



The Silver Lining

"Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us;...lest ye deny your God."

October 1997

“OUR COMPASSIONATE GOD LOOKS AT OUR HEART”

Sermon by Bro. Paul Messner, Winthrop, MN

Luke 23:13-49

We have read this account many times. Each year, as long as the Lord would grant us life, we have the opportunity to come to the house of worship where we can sit and read the account over and over again.

It does not change. We can be thankful that this all did take place. It has more meaning than if we would just read it and end it right here. As we go over this a little bit, we can try to think about what our Saviour did go through.

We will go back and go verse by verse to try to remember what Jesus really did do for each one of us. The hope He gives each one of us lies within our heart—that hope of heaven that if we follow Him, there is a promise awaiting for each one of us.

The Lord is going to hold true on that promise, even as we know that God’s Word is true. We can go back and read in the accounts preceding up to this even from the very time when Jesus was born, King Herod wanted to destroy this Jesus, the One who was born in Bethlehem in the lowly manger.

He went and searched out to see if he could find Him to be able to put Him away. The king knew that there was something different about Jesus, about this One that everyone was talking about. Yet, the king was not able to do it.

We can go on and read in the gospels of the Pharisee and scribes who were out to get Him. They wanted to find fault. They wanted to do away with Him. Yet, they were not able to do it.

The thought comes to my mind, who was behind these people that made them think these things? It was none other than Satan. None other than the adversary, who is continually battling with us today,

was the one who was behind this, trying to get Jesus put away and to do away with Him.

We can think of what it must have been like for Satan when he saw that Jesus was going to be hung on the cross. Also, how those people that were out to get Him, how they must have thought in their own minds, “Finally, we are going to be able to do away with this Person and put Him away.”

Yet, they didn’t realize what they were doing was only fulfilling the only thing to make true the promises God told Isaiah and the prophets of old.

There was going to be One that would come and bruise the head of Satan and be that Perfect Lamb, be sacrificed and pay the price. He insured the hope we have tonight knowing that Jesus Christ did come.

We talk about this and see how they brought Jesus to Pilate. If we would have read further, we would read that first they took Him to Pilate. Pilate did not want anything to do with it because he could not see any fault in Jesus in the first place.

Yet, all the Jews had gathered. It was the Passover time and there were many there. They wanted this Jesus to be crucified. So, as we read this, we see how the people came to Pilate and wanted Him to be put away.

Then when Pilate heard and realized that Jesus was a Galilean, he immediately sent them to Herod because he knew Herod was there also. He wanted to not have his hands on this. Then Herod returned Jesus back to Pilate, finding no fault in Him.

This is where we picked up this reading that we read about. It says, “And Pilate, when he had

called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:” (Luke 23:13-14).

Here we are. They brought Him back to Pilate, and Pilate said, “I have found no fault in this man. There is nothing here that He has done that is worthy of death what you are asking Him to do.” But the crowd continued to get louder.

It says, “And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas:” (Luke 23:18). They wanted Barabbas to be set free, but they wanted Jesus to be destroyed.

If we think about Barabbas, he was a man that was out against the Roman Empire. Here was a murderer that they wanted to just let go. “(Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

October 1997

Fasting Accompanied by Prayer - I

The Lord has provided His people with a variety of tools that will help us in our battle to defeat Satan, to separate ourselves from the world and its evil influence, to overcome temptation, and to draw us closer to Him. Among the tools that He has provided us is the privilege of fasting.

To fast means to voluntarily refrain from eating or drinking all, or certain foods for a period of time. This sacrifice of food and drink, which is so important to our lives, helps us to understand how dependent we are on God's blessings for our every need and will draw us closer to God if it is done with a proper attitude. To be effective, fasting generally must be accompanied by fervent prayer. If we fast without praying for the proper attitude, it will provide little or no benefit.

Although fasting is generally associated with giving up food or drink, God's Word makes it very clear that anything that is important to us that we would willingly sacrifice for the Lord will bring a blessing. "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecution; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mk. 10:29-30).

Why should a child of God fast? What can be gained by such an activity? In both the Old and New Testaments much is written that helps us understand the purposes and benefits of fasting.

In the Old Testament days, fasting was approached somewhat differently than in the New Testament times. Food was very important to the people in the Old Testament days. Most people had very few possessions, generally having only the basic necessities of life. Food was one of the few things that they had that could be given up for a period of time. Although there were very few luxuries for most people, there were many feast days observed, which provided some relief from

the routine, hard working life that they led. Thus, giving up food was a significant sacrifice for them.

Although fasting was not necessarily a public activity, it was often done in a much more open and obvious manner than it is in our time and was observed in a variety of ways. There were a number of periodical fasts such as the yearly day of atonement, the remembrance of the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the remembrance of the burning of the temple, the remembrance of the slaying of Gedaliah, and the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem and perhaps a few others. These "public fasts" which were done on a regular basis, were to remind the people of significant events of the past and of their need to be more faithful to God's commandments.

Fasting was also observed in the assembly of the people as a group.

"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out unto the Lord..." (Joel 1:14). "And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord" (1 Sam. 7:6). "So the people of Ninevah believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them" (Jonah 3:5). Thus, we can see that fasting was often done in large assemblies that were called by those in authority for the specific purpose of fasting.

In addition to the public group fasts that were a result of the leaders proclaiming a fast, individuals also fasted in a very private manner for a variety of reasons. Moses "...was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Ex. 34:28). Elijah "...arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God" (1 Kings 19:8). "Then Ezra rose up from the house of

God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away" (Ezra 10:6).

Other examples of individuals fasting are found throughout the scriptures which offer much insight to the faith and steadfastness of these men of old times and of the sacrifices they willingly endured to draw closer to God.

Although fasting was often done to draw one closer to God, it was also carried out for a variety of reasons. Fasting was observed at a time of public calamity, such as when Israel was defeated in battle and King Saul and his son Jonathon were killed (11 Sam. 1:12). It was also practiced at the time of personal affliction (Psalm 35:13; Dan. 6:18), and at a time of approaching danger as when Haman had succeeded in getting King Ahasuerus to order all the Jews to be slain and Queen Esther went to the king to plead for her people (Esther 4:16). Fasting often coincided with the confession of sin as the time Samuel offered a sacrifice to God asking for protection from the Philistines (1 Sam. 7:6), and at a time of humiliation as Moses sought mercy from God because the children of Israel had provoked the Lord to anger (Deut. 9:18). Finally, fasting was observed at the time of bereavement (1 Sam. 31:13), and "...to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke" (Is. 58:6).

In each case, fasting was observed to address a specific problem in order to help individuals or groups of people draw closer to God. By sacrificing one of the basic necessities of life, the people of the Old Testament times use fasting as a very important and solemn occasion that was observed to strengthen the relationship between man and God.

The next article in "Light From the Word" will focus attention on fasting and prayer as it was observed in the New Testament.



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

God's Faithfulness in Jaurez, Mexico

A year of blessings

1997 has been a rewarding time for our project in Jaurez, Mexico. To date, over 200 Apostolic Christian brethren and friends have been involved in this challenging program. Six building and two medical teams have worked in the country as of late September. Two additional construction teams are scheduled before year's end. We are very appreciative of this outpouring of support for the needy in Mexico.

Home is where your heart is

So far this year, the construction teams have built eleven homes. Many of our volunteers have left a part of their heart with the families that they have built homes for. They have also enlarged the Granjas Community Center, put on several roofs, and completed maintenance work on some others. Many pairs of shoes, socks, and undergarments have been distributed as well.



Medical teams touch many lives

The medical teams have treated 6,681 patients, which in itself has made a great impact in this impoverished area. In addition to construction, they have distributed health kits, made and furnished by faithful brethren in our home congregations. Medical as well as construction teams have also given out many Spanish Bibles that are similar to our English *King James Version*.

Hot lunches and the Gospel

World Relief has been funding a hot lunch program in Juarez for ten years. Three days each week, approximately 80 children are fed. This happens at the two Community Centers which were built by Apostolic Christian work teams in the past.

Chito and Lydia Aguilar, the leaders of the organization that we work with, testify that their churches are growing in numbers and sincerity. Along with God's miraculous power, they attribute part of the success to ten years of hot

meals for the children of the communities, as the children are required to listen to a Bible lesson prior to receiving their lunch. With one soul of more value than the entire world, this program seems to be an effective outreach.

Testimony of two families

As our brethren go to Mexico on a work team, they are warmly received by the Mexican believers. Chito and Lydia direct us to the projects that are needed to be done.

God's hand is evident as we watch with awe the response to Christian love and giving.

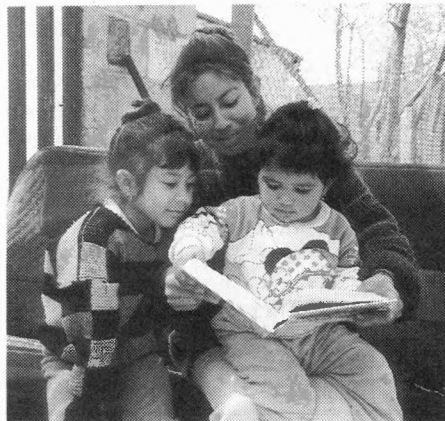
One family that received a new home recently had this story to share. The mother is a believer and faithful church goer, but the father was a skeptic. After realizing that the American brethren traveled to Mexico and built his family a home because of Christ's love, he realized the needy condition of his soul and sought salvation. Another family in which the father is a believer and the mother is not, had a similar story to share. The father had been praying for seven months that somehow he could provide a kitchen for his wife. She didn't believe that prayer could provide

her with a kitchen. When the brothers showed up to measure for her kitchen, she was amazed and agreed that she would accompany her family to church to learn more about prayer and God's saving power.

It is more blessed to give than to receive

Brethren and friends going to Mexico often leave home feeling that they are going to help the needy in Mexico. Upon returning home, it seems that many have been touched in heart and spirit by the simple faith and joy that the Mexican believers have in the face of abject poverty. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

If anyone is interested in these projects, they are certainly welcome to become involved. A listing of future work teams is periodically published in *The Silver Lining*, and the *World Relief Update Newsletter*. We are thankful to our God and ask Him to direct us as we share of our bountiful blessings. Please Contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at (219) 597-7330.





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

A Church is Dedicated in Nashville, Tennessee

The beginning

The start of the congregation in Nashville, TN was when Bro. Don Sauder's job transferred him from Mansfield, OH to this city. This is often the way new congregations begin, and the Mission Committee endeavors to be supportive. In a short time, Bro. Don learned of several friends also living in the area, and with the encouragement of some of their parents, Sauders made a beginning with services in their home. The first service was conducted by Elder Bro. Ken Sauder from Mansfield, followed with one held by Elder Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville, IA.

In 1989, Don and Enid Miller moved to the area. This made 6 people needing a church, and in 1990 the Elder Body and Mission Committee approved their request for scheduling monthly services. Bros. Ken Sauder and Lavoyd Moore assumed the duties of counseling Elders.

Sister Gwen Leuthold from Tremont was transferred to Nashville due to a temporary job assignment. This became permanent in 1992. Services continued in the Sauders' home through 1992.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it

In 1993 Bro. Don felt direction from the Lord to start looking for a church site. After spending weeks looking and finding nothing, he committed the search to the Lord. The next weekend, their daughter told them she had passed an old run down building that was for sale on her way to work. The brethren living at Nashville immediately went to view this building. Although much work would be needed, they were very impressed with the site. After much prayer, they talked to the building owner and found that he had purchased it 4 years prior with the intention of creating a hunting club. However, it had once been used as a church, evidenced by an assembly room and storage area. In early 1994, the property was purchased with private funds to become the Apostolic Christian Church of Nashville, TN.

Remodeling begins

Immediately, the group started plans to remodel the assembly room and add on to the storage area, which

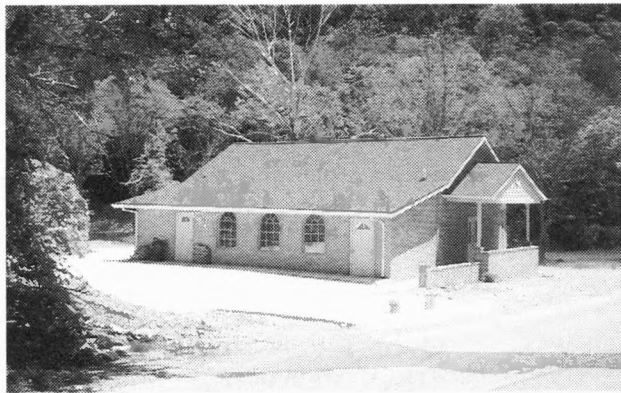
would eventually become the kitchen/dining room. In March 1994, they welcomed the first work team from Mansfield, Ohio to begin remodeling the assembly room. Most of this work was completed in 1994. Pews were purchased from a church in Mansfield, and transported by two brothers from Leo, Indiana. They were in excellent condition, and fit nearly perfect.

First worship service in church

While remodeling was progressing, they held their first official worship service in the church on April 17, 1994. Bro. Jim Rinkenberger from Bluffton, IN conducted the service. Forty other visitors from various churches also attended. From that point, all monthly services were in the new building.

New families arrive

In August of 1994, the small group welcomed Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin and their children, Sis. Kristen and Jon into the congregation from Goodfield, IL.



Twice monthly services begun

Services were held twice monthly beginning in 1995. The group witnessed God's help as building permits were issued and work teams carried out the remodeling. Early in 1996, brethren came to assist them in laying brick. This made a major change in appearance, which worked along with the grading and parking lot

installation, and the new cabinets in bringing the work to a conclusion.

Open house and dedication

Open House services were held on August 31 and September 7, 1997, with dedication on September 21. The small group making up the Nashville Church as well as the Mission Committee wish to express their thanks to everyone who helped bringing this project to completion. May God bless and care for us all.

The address for the church is 444 Hicks Road. The telephone number at the church is (615) 351-7734. Bro. Don Sauder's phone number is (615) 373-8928. Small churches always benefit from the support of visitors. If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please stop in and worship with them.

- 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>
September	5,221	33,410	397,453

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

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

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

PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS

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

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

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

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

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

We see the farmers harvesting their fields in anticipation of a good crop. Are we ready to serve with God in the Great Harvest? As we see God's handiwork in the changing leaves, we praise God for His marvelous works. The pumpkins are being canned and the Pumpkin Festival is over. In Morton, this is a definite sign that Fall is here. Our people have had fun at the Pumpkin Festival and Parade. We are anticipating wiener roasts at local parks and the Blunier Barn and other festivities of the fall season. At Oak-

wood, we are thankful to have Todd Schneider move in. Todd is from Rockville, CT and this will be an adjustment for him as well as his parents (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy). Todd will attend the Washington Church for Bible School. We are sure that Todd will enjoy making new friends and learning new skills.

Birthdays for November are: ACHH - Susie McGinley (1), Kathy Knapp (5), Tom Manley (8), Kay Ellis (9), Bernice Heiniger (11), Sam Sigulas (13), Janet Worner (17), Kristie Furrer (18). OAKWOOD - Keith Weyeneth (4). LINDEN - Ken Clauss (2). 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Alan Unsicker (15). 652 DETROIT - Jane Aberle (14). 241 MINNESOTA - Rhonda Pullen (4), Marian Funk (20).

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

Jan Baumgartner

It seems that when one activity ends here that another begins. Within weeks of our Annual Sale, our staff prepared and served the pancake breakfast for the three days of the Grabill Country Fair. This is an opportunity to serve and inform the local community about Gateway Woods, and with making about 3,000 pancakes and serving about 1,000 people, it was quite an opportunity!

As the season soon changes to the fall, Gateway Woods also experiences many changes of new children and staff, with Chastity joining the New House, and Justin joining the West House in the last month. Also this summer Dustin, Becky and Chaum have been placed in foster homes and Zach moved from the New House to foster care at Bro. John Stoller's home. Sis. Rachel Fessenden joined our staff as a temporary teacher for our school, Sis.

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

Jill Gramm (Terri's sister) joined our staff from Gridley, IL as an Assistant Houseparent in the West House, and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand from Denver, CO began as Alternate Houseparents on September 20. We really feel blessed that God has really answered our prayers with new staff.

Though the houseparenting staff is complete, we are in need of foster parents for our Specialized Foster Care Program. The foster program now has 12 children in care and we would place more children if we had more homes. Foster parenting is a service that can be done right in your own home as more and more

**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

abused and neglected children need to experience a stable Christian family with a Dad and Mom. It can also be an authentic Christian service that teaches your own children to give to others in a real way.

The children placed in foster care through our program are sometimes former residents of Gateway Woods who are ready to leave the residential program but can't return to their own families at this time. We also place children directly from their own homes or other placements through the Department of Family and Children in different

**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.

counties. At this time we can't license homes a great distance from Leo as we supervise the homes from Leo, nor can we license families from outside of Indiana due to state regulations.

I have this saying in my office:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove—but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

When we think about the Word of God influencing the life of a child, and that child influencing their children, there is hope for this dark sinful world. If you have prayerfully

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1997-98

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, direct your inquiry to Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. Second Ave., Morton, IL, 61550. Phone 1-309-266-6263, Fax 1-309-266-8575.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	MEBSH	Dec 06-13	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 02-10	Deaf Village Mandeville	Harold Witzig	Work Place	40	70%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 02-10	Montego Bay	Greg & Beth Herman	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 10-17	Montego Bay	Greg & Beth Herman	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 09-17	TBA	Craig Emch	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 16-23	TBA	Glen Hackenjos	Grd. Shool	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 24-31	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 06-14	TBA	Jim Walter	Grd. School	10	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 14-21	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	0%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Feb 20-28	LeCayes	Bob Beebe	Ag. School	10	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 20-28	TBA	Tim Butikofer	Grd. School	10	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 06-14	TBA	Phil Isabel	Grd. School	10	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 06-24	Kingston	Terry & Bev Miller	Deaf School	30	95%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 02-10	Kingston	Roanoke SS	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 08-14	Deaf Village	Gridley SS	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 15-23	Deaf Village	(*)	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 05-13	Kingston	(**)	Deaf School	40	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

(*) = Held for College Student Participation

(**) = Held for Sunday School Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Greg Hermann	309-243-5610	309-686-2231
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	
Glen Hackenjos	818-442-4957	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	
Tim Butikofer	319-426-5486	319-426-5586
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	

considered foster care, please call our office and ask for Bro. Bill or Sis. Jan Baumgartner.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama**

Molly Stickling

It is such a blessing to see that a child's immediate response is toward Heaven. Throughout our days at the Preschool, we are able to witness this. A teacher was explaining how doctors help us and can make

us feel better, but asked what would happen if we did not have doctors. A child anxiously replied, "Jesus would heal us!" In another instance, one child stuck his tongue out at another, and she quickly spoke back with, "Keep your tongue from evil!",

which is one of our Bible verses for the letter K. Lastly, one teacher was talking about dinosaurs and how they do not live here anymore, and of course a child asked "Why?" Another child quickly responded with, "They are up in Heaven with God." These examples are an encouragement and a reminder to keep our hearts and minds focused toward Heaven.

