwells in heaven and beholds all things!

Our lives are as an open book, and every day the pages turn. Today is one page. Tomorrow is another page. When will the last page be turned? We do not know. But when it does, are we ready to depart this life with that living hope with our names written in the Book of Life?

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7). The peace

Sermon continued on page 46

Sermon continued from page 45

of God! Nobody knows what it is except those who have experienced it. Brothers and sisters, today we know what the peace of God is, do we not? Because we have experienced it.

Dear friends, you will never know what it is until you experience it. It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You go and meet Him at the cross. At the foot of the cross, He will meet you there. If you will only take time to think of your life, to think ahead of where you are going. Think ahead of the end of your life.

If Jesus came today, would you be ready to leave the world behind and say, "I am ready to meet you, Lord.?"

Dear friend, I believe you would be like I was before I repented, "Lord, give me a little more time, just another hour or a day." Do you know that Satan loves that? Because he wants to keep you from reaching heaven and that is the way he will do it, if you will let him.

You must say, "Lord, help me. I can't do it alone." You'll have to let the Lord share it. Give it to the Lord, and He will help you through.

I know when I repented, I made up my mind that I was going to repent, but I couldn't do it. I prayed and I tried for a day or two, and it went well. The next day, Satan tripped me up and it was over. I couldn't do it alone. Finally, without reservation I just said, "Lord, take my life. I can't do it alone." Then He came into my heart, and He transformed and changed my life.

He will do the same for every friend, if you'll only come and taste and see. He is knocking at your heart's door because He wants entrance. Won't you let Him in? God is the only answer for your life. Because when life comes to a close, it's too late. We can't do it over. Life is spent. How we leave this earth, is how we will appear before Christ.

Oh, dear friend, don't let the hours, the weeks, the months and

the years pass. You may miss the opportunity of ever being able to repent again. We don't know.

We know that we are saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us all about it. "...it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." But the plan of salvation is offered free, and it is given to everyone who will only believe.

Come and repent and take up the cross and follow Jesus. Jesus Himself said three things are required to be done. He said first, "Deny yourself, take up the cross, and follow Me." (See Mark 8:34). It hasn't changed...it's still the same today.

Beloved, we can't place in your heart the importance of it. But read it, believe it and obey it. The peace of God is what keeps our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus today. (See Phil. 4:7). If we wouldn't have peace with God in this world of turmoil and sin, where could we turn if we wouldn't have Christ? We'd be lost! Oh, we are so thankful!

Every night we fall upon our knees and thank God that He had been with us another day. He had seen us through, and we can still entertain that peace and that hope in our hearts that our names are written in the Book of Life. Then if He comes in a moment's notice, we are ready to leave...every day.

When you got up this morning, did you say, "Lord, what if it is today that you are coming for me?" Would you have the answer of, "I'm ready to leave.?" One day it is going to be just like that. One day it's going to be that the last soul will be called, and the door of grace will close, and no more opportunity to repent. It's coming!

In Amos, chapter three (you read it), it will tell you in verses 11-13, that God "will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall

run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst." (Amos 3:11-13). They will be looking and trying to find it and it is not available anymore. It's going to happen.

Oh, beloved, today is the day of grace. Why not come to Jesus now?

"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 a good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8). Today we are human enough that it is so easy to always ponder upon the negative things of life. These things that we have read together are positive things.

If we could only ponder upon the positive things—the true, the honest, the just, the pure, the lovely, the things of good report, there is virtue in that. Think on these things! If nothing else, the Word of God today encourages us to think in that direction...to think of the good. It is always so easy to think of the bad, and that is of the world.

Let's think of the good, and that comes from Jesus Christ. The good things that help build and grow and make the love of God blend in our hearts and in our lives for each other.

In Peter's writings, I Peter 2:9 tells us that we "...are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." That's our duty. What a wonderful joy to serve the Lord. So let's think of all these things.

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Phil. 4:9). A beautiful promise! Received, learned, heard and seen in

me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. It tells us what to do and it gives us the blessing. God is so good!