This month we are focusing on letters A-D, the color blue, and Bible stories found in Genesis. The children also learn a Bible verse for each new letter.

Our themes this month are community helpers and safety. We were able to take a field trip to a police station, fire station, and to a hospital. It was an exciting day filled with activities of hearing sirens, seeing firemen and policemen, and going through police cars and an ambulance. The children, teachers and parents ended the day with a picnic lunch at a park. We were thankful for a safe and beautiful day!

We always want to extend an invitation for anyone to come and visit us at the Preschool. We always appreciate those who think of us in prayer or otherwise. We ask for your prayers for our bi-annual board meeting to be held October 25. We pray for God's direction and safety as brethren travel here to discuss decisions about the Preschool.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

Our Sunday School class recently had a campout at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. The weather was beautiful and the students truly seemed to have a good time. In the evening as we sang around the campfire, I had to think back to the many, many memories I have of campfire singings and growing up hearing hymns sung on cool nights

around a fire. Many melodies and words were embedded in my mind before I was even old enough to read a hymn book. So much of the spiritual training of our children is done indirectly and almost without our knowledge of it being done. May we continually seek wisdom from God as we influence those around us.

We rejoice in the birth of a baby boy on September 11 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard. Joshua Lee is joining his sisters, Kristin, Sarah, and Bethany, and is welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL). We appreciate and are thankful for such a healthy boy, and every addition to our Athens congregation is a welcome one.

As winter is approaching, we know there will be an increase in travelers heading south. We would encourage one and all to consider worshipping with us here in Athens. We have some extra bedrooms and some camper hook-ups available, and we would welcome the chance to have the extra fellowship. Just give us a call to let us know if you will be in the area.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

II Thess. 2:15

"...Love the brotherhood. Fear God..."

I Peter 2:17

We were blessed on several Wednesday nights to hear the Conference tapes. The theme "Faith of our Fathers" is quite timely for our church's 150th anniversary. Tradi-

tions and doctrine were discussed, on how we need boundaries to be a child of our Heavenly Father, and not reduce the church to the level of the world.

Dear readers, the Arizona news in state and world in first ten days in September is reason enough to heed our Elders' warnings and concerns.

The enthusiasm of returning to or starting Sunday School is a joyful occasion. Our prayers are with Bro. Mick Hill (superintendent) and teaching staff as they teach God's Holy Word. You are each very much appreciated for your dedication.

Our sincere thank you to San Diego Sunday School for our Labor Day weekend of Christian Fellowship. The junior and senior high students and new converts of these classes, plus the teachers, are grateful for everyone's efforts to share time to honor the Lord.

Thanks to Cissna Park for hosting our single members the same weekend.

We heard Rebecca Dotterer's testimony of her repentance and need to become a child of God. What a heart-warming experience for a young girl. She was baptized September 14 with her family and grandparents in attendance. Sis. Rebecca is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. There was a fellowship dinner and singing later in the day. Visiting ministers were Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL).

Our sympathy to Sis. Toni Bentley and Sis. Ruth Vaughn on the death of their sister, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann. They flew to Fairbury and Cissna Park, IL for her services.

David and Geri Neugaard welcomed their son, Dillon Scott, born on July 16. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyliss Knobloch. Taylor likes her brother

and playmate.

Erica Ann Emch was born August 19 to Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch. Siblings, Amy, Brent, and Steven, welcome her as do grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber (Francesville, IN). Great-grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch. Erica Ann was in the hospital for ten days but is just fine now. We all give thanks and let us enjoy the overwhelming power of His love that was so plentiful in our time of need.

Sis. Josephine Martin (late Bro. Glenn) became Grandma again when Joe Kenneth was born August 26 to Ken and Liz Lacey.

We pray God's blessings on all three families.

Sis. Geraldine Beyer had out-patient surgery on her forehead, Sis. Madeline Knochel had out-patient surgery on shoulder, Bro. Randy Wuethrich had facial bone surgery after a work related accident, Sis. Ruth Baer had major surgery, Kaylea Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy) was hospitalized for a finger injury, Sis. Toni Bentley was in the emergency room for her hip. We also need your prayers for Mary Beth Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene). Mary Beth is having a bone marrow transplant the week of September 15 in Tucson.

Because of this lengthy treatment, mail can be sent to:

The Suttons

1804 East Lester

Tucson, AZ 85719

Phone (520) 326-0060 (1804)

(Personal note: When this writer "Grandma" gave a "God bless you" hug and asked what she'd like yet, Mary Beth said, "A beanie baby." A picture postcard from out of state could be an interesting minute in the long days ahead.

We ask for your prayers in behalf of the Sutton family.

Note of Thanks:

We are very grateful to everyone for your prayers for our baby, Erica Ann. God heard many prayers from near and far and our baby is doing fine after ten days in the hospital. There is power in prayer!

May God bless each of you.

In His love, Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

"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 are happy to announce that we have three converts opening their hearts and seeking the Lord's forgiveness. They are Bethany and April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) and Daniel Hodges (Sis. Jane). Pray for them as they strive to make a full confession of their sins and receive peace of heart.

Our ministers this last month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We have been so blessed by all the ministers who come and teach us from God's Word, and thank them for their support.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We have resumed our monthly fellowship suppers the second Sunday of each month. Next month (October), we will have our annual Sunday School Picnic in place of our fellowship supper.

Bro. Al Zeltwanger has not been able to assemble with us regularly the past few weeks. We are keeping Bro. Al in our prayers.

Our Bible Class traveled to San Diego over the Labor Day weekend with the Phoenix Bible Class. They spent the weekend fellowshiping with the Altadena, San Diego and Phoenix students and renewing friendships made during past gatherings. The Bible class would like to thank the Phoenix Sunday School for providing a charter bus to travel on and special thanks to the San Diego congregation for making them feel so welcome.

We have finally been getting a little monsoon rain activity. Our temperatures have been in the 90's with more humidity than we are used to. We have had an extremely mild summer as far as temperatures go and have instead experienced a muggy summer with alot of cloudy days but not much rain. We are truly starting to appreciate Tucson's "dry heat" and sunshine; we miss them!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Joshua Martinez

We thank God for the simple plan of salvation, of repentance and faith in Jesus. We pray that the message will always be clear and plain, and that we may "grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

We always feel happy to have visiting ministers with us. This month, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) lent himself in the service of the Lord. May God richly bless him for sharing the Living Word with us.

We were also blessed and privileged to have had Dr. Surendra and Mrs. Damayanti Parkhe with us once more. We were able to spend time with them at a singing held in the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle the evening before their departure. Our love and our prayers go with Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe as they return to India and their work with

the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India. Two nurses, Sis. Cherise Knobloch and Sis. Kathy Bradle, accompanied the Parkhes to India for an exploratory visit. May God richly bless them for their labors in His name.

We are pleased to welcome Kari Neimeyer back into our midst. She has just returned from a temporary assignment for a training program in Virginia.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

On September 20, Elder Bro. John Klotzle led a Bible study on the beautiful theme of the Fruit of the Spirit. May God richly bless Bro. John for his faithfulness in sharing God's Word.

We welcome you to come to Altadena should business or pleasure bring you to sunny Southern California. Have a happy month!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

We were richly blessed to have Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) with us this past month. We thank them and our many visitors for worshipping with us.

A beautiful weekend laden with many blessings was ours as we hosted the Phoenix, Tucson and Altadena Bible classes. We enjoyed an afternoon at the beach, and an inspirational message by Bro. Mike Leman after the evening meal, the theme being "Been There, Done That". On Sunday after services, we joined together at a local park for supper and then all too soon it was

time to sing "Blest. Be the Tie That Binds". We so much appreciate and enjoy the fellowship with our dear brothers and sisters and friends.

God has again answered our prayers as Bro. Rory Strahm is again able to worship with us. May we continue to hold Bro. Rory up in prayer as he continues to heal.

It is a joy to announce the birth of Sarah Nicole Fulop who was born a few weeks early (weighing in at 4 lbs. 15 oz.) and is so tiny. Yet she is warmly welcomed by parents, Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy, and siblings, Bobby, Dennis, Linda and Elizabeth (the grandparents reside in Hungary). We wish the family God's blessings and a lifetime of happiness!

ONTARIO, KITCHENER

CANADA

Laura Baxter

"...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Neh. 8:10

In the beginning of every day, isn't it wonderful to think that we can be joyful no matter what our circumstances are because the joy of serving God is our strength? May we allow God to remove our fears, bitterness, worries, anger, and doubts so we can live that joyful, abundant life in Christ.

We are thankful for the time and efforts our visiting ministers put forth to serve us spiritually. Our visiting ministers for the month of September were Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). We also are thankful for all our other visitors this past month.

We welcome all visitors who are planning to be in our area to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or

Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER

Today has seen a definite shift in our weather from very summer like conditions to very fall like conditions and there is nothing we can do about it. All we can do is prepare ourselves for the change. Sometimes the weather changes faster than we expect it to and we are caught unawares. Perhaps a freeze comes while there is still produce out in the garden or indoor plants are still outside and we lose them to a freeze. When we think about it, there are not very many things in this life that we have control over. We can only prepare ourselves and control how we react to them. One of the things that we certainly cannot control is when our life will end. Will it catch us unprepared? God gives us the power to be overcomers. Do we believe in that power and use it?

One of the things that we have no control over is the way in which God moves the hearts of His people to fulfill His will. Here in Denver, the Lord has moved the hearts of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand to accept the responsibility of being alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. While our little congregation feels the impact of their leaving, we wish them God's blessings in their new responsibilities. May God give them the strength, courage and grace to fulfill all of their duties and obligations.

Bradley Hays has moved back to Illinois and is presently in the Bloomington-Normal area. May he ever look to the Lord for his strength and guidance.

Kevin and Pam Braun are the thankful parents of a baby girl, Cecelia Jean. May God give them the grace and strength to bring her up

in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May He bless and watch over their family.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month for which we are thankful. May the Lord bless Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) for their willingness to be servants of the Lord and to serve us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Faith of our Fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

It was strengthening and uplifting to listen to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. Our dear Elder brethren so lovingly encouraged and warned us. May we preserve this precious faith so that future generations may benefit and receive blessings as we have.

Let us never tire to hear the precious Word of God. Many visiting brethren labored on our behalf: Bros. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Andrew Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA).

Many dear couples received a blessing of love. Bro. Jay and Sis. Amber Fehr welcomed their son, Jared Jay, who was born on August 8. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Cliff and Sis. Harriet Farney. On August 23, a daughter, Katherine Rose, was born to Peter Jr. and Kelly Hany. Grandparents are Bro. Peter Sr. and Sis. Virgene Hany and Dean and Bonnie Kloter and Roger and Pauline Pinard. Bro. Dave and Sis. Peggy Bahler along with son,

John, welcome baby Andrew Joseph on August 29. Grandparents are Bro. Owen Bahler (the late Sis. Lois Ann) and Bro. Joseph and Sis. Alma Skipper. May each couple teach the love of God to each of their children.

August 30 was a beautiful day for Todd Gottier (Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier) and Sandra Fecko (William Fecko and Elizabeth Coughlin) as they were joined as husband and wife. As they walk as one, may they look to God for guidance throughout life.

We bid a fond farewell to Todd Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) as he makes his new home at Oakwood Estate in Morton, IL. We pray that God will be close by his side.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

My apologies to Skyler Fetter (Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy) for failing to mention last month that he had outpatient surgery.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Kari Niemeyer as she returns to her regular duty assignment in California and the Altadena congregation. May the Lord ever direct her path.

On September 4, Jim and Barb Cardwell welcomed Julia Marie and Owen James. Grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Bernice Rapp (Morton, IL), have been here getting acquainted with their new grandchildren.

Our ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to serve us. Our other visitors this month were from Rittman, OH; Phoenix and Prescott, AZ; Francesville, IN; Rockville, CT; Philadelphia, PA; and Wichita, KS.

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, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:3,8

The sermon on the mount was the theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. Most of our Sunday School children attended, learning about the beatitudes and other precious teachings of our Lord. Many of the children memorized verses, which we hope they will remember for the remainder of their lives.

FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Angie Baum

Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer will soon be celebrating 50 years of marriage in the Lord. What an example they have been to all of us. May God bless them with many more happy years together.

My husband and I, Bro. Robert and Sis. Angie Baum, are so thankful to report the birth of our new little son, Joel Robert. Big sister, Shelby, is thrilled to be helping with the baby and is “supervising” his care. Joel’s grandparents are Bro. Ken

and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL), Victor Heinold (IN) and Sheryl Heinold (IN).

Our sincere thanks to Bro. Jeff Streitmatter for traveling from Sarasota to minister to our congregation this month.

We are always excited when our winter residents and winter vacationers begin to join us for worship, and they have already begun to arrive. We encourage you to make Ft. Myers part of your vacation, and we welcome visitors any time of the year. One of the greatest blessings of our little church is fellowship with our visiting brothers and sisters from across the country. Clearly, we are all a part of God's family and have a special bond with all our brothers and sisters. How blessed is our heritage.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Melissa Sabo - Rachel Sabo

Our dear friends, Billy Schnell and Mark Koehl, have found peace with God and man and are awaiting baptism. We trust the Lord will be their guide and rewarder at this time and in the time to come.

Dr. Parkhe from India shared with us on Wednesday evening many cares, concerns, and challenges that they deal with in India. He made it very clear that the prayerful and financial support of the United States brethren has really promoted their work to a great extent. We enjoyed him and his wife being with us for a few days while in the United States.

We have been listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference at Gridley, IL and have appreciated the concerns, timely warnings, and encouragement given by our Elder Brothers.

Our prayers are always with our Elder Brothers as we know their work and labors come with a great

deal of responsibility.

Sometimes we find ourselves up and on our way to school and work and realize we haven't taken time to pray. It reminds me of a poem I heard some time back:

I got up early ONE morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me
And heavier came each task;
"Why doesn't God help me," I
wondered.

He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty
But that day toiled on, gray and
bleak

I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early THIS morning
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Mark Bahr and Ben Maibach (both of Detroit, MI). We always appreciate the effort put forth by our visiting brothers.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

What a blessing it is to meet and greet loved ones of like faith. This past month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) and Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL). May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

New babies truly are a blessing from God. Sheree Olivia was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser on September 10. She was welcomed home by Drew and Elise. Her grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen Getz

(Remington, IN).

We hope to begin remodeling our church by mid-October. Our brothers and those from other congregations have spent much time in getting this project going and we appreciate their efforts very much.

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Janice Horner - Carol Sauder

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy Sauder welcomed their second child on August 10. Three-year-old Stephanie named her sister Katelyn Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder, and Mark and Ruthann Martino, all of Roanoke.

Courtney Sauder and Joyce Rocke were married August 23 at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. They will make their home at 603 East Taylor, Bloomington, IL.

Sis. Anna Wettstein of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home passed on to eternity August 27. She was the mother of Sis. Lois Stoller and grandmother of Bro. Philip Stoller of our congregation. Our sympathy goes out to the family, and trust that the Lord will comfort them at this difficult time.

On August 27, the building needs committee presented their findings to a full church. We were encouraged to review the booklet and spend time in prayer seeking God's perfect will for our church. Special thanks to the members of the committee for all of their hard work on

this project.

Bro. Rudy Haerr (Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie) of Minneapolis, MN was announced to be married to Sis. Shelly Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy) of Goodfield, IL. Their wedding date is November 16 in Goodfield.

Our condolences go to Bro. Amos and Sis. Loretta Funk on the passing of her sister, Sis. Verna Widmer, of Morton on September 7.

Bro. Chad Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Kristy Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann) of Roanoke, IL were united in marriage on September 7 in Roanoke. May the Lord richly bless this union.

On September 10, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) gave the first part of a two-part study on the history of the Apostolic Christian Church. This year marks the 150th year of the coming of our faith to America. In this first part, Bro. Perry described the life, conversion, and persecutions of Samuel Froehlich as he established congregations in Europe in the 1830's and 1840's. We were renewed in our appreciation for our heritage, and for the steadfast faith of our forefathers even in spite of the most severe trials. We thank Bro. Perry for his excellent presentation on this interesting subject.

Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN) was with us on September 14. We thank him for selflessly sharing God's Word with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8

"For there shall arise false

Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Matthew 24:24

These very serious warnings from the mouth of Jesus remind us of how important our walk of life should be to us. Do we still have our "first love"? Have we drifted somewhat to the side of the strait and narrow path to Heaven? Brethren, let's strive ever more diligently to obey the Lord and do His will, so that when He comes He will find faith.

We received a blessing this month as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz are now within our sheepfold. We welcome them and ask the Lord to bless them in the days to come.

Amy Joos has also started upon the road of repentance recently. Parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky Joos. May the Lord be near her and give her peace in due time.

Bro. Wendell Stahl and Sis. Linda Martin (Princeville, IL) were united in marriage on September 14. Parents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin (Princeville, IL). May the Lord cause His face to shine upon them and give them His peace and blessings in their new life together.

We welcome Brad and Karen Metz (Kewanee) and their two girls to our Bradford congregation. We are happy to have them assembling with us.

Again, we had many visiting ministers this month. Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) were willing to give of themselves so that we could be fed from God's

Word. May He bless them.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Our students are back and church is once again back to being full of youth. The annual welcoming picnic for students and their families was held at Centennial Park in Champaign on Sunday, September 7. Attendance for this special day was down a bit, but about 110 people were at the picnic. God gave a blessing of beautiful weather for the day. We thank all of the parents and students who were with us that day, and remind the families of students to come back for the weekends or Wednesday evening Bible studies whenever their schedules allow. Whether student or established residents, we enjoy having visitors among us.

An even greater plea goes out to families of students who are here with unconverted souls. Frequently, these students are away from the influence of home for the first time and realize how adrift they really are. While I don't have an actual record to support it, my guess would be that hardly a year has passed when we don't get at least a few converts from this group. This is a very tenuous time for our young people and each one needs our prayers and support—especially those of their family.

With the return of students, the Wednesday evening Bible study services have resumed. These services are at 7:30 p.m. and are held either at the Illini Union on campus or at the church. A schedule for the semester is compiled and disseminated. Visitors needing location information for specific dates should check with a student or call one of the ministers.