As it further reads, this is such a beautiful Scripture, beloved. There are so many things in this what we read together today. I believe we should just ponder upon them.

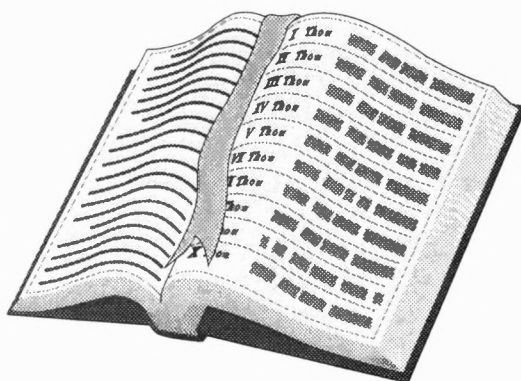
I'll just close with a little poem I read. I'll share it with you, and you take the good out of it what you can. It goes to say:

'Twas the night before Jesus came
and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one
in the house.
The Bibles were lain on the shelf
without care,
In hopes that Jesus would not come
there.
The children were dressing to crawl
into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a
head.
And Mom in the rocker with the
baby on her lap

Was watching the late show while I
took a nap.
When out of the East there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was
the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a
flash
Tore open the window and threw up
the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes
should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus
was here!
With a light like the sun sending
forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment this must be
THE DAY!
The light of His face made me cover
my head.
It was Jesus returning, just like He
had said.
Though I possessed earthly wisdom
and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of
myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in
His hand
Was written the name of every
saved man.

He spoke not a word as He searched
for my name.
When He said, "It's not here," my
head hung in shame.
All the people whose names had
been written in love,
He gathered to take to His Father
above.
With all who were ready, He rose
without a sound,
While all the rest were left standing
around.
I fell on my knees, but it was too
late,
I waited too long and thus sealed
my fate.
I stood and I cried as He rose out of
sight.
Oh! If I had only been ready tonight!

In the words of this poem, the
message is clear,
The coming of Jesus is drawing
near.
We have only one life and when
comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true
after all!



Faith of our Fathers

The accounts of which we speak about on this written page happened approximately five hundred years after Christ arose. Many Martyrs met the Lord on the field of trial and persecution. We give considerable thought to the fact that our particular faith is 150 years old. That seems like a long time, however it is really a relatively short time compared to the Christian faith, which did proceed the founding of the Apostolic Christian faith by almost 1800 years.

The Lord, when He was crucified, left a total doctrine and faith that cannot be refuted by those of a humble nature. The truth was simple to understand, simple to believe, and simple to carry out or implement. The truth was that all were sinners from birth. As sinners, we must repent and be converted to attain Heaven for eternity. The Lord was sent to earth, from the Heaven we desire to attain, and brought with Him many revelations concerning the simple truth. That truth, if followed perfectly, would have left us with a nearly perfect world. We surely know that was not possible because man was involved.

At about 500 AD and throughout that century, men began to feel the power of "self." The German people had completely removed Roman rule and the English likewise, however they were not successful, right away, in expunging the religion of the "general church," who were preaching, among numerous false teachings, infant baptism. This was the crux of the difference between the Roman "general church" and the golden thread of truth that proceeded from the Lord during the three years He spent on earth. Why is it that man tries to continually alter the Word to fit their own desire? Pride? Lust? Yes, both. It was simply more convenient to baptize as an infant because that took away the feeling of guilt and the need for humility. Those people who maintained the need for humility, conviction of heart, repentance, and

conversion, were able to receive the Grace of God and therefore see clearly the golden thread of truth, which included re-baptism in the case where a person was baptized as an infant.

The clash between truth and untruth grew to mighty proportions and even culminated into wars. In the book, *Martyrs Mirror*, we read of hundreds of accounts of those who gave their life because they would rather die for truth, then live in untruth. We cannot over emphasize the importance of truth, now as well as 1300 years ago. When the "general church of the world" became polluted with inerrancy, wealth, and the desire for power and influence, we can look back and see a drastic decline in following after the true faith. It was the unrighteous leaders of the church, laden with the desire for wealth, who polluted the church with all kinds of new rules and new ways to pay for sins committed. It was a terrible time of slipping and man was to blame through his lust. When truth spoke out, it was readily persecuted by those who were living an unrighteous life style.

In 511 AD, Arnol, a teacher of the true gospel, along with the Christian faith, was martyred in a forest near Paris. It is stated that in the eleventh year of the sixth century, a certain pious teacher, not willing to bury the talent given him by God, in the earth, but if possible to obtain some spiritual gain for Christ his Saviour, by preaching the Gospel, exchanged his life for death in the forests of France. He was thus able to take his place with the Saints.

Arnold would not preach the way of the Roman church, with its traditions and legends, but rather he preached the true gospel. Again we can see that if a soul is faithful, it does not mean that one would receive a path of roses to walk upon while living on earth.

In the year 850 AD, John, a businessman at Cordova, was falsely accused to the judge as deriding and

reviling Mohammed. In this case the false witnesses were not found to be reliable enough to have John put to death, so the judge after asking him to deny the Christian faith, commanded that he be severely scourged until he would renounce the Lord. Let's take a part of this written page to understand what scourging is really about.

Scourging is one of the punishments of the old Roman government, which when applied was done so in this manner. The accused was asked if he would confess to his crime. If the accusation was a false accusation, it is understandable that the accused would say he had done nothing wrong, and if a person was guilty he surely would not confess for fear of punishment. Now scourging was designed to bring out the truth of a true criminal who might deny complicity in a crime. When scourging was pronounced upon the accused, it was dreaded. The sentence was carried out by stripping the accused to the waist and tying him to a stake. The accused was then asked if he was guilty of the accusation. If he said no, he would be slashed or beaten with an instrument of leather strips tied to a long stick and having pieces of iron or lead on the other end of the strips of leather. Usually the first stripe was not too bad, however the severity increased with each repeat of the question. After many stripes, most men would give in and admit the truth. However if a man was innocent, he would not want to admit guilt, so the innocent were sometimes beaten within inches of their life. So it was with the Lord, for He opened not His mouth as the Romans scourged Him.

Now the pious businessman, John, who knew he did not do anything wrong, could not admit to being guilty of anything, especially his faith. He cried out that he would not renounce Jesus Christ nor would he forsake the Christian religion unto death and declared that he was innocent of the false accusa-



John Mocked and Tormented

tions which had been brought against him. Once a false accusation is made, the truth will forever chase the lie. So it was with John, whose firmness so enraged the judge against him, that the judge had John scourged with more than 500 stripes. The judge made the executioners continue beating John until John fell to the ground apparently dead. But as he still lived and breathed after this torture, they set him backwards upon a donkey and led him through the whole city, from street to street, with a crier, who cried: "Thus shall it be done with the revilers of our prophet, and with the ridiculers of our worship." This done, they fettered John with heavy chains, and put him in prison. We do not have an account of John's death, but it is believed that he died in that prison sad and destitute, however happy in the Lord.

As we read of the accounts of the martyrdom of our Fathers of Faith, we must be deeply touched by the martyrdom of Aurea, John's sister, who was executed in 856 AD, for in her we see the frailty of man give way, by the Grace of God, to strength in the Lord.

Aurea was by descent a noble maiden, and a sister to the martyr John, of whom we have already spoken, from the province Hispalis or Seville, who was betrayed and accused by some of her countrymen. The judge, who was a relative of

hers, endeavored by every possible means to draw her away from Christ, in which he also succeeded. But shortly after, she repented of her apostasy, and went daily into the congregation of the believers, that by the hearing of the Word of God she might be strengthened in the Spirit against a like conflict in time to come.