Tapes of the Conference were

played on a Saturday in early September. Our annual church cleaning has also been completed. Special thanks go out to those who contributed to that effort! Ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) were with us during the past month. We thank these brothers and their families for giving of their time to be with us and preach the Gospel.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

During a late summer trip to a stony beach along Lake Michigan with my husband and two children, we enjoyed investigating and experimenting with the smooth stones along the shore. Although I am no geologist, I do know that it is the continual rushing of the waves across the stones that smooths the surface of the stone. I did notice though, that not all stones respond to this process the same way. The surface of some stones is as smooth as silk. Others have a more textured surface that appears to be from harder particles within the larger stone.

The Lord revealed to me a likeness between the smoothing process of those stones and the refining process we experience as believers. So often as youthful unbelievers, we have some pretty sharp edges in the form of pride. As God's Word and Spirit begins to rush over us, it begins to soften and smooth our harsh edges. This may bring about a repentance and then as we flood our lives with His Word, He shapes us into what He wants us to be. Sometimes the waves are harsh and stormy as it is in our life during different trials. It is during these times that those harder particles of pride may be shaped.

I also noticed that some of the stones developed have hairline

cracks. One stone that I picked up simply broke apart in my hand. I then found a stone that I could tell had a piece missing, but that had started to smooth again over the sharp edge of the breaking point. That encouraged me in that even if I fail in a trial, I can come back in humble repentance and the Lord will continue to perfect even my broken shape.

We are so thankful to report that Katie Gudeman (Dan and Sis. Rebecca) has begun the repentance process and extend many prayers on her behalf as she allows the Lord to shape her life.

On August 24, the Gramm family was established when Sis. Melinda Knapp (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Larry Gramm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL) joined their lives in Holy Matrimony in Cissna Park, IL. We wish them many blessings.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 20, and would like to thank everyone for the reception as well as the many cards they received.

Many thanks go to Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for their willingness to serve on the pulpit, as well as Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for speaking at our Sunday School teachers' meeting.

Lastly, we wish to extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Phyllis Anderson at the loss of her mother, Sis. Anna Sauder.

May we be encouraged to press on as our trials come and go, that our Lord and Maker is constantly shaping and molding us with our ultimate good in mind.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Wayne Leman (South Bend, IN), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Dan Koch and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). We thank each one for being a willing servant.

August 23 was the wedding day for Sis. Melinda Knapp and Bro. Larry Gramm. Parents of the couple are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

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

Psalms 127:3

One of the ways God illustrates the promise of tomorrow is through the birth of a new baby. We were blessed with two new "bundles of joy" this past month. Reagan Steven was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Walder. Sharing in this joy are big brother, Reid (8), and big sister, Morgan (4), and grandparents, Eileen Kaufmann and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL). Little Anna Joy was joyfully welcomed home by her big brothers, Andrew (8), Aaron (6), and Adam (4), and her parents, Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb. Her grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Sis. Aldine Kaufmann.

Ron and Mary Merkle are happy to announce the birth of their fourth granddaughter, Monica Erin, born to Rick and Dawn Merkle. Grandchildren are indeed a gift from God.

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

Matthew 5:4

We sorrow but not without a hope as we laid two of our dear sisters to rest this past month. Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann went Home to be with the Lord on August 15. She leaves to mourn her children, Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Neust (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts, and Ron and Mary Eisenmann (CO), nine grandchildren, and two brothers and three sisters.

Sis. Anna Sauder left us on September 12. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Phil, and children, Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine Sauder, Sis. Phyllis Anderson (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Ann Young in the loss of her brother, Gilbert Ifft (Forrest, IL). May God comfort each of these families in their loss.

Our dear sister, Sis. Esther Steiner, fell and broke her hip and is now recuperating at Heartland Health Care in Paxton. Eldora Harwood has also been a hospital patient this past month.

Sunday, September 14, was the evening for our annual Senior Citizens Dinner sponsored by our Sunday School students grades 3-12. Many "seniors" from our congregation enjoyed the delicious dinner, lovely program and fellowship provided by the young people.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp sincerely thank all who expressed their concern for our daughter, Cathy, these past months; first during her struggles during six months of chemotherapy and then during her hospital isolation for a bone marrow transplant in Peoria. The sunshine boxes, phone calls, cards,

prayers, visits, flowers, food—they all meant so much to her and she was overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and concern and we her family thank all who cared to share. Even though Cathy lost her earthly battle in her fight against cancer, she was in a "win-win" situation. One of her last entries in her Gratitude Journal was thankfulness for "the beauty of God's earth and the peace of the morning."

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Missy Banwart
Sandy Steiner**

The harvest season is here again, and the farmers are gathering the fruit of their labors. If Christ were to come to gather the spiritual fruit from our lives, would He find any? If so, what kind of fruit would it be?

We thank Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) for ministering the Word to us. May God bless him for his efforts.

Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) spent some time in the hospital this month. Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Bro. Clarence) is recovering from a broken heel bone. May God grant His healing to both of them.

Note of Thanks:

I sincerely thank all the dear ones who remembered me so kindly on my 90th birthday. May God bless you all.

Sis. Sarah Dietrich

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

"Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

For all those things hath mine

hand made and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word."

Isaiah 66:1-2

During our dedication service on September 14, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann reminded us that every portion of our new building was originally made by God, whether it started as a vein of ore or a seed that fell to the ground and sprang up as a tree. He explained that when something is dedicated, it is no longer its own any more; it is offered to someone else for service, given away to be used for a nobler service. We do dedicate buildings, but more importantly, we dedicate lives.

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach took us back to the beginning of the Elgin church. Bro. Ben's grandfather was sent to Elgin in 1881 to preach repentance and peace to a few seeking souls. Through the years, God blessed the caring efforts of those who ministered to all who were poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembled at His Word. Bro. Ben closed his prayer with these words, "Grant us yet one more thing we pray is our plea and that is a grateful heart."

We truly appreciate and thank those from near and far whose presence added to the blessings of our Open House and Dedication.

September 6, the Senior Bible class hosted its annual pancake breakfast. Our Sunday School picnic was on Sunday.

We rejoice with Joni Schambach who has begun her walk with the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne. We wish her God's guidance and blessings.

Our sympathy to Bro. George Schumacher and his wife, Sis. Hildegard, in the loss of his mother, Sis. Katie Schumacher (Burlington, IA).

Tears are most often shed for sadness, but we have also witnessed Sis. Hilde shed tears of gratitude for the blessings of a new church. Joy here alternates with woe.

On September 8, we laid to rest dear Sis. Gertrude Kachelmuss. Her sister, Sis. Martha Greiner, and Bro. Clarence (Forrest, IL) mourn her passing. She spent the last years of her life at Resthaven and many there will miss her friendly smile.

Our surgical patients this month were Donna Boyce (Brooks) and Sis. Heidi Schock (Bro. Ted). Both are daughters of Bro. Howie and Sis. Pat Schifferer. We are thankful they are home recovering.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and ministering Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Loni Schock (Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny) is home on furlough from Papua New Guinea, where she serves as a missionary with New Tribes Mission.

Rod and Michelle Schifferer are first-time parents of little Olivia Marie born August 12. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer welcome their first grandchild.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and gifts to our "special" sister, Janet Preiss, for her 60th birthday. God bless you for your love and kindness to her.

Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

The last four Wednesday evenings we enjoyed listening to the Brotherhood Conference tapes. It was good to pause and be thankful for our heritage and for the example of faith of our forefathers. It makes us wonder if we could endure the suffering that they did so that the true faith of Jesus Christ would yet be found on this earth.

We congratulate Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein on the birth of their son, Gary Lee Wettstein II, who was born on August 22. He is welcomed home by Sis. Cynde, Sam, Ed, Christina, Curt, Keith, Andrew, and Ellen. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein.

Joyce Rocke and Courtney Sauder, both of Bloomington, were married on August 23. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke and Gary and Sis. Phyllis Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Anna Wettstein passed away on August 27. We sympathize with her children, Bro. David and Bro. Lyle (Gridley, IL), Sis. Lois Stoller (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka), and her brother, Ed Knepp (Winter Haven, FL), and her sister, Sis. Edna Blunier (Eureka).

On Labor Day weekend we appreciated the ministry of Bros. Wes Moser and Dale Wulf (both of Lester, IA).

We are glad to welcome Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Lester, IA) who has moved here for several months.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Anna Wettstein is grateful for all the kind deeds of sympathy in the loss of our mother and sister. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

The harvest season is here and we pray that the grains can be gathered in without accident. God is looking for fruit in our lives in a spiritual way.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

We gathered together September 6 and 7 to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Matthew Kaisner, Sis. Kati Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna), Bro. Karl Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Alicia Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna), and Sis. Denise Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna). We wish them God's grace.

Elder Bro. Art Bahler was assisted with this important work by Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

We thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Sidney Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL). We pray that God will bless them and their families for their faithfulness in sharing God's Word with us.

We have been listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. We thank all the Elder brothers who brought the topics to us on the Conference tapes. May we all continue to pray for our Elder body.

Four precious souls have answered God's call to repentance. They are Scott and Dawn Meiss (Sis. Lucille), Matthew Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), and Darl Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane). May God grant them grace. We rejoice with them.

Gilbert Ifft, 63, passed away August 26. Our sympathy and prayers are with his family. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary Ellen; one daughter, Suzanne K. (Gary) Leaman, Rockton; three sons, Leon D. (Lois), Honolulu, Hawaii; Darrell W. (Rachel), Chenoa; and Loren J. Also six sisters, Margaret Ulm (Marvin), Creve Couer; Velda Ifft; Sis. Mary Ann Young (Bro. Roland), Cissna Park; Sis. Carolyn Bolliger (Bro. Ben), Salem, OR; Dorothy Young (Wendell), Cissna Park; and Sis. Lola Young (Bro. Norman); and three brothers, Arnold and Fred of Fairbury, and Bernard, Pontiac; and eight grandchildren. One son, Daniel, preceded him in death. May God be a Comforter to this dear family.

On August 30, Troy and Sis. Annette Hale were blessed with a precious little boy, Luke Alan. Jenna welcomes her little brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Jay and Roberta Zimmerman.

Our prayers are with those who were in the hospital this month: John Roth (Martha) and Bro. Daniel Steidinger (David and Deann). May they feel God's comforting presence and healing hand if it is His will.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We appreciated the willingness of Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) to share God's Word with us this month. May God richly bless them.

Big sisters, Brooke, Kyla, and Talia, are happy to welcome a new baby brother, Noland Robert. His thankful parents are Bro. Todd and Kim Kupferschmid. His grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Dean and

Sis. Robin Kupferschmid.

Surgical patients this month were Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer) and Sis. Ruth Roth. Also spending time in the hospital was Quinn Ifft (Sis. Beth). We are thankful they have all returned home and pray that God will continue to restore health and strength to them.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss in the death of his sister, Sis. Gertrude Kachelmuss (Elgin, IL). We also sympathize with John and Shirley Kilgus in the loss of her sister, Sharlene Donaldson (Roanoke, IL). May these loved ones feel God's comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America..." These words floated through my open window recently as the children enrolled in the grade school next door to our house were starting their day around the flag pole. Their youthful voices touched my heart, and I wondered if we truly appreciate the freedom we have in our country. Do we start our day around the throne of God, pledging our allegiance to Him? True freedom is found in Christ.

In conjunction with the start of public school, our Sunday School classes have resumed. The Sunday School classroom is an extension of what we are teaching our children at home. Let's not expect our Sunday School teachers to fulfill our obligation to "train up our children in the way they should go". May God bless the teaching of each Sunday School teacher, and each parent.

It has been the privilege of the Goodfield Bible Class to host ACYF in September. We thank all the young people who participate in these gatherings. Thanks also to the

song leaders, teachers and kitchen workers who willingly give their time and effort to nurture fellowship among our young people.

Sometimes good news is a little bittersweet. On August 31, the Goodfield congregation received the engagement announcement of our Sis. Shelly Leman to Bro. Rudy Haerr. We rejoice with them as they submit to God's will for their lives, but we are sad to think of Sis. Shelly moving so far away! Bro. Rudy is the son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanne Haerr (Bloomington, IL) but he resides in Minneapolis, MN. May God "shorten" the distance in the hearts of Sis. Shelly's parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort.

The funeral of Sis. Bernice Hartman was conducted in Goodfield on August 28. Although she was a resident of our Peoria home, she "came home" to Goodfield for final services. We pray God's peace and comfort on her surviving family members.

On September 6, funeral services were held for Evelyn Knapp Walker at the Goodfield church. We are extremely grateful that Evelyn surrendered her life to God before illness took her from this life into eternity. Our prayers continue for the comfort of her family.

Several in our congregation are suffering various afflictions of the flesh, ranging from broken bones to fatal disease. As a congregation, we often are not aware of each person's affliction, but we pray for God's healing touch, peace of heart and grace to endure the trial. The care givers to those who are suffering are in our prayers also.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

In reflecting on the General Conference held here in Gridley (August 6-8), it is appropriate to extend a

sincere "thank you" to all who attended. Indeed, it was a special privilege to host brethren who assembled from across the nation; and from Canada and Japan.

A special appreciation is due as well to the Elder Brothers who tirelessly availed themselves in addressing the concerns and opportunities of the church. The many hours and mental energies expended by our shepherds are deserving of our utmost gratitude.

Only God knows the hours they devote for our benefit. May He richly reward them, both now and in all eternity.

Although realizing her high years and sincere longing for her Heavenly Home, we as a congregation nonetheless mourned the passing of our dear sister in faith, Louise V. Gramm (97). Her funeral was held on Wednesday morning, September 3.

She is survived by Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Sis. Marjorie Witzig, and Bros. Herbert and Donald Gramm, all of Gridley. A daughter-in-law, Sis. Nola Gramm, of our Gridley congregation also survives. She is survived by 24 grandchildren, 78 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Sis. Louise was married to Bro. George Gramm for 55 years until he died in 1976. During the years he served as a minister and Elder, she supported him as a loyal, dutiful wife.

She was one of the last links to our congregation's European heritage as she was the next-to-last member to have immigrant parents. Her father, Bro. Engelbert Grusy, was an early minister here in Gridley.

Sis. Louise had a special breadth of understanding, both in the faith and historically. In her last years she remained keen of mind, and exceptionally well versed in the early

days of the church. Her quality of love and kindness was a credit to God. Her love of the faith and her concern for her offspring was evident to all who knew her. Her life was deeply rooted in faith, family, and church. Her citizenship was in Heaven, and she walked as a true pilgrim and stranger in this world. We can benefit by her example.

During her last days, as she lay weak and near the end, she was afforded the joy of a visit from her grandson, George D. Gramm, 29, of Phoenix, AZ who was repenting. What a blessed reunion that was!

Also, in late June, she rejoiced when a great-granddaughter, Sis. Erin Witzig (Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma) gave her testimony and was baptized (June 23).

Bro. Eric and Sis. Mindy Zehr became the parents of their first daughter, Allison Rose, on August 10. She has two brothers, Joshua (4) and Caleb (2). Grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss and Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr, all of our Gridley congregation.

Bro. Jeff Stoller and Sis. Cynde Wettstein (Eureka, IL) were announced for marriage on July 27. His parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller. She is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Eureka, IL). We rejoice with them as they follow God's will.

The engagement of Bro. Jason Schlipf was announced for marriage to Sis. Jamie Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. John M. and Sis. Jill Schlipf. We certainly wish this young couple God's blessings.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Louise Gramm wishes to thank all who were so kind and loving to their Mother while she was in the Eureka Home, and for all

the kind expressions of sympathy at the time of her passing from this life. May God bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Verna Widmer died on September 9 at the age of 89. May the Lord comfort and bless her two brothers, Chester and Merle; her six sisters, Freda Pfleiderer, Viola Kauffman, Pauline Herman, Sis. Loretta Funk, Dorothy Hoffman, Henritta Waldbuser, and her twenty-six nieces and nephews.

We wish to thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for ministering to us at our monthly Family Worship Night. His topic was "A Spiritual Check-Up". It is easy to let both physical and spiritual check-ups slide. But as physical check-ups are important, we should also have frequent spiritual check-ups using the Word as the diagnostic tool.

On August 24, we held a church potluck supper for Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe as they visited our congregation for the day. Dr. Parkhe is the director of the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India. He also showed pictures of the work there. Sis. Cherise Knobloch of Morton and Sis. Kathy Bradle of Roanoke traveled with the Parkhes as they returned to India. Sis. Cherise and Sis. Kathy, both nurses, learned more about the medical aspect of the mission on their trip. We are thankful to report that they arrived home safely on September 16.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for love and prayers and your kind expressions of sympathy during the illness and passing of our loved one.

The family of Sis. Verna Widmer

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

Sunday morning is a beautiful time for a child of God when we can rid ourselves of our earthly cares. The house of God is our comfort zone, where we can worship together, feel God's nearness and our hearts are consoled. We must be knit together in love, get out the "owner's manual" to see how we can fix the problems of life and get on our knees to ask God for His instructions (Sunday morning welcome by Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer on August 17).

We are important enough to God to be saved. Is God important enough to us to accept His salvation? Melissa Criss, Kary Hoerr, Dustin Plattner and Elizabeth Rieker believed so, repented, gave their testimonies and were baptized on August 24. God created us with the ability to resist and defy Him; they have chosen the better part and we welcome four youthful believers into our fellowship. Peace is the absence of fear to die. Life's greatest experiences come when we are willing to risk everything. Everybody who has not repented is evil in the sight of God, regardless how good they may be in the sight of man. The need for faithful attendance was stressed and that when we feel the least like going to church, we need to go the most. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for his assistance with the testimonies and baptisms.

Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) visited us for this occasion and we thank them for their services. Bro. Dale meditated on Psalm 118. "This is the day which the Lord hath made." We are thankful to have been called to lead a life for Jesus, for which we need the spirit of humility and submissiveness, other-

wise our life will be in vain. There is a difference between a Christian and a child of God who leads a sanctified life in a submissive state of mind and walks close to Him. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which we build our foundation and house according to His will and which will stand in all storms until judgment day. If we use cheaper materials, the weak points will give way and the whole house will be dismantled and fall down and our ruin will be great. The solid rock is there forever; should there be a change, it is us who have moved. We have the promise that His Word will fill us; maybe we only need one crumb to overcome a particular temptation. If all would go so good and wonderful, we might forget our Heavenly Father. How devastating it would be to hear "Woe unto you!". Bro. Paul meditated on Psalm 40 and John 5:1-8. The angel moving the Bethesda waters is troubling the waters today to heal anyone of the disease of sin, if they feel the need for help. Nobody assisted the lame man and today only Jesus can help and free us, provided we take the first step. Blessed is the soul who trusts God and sees His wonderful works and anticipates the home He has prepared in Heaven.