The enemy of mankind, who could not endure it, that Aurea now adhered more firmly to God her Creator than before, instigated another to accuse this maiden to the judge, who instantly had her brought by his bailiffs, and threatened her as before. But in the second conflict she was as much stronger to obtain the martyr's crown, as, in her former apostasy, she had been too weak to resist the temptation; for she thus answered the judge, saying: "I have never separated myself from Christ my God; I have never forsaken the religion of true godliness; I have never for one moment adhered to your impious worship; though I once, with my tongue, seemed to have apostatized from Christ, my heart was nevertheless far from it, and I had a firm confidence in my Lord Jesus Christ, who has again lifted up my contrite conscience, by His consoling promises, saying: 'He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.' Though, with my words, I fell into the snare

of denial, yet my heart was strengthened through the power of faith, for, as soon as I went away from you, I kept with heart and mind the faith which I had practiced from infancy. Hence, there is nothing left, but to execute me with the sword, or else you must give me liberty to freely serve my Lord Christ."

Thereupon the judge said that she should be kept in prison until he had informed the king of the matter. The result was, that the following day, according to the king's command, she was put to death with the sword, and then, with a murderer, suspended by her heels on the gallows. Her dead body was sunk with several thieves and murderers in the river Betis. She died on the 19th of July, A.D. 856, at Cordova, under Mahumad, king of the Saracens.

Thus we find ourselves on this written page coming into a period of time, which we could call more modern. Towns and cities were being established. Towns that stand yet today made of heavy stone structure. Much greater than the stone structures of 1000 years ago, the Faith of our Fathers has stood the test of time. Satan did not prevail even though he caused much hurt and persecution. It is the Lord that has power and strength so that man can prevail over satan. It is the Lord that can grant us His strength if we are humble enough to receive His Grace.

In this year of 1997 we are enjoying good times. There is no question that there are many individual trials to be borne, however complacency and apathy are very severe threats to the golden thread of faith that we hold so dear to our heart. Do we practice Brotherly love enough? When a child of God is faced with a trial, do we respond with help by the Grace of God or do we sit back and let loved ones fend for themselves?

If we as brethren do not respond to the hurt in others while the tree is green, what will we do when the tree is dry?



IX - Post-War Growth

The year 1947 marked the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Christian Church in America. Having endured both opportunity and heartache during this ten decade time frame, it stood poised for growth, both in numbers and charitable activities.

The years following World War II (from 1945 on) proved to be a time of economic growth and social opportunity for America. Peace brought job opportunities and the nation prospered. Many members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church prospered materially as well.

Prosperity tended to bring higher educational levels and a more noticeable degree of social acculturation. These trends, of course, brought a sense of tension with the godly life of separation and nonconformity to the world. It was, and has been, a challenge to keep the doctrinal applications (tradition) that have given special definition and identity to our church.

One of the most significant developments in the church during the post-war era was the dramatic change in the membership's occupational composite—from rural to urban. As the number of farmers declined in America over the years, they did in the church as well. In a century of existence in this country, the number of farming-related members went from a distinct majority to a gradually declining minority.

The result has been a move into cities and large towns for the purpose of obtaining jobs. As this occurred the rise of new congregations took place. Since the late 1930's, and especially since 1945, almost all the new congregations have been founded in metropolitan areas. The only exceptions to this were Bradford, IL (1964), the Alabama churches (1940's and 1950's), Garden Grove, IA (1969), Washington, IL (1976), and

Belvidere IL (1980).

As the membership grew over the years and many of its members prospered financially, opportunity to serve others resulted. Among the first priorities of charity were the elderly. From this developed a phalanx of nursing homes operated by the church. As of this date, nursing homes were being operated in Rittman, OH; Detroit, MI; Sabetha, KS; Francesville, IN; Bluffton, IN and in Peoria, Eureka, Morton, Elgin, Fairbury and Roanoke, IL.

Church-related apartment centers were built in Rockville, CT; Gridley, IL; Princeville, IL; and Burlington, IA.

Adding to the charitable outreach



ventures were the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. This was established in 1971. Its size and scope brought glory to God.

Similarly, in 1976, the Apostolic Christian Children's Home was established in Leo, IN. This home provided a refuge for children from troubled homes. Its theme over the years has been, "A work of faith, a labor of love." Hundreds of brethren, including youth and college students, have volunteered their services at the home.

It is again instructive to note that as the church existed with only minimal influence from outside religious sources during its first 100 years in America, this tendency began to wane in the post-war era; and by the closing years of this century it was more and more vulnerable to doctrinal influences that were potentially undermining.

As stated previously, the modernist theologies that came to America between 1880-1900 were strongly resisted by the so-called fundamentalist movement which began in the 1920's, and which proposed to articulately defend

basic Bible doctrines (our churches were far removed from this effort).

By the mid-1940's, however, there were Americans who felt that the "fundamentalist" response (to modernism) was becoming too rigid, and too forceful; and that it no longer related well to a more educated and technically advanced society. In all of this our church still remained largely unaffected.

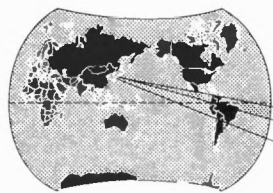
There developed, however, a new movement that partially opposed the fundamentalists called New Evangelicalism. This force softened the fundamentalists' message and was ecumenical in motive. A more watered-down approach was the result. A tendency, through cross-denominational ministries, to mix truth with error became prominent in American evangelicalism. It was not unnoticed by our church leaders.

The Apostolic Christian Church, no longer protected (as in the past) by language (German) and occupational (farming) boundaries, became more vulnerable to doctrines that diminished its deeply held spiritual values. An onslaught of influence via bookstores and media outlets presented the church with a challenge that was largely absent in the past. Augmenting this concern was the proliferation of new Bible translations which diluted or circumvented the Truth.

In an effort to articulate and defend its doctrine, and to extricate truth from potential error, the Elder Body published a booklet in 1986 entitled, "Winds of Doctrine." It sought to reinforce Apostolic Christian doctrines versus those that were variant. The booklet was distributed on a churchwide basis. This effort, along with teaching and continued exhortation, was effective in defending the Faith.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Relief and Service



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



“Pleasure”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Are there more pleasures in serving self or in serving the Lord? In the Bible, “pleasure” often refers to worldly pleasures which do not bring honor to God. Proverbs 21:17, “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.”

I would like to build a case for the thesis that there is more pleasure in serving God than in serving self. Psalm 16:11, “In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

The role of “pleasure” in human life has long been a topic of discussion. Acts 17:18, “Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him (Paul). And some said, ‘What will this babbler say?’” Epicurean teaching is that the highest pleasure is a peaceful and happy mind. Stoicism teaches that pleasure is rather an evil than a good. The Apostle Paul taught them of an unknown God and they wondered what that would have to do with one’s

pleasure, or lack of pleasure, in life. Paul was teaching that the Son of this unknown God can make us pure and clean, which should bring us great pleasure.

In determining our choices in life, each of us must decide which is superior, worldly pleasure or spiritual pleasure. My hypothesis is that spiritual pleasure is more enjoyable. At least in two areas it is more enjoyable; spiritual pleasure is deeper, and also more enduring, than worldly pleasure. Therefore, if we are going to be pleasure seekers, let’s seek the right kind of pleasure, the kind spoken of in Psalm 16:11 quoted above.

I was once told that some brothers and sisters in faith are not capable of being spiritual, which insinuates that we are predisposed by our genes whether we will be spiritual or worldly.

I am not a “genes” doctor but I believe our brains should have something to say about this. We do have the right and the ability

to say yes or no to many options.

Hymn #145 in our Hymns of Zion reads as follows: “Come now saith the Lord, let us reason, Come now and your purpose declare; Is it pleasures of sin for a season, Or pleasures the glorified share?” Hymns are not scripture, but I believe the author of this hymn was on the right track.

Besides the holiness and purity through the Lord Jesus Christ, which we can take pleasure in as children of God, there is the pleasure of enjoying nature, the pleasure of healthful dining, and the pleasure of wholesome relationships with friends, relatives, and other believers. These are pleasures for which there are no regrets, neither now or in the future. Some questionable pleasures may be regrettable simply because they are a waste of time. Let’s choose the right kind of pleasures, not the worldly pleasures. Spiritual pleasure is superior to worldly pleasure.

希望の光