Today, Babylon lies in ruins, but at Daniel's time it was a splendid city of two million, one of the seven wonders of the world with its hanging gardens built by Nebuchadnezzar for his wife. Located on the Euphrates river, it measured 15 miles square and was surrounded by a 385 foot wall (one-half of the Empire State Building). Due to his contacts with Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the king probably had some recognition of God, whom he acknowledged in the end. But if we walk in pride, God can abase us and bring us down. He was troubled by his dream and asked

Daniel for help. Do we ask for the wisdom of God or of people we trust? God will not always ignore our rebellious spirit. Nebuchadnezzar became insane and lived seven years as an animal before he was restored. If we have accepted the blood of Jesus, we must extol and honor the King of Heaven (8/31/87, Bro. Ken Hoerr, Daniel 4).

"God's Order in Relationships - Are we following it in family, work, government and church?" was Bro. Frank Sauder's theme on September 3 for our family night service. We don't like to think of God's order in today's society. Destruction of the family is evident and in the work place our culture does not blend well with the submissiveness stated in the Bible. Our culture works against the Word of God and we have disrespect towards those who are over us. At the time Paul was in Rome, Nero burned the city and blamed it on the Christians, yet Paul asked for respect of that office (Hebrews 13:7). In each of these categories, someone is over us and we are required to submit ourselves. This is not natural to our flesh, but all are made of clay and it is not an issue of inferiority or superiority, as nothing happens to us that God does not allow. God placed people over us for a purpose (I Peter 2:20). Are we pushing the boundaries or submitting, no matter what? God wants to teach us submission and uses authority over us to shape and mold us, whether they are godly or ungodly. We need to learn to deal with those over us for if we don't, we'll never become what God wants us to be. We thank Bro. Frank and his father, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), for their visit and words of wisdom.

We mourn the death of Sis. Bernice (Bucher) Hartman (92) who passed away on August 25; and Sis. Clara (Tanner) Schubert (94) who went to be with the Lord on Septem-

ber 12, ten weeks after her husband, Bro. Emil. Both had been Skyline residents for several years and will be missed. ~~Sharlene Donaldson (48)~~, sister of Bro. Dwayne Bowald, passed away on September 9 at the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home. We express our sincere sympathy to the bereft families.

One generation passes, another follows. We congratulate David and Cheryl (Miller) Byrne on their second daughter, Courtney, born on September 2.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, prayers, and words of encouragement during my recent surgery and recovery. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

In Christian Love, Lillian Ramseyer

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

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

Eccles. 3:1-2

Believing that God has drawn them together in faith, we witnessed the marriage vows of three dear couples. On August 24, Bro. Dave Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Sis. Joanna Herrmann were united in marriage. Bro. Dave is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Sis. Joanna is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann Herrmann.

Several from our congregation attended the wedding on August 31 in Washington of Bro. Dennis Streitmatter and Sis. Stephanie Andrews.

Bro. Dennis is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter and Sis. Stephanie is the daughter of Ron and Connie Caragnina of Kincaid, IL and Homer and Karen Andrews of Carthage, IL. We welcome Sis. Stephanie to our congregation as she makes her new home in our area.

Bro. Wendell Stahl (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Linda Martin were united in marriage on September 14. Bro. Wendell is the son of Dean Stahl and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford, IL). Sis. Linda is the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin. Both Sis. Linda and Sis. Joanna will be missed as they leave our congregation.

On August 22, Jacob William was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Lisa Wade. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Martha (the late Bro. Loris) Kieser, and George and Jane Wade of Peoria. May God bless these first-time parents as they love and cherish this precious gift from God.

Hospital patients this month were Viola Streitmatter and Mitch Hartzler. May both of them feel God's presence during this time.

At Home, 'tis well!
Then let us hasten thither
Through pain and death on to our
homeland shore!
On, boldly on!
When this short life is o'er,
New life will bloom for us and never
wither.
Zion's Harp #170

On September 11, Bro. Ezra Rumbold passed away from life to eternity. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Lucille, Bro. Alwin (Sis. Loretta, Bradford), Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra, Lester, IA), Sis. Joyce Metzger (Bro. Glen, Lester, IA), Sis. Jeanette Graham (Bro. Dick), Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. Jim), and their families in the loss of their loved one.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (II Cor. 5:9). On September 14, we heard the engagement of Bro. Chad Plattner and Sis. Laura Lee Riley (Rittman, OH). Bro. Chad is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Sis. Laura Lee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Riley of Seville, OH.

Harvest Day

Harvest time, yes, harvest time
God's presence fills the air,
Autumn trees and golden grain,
there's bounty everywhere.

Perhaps it is the chirping bird
perched upon the tree,
Perhaps it is the full-bloomed flower
that brings the peace to me.

The caterpillar on the leaf,
preparing there for spring,
Or listen to the crickets' sounds,
the praises that they sing.

As I watch the brilliant sunset glow
across the evening sky,
A longing yearns within my heart
for that sweet home on high.

In the coolness of the evening,
the Lord's presence is so near,
The sounds of farmers harvesting,
with joy it brings a tear.

Knowing that the seed was planted
in faith just months ago,
Waiting with much patience,
in hope they watched it grow.

But now the precious time has come
to reap that golden grain,
Which stood the test of times in life,
through sunshine, storm, and rain.

For each of us our prayer would be
to live for Christ always,
So at the time of reaping,
we're ready for Harvest Day.

—S.M.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser were blessed with the arrival of their son, Edward Lyle. Joshua,

Jason, Abigail, and grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barbara Moser and Sis. Shirley Kieser, welcome Edward into their home and hearts.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer have opened their hearts and home and adopted a baby boy, Nathaniel Jordon. Big brothers, Sam and Steven, and big sister, Emma, welcome him into their home. May God bless this family as they care for and nurture their children. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff, and Sis. Clara Fischer.

The engagement of our Sis. Jamie Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Jason Schlipf (Bro. John and Sis. Jill) was made known. We rejoice with them and their families and pray for God's blessings for this newly engaged couple.

Our church was filled with many visitors for the wedding of our Sis. Kristy Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann) to Bro. Chad Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) from Bloomington, IL. May their lives be filled with God's goodness and grace, as they establish their Christian home.

This past month we were richly blessed with many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO), Steve Ringger (Bluffton, IN), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). Bro. Will was also with us for our September Bible study and we appreciate the time and effort for our benefit. May God bless these brothers for bringing forth God's Word through the Holy Spirit.

On September 9, God called Home our dear friend, Sharlane Donaldson. How thankful we are that at the last hour of her life she could turn her life over to Christ. Our sympathy is extended to her

mother, Sis. Mabel Bowald; one son, Julius; two brothers,

Bro. Dwayne and Donald, both of Peoria; two sisters, Shirley Kilgus, Forrest, and Sharon Remmert, East Peoria; and two grandchildren.

Our Sis. Ella Belsley passed into eternity on September 15, and we would like to extend sympathy to her many nieces and nephews. Sis. Ella was a true light of a thankful Christian, as she lived at the home these past years. If you just stopped by her room for a short visit, there was always that lovely smile and a "thank you" for any small gesture of kindness.

Hospital patients this month were: Bro. Lloyd Aeschleman (Cynthia) and Jason Tibbs. As we remember these hospital patients in our prayers, we also pray for our Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Schwind and their daughter, Amy. Amy still continues to struggle with leukemia and is taking one day at a time. As the trials and tests of this life press us down, may we place our trust in God and rest in His promises.

"...Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:9

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

"Faith of our Fathers". What a spiritual blessing to be able to listen to the Conference tapes. Do we have the "Faith of our Fathers"?

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

James 2:14

Visiting ministers have been E-

lder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bros. Lenard Meyer and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God richly bless them, their wives and families for their labor of love in our behalf.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri Frank are thankful parents of Hannah Elizabeth born August 15. She was welcomed home by sisters, Emily and Sarah, a brother, Adam, and grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank and Don and Kay Davis.

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

Genesis 2:18

On August 24, Bro. Dave Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann) and Sis. Joanna Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) of Princeville, IL were united in Holy Matrimony. On September 7, Bro. Mark Moser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Morton, IL) and Sis. Colleen Beutel (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol) exchanged their wedding vows. How thankful we are to God for these new couples and pray God will richly bless their lives with His blessings.

On August 25, two more souls were added to the family of God. After hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms, we welcomed our new Bro. Ray and Sis. Clea Rinkenberger into our precious faith.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Some construction workers were crouched behind a protective wall watching as a dynamite fuse burned. They were using the dynamite on an old building they were

demolishing. As the fuse was burning closer and closer to the dynamite, a three-year-old little girl appeared and walked towards the building. The workmen yelled at the child to get back, but it only frightened her. In fact, it made her go even faster towards the building. Suddenly the mother appeared. She quickly assessed the situation, opened her arms, and cried, "Honey! Come here!" Instantly and eagerly, the little girl ran back from the building not stopping until she was wrapped safely in her mother's arms.

The trust and love of a young child for her parents is the childlike dependence we are called to have toward God. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us to fear not. He also says that unless we become like little children, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. He calls us to a childlike dependency on Him. He wants to take us onto His lap and bless us. His loving arms are open to us. As we make our way through the dangers and perils of this life, Jesus calls "Come unto Me." In Jesus' arms we are safe.

"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:14-16

We are praying for health and strength to return to those who have been hospitalized or had surgery. We especially remember Bro. Lloyd Moser, Sis. Marty Schlatter, and Sis. Sue Ruppert. May their recovery continue so they can again join in fellowship with us.

We were blessed to have several

visiting ministers with us this month. They were present to assist with Bible Study, baptismal and wedding services. We are so fortunate we can travel from congregation to congregation and know the Word will be preached in truth. Sincere thanks goes to the following: Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Jim Plattner and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL).

Two young souls listened to the Lord's calling and gave their lives to Jesus, and we were witnesses of their testimonies and baptisms. They were Sis. Maria Kellenberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Will Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth). We welcome them to the family of Christ Jesus, and rejoice with them and their families.

Sis. Stephanie Andrews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cargnino, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Andrews, was united in marriage to Bro. Dennis Streitmatter, son of Bro. William and Sis. Diane Streitmatter (Princeville, IL). We rejoice with this couple and pray their marriage is a long and happy one where Jesus is the center.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincerest thanks for all of the prayers, cards, visits and other expressions of love during Lloyd's hospitalization and recovery. May God bless all of you!

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller

Trudy Eisenmann

On the weekend of August 17, we celebrated the wedding of Bro. Kris Reinhard and Sis. Heidi Fiechter. We thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe

(South Bend, IN) for sharing with us on that day.

October 5 is the wedding date of Bro. Bruce Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Heather Brudi of New Haven. Also engaged are Bro. Todd Brege (Rev. William and Ruth Brege, Ossian) and Sis. Carla Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat). We rejoice with them all!

We are grateful to the Lord for Stefanie Dailey who has dedicated her heart and found His mercy.

Every perfect gift comes from above, and the Lord has blessed Bluffton with four new lives. On August 12, Bro. Brent and Sis. Ann Gerber gave birth to Lauren Elizabeth. On August 19, Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda Bertsch welcomed a daughter, Alyssa Sue. On August 22, Bro. Nick and Sis. Natalie Gerber also had a baby girl, Adelyn Maureen. A new baby boy, Andrew Jay, was added to the family of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi Reinhard.

Our prayers are extended to Bro. LaVerne Ringger and Sis. Gladys (Dan) Lantz who are in need of God's healing touch. Sis. Sandie Ringger is still in our hearts also. Bro. Harold (Sis. Ellen) Geisel was in the hospital as well as Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona), Sis. Sharon Merritt (Gary), Bro. Edwin Schwartz, and Ryan Isch (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia). Our prayers are with them.

We are encouraged by the Word, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Cor. 9:15

Let us be thankful every day for another day of grace and for God's gift of Jesus that He has given to us.

We were blessed with several babies in our congregation this month. Joe and Rachel Streveler were blessed with a baby girl, Elizabeth Nicole, born on August 18. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger. Bro. Mark and Sis. Trina Holocher are first-time parents of Carli Marie on August 28. Her grandparents are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher and Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam Holocher. Bro. Dick and Sis. Patti Troxel are happy grandparents as they welcomed a new grandson on August 26. Jacob Kenneth Carl is the son of Brad and Terri Ehle. Bro. Graig and Sis. Corinne Stettner welcomed Ella Marie into their home on September 15. She is also welcomed by grandparents, Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner and Daryl and June Hari. Bro. John and Sis. Laura Beeks are the parents of a daughter, Lindsay Ashton, born on September 15. She joins a brother, Sawyer, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Dubach and Tom and Paula Beeks. We are thankful for new babies in our church and we wish these parents God's grace and wisdom in raising their little ones.

Matt Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) has made a new beginning in the Lord and we wish him God's grace as he has taken this important step in life.

We again wish to remember those in our congregation who have had surgery or have spent time in the hospital. We are prayerful for Sis. Agnes Schaefer, Bro. Obed Gerber (Sis. Henrietta), Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle) and Kathy Crum (Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice Steffen).

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another,

love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

I Peter 3:8

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"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: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

How much more glorious Heaven will be after having this world full of tears, pain and sorrow. On September 2, Sis. Cheryl Scheffer went on to her reward. She will be greatly missed by her father, Bro. Leon Wuethrich, and her children, Michelle Hopkins (Greg), Carrie Howat (Jim) and Sheila Ruff (Jim). We also pray for Bro. Phil Sauder as his wife, Anna (Parkview Haven), passed away. May God grant him the grace and peace to endure until they are united once again.

We enjoyed a visit on September 3 from Bob and Vera Stewart, who help coordinate our work teams in Haiti. Bob shared with us the great needs the Haitian people have, and requested that we would continue to pray on their behalf. He shared their appreciation for all the labors of love and gifts of love.

Also blessing us this month were visiting ministers, Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We are thankful to be surrounded by such faithful brethren as these.

A potluck picnic was held for the Zion's Harp hymn committee after they gathered September 5 and 6 to review some of our precious songs. We also had the joy of having several

groups of young people with us that weekend from the surrounding area and Michigan. The group sang at Parkview Haven after church on Sunday.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt have been blessed by the love of God as their little Jared Wayne graced their home September 3. He will undoubtedly feel loved with Joel, Jenna, and Trevor to welcome him home. Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny Denton have also been blessed with a special gift. Simone Pierre was adopted into the family from Haiti. Tabitha, Zachary, and Isaac will have the joy of celebrating his third birthday with him October 19.

Fred Howat (Sis. Carol), Erica Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Harry Yaggie spent some time in the hospital this month. We thank God for His protective hand on them and that they are all home again.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Dotterer

After much prayer and consideration, we brothers and sisters here in Indianapolis placed our Bro. Ken Wuethrich as deacon over our church family. We will continue to support Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn and family in prayer as they serve our church body in this position.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us this month. They include Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller (Bluffton, IN).

New Sunday School teachers started their term this month. They include Bros. Ardie Bucher, Corey Gerber, Stan Gutwein and Sisters Erika Gerber, Andrea Gutwein and Marcelle Gress. On September 14, we held our annual Sunday School

Picnic. All those who attended enjoyed it.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

Recently people have been interested in the subject of angels. During a sermon on Hebrews 2 we were given the truth regarding angels. "They cannot feel what we feel. Angels were messengers sent by God, who were obedient unto God, but they could not feel. It took Someone special, that being Christ Jesus, who came and took the form of man and could feel what we feel. He is a faithful High Priest because He feels and understands things pertaining to God."

Cathy Nuest (Dan) feels the joy that comes from having found true peace with God and man. This has been announced to the church and we look forward to her baptism soon.

Jesus, our faithful High Priest, knows and understands the pain of Sis. Lucille Nuest as she submitted to surgery. We pray for her and are thankful she is recuperating at home.

Feeling the need for God's strength and our prayerful support is Sis. Connie Knobloch, whose parents are very ill in Iowa.

Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) felt the power of the Spirit as he ministered to us this past month. We praise and thank God for the spiritual manna served through His servants.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethel Schlatte

The messages lately have been centered on love. We thank visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Allen Stoller

(Bluffton, IN) and their wives, for their visits and timely messages.

Our topical Bible studies resumed again. Bro. Allen Stoller inspired us with the message of "Love". He encouraged us to love as Jesus loved. "Love is not an option. We need to love one another with Christ-like love." He shared twelve attributes of Christ's love from I Cor. 13 and other related Scriptures.

1. Longsuffering, patience
(James 1:4)
2. Compassion, courteous
(I Peter 3:8)
3. Envy NOT, jealousy
(I John 3:11)
4. Vaunteth NOT, not puffed up
(I Cor. 4:6)
5. Not a respecter of persons
(James 2:8-9)
6. Self sacrifice, seeketh not her own
(Rom. 14:13)
7. Not easily provoked
(I Peter 2:13-17)
- Support the brethren
(Gal. 6:10)
8. Think no evil, make no pretense
(Rom. 12:9-10)
9. Rejoice in the truth
(Heb. 3:13)
10. Beareth all things
(Gal. 6:2)
11. Purity
(I Peter 1:22)
12. Never faileth
(II Thess. 3:12-13)

We thank the Lord for the efforts Bro. Allen put forth.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock welcome their third son, Graham Francis, on September 9. His two brothers are Hudson and Hunter. Grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Washington, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol Broquard (Bay City, MI).

Sis. Pearl (Lloyd) Klopfenstein was hospitalized and while there suffered a stroke. She is now in rehabilitation and we pray for the Lord's comfort, peace and healing touch.

Several in our congregation turned 93 years old this year.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner is our oldest member. She resides in an apartment at The Cedars where she receives some assistance with her daily care. Her disabilities have kept her from attending church regularly, but she always attends when we hold services at The Cedars. She moved from their farm home, with three other single sisters, to a duplex at The Cedars. Her greatest loss was when she was left alone and had to leave the duplex. She has had her share of health problems over the years. She told me "The worst thing I endured was being involved in an auto accident that was not my fault. X-rays showed seven broken ribs, which normally are very painful, but what it did to my nerves I never want to go through again. Through much prayer, I finally experienced the Lord's healing." Sylvia, we wish you His continued comfort and care.

I found this article on "Marinated People" by Milo Arnold, which I think is good advice in preparing for a spiritual winter:

The dictionary states that to marinate is to soak in a brine, vinegar, or other liquid until the flavor of the liquid is communicated to the substance. That makes sense. A cook can improve the flavor of quite ordinary food by sufficient marinating in a flavor-giving liquid.

People get marinated, too. That's why some people have such an odd personality "flavor". They are ordinary human beings, but they have been soaking in something which gave them a change of quality. The shelves of life are full of things which can be used for self-marinating. There are all kinds of miseries and all kinds of blessings. Ordinary human beings can go through situations quite unchanged or they can be changed for good or for bad by the things in which they choose to soak themselves. There are old people

who have spent their lives soaking up every bit of happiness, loveliness and blessing that they could find. They didn't just take it for granted; they immersed themselves in the goodness of life and stayed there, absorbing the sweet flavor. People marinated in miseries become the bitterest, most unpalatable dish on the table. They are never willing to be accepted as ordinary people with even the natural flavor of being human. They must give themselves the flavor of the brine of bitterness and the saltiness of sadness. It's a pity to marinate good food in something bitter; but it's worse to be valuable human beings and ruin ourselves by marinating in miseries! (Phil. 4:4)

INDIANA, MILFORD
Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"Likewise, the spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Romans 8:26

Several have met with illness in our congregation. We are thankful Sis. Stephanie (Bro. John) Schlatter is back in church. We are sorry Sis. Millie (Bro. Phil) Beer had to experience surgery. May the courage and strength from God fill their lives at this time.

God and His Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses and changes our weakness into strength. By entrusting our hearts and minds to Him—not leaning to our understanding—God helps us through (not around) the trials of life. He has perfect control and is never late with His timing. God is before us (Isaiah 48:17), behind us (Isaiah 30:21), to the right (Psalm 16:8), to the left (Job 23:9), above (Psalm

36:7), underneath (Deut. 33:27), and within (Cor. 3:16). We can make it through today with God's help; looking down the road often looks too difficult.

God Walks With You

We each know anxieties,
the delay of answered prayer,
The dark times when the heart
gives in
to doubting and despair—
For belonging to the God of Love
is not a guarantee
Of life without affliction
or a world that's trouble-free.

Lord, help us understand that,
though Your promises are true,
You never pledged an easy life
to those who walk with You.
The one promise we can cling to
when the storms of life assail
Is that God goes through them with
us—

And His love will still prevail.

—*B.J. Hoff*

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Patti Bahler

A recent article had some interesting facts about the sandhill crane. These large birds, who fly great distances across continents, have three remarkable qualities. First, they rotate leadership. No one bird stays out in front the whole time. Second, they choose leaders who can handle turbulence. And then, all during the time one bird is leading, the rest are honking their affirmation. That's not a bad model for the church. Certainly we need leaders who can handle turbulence and who are aware leadership ought to be shared. But most of all, we need a church where we are all expressing encouragement to one another. May each of us support and encourage Bro. Dan Kilgus as he assumes the responsibility as our deacon. In I Peter 5:2-3 we read, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight

thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." Sharing the evening with us on August 17 when we gathered were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). May the Lord bless each of our ministering brothers with strength, discernment and peace as they endeavor to bring the gospel message of hope to a distressed world.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Cor. 5:17

On August 23, our church had a very uplifting and encouraging evening as we listened to three believers give their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. Rustin Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) and John and Rochelle Ward all shared their experiences as they came to the foot of the cross. On the following day we witnessed their baptisms also. Sharing the weekend with us were many visitors and Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN).

Other visiting ministers with us this month were Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We thank them for bringing God's Word to us and thank each visitor who assembled with us as well.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God shall wipe away tears from off all faces..."

Isaiah 25:8

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel and their family in the death of their father and grandfather, Car-

ter Owen, from Pottsboro, TX. May they each feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit during this time of grief.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Marci Neuenschwander
Sue Beebe

We are certainly living in troubling times and often could become despondent over the wickedness around us. God, however, speaks to us through His Holy Word, and tells us that because Christ died for us, we should not live unto ourselves (II Cor. 5:15), but are now "ambassadors for Christ" (II Cor. 5:20). We are called to be "workers together with Him", developing "much patience, pureness, long-suffering, kindness, and love." (II Cor. 6:4-6). And yet, we are at the same time encouraged to "come out from among them, and be separate". We are in the world and surrounded by its evil, and yet should be spiritually lifted above it, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world, for we are "the temple of the living God" (II Cor. 5:16-17).

"O' safe to the Rock that is higher than I, my soul in its conflict and sorrow would fly; so sinful, so weary, Lord, Thine would I be, Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee. In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow's lone hour; in times when temptation casts over me its power; in the tempests of life - on its wide heaving sea, Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee. How often in the conflict when pressed by the foe, I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe. How often when sorrows like sea billows roll, have I hidden in Thee, oh Thou Rock of my soul."

—*Wm O. Cushing*

We are being spiritually lifted up and encouraged as we listen to the

tapes from our Brotherhood Conference, which encourage us to cling to Christ our Rock.

We enjoyed a special afternoon of fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic, held at the home of Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold and family on August 24.

Some of our Sunday School children enjoyed a day of fellowship on September 14 with the Milford congregation.

Our prayers are with our college students: Micah Frank, Shana Frank, Bill, Craig and Brad Langhofer, Nate Mangold and Mark Beebe. May they seek first of all to learn about and to know God, "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:3)

We have appreciated all the visitors who blessed us with their love and fellowship. We gather on the first and third Wednesday nights of each month to sing at our local nursing homes. Anyone planning to fellowship with us for mid-week services are very welcome, and should call ahead to one of our ministers for directions to our place of worship or singing.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

Greetings from northwest Indiana. This month we welcomed Bro. Nile Bucher and Bro. Steve Ringger from the Bluffton North congregation. We enjoyed our day with them and appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas announce the engagement of their daughter, Summer, to Jeff Nehl. They plan a November wedding.

Many of us gathered together for a church picnic on Sunday. The bees were abundant, but we all enjoyed the fellowship and good food any-

way.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

We enjoyed a blessed Labor Day Weekend, as our Sunday School Bible Class hosted the Bern, KS Bible Class. They recently spent a few days together in Jamaica helping out the poor and needy. They took this opportunity to get reacquainted and to share their slides.

We were blessed with two precious additions to our Wolcott congregation. Deborah Grace was welcomed into the home of Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer, Andrew, and Naomi, on September 1. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN).

Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach and big brother, Caleb, are thankful parents and sibling of Daniel Lee born on September 3. Grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). May God bless these families as they raise and nurture their precious children.

Our two visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). We always appreciate visitors who come to share God's Word with us.

David Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Marybeth) was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy. We are glad to see his bright and shining little face again!

We continue to keep Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand and family in our thoughts and prayers, as Bro. Roger has found new employment in central Illinois. Sis. Kathy and children are still here for a time yet. We are glad to see Bro. Roger home on the weekends. May they put their

faith and confidence in our Almighty God, knowing that His wisdom and grace will see all things through.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Edith Massner

We were very grateful for the visits of our dear ministers this month. It was a special blessing to have Bros. Paul Butikofer, Dave Eisenmann, John Steiner, Mike Rinkenberger and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz. May God bless them and their families for their efforts and may He always give them grace and courage.

Our new Sunday School teachers, Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Leroy Wulf, have begun their duties; may God give wisdom and patience as they work with our dear children. A special thanks is extended to Bro. John Buster and Sis. Monica Eisenmann who have completed their terms.

Our dear Sis. Katrina Schumacher was finally able to go to her eternal rest. She was the mother of Adam and Jacob of Germany, Phillip of CO, George of Elgin, IL and Mike of our Burlington congregation. She was married in 1920 and lost her husband in 1932. She would have been 96 on September 26, 1997.

Sis. Katie lived in Yugoslavia during the unpleasant war years, and even repented then. Her devotion to God during her difficult years has been an inspiration to us. She always liked Hymns of Zion #88, "Forever with the Lord, my blessed lot shall be. His word is like a shining star and gently leadeth me. I journey thru this world, I am a stranger here. I shall pursue my pilgrim's course, unto my Saviour dear. Near to Thee; near to Thee, I'm drawing near to Thee." It was sung at the cemetery. May God com-

fort the family, especially Mike and Elisabeth and Mike, Jr. who took such good care of her.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

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.

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

Hymns of Zion #46

With our theme being "The Golden Harvest", the Elgin single group recently hosted the single groups from all the Iowa churches. What a blessing to see so many who have, by God's grace, turned from the pleasures of sin for a season to the pleasures the glorified share. Our thanks to the entire Elgin congregation for helping us host this very blessed weekend.

We rejoice with Gene Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne) who has answered the call "Follow Me" and has found mercy, forgiveness and peace. We now look forward to hearing Gene's testimony and welcoming him as our brother in faith.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Ruth Schupbach and Tammy Callahan (Jeff). We look forward to that eternal Home in Heaven where there will be no more pain and sickness.

What a pleasant surprise to have Bro. Ken Eisenmann and Sis. JoAnn (Cissna Park, IL) recently with us. Our sincere thanks to Bro. Ken for serving us as he works in the Lord's vineyard.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We extend our loving thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). May God bless them, their families and all who traveled with them to support our worship services.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dan and Ruthann Schrock, Ryne and Aaron, in the passing of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Sis. Katie Schumacher (Burlington, IA). May the memories of her love and Christian example bring comfort and the desire to meet her again in Heaven someday.

We extend a hearty welcome to the new students in our area, including Sarah Zaugg, Clark Anliker, Trudy Grimm, Koni Haverman, and Steve Leman, all from West Bend, attending UNI and Don Metzger, also from West Bend, attending Coe College. Amy Butikofer (Elgin, IA) has accepted a position at MCI in Cedar Rapids. While we encourage them all to be with their families and friends in their home congregations when they can, we welcome them to assemble with us here if they are in the area on the weekends.

Seeing the fields turning, it is evident that harvest is near at hand. May we be as aware of the "signs of the times" heralding the spiritual harvest that is also fast approaching. May we be even more diligent to make sure our spiritual house is in order and earnestly pray for the awakening of the many souls who are still in spiritual darkness.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We rejoice with Dudley Knobloch and Monte Gerber as they have been announced to have found their peace with God and man and now

await baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in the near future.

Cade Ethan was born to Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch on September 14. He is welcomed home by his three sisters, Andrea, Kyla, and Maura. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer. Sis. Emma Meyer is Cade's great-grandmother.

We were most blessed this month with visiting ministers who were willing to be spent for our behalf. Thank you is extended to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for bringing forth God's Word.

Wedding vows were exchanged between Mitchell Knobloch and Amy Vander Sanden on September 6 at Fellowship Hall. Parents of the young couple are Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger and Connie Vander Sanden. May God bless the home of these dear ones.

Bro. Nathan Knobloch was seriously injured in an automobile accident as he returned home from visiting his wife, Sis. Irene, who is making her home with Hospice care in Sioux Falls, SD. Bro. Nathan remains hospitalized in serious condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Nathan, Sis. Irene and their family. Also spending time in the hospital were Benjamin Feucht (Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa), Sis. Marge Mogler, and Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily). Thankfully, they have been able to return to their homes.

With sympathy and prayers, we wish to remember Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch and their families on the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Ezra Rumbold, of

Princeville, IL. May God comfort them in their time of sorrow.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We want to thank Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering to us this month. May his family be richly blessed for his labors of love.

Our prayers and congratulations are extended to Sis. Monica Behne and Bro. Marc Wagenbach as they've announced their engagement. Their wedding is planned for October 5.

We rejoice with Barbechan and Chris Korver with the safe arrival of their firstborn son, James Andrew. Grandparents are Sis. Luanne Beyer and Peter Beyer (Columbus, OH) and Julie Korver (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). Sis. Hilda Gerst becomes Great-Grandma for the second time. May the Lord be with this dear family as they strive to raise the little blessing He's entrusted to their family.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Sunday, September 14, was an enjoyable day for our Bible Class students who attended the Annual Picnic of our area churches. We thank the Burlington, IA teachers and students for the wonderful job they did of hosting the group this year.

A very special thank you is extended to Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) for teaching our adult Sunday School and ministering God's Word to us. We appreciate our Elders and ministering brothers who make the effort, and travel the miles to share the Gospel with us.

Our prayers have been with Bro.

Harold Knapp (Sis. Mary Jane) during the lengthy illness of his sister, Evelyn Walker (Wayne, Morton, IL), and at the time of her death. We are so thankful she found God's grace to repent in her last days of life.

As our Sunday School classes resume, we prayerfully support each dear brother and sister who have been given the responsibility to teach our youth. May they feel the Lord's guidance and direction each Sunday anew.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Labor Day weekend brought many visitors into our midst as the "snowbirds" from Zapata, TX held their annual reunion here. We were so thankful and appreciative that among them were several visiting ministers: Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT).

On Sunday evening, September 7, we enjoyed the blessedness of partaking of Holy Communion, when we were again reminded of the tremendous price that was paid by our Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary for our redemption. We are thankful that Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) were present to minister to us that day and participate in serving us in the evening.

Also, this past month we were blessed with a visit by Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). May God bless him and all who served us in the ministry.

Special prayers go out for those who suffer illness. Our thoughts have been with recent hospital patients, Bro. Arthur Mogler (Sis. Eula), Sis. Anne Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula), Sis. Elma Mogler, and Keith Fehr (Bro. Marvin and

Sis. Charlotte). May the Lord's blessings and healing touch be extended to all of these loved ones as they recuperate at home.

We have two sets of grandparents who are happy to have new additions to their family circles.

Craig and Tina Banwart welcome Cole Eugene. His two big sisters are happy to have that new brother! Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart and Lannie and Charlene Miller.

Lance and Christy Banwart (Cedar Falls, IA) have also been blessed with their second baby girl. They have chosen her name as Courtney Rose. Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart and Darrell and Ruby Thompson (Luverne, IA) are the grandparents.

Alvin and Wendy Wirtz and son of Gilbert, AZ welcome a baby girl, Ashley Taylor, into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Hulda Wirtz. May these three families all look up to God for direction in raising these precious little ones.

We were uplifted and encouraged as we could gather together on three different Thursday evenings and listen to the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference recently held at Gridley, IL. We appreciate our Elders so much, and how can we show our appreciation to them more than by being obedient to God's Word. Let us pray for them that the Lord may continue to provide Godly wisdom and guidance in their labors on behalf of the Church.

KANSAS, BERN
Holly Meyer
Lori Baumgartner

How many times discouraged
 We sink beside the way
 About us all is darkness,
 We hardly dare to pray.
 Then thro' the mists and shadows
 The sweetest voice e'er known

Says "Child am I not with thee,
 Never to leave thee alone?"
Hymns of Zion 127

We all experience trials in our Christian walk. Sometimes they are trials that are quite evident to those around us and other times they are not. A sister-in-faith recently shared with me that without her faith she would have never made it through a very big trial that had recently affected her life. How beautiful trials really can be if they draw us closer to the Word and to our Lord,

"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5

The only way we can overcome our trials is to communicate often with our God through prayer and reading His Word and then have the faith to believe that He will fulfill His promises to us.

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded, That what he had promised, he was able also to perform."
Romans 4:20-21
 (speaking of Abraham's faith)

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Wilhelm Metzger, Sis. Katie Grimm (Bro. Paul), Bro. Steve Meyer (Sis. Kaye), and Sis. Janet Meyer (Bro. Robert). May they feel the prayers of many as they each recover from various illnesses, injuries, and surgeries.

"There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life." (Hymns of Zion #91). The weekend of August 30 and 31, students and teachers from our Sunday School traveled to Wolcott, IN to renew

their friendships with those who they had learned to know while working at the deaf school in Kingston, Jamaica. On September 13 and 14, our High School Sunday School students and teachers traveled to Kiowa for the annual Kansas Youth Fellowship Weekend. We want to express our gratitude to both the Wolcott and Kiowa congregations for their labors of love in hosting these events.

Our hearts fill with joy when we hear of a soul seeking the Lord in her youth. We rejoice with Kendra Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene) who has made a beginning in repentance. May we as a congregation remember to offer her our prayers and support during this time.

On August 30, Brian Strahm (Clayton and Sis. Miriam) and Christie Sylvester (Eldo and Virginia, Sabetha) exchanged their wedding vows. We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter as they are the happy grandparents of a second grandson, Broderick "Brock" Thomas. Brock was born on September 8 to Roy and Shari Frey of Seneca, KS. He is welcomed home by his sister, Jacqueline, and brother, Jacob.

We wish to extend a warm "welcome home" to Ted Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) and to Sis. Lisa Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat). Ted is returning from employment in Ohio to become a part of his father's lumberyard business. Sis. Lisa is returning after spending several months in Illinois in the Fairbury and Forrest area. We are happy to have Kristie Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) from West Bend, IA assembling with us. She is currently a student at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS.

Note: The new area code for our area is now (785).

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Tammy Sinn**

Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) was with us for a recent Sunday. We thank him for being willing to bring forth the Word of God. May he feel the blessings of God for being used in His service.

We have appreciated listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. As the kind exhortations and admonitions are brought forth by our Elder brothers, it gives us courage to strive onward toward our heavenly goal.

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

We rejoice with Bro. Raymond and Sis. Laverne Roth as their family helped them celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary. Bro. Raymond recently had his second cataract removed from his eyes. He says there are a lot more stars in the sky at night and he can see the Milky Way. One thing he is especially grateful for is that he can read the Bible to Laverne more easily after breakfast.

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

I Corinthians 1:21

We are ever so grateful for the efforts of our ministers both here and abroad as they lend themselves to the service of the Lord. Our visit-

ing ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Jim Kaeb (both of Bern, KS). We were also blessed to have Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) with us this month as Kiowa hosted the Kansas Youth Fellowship for the Bible Class. We so appreciate the efforts made by all to bring our youth together for fellowship and spiritual guidance. May the Lord bless each and every one for their labors.

We were sorry to hear that Sis. Helen Murrow fell and broke a small bone in her shoulder. At this time, she is still in the hospital and we pray for the Lord's comforting, healing Spirit to be upon her.

**KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr**

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

Psalms 119:105

Each time we read the Scriptures, the sacred Word strengthens our belief. Our hearts find peace and our burdens find relief. Our sympathy is extended to our dear Sis. Bertha Beyer in the loss of her dear brother, Floyd Beyer (Wichita, KS). Our loving sympathy is also extended to our retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker in the loss of his dear brother, Bro. Emil Anliker (Forrest, IL). May God's Holy Word lift and strengthen each one.

Sis. Hope (Bro. Victor) Edelman and Bro. Eldon (Sis. Dorene) Metzger both required surgical repair of injured fingers recently. We ask for God's divine healing to be upon them both.

On August 17 we were privileged to have Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) here to minister to us. Bro. Al and Sis. Judy were here for the marriage of Kayla Bahr and William Holland (Wilmington, DE) on Au-

gust 16. We hold Kayla and William up in prayer as they make their new home together in Emporia; and we look forward to having them fellowship here with us in Lamont-Gridley. May God bless them with His love and direction.

We are always so grateful and thankful for our visiting ministers. Our appreciation goes to Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). Thank you for your time and effort.

There's something remarkably refreshing about being with God's people and singing praises to His name. This past weekend our young group hosted a weekend of invited young folks from Kansas and Lamar. The added fellowship was a blessing to all and a special thank you goes to those who made it all possible.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm**

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) with the provings and baptisms of our new brother and sister in faith, Bro. Marc Wenger (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Kristin Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene). We pray for Bro. Marc as he takes his place in the work place and as the priest of the home and for Sis. Kristin on the college campus.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We appreciated the many teachings brought forth through the inspired Word of God.

We are rejoicing with Paul and Sharon (Strahm) Mills who have answered the call of God to repent and pray that they will fully surrender their all to the Lord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy) who has returned to the hospital. May God always be by her side.

A special thank you to the Kiowa congregation who hosted a special weekend September 13-14 for our Senior Bible Class.

A message was brought forth to us on the last supper where Jesus told His disciples one of them was going to betray Him and His disciples asked, "Is it I?". It was pointed out we each should examine ourselves and ask, "Is it I?" as we see a spiritual decline.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Marla Stoller

Once again, classes are back in session for us K-Staters. We welcome our many new members and friends, and look forward to fellowshiping with you. As our schedules begin to get hectic, may we each take time to study and learn from the "School of the Cross" (Zion's Harp #66), for here we can find instruction for fulfilling our high calling, the profession of Christ Jesus.

The annual fall picnic was held at Tuttle Creek. We are so thankful for our many supportive parents, relatives and friends that traveled to share this evening with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Matt Meyer upon the hospitalization of his mother, Sis. Janet Meyer, and sudden death of his roommate. May he feel the comfort and consolation of our Lord.

Services will soon begin on campus and we extend a warm welcome to everyone! These are scheduled for October 1, 15, 29; November 12, 19; and December 3 at Danforth Chapel, 7:15 p.m.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

On a recent Sunday, the ministering brother opened to Romans 11 and spoke concerning verse 20, "Be not high minded." He went on to ask us to examine ourselves with this question, "How do I appear to those around me?" Our witness as a Christian so often falls short in our tone of voice.

We rejoice and praise God for restoring Nathan Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline) to a point where he can be active. He has been diagnosed as having Goodpasture's Disease—an affliction with long term consequences. He is still in Hawaii awaiting decisions concerning his future plans. Again, we intercede for God's will and mercy for Nathan.

September 14 was an especially blessed day because our dear Sis. Nellie Lambert assembled with us after a long absence due to health afflictions. What a joy to see her take her place in the pews once more.

Bro. Greg Rudin is also experiencing afflictions due to health. Plans are for him to undergo exploratory surgery on his arm on September 18. We are praying for God's guiding hand toward the surgeons, Bro. Greg, Sis. Patti, and children, Jason, Elizabeth, and Micah.

We heard a happy announcement on August 24 when the engagement of Bro. Cory Metzger and Sis. Jodi Reimschisel was made known. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel.

Recent Wednesday night services have been devoted to listening to the Conference tapes. One sister, whose family does not have an Apostolic Christian background, told me how much she appreciated the tape on church history.

Kathleen Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) is enrolled in college at K-State. We enjoy seeing her when

she spends a weekend in Wichita.

Again, I would like to mention the strong economy in the Wichita area. There is a great demand for skilled manufacturers and several centers are set up to offer training. If the Lord is prompting you to relocate, ask Him if it should be to Wichita. There are employment opportunities in many fields of service.

When our high school class returned from the fellowship weekend in Kiowa, they gave positive feedback on the event. Thank you, Kiowa congregation, for lending your time and talents to this endeavor. May you feel God's blessings!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again, another month has flown by and has become a part of history. I have to think of those three things that come not back as said in the proverbs: the sped arrow, the spoken word and the neglected opportunity. As we reflect upon the past thirty some odd days, do we have neglected opportunities? This is a new month and we must work diligently as the song writer said, "work for the night is coming, when man works no more."

Those who have worked in God's vineyard this month here in the Lexington area have been Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barb) who brought forth the Word. We also had many visitors and wish to thank all who came to be with us on their travels. Many have asked if we have services each Sunday. Yes, we have services each weekend at the Comfort Inn off I-75 at 10:00 and 12:15 EST and also have Wednesday evening services at 7:00 EST.

Recently we concluded the Conference tapes. The thought occurred to me as we considered the subject of tolerance and the delicate way

this subject is handled, that we must be very careful. A brother once shared a story about a plane factory that built bombers for the war effort in WWII. As the true account went, each department was allowed so much tolerance for each part they made. When the first plane was to be assembled, the workers discovered to their dismay that the plane would not fit together properly. The engineers met and soon found the problem. They discovered a term called "accumulated tolerances", errors small enough for each individual part, but when all put together, these "small problems" became too great for the plane to fit together and thus fly. Brethren, this true account has a great lesson for our Brotherhood. Our individual differences may seem insignificant when considered individually or at each local church, but when we think of the larger picture, it may ground us spiritually. May we die daily to self and become united in the cause for Christ so we may fulfill the Word in the book of Jude where it says that we "should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." May this be the goal of each of us as we strive to please the Master.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Melanie Kaeb
Michelle Oesch

God paints the world with love
 That's how I know He lives.
 He fills the earth with color
 And in that way He gives
 Such happiness, oh, how we're
 blessed
 To have this picture of a wonderful
 God
 Who cares so much that He
 Paints the world with love.
 The world is like a coloring book
 There's beauty everywhere I look
 Every color that I see
 Reminds me of His love for me.

—*Benson Children's Classics*

Autumn is such a beautiful season. We're treated to bright colors bursting forth from every tree and bush. It gives us the feeling that God is putting on a show just for our benefit. What a blessing!

Harvest time is also here and the farmers are busy in the fields reaping the abundance sown with only a tiny seed in the spring. May our faith be like that tiny seed and may it grow to bear fruit for His coming harvest.

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

Luke 10:2

Alto hosted Michigan Youth Day the weekend of September 13-14. Teens from the Bay City and Detroit churches came and enjoyed a time of fellowship and fun. They went canoeing on Saturday and shared a meal together on Sunday after church. It was good to see Christian friendships fostered at this time in their lives, when the worldly pleasures seem to entice them so strongly.

We rejoice with Jeff and Brenda Oesch at the birth of little Breanna Marie, with big sisters, Veronica and Sarah, and brother, A.J., welcoming her home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch and Arnie and Lavina Stahl. We wish them many blessings.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch and their family at the sudden death of Sis. Donna's brother, Arville Thornburg. We pray for the Lord's comfort at this time of sorrow.

His Hands

The hands of Christ seem very frail
 For they were broken by a nail.
 But only they reach heaven at last
 Whom these frail, broken hands
 hold fast.

—*John Richard Moreland*

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

We were blessed to have with us this month ministering Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) and Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). We thank our Lord for the words of life through our brothers in faith.

Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) had outpatient surgery and is now on the mend. Bro. Daryl Wieland (Sis. Edith) had open heart surgery and is now on the mend.

Marcie Cowen (Stacey), daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Meylan, has professed peace with God and man. Marcie also underwent a liver transplant at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI and is now recovering. We wish Marcie and her family the grace and healing hand of our Lord.

These were Marcie's thoughts before her surgery:

Though troubles assail
 and dangers affright,
 Though friends should all fail
 And foes all unite,
 Yet one thing secures us,
 Whatever betide,
 This promise assures us:
 "The Lord will provide!"

Though often the heart
 With storms be oppressed,
 Afflictions do smart,
 By Satan distressed,
 "O what shall befall us?"
 We wearily sighed;
 Still He who protects us,
 "The Lord will provide!"

His call we obey
 As Abram of old,
 Not knowing our way,

But faith makes us bold;
Where'er He shall lead us,
The way He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us;
"The Lord will provide!"

When Satan appears,
Obstructing our path
And fills us with fears,
We conquer by faith;
He cannot take from us,
Though oft he has tried,
The heart cheering promise:
"The Lord will provide!"

Zion's Harp #86

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Perry Virkler

Our Sunday School children were excited to resume classes on September 7 after summer vacation. May God direct our Sunday School teachers in teaching our precious youth His Word.

May the Lord richly bless the brothers who lend themselves in preaching God's Word. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank them for coming and laboring on our behalf.

Christ Knocks On Heart's Door
In heaven there's great rejoicing
For one who turns to God,
Much more than we can fathom,
Who walk this earthly sod.
For it is God's desire
That no one should be lost,
And so He sent the Saviour
For sin to pay the cost.

In heaven there's great rejoicing
For one who comes to God
Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
Our Staff and, too, our Rod.
Christ knocks upon the heart's door
Awaiting our response;
Let there be joy in heaven...
Believe on God's dear Son!

—Loise Pinkerton Fritz

"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 are thankful for two more souls who have turned their lives over to the Lord. Doug and Connie Bergstrom were announced to the congregation as having peace with God and man. We are looking forward to their testimonies and baptisms (October 11 and 12) and then to greet them as a brother and sister in Christ.

We extend our best wishes and Lord's blessings to Bro. Rudy Haerr and Sis. Shelly Leman (Goodfield, IL) upon the announcement of their engagement and forthcoming marriage planned for November 16, at Goodfield, IL. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Jeanie Haerr (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy Leman (Goodfield, IL).

Our children are a gift from God
On loan from heaven above,
To train and nourish in the Lord
And show to them His love.

—Sper

Keith and Brenda Massner welcomed a daughter, Hannah Elaine, born on July 20. At home to help with little Hannah are big sisters, Cassie and Amy. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner (Burlington, IA) and Ruth Hohn (Mora, MN).

Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt were blessed with another son, Tyler Ted, born on September 11. Brother Tory will enjoy his new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Our very best wishes to these beloved families with their new additions and may they ever look to the

Lord for guidance in rearing their children according to God's Word.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Ruth Moser (Bro. Sam) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Anna Wettstein (Eureka, IL); and to Sis. Melody Knobloch in the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Ezra Rumbold (Princeville, IL).

We spent four blessed evenings listening to the Conference tapes and appreciate the love and concern of our dear Elder brothers as they bring encouragement and admonition to our churches. May we all strive more diligently to be obedient to their loving exhortations.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Autumn Days

Autumn days are here again
The sky is sapphire blue;
Festive scenes are on display
In warm and vibrant hue.

Flower beds wear lavish blooms
In shades of flame and gold;
Hills nearby don gypsy dress,
So dazzling to behold!

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

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

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

—Kay Hoffman

The Memorandum is scheduled to be read Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. on November 1.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Linda Schmidgall
Nancy Wulf**

We are grateful when visitors are willing to travel many miles to be with us, and especially when we can enjoy visiting ministers who share God's precious Word with us. We thank Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL) for being with us on August 31.

May the Lord be the Head of another new home, as Bro. Michael Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rachel Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail, Burlington, IA) were united as one on August 17. They are making their home in Burlington where Bro. Michael has found employment.

We anticipate another wedding on October 5, as Sis. Janet Feuchtenberger (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Dave Schmidgall (Winthrop, MN) look forward to fulfilling God's will for them. Bro. Dave's parents are Bro. David and Sis. Alma Jean (Forrest, IL).

Little boys are filling our baby room in church, and we are thankful for each and every healthy one of them. Steven Alan Koehl, born August 25, is gladly welcomed home by Bro. Guy, Sis. Lynette, Hannah, Michael, Paul, John, and Esther. His grandparents are Wilbert and Ruth Spohr, and Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula Feuchtenberger look forward to the joys of parenthood with their son, Max Alan, born August 27. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger (Sis. Emma) was in the hospital and with some surgery, is now home and enjoying a little better health.

We were saddened and yet thank-

ful that Bro. Ferd Tohm could finally answer God's call to come Home. He was 94, and surely has earned his eternal rest. His wife preceded him in death, but we pray the Lord will comfort his son, Richard (Judith), and their family in the days ahead.

We have had the privilege of hearing the Brotherhood Conference tapes on four consecutive Wednesday evenings. We know how much work and planning goes into a Conference (Gridley, IL), the ministering Elder Brothers who serve so faithfully through that week, the blessings that flow over and above what we ever expect; and God will have to be the Rewarder of your labors, because all we can do is offer prayers for you and say "thank you".

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
Greetings!

In our little congregation, it is such a blessing and exciting to have announcements, births and Brotherhood Conference tapes all in one month.

Believing through faith that God has brought them together, Bro. Dave Schmidgall was announced to Sis. Janet Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). Parents of the couple are Bro. David and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). We wish them many blessings as they make their vows to one another next month. They have decided to make their home in the Morris area and we will miss having them here, but wish them God's grace in their new beginning.

Grandparents are so special in their loving ways and how nice it is for them to welcome grandchildren into their lives. Sis. Carol Ann Mess-

ner has a new addition in her family. Her newest grandchild, Alexandra Mae, was born to Jay and Lisa Kent of LaJolla, CA. Also, Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner welcome two new grandchildren to their family. Riley Joe was born to Trent and Tera Messner of Gaylord, and Tyler Ted was born to Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt of Minneapolis. We wish the parents and grandparents of these precious gifts from God many blessings.

We have been privileged to listen to the Conference tapes this past month and pray that God can help us apply to our lives now and always all that our Elder Brethren so kindly shared with us. We thank God that they are so willing to labor on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who thought of me with cards and gifts on my 75th birthday.

Florence Gutknecht

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

Our congregation welcomes two more young people to our area. Brandon Emch has accepted employment in our area and Chuck Sinn is attending pharmacy school. We look forward to their assembling with us.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We're thankful that he and Sis. Susan came and we look forward to seeing them again.

Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe from the Medical Mission in India were also with us this month. Dr. Parkhe gave a presentation about Mission activities in India to our church at the home of Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti. We were thankful for the presentation and wish the

Lord's blessings on their continuing efforts to promote God's Word.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Martha Kellenberger

Even as God has so generously provided for our physical needs, He has also provided for our spiritual needs. We feel a special thankfulness for the following brothers and their wives: Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). That they were willing to be used in God's service on our behalf is greatly appreciated, and we trust that God will bless each one of them.

We are happy to welcome Gary Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) back after he has completed some additional schooling in Spencer, IA. We congratulate him and wish him well.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

The St. Louis church welcomes a new member to our congregation. Bro. Collin Endress, who grew up in the Peoria church and recently graduated from the University of Illinois, has found employment in the area. We pray for God's blessings for him as he begins this new chapter of his life.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers, their families and numerous other visitors this past month. Thanks to Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) for ministering to us.

After teaching Sunday School one recent Sunday morning, I was com-

plimenting the father of one little student on her behavior. She listened intently to the Bible story and could answer each question correctly. She had made impressive progress since I last was her substitute teacher. He shared that they had recently had a very positive conference with her school teacher, and that her report card had only one N (Needs Improvement). I smiled and said, "Most of our lives have more than one N." I then thought of that and its implications. An N on a report card carries with it the expectation that improvement will be made in the area identified as a problem area. That N will hopefully be upgraded to an S (Satisfactory) when the next grading period ends.

We can identify problem areas in our spiritual lives, and instead of just accepting them as "the way we are", we need to view them as improvable and make a plan for positive change, just as we expect our children to improve. Even "old dogs" can learn new tricks—it just takes more time, more patience and more prayer.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tina Sutter

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Galatians 5:1

Among the ministers that have visited us this month were Bros. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), who blessed us with his message of "carrying our cross, the Lord will help us and strengthen us through it."

Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp have a new baby girl to welcome to the family. Leah Elizabeth has joined brothers, Jesse, Jared and

Joshua. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL) are grateful grandparents of this little angel.

Sis. Roberta Bostrom's mother, Pauline Shoemaker, has been hospitalized this month. Please remember her in your prayers.

We would like to welcome Kyle and Marian Pflum to our congregation. They are settled in at their new address: 2704 Kings Pointe, Quincy, IL 62301. They moved from the Oakville, IA congregation.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Mike Knapp in the death of his sister, Sis. Evelyn Walker (Morton, IL). We are so thankful that Sis. Evelyn came to know the Lord Jesus as her personal Saviour and now is with Him.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

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

Hebrews 13:17

It is spiritually uplifting to gather together to listen to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference at Gridley, IL as we listen to our dear Elder Brothers. May we each take heed to the words, and it is spiritually uplifting to know how our dear Elder Brothers watch out for our soul's salvation for our daily walk of life with our dear Lord and Saviour.

In the month of August, our visiting ministers were Bros. Ronald Joos (Sis. Christy, Pulaski, IA) and Jerry Isch (Sis. Lynda, Philadelphia, PA). We welcome visiting ministers to our congregation.

Well, our summer is gone and Labor Day has passed. The young people are back to school and some to college.

Urban Karcher (Sis. Julia) was able to assemble with us Sunday after a long stay in the hospital.

We want to thank God for inspiring Sis. Alice Virkler for the wonderful work that she has done for the Silver Lining for many years and the spiritual uplifting of her column; may God bless all who labor for Him.

OHIO, AKRON
Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Doug Milosevic sought the Lord in repentance and received peace with God. May the Lord grant him grace as he goes on with the Lord.

We welcome Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher of Kitchener to assemble with us. She has accepted a teaching position with the Heritage School, which is the private school in the area.

Geraldine Hunyadi, daughter of George Hunyadi, is engaged to be married to Roger Betz of Mansfield. We are sorry to see Geraldine leaving our area, but we wish them God's blessings.

We are glad Sis. Susie Soto and her daughter, Tamara, are home safely after spending some time in Hungary visiting their relatives.

For our World Relief sewing group, the three-year term for Sis. Carolyn Miller is completed. She has done a lot for our group, and we hope she continues. Sis. Sarah Henico, who also does a lot for our group, was voted to a term on the committee.

We appreciated Bro. and Sis. Gary Bucher and Bro. and Sis. Ken Bucher of Valparaiso, IN spending a Sunday afternoon with us, as they were on their way home from Penn-

sylvania.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Fairbury, IL) with us for evening services, and also appreciated Elder Bro. and Sis. Henry Dotterer and Bro. and Sis. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb (Gasser) Graf will be celebrating their Silver Anniversary on October 22, as they were married in 1972.

Sis. Louise Spangler will be observing her four score years as she will be 80 on November 2.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

Our Sunday School traveled to Junction last month to spend a day of fellowship with their Sunday School during their annual picnic. We appreciate their invitation and we left with many "precious memories".

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. Miklos Bozzay whose change in employment will relocate him to San Diego, CA. It is also with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our dear Sis. Renee Steffen who is relocating to the Washington, DC area. We wish these loved ones God's richest blessings as their lives take new turns.

September 21 was our annual college welcome day which was attended by 13 new or returning college students and their families. We look forward to getting to know each and every one throughout the coming year. It was a pleasure to have ministering Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) with us that day. Other visiting ministers for the month were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI).

Our love and best wishes go to Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder and their family as they welcome a new little grandson. Many trips will be

made to Mansfield to visit Bro. Henry, Sis. Diane and little Austin Levi Pfeiffer.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

Our latest church additions are Darren Glenn Manz and Jacob Stephen Sukup. Darren was born on September 2 to Bro. Roger and Lisa Manz. He had to spend several extra days in the hospital following surgery, then was welcomed home by older brothers, Hank and Joe. His grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Richard and Diana Larimore. Steve and Chris Sukup became first-time parents on September 10. Jacob's grandparents are Joe and Ellen Sukup and the late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Schlatter. We trust that with the Lord's guidance, both of these boys will be raised in a loving, Christian environment.

We are relieved and grateful to have Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) back home following 50 days in a Chicago hospital for his second bone marrow transplant. Bro. Roger has endured much suffering over the past four years. Faith has been tried and hopes have been dashed. He and his family need continuing support and prayer for mercy and healing.

Thought from a sermon: The church family is like an E.M.S. -always there when we need help in time of crisis.

OHIO, LATTY
Joyce Klopfenstein
Kathy Sinn

God has again blessed several brethren with a reasonable measure of health. Bro. Joe Schlatter (Sis. Elsie) and Sis. Mary Eisenmann have been able to again assemble with us. May God continue to strengthen their physical body. May

He also give them courage to face each new day relying upon His grace.

The angels rejoice with us as two more souls have turned unto the Lord. Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia) and Robert Williamson (Sis. Janet) have answered the call to repentance. We are delighted at the grace of God and continue to pray for those who prolong their rejection of God's gift.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 3:9

The marriage engagement of Adam Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn) and Kristi Snyder (Ralph and Jeannie) has been made known. We sure wish them the very best as they plan their wedding and life together.

Our congregation gathered in a nearby park for our annual Sunday School picnic. After a wonderful potluck meal was enjoyed by all, we praised the Lord in song. May we continue to remember the Sunday School teachers in prayer each morning, as they ready themselves to teach our children the truth of the Gospel. May the Word sink deep into their hearts and draw them in due time to the path of truth and righteousness.

We thank you loving teachers too,
For all your love and care.
You teach us of the heav'nly home,
How we may enter there.
And when we leave our father's
house,
And journey thru this world of
strife,
Oh may your loving counsel then,
Show us the path of life.

Hymns of Zion #73

Bro. Richard Schlatter (Sis. Viola) suffered a heart attack during the past month. Let us remember him and his family in our prayers.

On Saturday, September 13, the brethren gathered to commemorate the Lord's death and suffering. Elder Bro. Ray was assisted by Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) in serving the loaf and cup.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:26

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

How sweet it is to welcome a newborn baby! This month we have the privilege of welcoming Nathan Henry Sabo to our congregation. Happy and thankful are his parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila, along with grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota, FL). May they ever feel God's presence as they strive to raise this child according to His will.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

II Cor. 4:5

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers with us this month. They include Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May we ever continue to pray for God's blessings on these brothers as they serve us so willingly.

How often during a testimony do we hear the Elder Brother ask what the convert should do if they are

experiencing a trial. The answer always is read and pray. Often the advice is given to talk to our brothers and sisters also. This does at least two things about the situation. It makes the load a little lighter because someone is willing to share it with us and often it brings to mind a similar situation that the other person has been through so they can offer suggestions on how to deal with it. Often it seems as though God guides us to the very person who can give such strengthening encouragement that it is amazing. How often we as humans want to keep our struggles to ourselves so that we don't appear weak in the eyes of our brothers and sisters. May each of us always remember the valuable advice of our Elder brethren, and when the burden is not relieved by reading and prayer, turn to the family of Christ who is waiting to help you. God will open the door in ways that will amaze you.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Carla Stoller

Michelle Dotterer

There was much rejoicing on August 23 and 24 as seven dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. Our new brothers and sister are Brad Widmer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol), Rick Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth), Mike and Kristin Gasser, Jerry Gasser (Sis. Ellen) and his son, Eric, and Brett Lanz (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane). May God grant His sufficient grace to each one.

Visiting ministers that were with us August 23 and 24 were Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). Also visiting us

recently was Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for their efforts.

We rejoice with the angels when we hear of souls in repentance. Sarah Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) and Myra Ball (Brian) have turned their lives over to Jesus Christ.

On September 5, Julia Rose was born to Bro. John and Sis. Cherie Klotzle. Anne and Steven welcome their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

On September 14, our congregation heard the engagement of Sis. Laura Lee Riley (Dale and Sharon) to Bro. Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL). We will certainly miss Sis. Laura Lee and wish her and Chad many blessings from the Lord.

Bro. Bob Gasser (Sis. Neva), Sis. Laura Queen, Arlene Rupp, Sis. Julie Atanasov (Bro. Novko), Sis. Vivian Ramsier (Bro. Harlan), Bro. Ralph Lanz (Sis. Diane) and Bro. Ralph Weber were all hospitalized recently. May God comfort and heal them.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Carole Widmer (Bro. Harold) whose father, Robert Kaufman, recently passed away. May God's nearness be felt in time of grief.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joy Indermuhle

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

Proverbs 20:7

We wish to congratulate Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake in the birth of another grandson, Nathan Henry, born to their children, Bro.

Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Mansfield, OH), on August 19. May each of their children and grandchildren be a blessing to them.

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."

II Cor. 12:9

Loved ones who have experienced injury and surgery recently are Clara Stalder and Martha LaCava. May God's grace be sufficient as they recover and heal. Our prayers are with them both. We would also remember Sis. Terry (Bro. Gary) Zollinger and her parents in prayer, as at this time both of her parents are ill.

A phrase seen recently on a church sign read, "A million dollars and a toothpick are worth the same on judgment day." This comes as a gentle reminder to consider whether we are putting more time into storing up "heavenly treasures" or "earthly treasures", drawing nearer to God or farther from Him.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

Heal Thou me,
In my illness; heal Thou me!
When in times of sore affliction
Send Thy love and pure affection
To my poor and wounded heart;
Heal Thou ev'ry painful smart.

Zion's Harp #152

We have several in our congregation who have had or are presently experiencing physical afflictions. Bro. Don Stoller (Sis. Luzelda), after having returned home from the hospital following heart surgery, had to return again for other serious complications. Bro. Ben Maibach (Linda) is to be admitted to the

Cleveland Clinic later this month for a stem cell transplant. Our prayers are certainly with both of these brothers and their families. Although none of us know what lies ahead, how thankful we can be that we can place our lives in God's hands, knowing He will provide what's best for each of us. We are also thankful that Sis. Rose Dotterer (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Gail Riggenbach (Bro. Don) are both well on the way to recovery after submitting to surgery.

Visiting ministers during the past month have been Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN).

We're so thankful souls are still answering God's call to repentance. Katie Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb) and Kirby Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) were listening when God called them to follow Him. We wish them much grace from God as they seek to do His will.

We also rejoice that two souls have found peace with God and await baptism. They are Kim Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda) and Pam Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie).

We are presently listening to the tapes of the summer Conference. May we be encouraged to press on and keep the "Faith of our Fathers."

Note of Thanks:

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

The family of Sis. Bertha Gasser

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15

We were abundantly fed by three visiting ministers in addition to our own ministering brothers this month. Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) served in the ministry on our behalf. May their efforts be blessed of God to bring forth fruit.

After relatively small gatherings during the summer, we were happy to welcome back our college students. We enjoyed a day of fellowship with them and their families at our annual college picnic.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

Again a change of season is upon us. No matter what our occupation might be, it always does seem to have an effect on us in one way or another. We are thankful for the visitors we have had this past summer. Our most recent visitors included the following ministering brethren: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR, and Bro. Loren Knapp (Sis. Joan, Tucson, AZ). We truly appreciate their efforts in bringing us the Word. May the Lord bless each one for their willingness to serve.

It always comes as a shock when a loved one has an accident and is injured, and so it was when we heard about our Elder Bro. Art Metz, who was involved in a tractor accident. It makes us stop and think about how thankful we can be for our health and safety as we go about our daily business. Our love and

prayers are with Bro. Art as he is recovering from surgery. May the Lord be with him and heal him.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We have been experiencing some very unusual weather this past month. It seems we've seen a little of everything: severe thunder and lightning storms, high winds, mild tornadoes and balmy warm Indian Summer days. And at the Oregon coast, the ocean's temperature is an unheard of 60+ degrees! Usually it's 52 degrees and varies no more than two or three degrees, summer and winter. The cause, they say, is "El Nino". The phrase means "man-child" referring to the Christ Child's time of birth, when this weather phenomenon usually occurs. This northward shift of warm air currents has a very impressive effect on a large part of the world, altering temperatures and rainfall for thousands of miles. Wouldn't it be wonderful if such a large part of the world would allow themselves to be altered by the warmth of Christ's love?

Two little examples of Christ's love have come to homes in our church this month. Adrienne Marie was born on September 7 to join the Kurt and Koreen Metzger family. Her sister, Lydianne, was really pleased to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi.

Entering the adventure of parenthood for the first time are Chad and Megan Walter. Their little Andrea Helen was born September 3. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Mike and Anita Massey of Wilsonville, OR. May both of these dear families look to the Lord for His unfailing love and direction in the responsibility

and joy of raising their children.

This coming Wednesday night we plan to listen to the fourth tape of the 1997 Brotherhood Conference. We count it such a privilege that the faithful forefathers of the Apostolic Christian Church thought it wise to establish the yearly Conference and are thankful for the technology that makes it possible for all of us to listen to the wise counsel of our Elders. May God grant us grace to be attentive hearers, to retain a goodly portion of what we hear, and to be willing doers of the same.

Little Evan Kuenzi (Brian and Shelle) came through his surgery at Doernbecker Children's Hospital very well and is healing well. All his family are thankful for the prayers of the church and God's healing mercy.

Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) was injured in a tractor accident at home and was hospitalized for several days. While his injuries are painful and will require weeks of recuperation, we are all very thankful that they were not more extensive.

Several ministers and their families included Silverton in their travel plans in the past month. They are Bros. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA). We are always thankful when God's Holy Word is spoken in truth and purity.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many prayers offered and also for the phone calls, cards and gifts we received after the accident. May God richly bless each of you for your concern and kindness.

Sincerely, Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"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

This past month we have been blessed with many visiting ministers. We thank Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God richly reward these brothers for their efforts.

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

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:"

Psalms 127:1

On August 31 and September 7, we were blessed to be able to hold Open House for our newly remodeled church building. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) ministered God's Word and other visitors from Eureka, IL; Goodfield, IL; Washington, IL; Bluffton, IN; Bluffton North, IN; Mansfield, OH; and Rittman, OH worshipped with us. Dedication Services were then held on September 21. Elder Bro. Phil

Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) dedicated the church to the Lord in the afternoon service prayer. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and retired Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) were also with us to share in this special day and assist in ministering God's Word to us. On this day also, we greeted and fellowshiped with many other visitors from various other churches (too many to name). We thank all of you who traveled to be with us and made our Open House and Dedication Services truly memorable. We pray that the Lord will richly bless all of you as well as our newly dedicated building. We pray that the building will be used for His glory and honor.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please stop and worship with us. Our upcoming services are scheduled for November 2 (Milford, IN); November 16 (Morton, IL) and December 7 (Kansas City, MO). Please call one of the numbers listed below to let us know of your intended visit. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 851-8864; Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

**TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA
Lois Gray**

Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder, with their daughters, Lauren and Lanae, have moved to our area from Mansfield, OH. They are warmly welcomed by all of us, but especially by their family, Sis. Pam's mother, Sis. Dorothy Martin, of Universal City and by her brothers, Tim and Charles (Jeanice) of Austin. We are most grateful for their addition to our small congregation.

Our thanks to the visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL)

and Ken Sauder (Sis. Suzanne, Mansfield, OH), and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Tom Stock (Sis. Karel, Cissna Park, IL).

Services are held in Dallas the FIRST Sunday of the month. Central Texas 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. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 and Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222.

**TEXAS, DALLAS
Dee Rapp**

Fragrances are mentioned throughout the Bible, perhaps more by name in the Old Testament and often by reference in the New Testament as, "sweet aroma", "fragrance well pleasing". Webster says fragrant means to emit a smell, having a pleasant odor, sweet smelling. It seems that God has some favorite scents. Frankincense and Myrrh are each mentioned 16 times!

Some Scriptural references to spices: Psalm 45:8 says "All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia." In Proverbs 7:17 a harlot entices a young man into her bed by saying, "I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon." Proverbs 27:9, "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."

Exodus 30:34-35, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each there shall be a like weight: And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confec-

tion after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy." This blend was to be placed in front of the Testimony of the Tabernacle. In Exodus 30:22-33, God told Moses to mix a special holy anointing oil (for the Tent, Utensils, etc.), a perfume made of the finest spices, myrrh, cinnamon, cassia, and olive oil. And God said, "Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people." It must have been a very pleasant scent if it could be applied to a person!

Perhaps the first mention of spices in the New Testament is Matthew 2:11, "And when they were come into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Gold was a gift befitting a King, which He was. Frankincense and myrrh were used for embalming (amongst other things). Unknowingly, were the wise men acknowledging Jesus' deity and His death?

Luke 7:37-38 - A woman in the city who was a sinner brought an alabaster box of perfume and in despair she kissed Jesus' feet and anointed them with the perfume. When we are in despair we turn to God; His fragrance carries us through this time. Our sweet scent of faith allows us to turn the stench of life, despair, distress, and depression into a sweet fragrance of Christ.

In John 12:3, Mary, sister of Martha, also anointed His feet with nard or spikenard which was a fragrant ointment used by the ancients. Judas was incensed that she had done this, saying it could have been sold for 300 pence which is approximately what a rural worker would earn in a year. Several other

fragrances mentioned in the New Testament were henna, saffron and balsam. There are probably more but this gives you an idea of what was used.

Again in the New Testament we see in Philippians 4:18 Paul's statement, "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

Ephesians 5:1-2, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God a sweetsmelling savour."

The perfume bottle, a simple container, symbolizes each of us who has Christ within ourselves. Perfume bottles in Christ's time did not have re-sealable lids; to use the perfume inside, the bottle had to be broken. So our bottle (body) must be broken for Christ's fragrance to be spread. The fragrance, when it is Christ's fragrance, emanating from the broken bottle (our body) is elegant and golden and is pleasing to those who are His.

Just as the alabaster box was broken to release the precious fragrance and perfume (Matthew 26:7), so the outer man must be broken in order for the true anointing and fragrance of God to pour forth.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are being saved, and in them that perish." (II Cor. 2:14-15)

A special welcome to Jeff Messner, formerly of Winthrop, MN to our small Dallas congregation. We trust he will enjoy the area as well as his new job.

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

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 or Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (972) 867-4074.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner**

We wish to thank the West Bend congregation for hosting the Zapata reunion on the weekend of August 30. There were 109 people at the reunion that spent some time in Zapata during the winter months. It was a blessed weekend to see so many smiling faces that we have learned to love.

God is indeed a gracious God; we can be thankful to Him that we can travel hundreds of miles and be with those that have the same faith and trust in God. What a wonderful America we live in!

One cannot help but think how much more blessed will be the sharing and partaking of that great reunion in Heaven.

Who is He that cares and watches
O'er our life and soul's estate?
Who is He that thus has drawn us?
Christ alone, His love is great.

Zion's Harp #18

We listened to the tapes of the church Conference held in August at Gridley, IL. It is a blessing that we have Elders that through prayer to Christ are able to warn us of the many things we should be aware of.

Silver Threads

Keeper of the Home

God appointed woman to be Keeper of the Home,
He desired not her feet to roam.
A helpmeet to man, a faithful wife,
To love and be loved for the rest of her life.
If children come, they're a gift from God,
"Don't spoil the child and spare the rod."
She's to guard the doors of this humble abode,
Let nothing come in, this love to erode.
She's to seek true wisdom in humble prayer
For all to be safe, in His gentle care.
Let her not gossip with words idle,
As it says in James, "Our tongues to bridle."
Let her not waste time on magazines and books.
Let her not forget a good dinner to cook.
When the family is restless, with many notions,
Encourage father to read and hold family devotions.
Let her be diligent, clean, tidy and neat,
And open her home for a stranger to meet.
Let her be thrifty, and as we all say
May she willingly save for that "rainy day"!
When misfortune comes to those round about,
As Jesus commands, let her try to help out.
Beauty is vain and favour deceitful,
If she fears the Lord, her life will be fruitful!

—by an older sister in faith

Silver Threads

What If He Came Today

The Master seeks laborers for His vineyard today
Why, precious time, do you idle away?
No promise is giv'n for another day.
WHAT IF HE CAME TODAY?

God loved us so much; yes, He provided a way
He wants every one; He'll turn none away
If on alter of sacrifice all we lay.
WHAT IF HE CAME TODAY?

'Twas on that old rugged cross the great price was paid.
Now all may come e'en though far we have strayed
From the narrow path that His life-blood paved.
WHAT IF HE CAME TODAY?

You've attained life's high goals; perhaps e'en laurels of fame,
Lands, a nice home, many friends you can claim
But when He comes will He know and call you by name?
WHAT IF HE CAME TODAY?

He is coming again; for this time does your heart yearn;
Or the way of the cross does your heart yet spurn?
List! He's yet calling; there's yet time to return.
WHAT IF HE CAME TODAY?

Sermon continued from page 2

to them." Again, he tried to tell them that. "But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him." (Luke 23:19-21). They wanted this Jesus put to death.

"And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go." (Luke 23:22). Here we see the point that Pilate had. All these people were there and he was afraid that there was going to be a riot and uproar in the city and it would be a reflection on him if word got back to Caesar that he wasn't taking care of the things that were around him. So his thoughts were elsewhere. He was thinking of his own position and his own place.

So he was going to give in to the people, as we read here. It says, "And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required." (Luke 23:24). He heard all the commotion and all the things that were going on, so instead of standing up for what was right knowing that Jesus didn't do any wrong, he yielded to what they were saying, and he gave Him.

It says, "And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will." (Luke 23:25). He gave Jesus to them. So they only see the account where there were false accusations against our Lord and Saviour and yet, it was all supposed to happen.

As we think about this, go back to what we talked about how Satan and those must have felt that they were finally getting accomplished what they wanted. They were going to be able to put away Christianity and that they were going to be able to not have to listen to these things that would condemn their heart or things that would cause them to find wrong within them. They wanted to push it away. They wanted to do their own thing. We hear that today, "Do your own thing and be your own you," and all this. At this point, maybe they are thinking, "Yes, we are going to be able to accomplish this."

"And as they led him away, they

laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him" (Luke 23:26-27). If we think to go back to this time what that must have been. Those that loved the Saviour and those who were His disciples and followed after Him, how they must have felt—that this wrong was going to happen and that they knew Jesus was not what the people were saying. How they must have cried within their own hearts and to think that this injustice could happen! Yet, here they were seeing it.

"But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us." (Luke 23:28-30).

We think about that. Jesus was thinking beyond, just the time the people were following that were there, the daughters of Jerusalem, He was thinking beyond this that their Jerusalem was again going to be torn down and that there was going to be more destruction coming than what they were seeing here.

It goes on, "For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" (Luke 23:31). My understanding of this particular verse (and maybe one of these other brothers can clarify this), but here Jesus was and if we want to relate Him to a tree, green is being alive. That is what Jesus was; He was alive and He was our hope and here He was doing good.

It says that if they do these things to a green tree, if they would do this to our Saviour, Jesus Christ, hang Him on a cross and this injustice, what would they do to someone who was not a just person? What would they do if they did this to their Saviour?

As we go on here, "And there

were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death." (Luke 23:32). We can kind of visualize, as we read this, what it must have been like to see Him taken away. In our own minds, we would feel the bewailment, tears as we would be crying and our hearts would be aching.

It says, "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." But the next verse says, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:33-34). Even in this time, He was still willing to have compassion.

Compassion. We can't even comprehend the compassion and the love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us! He is willing to forgive, as He was willing to forgive the ones that were about to hang Him on the cross. He could yet in His own heart find forgiveness.

We think about our Saviour, and what an example and a pattern for each one of us to strive to do so we could have a Christ-like heart that would be willing to forgive. Here is quite an example. I know for myself, it would be pretty hard when you think about what He was willing to do. He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots." (Luke 23:34). Immediately He could see they were standing there mocking Him; and yet, He said, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him...and offering him vinegar, And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." (Luke 23:35-38). That was above Him.

We can read in John where it talks about how they even questioned Pilate about this being writ-

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Sermon continued from page 45

ten there, that it said, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." They said they wanted it to say, "He said, I am King of the Jews." (John 19:21). But Pilate said, "No, this is what was written and this is what shall remain."

So we see the compassion that Jesus has for each one of us. The thought just comes to my mind. We think of compassion in our own minds, when things are going good, it is a lot easier to be forgiving or whatever. What happens when we are down and in a struggle or in a situation as we read about our Saviour? It is right here when they were about to hang Him on the cross; yet, the compassion that He was willing to forgive! It truly makes me to look at my heart and say that I have a lot of work to do.

As we go on here, "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" (Luke 23:39-40). He said, "What are you doing? Don't you see where we are at?" He even called him and said, "Dost not thou fear God?"

"And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:41-43). You know, I think about it.

It shows the compassion that Jesus has for each one of us. It also shows how Jesus looks into the heart—the heart of each one of us. Each one of us sitting here tonight, we are all different in appearance on the outside, but Jesus Christ can look into our heart.

Let's just talk a little bit about this. Here we have two malefactors. The one even said, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." (Luke 23:39). But the other one, realizing the situation, he said, "...for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing

amiss." (Luke 23:41). We can take from that, that they must have been bad enough to be put in this position. They must have been criminals, and I am not saying what they did, but they must have been bad.

Yet, what does Jesus say when the one turned to Him and said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)? He looked immediately into this man's heart. He cut right through what we could see as individuals on the outside, and He saw his heart. Then He said "Today," because Jesus Christ could see that his heart was right.

That is what it takes for each one of us as we talked about that hope of heaven, and that opportunity to spend time to have eternal life with Him in heaven. He is going to look at our hearts. He is going to look INTO our hearts.

The thought comes to my mind that each one of us has two appearances. One is the appearance of what you and I can see in each other on the outside. But we also have the appearance of our heart, and that is what Jesus Christ can see. That is what is going to determine if we are going to be able to spend our life in paradise. It is the condition and appearance of our heart.

It goes on and says immediately Jesus had told them this, "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour." (Luke 23:44). If my understanding is right, it would have been about noon until about three o'clock. It says there was a darkness.

What that must have been like! When all of a sudden, in the middle of the day, it becomes dark! That must have been horrifying for those that were willing to crucify our Lord and Saviour. Immediately there must have been a shock sent into their hearts and minds to make them wonder what was going on.

It says, "And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend

my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned." (Luke 23:45-48).

So immediately those people knew this man—this centurion—who was in charge of a hundred men—a hundred soldiers—realized saying that certainly this was a righteous man. They knew full well that this was a righteous man who just hung on the cross. But, the thought that Jesus came for each one of us!

I had to think about that this week and sometimes I try to put things in perspective or in terms that I can understand. Then the thought came to my mind if I was to work (and I continue to work), but let's say those who reach retirement age, and I am kind of trying to bring out a point here, let's say we worked for our retirement and we became sixty-five years old. When we reach sixty-five, they say, "This is all. You've got everything right here—all you are going to need. This is what you worked for, you have made it, here it is."

But someone comes along and says, "No, I want you to go back and I want you to help some other people make it to where you are at right now. I know when you go back, you are not going to find it easy going. You will find some struggles in the work place like you have been through. You've made it here now and you went through those struggles; I am asking you to do it again."

I had to think to myself, would I be willing to reach retirement age and have it, to say in modern terms or today's terms 'to have it made'. Would I be willing to come back and help someone else? The thought came to my mind when I thought about Jesus Christ Who was in heaven Who came to live on earth, to go through the struggles that each one of us go through in our lives and are willing to be there and willing to be a help. There would be times when you would be mocked

and scorned when He would say, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

To think that He came from the place that each one of us desires to go and that is to be in heaven with our Father. To be some day where there will be no more sorrow, no more pain or aches, for He is going to wipe away the very tears of our eyes, and to some day be a part of that. It just made me think if I would be willing, and I guess I have to say "no". But that shows the love Jesus Christ has for each one of us, the compassion, and that He is willing to do and give for each one of us.

As we think of the song that we read, it says:

As I think of Thee, A gentle rapture
Overwhelms the soul that Thou
dost love;
This is one of those bright precious
moments
Granted Thy beloved from above.

That is Jesus Christ, the One who came to help us.

One long train of dark and troubled
hours
Shrouded me in youthful days gone
by;
Since I've felt Thy great, almighty
powers,
Light and strength flow on me from
on high.

How that Holy Spirit told us that He wasn't going to leave us comfortless! He told the disciples, "I am going to go but I am not going to leave you comfortless. I will be a help to you."

Compassion and willing to help each one of us when we are in a time or a struggle, He is willing to help. That is what we read about tonight. We read about the One that loves us and not that He didn't give up on us when we weren't following after Him. He is continually willing to help us and forgive us if we have an error or a shortcoming. He is willing to come back from retirement, in my terms, to help us along the way so someday each one of us can be able to enter into heaven with Him.

But another thought comes to my mind and I would like to read a verse in Job, chapter ten, verse twelve, where Job was complaining to God about things maybe being wrong and things weren't right in his life and maybe unfair or whatever. But as he was talking, all of a sudden he comes to realize and says here in the twelfth verse of chapter ten, "Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." (Job 10:12).

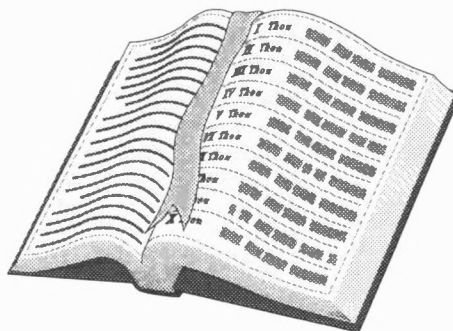
I had to think about this verse when it came to my mind that we have a hope. We have a promise that God has saw fit so many years ago to send His Son to be that Perfect Lamb, that Perfect Sacrifice that

would once and for all take away that separation which is sin and keeps us from God. He sent His Son (which we read about tonight) who did come and has full compassion and willing to help each one of us. But there is one thing that each one of us needs to remember and we need to do, that is what Job realized. When the road got rough at times, he said, "Thou hast granted me life and favour." We need to realize that God did and does and has granted us life and favour tonight to our lives. He has granted us life and favour.

But Job remembers that, "...thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." He realized why his spirit had been preserved. Because of God. Because of Jesus. There is a key word in that verse. It says, "thy visitation" so he had a communion with Jesus Christ.

That is what each one of us needs to do today. We need to continually have a visitation with God, and with Jesus. He died upon the cross, He paid the price for our sins, and He gave us hope of heaven, but in order for us to insure that hope, we need to have a visitation with our Lord and Saviour.

We need to pray to Him. We need to read His Word, so He speaks to our hearts. That is going to insure our hope. As Job said, that is going to preserve our spirit.



“Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us;...lest ye deny your God.”

“And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.”

Joshua 24:26-27

Moved by this scripture, a brother placed a large stone under an oak tree “by the sanctuary of the Lord” in similar fashion to Joshua’s act before the children of Israel. Although approximately 3400 years have passed since the original stone was set in place, this brother felt that the significance and meaning attached to the stone is still applicable.

Throughout the Old Testament, the children of Israel would often turn away from serving God and begin worshipping idols. After being warned of or actually suffering from the consequences of their actions, they would repentantly return to their God. However, they would soon turn again to the idols and forget the greatness of the One who called them His chosen people.

Towards the end of his life, Joshua wanted to impress upon them the importance of how they should live before God and stay true to Him alone. He reminded them of all that God had done for them in bringing them out of Egypt and providing them with “a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.” (Joshua 24:13). Since the children of Israel could not serve both God and idols, Joshua told them to make a choice: “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:14-16). The Israelites chose to serve the Lord and agreed to put away the strange gods of their neighbors. Joshua then made a



covenant with them and placed the stone under the oak tree as a witness of this promise.

A connection can be perceived between the experiences of the children of Israel and our own lives. When we began our repentance, we turned away from serving sin and Satan just as the Israelites put away their false gods. In the waters of baptism, we made a covenant with God to serve Him faithfully until life’s end. With the intention of living completely for and with God, we continue on, believing He will provide the necessary grace to live a sanctified life. Yet, do we not also experience times when our faith weakens and we need to return to the time of our covenant for reassurance? We often think back to a moment when we truly felt God’s nearness and peace. This specific time, place, or verse is set in our memory as solidly as the stone under the oak tree. The witness is there proving that God has been with us in the past and, as long as we are faithful, will be with us in the future. We also sing about this in the hymn, Faith’s Confidence: “His love in time past forbids me to think He’ll leave me at last in trouble to sink; Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review Confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through” (Zion’s Harp #87). Each time we return to the stone or Ebenezer in our past, we remember that God has promised in our covenant to give us His grace and a home in Heaven if we remain faithful.

Since the stone is a witness to a covenant, it should also remind us of our half of the two way promise. As we look at the stone or, in other words, think of our covenant with God, may it stir our hearts to consider if we are still of the same mind as when we stood in the waters of baptism. Do we still strive to “fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth”? Are we still in our first love? The stone was placed “by the sanctuary of the Lord” for a reason. As we come with a desire to hear the Word of God and assemble with our brothers and sisters in the Lord, we pass by this symbol of our faith and the witness to our covenant. If we never enter the house of God, we will not have occasion to see the stone and be reminded of what it was witness to.

The stone placed under the oak tree is also to be a witness lest God’s children should deny Him. The stone “hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us” and thus also has a responsibility if these words cease to be proclaimed. If the ministers and members no longer preach and live the truth, then “truly stones could not help crying if the watchmen’s call would cease, And the very rocks about us, Ev’ry one a crying witness Could no longer hold their peace. Therefore rise, all ye, His servants; For Elijah’s spirit pray! If as Lord ye would address Him, Faithfully ye must confess Him, And His holy will obey!” (Zion’s Harp #112).

Finally, let us consider the oak tree. This tree was standing long before Joshua placed the stone under it and probably even before the sanctuary of the Lord was constructed next to it. The oak tree has long been viewed as a symbol of strength, and the psalmist assures us that “God is our refuge and strength” (Psalm 46:1). May our beloved church remain near and our covenant stay under the refuge of our Almighty God.

—written by a sister in faith

Look Up

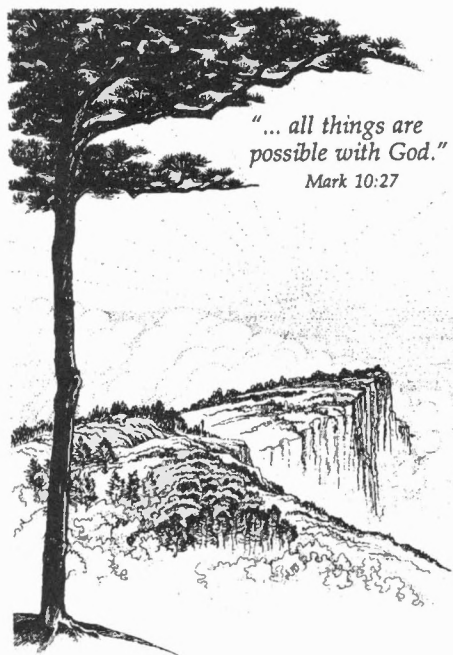
If you want to be distressed — look within.

If you want to be defeated — look back.

If you want to be distracted — look around.

If you want to be dismayed — look ahead.

If you want to be delivered — look up!



"... all things are possible with God."
Mark 10:27

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:2

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

LUKE 21:28

There is an inscription in the dome of the Capitol in Washington which few people know about. It says:

***One far-off divine event
toward which the whole creation moves.***

This event may not be so far off. It could be today!

Look up!!



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

X - Relief and Service

"...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40).

The Apostolic Christian Church has been very active in the service of Christ, particularly in preaching and teaching the gospel. In addition, it has become quite involved in a host of other Christian activities which result in alleviating hunger and suffering as well as enriching the kingdom of God.

Apostolic Christian people have always been very charitable and hospitable. At the outset, when the forefathers of faith reached American shores and settled themselves on farms and in villages and towns, they mostly practiced the virtue of individual giving. Social circumstances were such, however, that their lives were preoccupied with maintaining an existence. Families were usually large, income was sparse and uncertain, and there were few cash surpluses to share with others.

Also, primitive farming methods left little time to assist the poor and needy. If there was surplus time, travel was slow and inconvenient. Thus, nearly all acts of charity were unilateral and local. A unified, coordinated program of charitable outreach was seemingly far beyond the scope and realm of those hard-working pioneers.

While a few of the brethren prospered over the years, many remained confined by the harsh economic realities of war and depression which had a major impact on the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. A broadly-based and sustained economic upswing never occurred un-

til after World War II. It was then that organized charitable work began to increase and build on the efforts of the church's European assistance of the 1930's.

European Relief had been instigated already in the 1920's to help families uprooted by war. The Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) led this effort. This was called HILFE, A.G. (meaning Help, Inc.).

In 1934 the church appointed Elder Joe A. Getz, Morton, Illinois, to head the "Hilfe" work, and Bro. Ed Kambly was officially assigned to receive the contributions. Elder Rudolph Graf of



Akron, Ohio, worked with Bro. Kambly in areas east of Illinois and Indiana. During the 1930's and 1940's, letters from "Brother Kambly" pertaining to "European Relief" were often read to the congregations.

During most of World War II (1942-1945), due to the chaotic upheaval in Europe, no funds were sent to that area. The total monies appropriated to the "Hilfe" amounted to more than \$600,000. In addition, thousands of packages of clothing and non-perishable foods were sent to that continent.

Following World War II, charitable efforts on a denominational basis were largely uncoordinated. There was no centralized direction or policy-making board. As the nation prospered financially during the tranquil 1950's, so did many Apostolic Christians. The economic boom of the 1960's further added to the church's general affluence.

To channel giving on a more organized basis, the matter was placed on the agenda of the Church Conference at Bluffton, Indiana, in October, 1963. A committee was formed to make recommendations on organized denominational giving. This was eventually called the World Relief Committee. God has blessed these efforts over the years.

Relief efforts have reached into many countries. Annual disbursements have accrued to God's glory. The World Relief Committee, composed of regional representatives, meets quarterly for day long discussions. Their agenda is packed with relief activities.

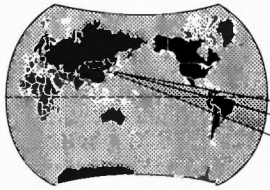
Work Projects was formed in the 1980's to coordinate brethren giving hands on, on-site assistance to areas of need.

Bible distribution has accelerated over the years. Our church has also given money to the American Bible Society with the request that our donations be used only for the King James version.

In the May, 1977, issue of the American Bible Society *Record*, the Apostolic Christian Church was listed as the most generous giver on a per capita basis. It was nearly 40% more than the highest per capita giver.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
Renewed opportunities in cities



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“The Dangers of Revenge”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Have you ever thought, “I’m tired of the way these people are pushing me around. I’m going to show them a thing or two.”? The idea is that we have to stand up for our rights and show our colors. Look out. It is almost sure to be counterproductive.

In Romans 12:19 we read, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord.” We would do well to leave all revenge, or repayment of wrong doing, to God. He promises He will take care of it. If we try revenge in any form, things usually get worse. This is one danger of revenge. Another danger of revenge is that it will bring regret and a feeling of guilt to the person who tries to execute it.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught us, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:4). He also gave us a good example when He prayed for those who crucified Him, “Father,

forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34). When Stephen was martyred, he followed the example by praying, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” (Acts 7:60). Neither the Lord Jesus Christ nor Stephen tried to get even or take revenge.

How are we doing in our human relations? I try to be careful but sometimes I make mistakes. To be lovingly strict with students in the classroom is good but to inadvertently humiliate them in an attempt to bring order invites rebellion on the part of the student or students. Teachers have the duty of being strict without seeking revenge.

I have observed that life is full of conflict. Nations often go to war to get revenge or to try to settle a matter. War is the most vicious of conflicts and the suffering is terrible. In our private lives, as children of God, we should do much better.

Husbands and wives should help each other in their failings which we all have, not seek revenge. Revenge plays havoc with a marriage; instead, just firmly and lovingly stand

up for what is right and if there is a sincere disagreement as to what is right, we in our Brotherhood have brethren, ministers, deacons and elders who are available for counseling at no cost. The past is past and cannot be undone but from now on we must have solid and inspiring marriages.

Single people may also have conflicts in their lives. In the workplace and in all of life’s situations, there may be the temptation to get even, or at least to lash back at another person in some way. Those other people need our help, our love, and our forgiveness. They may not be flying so high as we think. Most people are vulnerable in some way or other, even while putting on a front of complete confidence.

All of us have a tendency to fight back and we teach our children that there is a limit as to how much harassing they should take from other children. But now that we have become adults, “We put away childish things.” (I Cor. 13:11). To love, to entreat, and to reason, is the more excellent way.

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LaCrosse, IN - 1919
(pictured in 1939)

In 1938, the "long hoped for" Church building became a reality. From 1916 until 1938, the congregation met in a two-story house structure because of the uncertainty of the farming conditions at that time. The LaCrosse area was originally a swamp and was drained by a commercial company who then offered the land to any who felt they could farm there. In some cases it went well, while others had a very difficult time and moved back to their places origin. The 1938 Church was the "town" Church at Cissna Park and took four days of travel to get to LaCrosse. The LaCrosse brethren rebuilt the Church and it was used for the next twenty eight years. In 1966 a new edifice was built and serves the congregation today.

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